



MARCH-MAY 2012

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Forever Green

When you visit the parks in

Spring ...

... you are thrilled to see nature wake up all around you. The spotting of the very first woodland wildflower, migrating birds beginning their journey north, tree leaves unfurling in bright yellow-green, the drip drip drip of the last snow melting — all the sights and sounds of spring tell you that the weather has turned and the season of renewal has arrived! This Spring Program Calendar is full of ways to help you enjoy the reawakening. It also includes a *Message to the Community* on page 2 and an early look at the summer camp schedule.

Spring Gifts

All winter I anticipate the wonderful gifts spring offers. For me it is similar to a three-month Christmas! Under every tree and at every turn of the trail something new and exciting is revealed. It might be white trillium blooming in beautiful patches, the sound of thousands of spring peepers and chorus frogs erupting from a wetland, or the music of returning birds. Spring is a season of rebirth and renewal.

Plants and animals eagerly wait all winter for the temperatures to rise, the snow to melt, and the ground to warm up. This is most obvious with spring wildflowers. Beginning with the early flowering skunk cabbage — and continuing with the spring beauty, twinleaf and buttercup, to name a few — they burst forth in bloom before the fast-developing tree leaves shade out the sun. Without this head start, the flowers wouldn't be able to reproduce or store up enough energy to survive the rest of the year.

Even before the ice melts, animals of all shapes and sizes gather in wetlands to begin the age-old mating ritual. The resulting offspring fight the clock as they race to develop and leave the vernal pools before the pools dry out in late June. Stand at a wetland in the spring, and the calls of frogs and toads are deafening as each one tries to outdo the other in order to attract a mate.

Though you can hear birds in the winter, their sporadic songs don't compare to the spring sounds signaling the return of our resident summer birds. One bird song that I can listen to for hours is that of the Wood Thrush. Its harmonious call is generally described as a combination of yodeling and flute-like notes. The call is produced by a complicated vocal organ that allows the Wood Thrush to sing two notes at the same time. If only we could do that, imagine the possibilities!

I still like getting gifts at Christmas, but nothing compares to the gifts spring provides. It is definitely my favorite time of the year. I hope you will join me in enjoying the many gifts that nature has to offer. Take pleasure in a wildflower walk at Hogback Ridge Preserve; explore the wetlands at Gallant Woods Preserve; or, relax while watching spring migrants visiting the feeders at The Lodge at Deer Haven Preserve. Spring has a gift for everyone!

— Rich Niccum, Education Services Manager



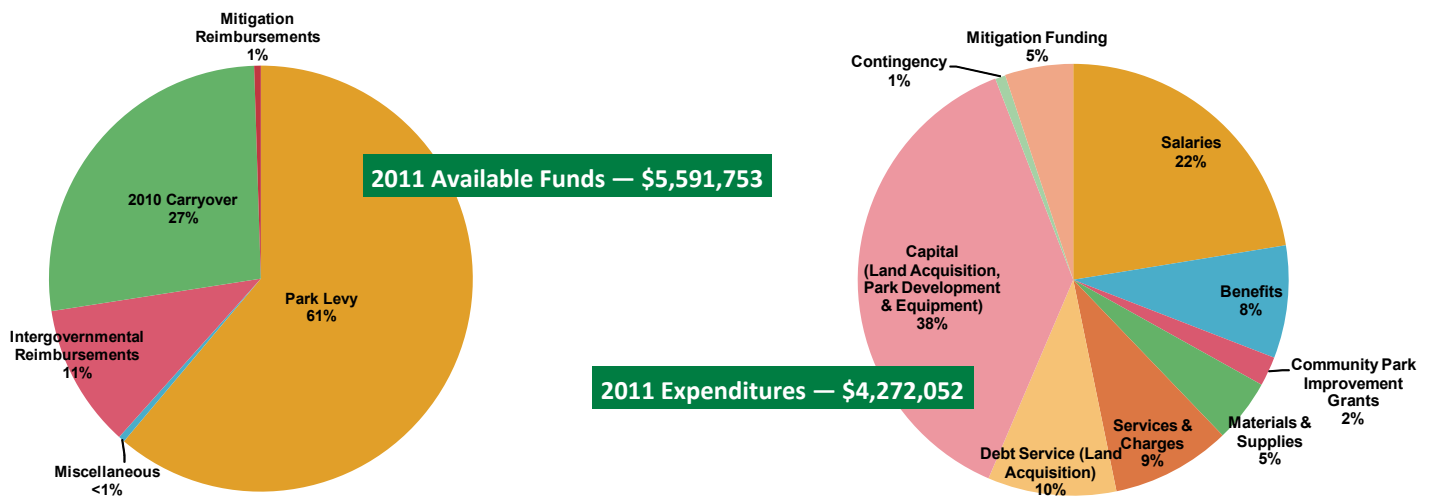
Message to the Community — By Executive Director Rita A. Au

