Nature Center Hours Vary

Most Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

12:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Contact Naturalist Erin Shaw: [erin.shaw@dnr.ohio.gov](mailto:erin.shaw@dnr.ohio.gov)

Park Office: 513-897-3055

V4

**December 2024**

**Thursday December 5**

Ohio Nature In Color Series - Green

* 1:00 pm – 1:45 pm
* Awaken creativity and learning skills through art and nature. Join the park naturalist as we explore color (ROYGBIV) through nature. This series will take place on the first Thursday of the month. This month our topic is ‘green’. Discover fun storybooks and activities that fit within this topic. This program is designed for kids and people of all ages and abilities.
* Activities are based on participants and weather.
* Meet at the Nature Center.

Nature Scavenger Hunt for Kids

* 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm
* Join the park naturalist as we explore nature with our scavenger hunt.
* Stay as a group or explore on your own with your family.
* Dress for the weather. Wear layers and sturdy shoes.
* Meet at the Nature Center.

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**Friday December 6**

Invasives or Natives? Does It Really Matter?

* 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm
* Learn about unique holiday decorations you can make by using local, natural, and native materials that can be grown in your backyard.
* Learn about invasive plant species and understand how they disrupt native eco-systems.
* Discover ways you can turn your yard into a sustainable resource for future holiday gifts and decorations.
* Meet at the Nature Center.

**Saturday December 7**

Holiday Traditions Workshop. Two Sessions Available

* Choose which session you’d like to attend: 10 am – 12 pm or 1 pm – 3 pm.
* Join Park Naturalist Erin Shaw. Give the gift of sustainability by bringing nature into the holidays! Learn examples of unique holiday decorations you can make by using local, natural, and native materials collected from her yard. Discover ways you can turn your yard into a sustainable resource for future holiday gifts and decorations.
* Pre-register with the NCACC on Eventbrite to participate in the Holiday Traditions Workshop. Space is limited, so reserve your seat early. Details available on Eventbrite.
* Meet at the Nature Center.

Maple Sugaring for Beginners : Winter Tree Identification. Morning Session

* 11:00 am – 12:00 pm
* Join Park Naturalist Erin Shaw for a sit-down discussion on winter tree identification inside the Nature Center. Learn different ways to identify trees in the park when their best feature for identification lays dormant.
* Learn the basics of Maple Sugaring through discussion.
* Meet inside the Nature Center.

Maple Sugaring for Beginners : Winter Tree Identification Guided Walk. Afternoon Session

* 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
* Join Park Naturalist Erin Shaw for a guided three-mile hike. Learn how to identify sugar maples and other trees in the park when their best feature for identification lays dormant.
* Dress in layers and wear sturdy shoes. Hats and gloves are recommended.
* Trails can be muddy.



**Thursday December 12**

Campfire Stories in the Snow

* 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
* Join us outside around the campfire as we share some of our favorite winter themed story books.
* Dress in layers and wear sturdy shoes. Hats and gloves are recommended.
* This program is weather dependent. Check for updates on our face book page.
* Meet at the Nature Center.

**Friday December 13**

Nature Painting Workshop

* 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm
* Join us as we have fun and create art together in a natural setting just before the holidays.
* This program is geared towards adults; however, all ages are welcome.
* Pre-register for a seat at the Nature Center. [Erin.shaw@dnr.ohio.gov](mailto:Erin.shaw@dnr.ohio.gov)
* Bring your own canvas and painting supplies, or reserve some of ours.
* Meet at the Nature Center.

**Saturday December 14**

Perimeter Hike

* 10:00 am – 5:00 pm
* Take a 13-mile guided hike with the Park Naturalist around the Perimeter Trail.
* Hiking shoes are required. Dress in layers. Bring water and snacks.
* Trails can be muddy.
* Meet at the Nature Center.

**Friday December 20**

Hopewell Recreation Area Day Lodge Hike

* 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
* Explore nature while getting exercise outdoors.
* Meet the naturalist at the Day Lodge for a 4 mile guided hike starting from the Day Lodge. Discover and discuss wildlife along the way.

**Saturday December 21**

Winter Solstice and Wonders of the Night Sky Symposium

* Join us for an afternoon and evening as we celebrate the stars!
* Stay for one, or all of the activites between 1pm – 8pm. Free and fun for the whole family. See separate flyer for details. We hope to see you at our Winter Solstice Hike, Stargazing and more!
* Make and take your own star chart and astrolabe to use in your backyard.
* Dress in layers. Wear sturdy shoes.
* Meet at the Nature Center.

What is the Winter Solstice Walk and Talk?

* 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
* Why is the Winter Solstice special? Join the park naturalist for a 3-mile guided hike.
* Moderate 3-mile guided hike through Pioneer Village to Horseshoe Falls, across the Swinging Bridge and back. This is a general naturalist hike, all ages welcome.
* Wear sturdy shoes, bring water, dress for the weather.
* Meet at the Nature Center.