Nature education programs in the schools and in the parks. Participation in parades and festivals. Concerts. Special events. Assisting other law enforcement agencies. Construction of new facilities. Improvements to existing facilities. Preservation of additional land. All the above activities occurred in 2011 as Preservation Parks continues to expand its services to the Delaware County community.

Our education department conducted 204 park programs, an increase of 34 over 2010; our school outreach programs served an additional 1,269 students over 2010; and, our nature center visitation increased from 7,322 in 2010 to 8,424 in 2011. Additionally, our law enforcement division assisted other law enforcement agencies on 43 occasions, 18 more than 2010. And, we purchased 72 acres of land for future parkland. Below is information on revenues and expenditures, by category, along with a partial list of park improvements.

In 2011, our volunteer corps continued to provide valuable service to Preservation Parks through their participation at many special events and parades, and their staffing of our nature centers, allowing those centers to be open to the public on a regular basis. Providing 3,461 hours, the total value of their donated time is \$64,167 (per *Independent Sector*, which calculates the value of volunteer time).

We are pleased with the progress Preservation Parks has made in increasing our services to Delaware County to date, but we have many more projects and improvements to come. A few of the exciting events on tap for 2012 are the opening of Big Run Preserve and the 1930's-1940's era farmhouse at Gallant Farm Preserve, the completion of the Interpretive Gateway at Gallant Woods Preserve, and, the construction of the stream crossing to connect two trails at Deer Haven Preserve. Our talented staff is excited about providing additional amenities for the public and appreciate your continued support.



Selected 2011 Park Improvements

Big Run Preserve

Planted 10,000 trees

Big Walnut Community Trail

Commissioned study of repair/replacement of former railroad bridge across Columbus Street

Blues Creek Preserve

Rerouted Shagbark Loop Trail to pass near wetland
 Restored three small wetlands
 Constructed fishing pier at pond
 Rerouted trail over pond dam and placed rip-rap along pond edge

Char-Mar Ridge Preserve

Constructed wildlife viewing blind
 Installed accessible park entrance

Deer Haven Preserve

Prepared stream crossing for Bent Tree Ridge Trail loop
 Installed netting outside The Lodge windows to prevent bird strikes
 Installed microphone outside to pick up bird sounds for broadcast inside the nature center

Emily Traphagen Preserve

Constructed flush restroom facility

Gallant Farm Preserve

Constructed historic farmhouse museum
 Hired contractor to build outhouse and garden shed

Gallant Woods Preserve

Constructed Interpretive Gateway shelter
 Conducted flora inventory of selected sites
 Installed viewing platform in sledding hill wetland
 Planted trees in sledding hill wetland parking area

Hogback Road Preserve

Constructed series of steps on Pine Grove Trail
 Removed barn
 Reconfigured entrance drive and increased number of parking spaces

Main Road property

Planted 5,000 trees



Programs marked with ❖ require advance registration; call 740-524-8600, ext. 3, or e-mail: register@preservationparks.com. Also, be aware that some hikes will be wet and muddy; wear appropriate footwear.

MARCH

Saturday, March 3 — Maple Madness

The sugar maple's sweet sap might be rising if weather conditions are favorable. If it is, we will listen to this first step in the maple syrup-making process! What other members of this maple family grow nearby? Are there any other trees that go into making breakfast? Discover the answers on a tree hike that will be partially off-trail.
3 p.m. **DHP** — all ages

Thursday, March 8 — Homeschool Adventures: Migration Mayhem

Spring bird migration is under way, so to celebrate the northward odyssey, we will explore the journeys and perils that migrating birds and other animals endure in their annual quest for survival.
10 a.m. **DHP** — ages 7-12

Saturday, March 10 — Timberdoodle Time

If conditions are favorable, you will hear and see the courtship ritual of the chubby little shorebird known as the American Woodcock.
6 p.m. **GWP** — all ages

Sunday, March 11 — Signs O' the Spring

Join us as we stroll through Delaware City's Wetlands Park and welcome waterfowl as they return from their winter retreat. Learn to identify some common waterfowl and where they might be headed as they journey north. Binoculars will be provided. Please park in the gravel parking area off of Mill Run Crossing.
2 p.m. **Wetlands Park (behind Kohl's on U.S. Route 36)** — ages 10+

Saturday, March 17 — Creature Feature: The Labrador Twister

What has a long beak and squat body, and does a funky little spring dance? Why it's the Labrador Twister! We will explore Blues Creek Preserve in search of this cute little bird. Be prepared to be off-trail.
7:00 p.m. **BCP** — all ages

Sunday, March 18 — Off the Beaten Path

Get the family outside and stretch your legs as we explore Char-Mar Ridge Preserve's nooks and crannies. See signs of beaver activity, catch a glimpse of migrating waterfowl and explore a stream during this fun off-trail hike.
2 p.m. **CMRP** — ages 6+

Wednesday, March 21 & Thursday, March 22 —

Preschool Park Pals: Bird Is the Word! ❖

Your little one will explore feathers, feet, beaks and eggs as we learn about birds. Registration required by March 14.
10 a.m. & 1 p.m. **DHP** — ages 4-5

Saturday, March 24 — Budding Naturalist: Birds

The "Budding Naturalist" program covers the same subject matter as the "Preschool Park Pals" each month but with more advanced activities. Join us this month to investigate birds and explore feet, beaks, nests and eggs.
10 a.m. **DHP** — ages 6-7

Saturday, March 31 — Natural Egg Dying ❖

Let us help you get ready for the Easter Bunny the natural way. Learn what natural sources you can use to dye eggs and then try your hand at creating colorful Easter masterpieces. \$5.00 fee per person. Registration required by March 24.
2 p.m. **DHP** — ages 10+

Large-flowered Trillium, Ohio's state wildflower



Cover Photo by Carolyn Chute

APRIL

Sunday, April 1 — Bunny Day

Drop in to play bunny bingo and "hop"-scotch, and create a cute bunny craft. Learn that wild rabbits and pet rabbits are very different animals. Meet some companion rabbits from a rabbit rescue group, whose members would like to tell others that the best rabbit to take home this time of year is a *chocolate* rabbit!
1-4 p.m. **DHP** — all ages

Saturday, April 7 & Sunday, April 8 — An Egg-citing Challenge

Are you up to the challenge? Drop in to follow nature clues that lead to a hidden basket of eggs, and earn a treat for completing the task. The same hunt will be repeated both days. Prepare to walk at least a half mile.
1-4 p.m. **DHP** — all ages

Thursday, April 12 — Homeschool Adventures: Spring Wildflowers

Spring has sprung and we will celebrate its arrival with a look into the lives of wildflowers. Learn general plant structure and why spring is such an important time for plants; then take a hike to spot some early spring wildflowers.
10 a.m. **DHP** — ages 7-12