How to Navigate with the Stars

* 5:00 pm – 5:45 pm
* Learn how to navigate with the stars
* Make and take your own star chart to use in your backyard.

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**Saturday December 21**

Stargazing

* 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm
* Celebrate the longest night of the year with us.
* Connect with our past, present and future as we look at stars, planets, and other objects in the universe.
* Please use a red filter if you have a flashlight. Red cellophane will be available onsite if needed.
* Dress in layers. Hats, gloves and warm socks are recommended. Dress for the weather.
* This program is weather dependent. Check our face book page for updates.
* The Nature Center will be open to go inside and warm up.
* Bring your binoculars and telescope or look through one of ours.
* Meet at the Nature Center.

**Sunday December 29**

Holiday Season Forest Bathing

* 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
* Open your senses, relax, re-center and enjoy some much needed ‘Vitamin N’ during the busy holiday season.
* Join the park naturalist for a slow-paced walk as we observe trees and wildlife in the park.
* Distance will be based on participants and weather (average two miles).
* Dress for the weather. Wear layers and sturdy shoes.
* Meet at the Nature Center.

**January 2025**

**Wednesday January 1**

1st Day Hike

* 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
* Start the New Year on the right foot! Join the naturalist for a guided three-mile moderate hike through Pioneer Village to Horseshoe Falls, across the Swinging Bridge and back. This is a general naturalist hike, all ages welcome.
* Wear sturdy shoes, bring water, dress for the weather.
* Trails can be muddy.
* Check the ‘Caesar Creek State Park’ Facebook page the morning of the event for details and updates.
* Meet at the Nature Center.

**Thursday January 2**

Ohio Nature In Color Series - Indigo

* 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
* Awaken creativity and learning skills through art and nature. Join the park naturalist as we explore color (ROYGBIV) through nature. This series will take place on the first Thursday of the month. This month our topic is ‘indigo’. Discover fun storybooks and activities that fit within this topic. This program is designed for kids and people of all ages and abilities.
* Activities are based on participants and weather.
* Meet at the Nature Center.

**Friday January 3**

Ultraviolet Blacklight Flashlight Night Hike

* 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm
* Meet the naturalist and take a unique night hike to see the world in a different light as animals may see it.
* Bring your blacklight flashlight or borrow one of ours (supplies are limited).
* Wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather.
* Hike distance will be based on participants and the weather.
* Meet at the Nature Center.

**Saturday Jan uary 4**

Raptor Feeding

* 12:30 pm -1:00 pm
* Join Park Naturalist Erin Shaw. Discover what our resident wildlife ambassador raptors eat.
* Meet at the Nature Center.

Birds of Prey Walk and Talk

* 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm
* Meet our resident red-tailed hawk and screech owl. Learn about birds you may see in the park. Discover ways you can help with our bird conservation efforts.
* Walk and Talk with the naturalist as we look for birds along the trail.
* Distance will be based on participants and weather (average two miles).
* Dress for the weather.
* Meet at the Nature Center.

**Thursday January 9**

Knot Tying

* 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
* Learn how to tie a variety of useful knots.
* This program is designed for people of all ages.
* Kids can learn different ways to tie their shoes.
* Adults can learn how to tie a trucker’s hitch.
* Meet at the Nature Center.

**Friday January 10**

Meet the Animals

* 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
* Take a guided tour of the Nature Center with the Naturalist. Learn about wildlife you may see in the park as you meet our live ambassadors up close.
* Meet at the Nature Center.

**Saturday January 11**

Maple Sugaring for Beginners : Winter Tree Identification. Morning Session

* 11:00 am – 12:00 pm
* Join Park Naturalist Erin Shaw for a sit-down discussion on winter tree identification inside the Nature Center. Learn different ways to identify trees in the park when their best feature for identification lays dormant.
* Learn the basics of Maple Sugaring through discussion.
* Meet inside the Nature Center.

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Maple Sugaring for Beginners : Winter Tree Identification Guided Walk. Afternoon Session

* 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
* Join Park Naturalist Erin Shaw for a guided three-mile hike. Learn how to identify sugar maples and other trees in the park when their best feature for identification lays dormant.
* Dress in layers and wear sturdy shoes. Hats and gloves are recommended.
* Trails can be muddy.
* Meet at the Nature Center

**Thursday January 16**

Campfire Stories in the Snow

* 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
* Join us outside around the campfire as we share some of our favorite winter themed story books.
* People of all ages and abilities are welcome.
* Dress in layers and wear sturdy shoes. Hats and gloves are recommended.
* This program is weather dependent. Check for updates on our face book page.
* Meet at the Nature Center.

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**Saturday January 18**

Nature Identification

* 11:00 am - 12:00 pm
* Learn how to identify things you may see in the park.
* Hear traditional stories about wildlife from near and far.
* Meet at the Nature Center.