Friday, April 13 — Night Hike

Venture with us into the woods on this early spring nocturnal journey. Listen for owls, learn to identify frog calls, and see how you might fare as a nighttime creature.
8:30 p.m. **ETP** — all ages

Wednesday, April 18 & Thursday, April 19 — Preschool Park Pals: Froggy Fun ❖

Talk and hop like a frog. Crafts, storytime and a search for live frogs in the wetland are on the agenda. Registration required by April 11.
10 a.m. & 1 p.m. **DHP** — ages 4-5

Saturday, April 21 — Budding Naturalist: Hopping Frogs

This month, we will have fun learning about frogs. We'll listen to frog calls, visit with a frog or toad, and even look for live frogs in the wetland.
10 a.m. **DHP** — ages 6-7

Saturday, April 21 — Ephemeral Beauties

Spring is a beautiful and exciting time of year! Share in the wonders of spring as we venture down the trail in search of gorgeous spring wildflowers. Don't forget the camera, as there should be some first-rate photo opportunities.
2 p.m. **HRP** — all ages

Sunday, April 22 — Springtime Ravine Ramble

Birds, woodland wildflowers and salamanders will be the focus of our hike in the ravines of Hogback Ridge Preserve. Binoculars will be provided. Be prepared to get wet and muddy.
2 p.m. **HRP** — ages 10+

Friday, April 27 — Creature Feature: Earthworms

Can you imagine 1 million earthworms? Incredibly, that's how many can be found under just one acre of soil. Join us for a fun look at the extremely beneficial earthworm and learn how you can "go green" with these small, but mighty, creatures.
7 p.m. **DHP** — all ages

Saturday, April 28 — All Washed Up ❖

Did you know that for many of our ancestors the only way to get soap was to make it themselves? Though it is readily available in stores today, there are still many people who love to make their own natural soap. Learn some historic methods of making soap and then discover how you can make soap right in your own kitchen. \$10.00 fee per person. Registration required by April 21.
1 p.m. **DHP** — ages 10+

Sunday, April 29 — Hey Sallie!

Slippery and slimy, these little four-legged amphibians live among the rocks, leaf litter and soil of our woodlands. Join us as we explore Char-Mar Ridge Preserve in search of salamanders. Be prepared to get wet and muddy — and have fun!
3 p.m. **CMRP** — all ages



2656 Hogback Road, Sunbury OH 43074

MAY

Saturday, May 5 — Wake-Up with Warblers

Arriving from Central America, these small colorful birds hopefully will be in abundance as they rest and refuel on their northward migration. We will search the varied habitat along the 1.7-mile loop trail. Bring binoculars if you have them, although some will be available.

8 a.m. CMRP — ages 15+

Sunday, May 6 — Sensing Spring

'Tis the time to enjoy all the sights, sounds and smells of the season. Let's take a leisurely stroll to enjoy spring before it fades to summer!

2 p.m. ETP — all ages

Thursday, May 10 — Homeschool Adventures: Wetlands

Wetlands are important for the continued survival of an incredible variety of plants and animals. This month we will explore the wetlands of Gallant Woods Preserve and investigate why these areas are such a crucial part of the natural ecosystem. Be prepared to get wet and muddy.

10 a.m. GWP — ages 7-12

Saturday, May 12 — Creature Feature: Woodpeckers

Many of us are familiar with Woody Woodpecker of cartoon fame. We won't be meeting Woody today, but we will be seeking out some of his relatives and learning what makes these birds unique. This program will be indoors and out. Binoculars will be provided.

9 a.m. DHP — all ages

Sunday, May 13 — Mother's Day Fun ❖

Bring the special lady in your life and enjoy a day at the park. First, try your hand at a Mother's Day scavenger hunt in and around The Lodge; then enjoy a themed snack and a special nature craft with your family. Registration is required by May 6. \$5.00 fee per family.

2 p.m. DHP — all ages

Wednesday, May 16 & Thursday, May 17 — Preschool Park Pals: Animal Babies ❖

Baby animals look different than their parents — some more than others! We will explore life cycles, take a walk and compare fawns, ducklings, tadpoles and other baby animals. Registration required by May 9.

10 a.m. & 1 p.m. DHP — ages 4-5

Friday, May 18 — Fishing Fun ❖

Join us as we hold our first fishing program at the new Blues Creek Preserve pond. Learn fishing basics, such as how to set up your rod and reel and what bait to use, and meet some of our native fish up close and personal. Afterward, try your hand at catching the "big one." Registration required by May 11.

6 p.m. BCP — ages 16 and under, accompanied by an adult

Saturday, May 19 — Fishing Fun ❖

Learn fishing basics, such as how to set up your rod and reel and what bait to use, and meet some of our native fish up close and personal. Afterward, try your hand at catching the "big one." Registration required by May 11.

9 a.m. HRP — ages 16 and under, accompanied by an adult

Saturday, May 19 — Budding Naturalist: Animal Babies

Animal babies are popping up everywhere this month. To celebrate a season of new life, we will explore life cycles, take a walk and compare fawns, ducklings, tadpoles and other baby animals.

10 a.m. DHP — ages 6-7

Sunday, May 20 — The Handy Dandy Dandelion

It is hard for us to imagine today that, prior to European settlement, dandelions didn't exist in North America. Learn myth and folklore surrounding the dandelion and the many benefits the plant provides; then sample some dandelion cuisine. You just might go home with a better appreciation for the dandelions popping up in your yard.

2 p.m. DHP — all ages

MAY (continued)

Friday, May 25 — Venture into the Dark

Join us as we head out into the night for this late spring jaunt through the woods and fields of Gallant Woods Preserve. Listen for frogs, toads, owls and insects. See if you can spot the first fireflies of the season, and watch for glowing eyes staring at you from the darkness.

9 p.m. GWP — ages 7+

Saturday, May 26 & Sunday, May 27 — Drop-In Discovery: Pond-O!

Nets, pans and field guides will be available for your family all afternoon as you dip beneath the waters to search for tadpoles, insects and other small, fascinating creatures. The closer you look, the better chance you have of completing the pond bingo sheet and earning a prize! Wear appropriate footwear, as conditions will be wet and muddy.

1 - 4 p.m. DHP — all ages

Friday, May 4 — Wonders of Wetlands Workshop ❖

WOW! The Wonders of Wetlands is an instructional guide for educators that provides a creative collection of wetland activities, information, and ideas. *WOW!* includes more than 50 hands-on, multi-disciplinary activities in lesson plan format, extensive background information on wetlands, ideas for student action projects, and a wetlands resource guide. This workshop is open to environmental educators, teachers, volunteers and anyone interested in learning how to educate others about wetlands. There is a \$25.00 fee for the workshop which includes the *WOW!* guidebook. Registration required by April 16.

9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. DHP — ages 18+



Mayapples at Hogback Ridge Preserve

Build-a-Box for Bluebirds or Carolina Wrens

Help promote wildlife in your own backyard by providing nesting boxes for Bluebirds or Carolina Wrens. Register for both programs in advance; the cost is \$5 for each box you (or your family) plan to build. **Location:** DHP.

Bluebirds	March 7	7- 8:30 p.m.
Carolina Wrens	March 14	7- 8:30 p.m.

Register by March 5 for either program at: saudras@preservationparks.com.

All Aboard for Railroad Fun!

The Delaware County Model Railroaders Group holds two open houses a month at **The Trailhouse at Big Walnut Community Trail**. Visitors can help run the trains and learn about model railroading, the development of the railroad industry in America, and the romance of trains. As time goes on, the display will continue to take shape, with tracks, scenery and buildings gradually being added — paralleling the gradual growth of tracks, buildings and towns throughout the United States.

Saturdays	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	March 24, April 21 and May 19
Sundays	Noon - 4 p.m.	March 25, April 22 and May 20



Summer Explorers Day Camps

Registration forms and complete information about all camps can be found at www.preservationparks.com and by calling 740-524-8600, ext. 3.

Nature Buddies - ages 6 - 7 Fee: \$70 (\$15 extra per week for early drop-off and/or late pick-up)

Dates: MON - THUR July 9-12 (day) and FRI July 13 (evening)
Deadline: Register by June 25
Time: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. with early drop-off and/or late pick-up for an extra fee
 7 - 10 p.m. on last day of camp
Place: Deer Haven Preserve

Nature Buddies will explore nature through fun hands-on activities such as bug collecting, dip netting in the pond, searching under logs, hiking, nature games and more. We will wrap up the camp with a special live animal program by Ohio Nature Education and a night hike for campers and their families.

Limit: 12 participants

Junior Explorers - ages 8 - 9 Fee: \$75 (\$15 extra per week for early drop-off and/or late pick-up)

Dates: MON - THUR July 23-26 (day) and FRI July 27 (evening)
Deadline: Register by July 9
Time: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. with early drop-off and/or late pick-up for an extra fee
 7 - 11 p.m. on last day of camp
Place: Deer Haven Preserve (may travel to other parks during the week)

Explorers will fish, birdwatch, hike, stalk and more as they venture to a couple of Park District parks and explore new surroundings and habitats. Campers and their families will end the camp with an interactive campfire dinner, a live animal program with Ohio Nature Education, and a night hike in search of nocturnal creatures.

Limit: 12 participants.

Outdoor Adventurers - ages 10 - 11 Fee: \$80 (\$15 extra per week for early drop-off and/or late pick-up)

Dates: MON - THUR August 6-9 (day) and FRI August 10 (evening)
Deadline: Register by July 23
Time: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. with early drop-off and/or late pick-up for an extra fee
 7 p.m. on last day of camp, with an overnight campout
Place: Deer Haven Preserve (may travel to other parks during the week)

Adventurers will learn how various animals survive, and learn canoeing/kayaking techniques, fishing and other outdoor skills, as they visit several Park District parks. Campers and their families will finish camp with a live animal program by Ohio Nature Education and a night hike; then we will camp overnight under the stars.

Limit: 12 participants.

Farm Hands - ages 8 - 10 Fee: \$65 (\$15 extra per week for early drop-off and/or late pick-up)

Dates: MON-THUR July 30 – August 2 (day) and FRI August 3 (evening)
Deadline: Register by July 16
Time: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. with early drop-off and/or late pick-up for an extra fee
 7 - 9 p.m. on last day of camp
Place: Gallant Farm Preserve

Help cook lunch on a woodstove, tend the gardens, play children's games, fish and more during this hands-on look at how farm families lived during the 1930's and '40's. Campers and their families will wrap up the camp with a fun evening on the farm and a visit from some farm animals.

Limit: 12 participants.

A New Way to Donate — through the Delaware County Community Market

Twenty percent of the cost of produce, eggs, milk, hand-made goods and other products you purchase at the Delaware County Community Market (222 E. William St., Delaware) will be donated to the Preservation Parks Foundation, when you designate us as your charity of choice. This is a great way to support local vendors AND donate to the parks! Visit the market or call us for more information.

And don't forget **On-line Donations:** Please consider a tax-deductible contribution to the Preservation Parks Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. You can donate on-line, using a credit card, by clicking on the DONATE button on our website home page. Also, checks, made payable to the Preservation Parks Foundation, can be mailed to: Community Foundation of Delaware County, 3954 N. Hampton Drive, Powell, OH 43065.

Donations to the Preservation Parks Foundation are used to support park development, programs, special events and future levy campaigns. For more information on ways to donate to Preservation Parks, visit our web site or call Executive Director Rita Au at 740-524-8600, ext. 1.

Park Key

- Big Run Preserve (**BRP**)
Projected opening: 2012
- Big Walnut Community Trail (**BWCT**)
168 S. Vernon St., Sunbury
- Blues Creek Preserve (**BCP**)
9627 Fontanelle Road, Ostrander
- Char-Mar Ridge Preserve (**CMRP**)
7741 Lewis Center Road, Westerville
- Deer Haven Preserve (**DHP**)
4183 Liberty Road, Delaware
- Emily Traphagen Preserve (**ETP**)
5094 Seldom Seen Road, Powell
- Gallant Farm Preserve (**GFP**)
2150 Buttermilk Hill Road, Delaware
- Gallant Woods Preserve (**GWP**)
2151 Buttermilk Hill Road, Delaware
- Hogback Ridge Preserve (**HRP**)
2656 Hogback Road, Sunbury

Hound Hikes

Bring your socialized canine for a 1- to 2-mile walk along our pet-friendly trails. Hound Hike canines receive bandanas, and a paw-print stamp for each hike completed. Meet **Sundays at 3 p.m.** at the information kiosk.

- March 25 Hogback Ridge Preserve
- April 29 Deer Haven Preserve
- May 20 Gallant Woods Preserve

Golden Marathon:

A program of the "Great Green Gym"

Get fit in the beauty of the parks! The Golden Marathon, a partnership with the Delaware County Senior Center, meets nearly every Monday for a 1- to 2-mile walk. Information, including addresses, is available by calling 740-524-8600, ext. 6, or at: www.preservationparks.com.



Spring walks begin at 1:30 p.m.

March walks (March 5, 12, 19 & 26) will be held at Polaris Fashion Place, 1500 Polaris Parkway. Meet at the food court. April & May walks will be held at these locations:

- April 2 Deer Haven Preserve
- April 9 Liberty Park
- April 16 Hoover Reservoir
- April 23 Camp Lazarus
- April 30 Blues Creek Preserve
- May 7 Gallant Woods Preserve
- May 14 Emily Traphagen Preserve
- May 21 Blackhand Gorge & Buckeye Lake (Bus trip) ❖

❖ Registration Required: call 740-369-5133



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District Office
Education Office
2656 Hogback Road
Sunbury, Ohio 43074
740-524-8600

Hours: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. M-F
Noon-5 p.m. Sat/Sun (Mary
McCoy Nature Center)

**The Lodge Nature Center at
Deer Haven Preserve**
4183 Liberty Road
Delaware, Ohio 43015
740-362-0283

Hours: Noon-5 p.m. daily
Extended hours, May-September
Noon-8 p.m., Tue/Thurs



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Or Current Resident

PRESERVATION PARKS OF DELAWARE COUNTY
Calendar of Programs and Events
March through May, 2012

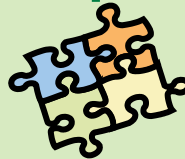


Special Events — Spring, 2012



Osprey Homecoming
Sunday, April 15
1- 4 p.m.

Help us celebrate the Ospreys' return from their winter home in South America. Ospreys are a true success story, with a status that rose from endangered to threatened after dedicated volunteers brought the birds back to Ohio and provided nesting platforms. Learn about Preservation Parks' role, enjoy hands-on learning activities, and view the Osprey platforms at nearby Alum Creek Reservoir. Free family event. Hogback Ridge Preserve, 2656 Hogback Rd.



Park Safari Challenge
Saturday, June 16
2 - 7 p.m.

Pack your car with family and friends and travel from park to park, completing puzzles and fun activities along the way! Teams will gather for a picnic at the end of the day. Fee is \$25 per carload team. Complete information, including the starting location, is available at registration, required by June 8.

Registration: 740-524-8600, ext. 6, or e-mail:
saundras@preservationparks.com



Summer Explorers Camp



Common Blue Violets



Fishing Fun