Mother Nature’s Resources

* 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm
* Join us for a hands on demonstration to learn about some of Mother Nature's greatest resources such as trees and rocks.
* Meet at the Nature Center.

**Thursday January 23**

Archery Workshop

* 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
* Equipment and instruction provided. Free.
* Join us outside on the range for a couple rounds with the bow and arrows. Then meet inside for a workshop on how to maintain equipment.
* Must be on-site before 1pm to register and participate.
* Meet at the Nature Center

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**Friday January 24**

Black Light Flashlight Night Hike

* 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm
* See the world in a different light as animals may see it.
* Bring your blacklight flashlight or borrow one of ours.
* Wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather.
* Hike distance will be based on participants and the weather.
* Meet at the Nature Center.

**Saturday January 25**

Meet the Animals

* 9:30 am - 10:30 am
* Take a guided tour of the Nature Center with the Naturalist. Learn about wildlife you may see in the park as you meet our live ambassadors upclose.
* Meet at the Nature Center.

Maple Sugaring for Beginners – Tree Tapping Basics

* 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm
* Join us for a partnership program with Warren County Parks as Park Naturalist Erin Shaw gives a presentation and demonstration of tree tapping basic.
* Pre-registration required www. WarrenCountyParks.com
* Meet at Armco Park.

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**Thursday January 30**

Winter Wonderland Walk for Kids

* 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
* Join Park Naturalist Erin Shaw for a short, guided walk geared for kids as we explore the wonders of winter.
* Distance will be based on participants and the weather (average half mile).
* Wear sturdy shoes. Hats and gloves recommended.
* Trails can be muddy.
* Meet at the Nature Center.

**Friday January 31**

Meet the Animals

* 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
* Take a guided tour of the Nature Center with the Naturalist. Learn about wildlife you may see in the park as you meet our live ambassadors upclose.
* Meet at the Nature Center.

**February**

**Saturday February 1**

Polar Plunge

* Join (or watch) local participants! Details @ <http://caesarcreekpolarplunge.org/>

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**Thursday February 6**

Ohio Nature In Color Series – Violet

* 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
* Awaken creativity and learning skills through art and nature. Join the park naturalist as we explore color (ROYGBIV) through nature. This series will take place on the first Thursday of the month. This month our topic is ‘violet’. Discover fun storybooks and activities that fit within this topic. This program is designed for kids and people of all ages and abilities.
* Activities are based on participants and weather.
* Meet at the Nature Center.

**Friday February 7**

Ultraviolet Black Light Flashlight Night Hike

* 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm
* See the world in a different light as animals may see it.
* Bring your blacklight flashlight or borrow one of ours.
* Wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather.
* Hike distance will be based on participants and the weather.
* Meet at the Nature Center.

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**Thursday February 13**

Love is in the Air – Skunks

* 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm
* Meet the naturalist to learn about one of Ohio’s most interesting mammals.
* Join us for a short walk as we look, and smell, for evidence of skunks nearby.
* Dress for the weather. Wear layers and sturdy shoes.
* Meet at the Nature Center.

Winter Scat and Tracks Identification

* 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm
* Meet our naturalist and learn how to identify scat and tracks in the winter.
* Join the Park Naturalist for an optional walk afterwards. Distance based on the audience.
* Dress for the weather.
* Meet at the Nature Center.

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**Saturday February 15**

Winter Scat and Tracks Identification

* 11:00 am-12:00 pm
* Meet our naturalist and learn how to identify scat and tracks in the winter.
* Join the Park Naturalist for an optional walk afterwards. Distance based on the audience.
* Dress for the weather.
* Meet at the Nature Center.

**Saturday February 15**

Healthy Hearts Hike

* 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
* Park Naturalist Erin Shaw for a three-mile guided moderate hike through Pioneer Village to Horseshoe Falls, across the Swinging Bridge and back. This is a general naturalist hike, all ages welcome.
* Wear sturdy shoes, bring water, dress for the weather.
* Trails can be muddy.
* Check the ‘Caesar Creek State Park’ Facebook page the morning of the event for details and updates.
* Meet at the Nature Center.

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**Saturday February 22**

Winter Hike with Beans and Cornbread

* 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
* Get your official Winter Hike Sticker!
* Meet the naturalist for a moderate 3-mile guided hike. Discover wildlife along the way.
* Stay afterwards for an optional lunch available through the NCACC. They will have traditional bean soup, cornbread, snacks and more. 100% of funds raised support the park and the Nature Center.
* This is a general hike, all ages welcome.
* Wear sturdy shoes, bring water, dress for the weather. Trails can be muddy.
* Meet at the Nature Center.

**Thursday February 27**

Wildlife Survival in the Winter

* 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm
* Meet the naturalist for a discussion on ways wildlife survives the winter.
* Learn how to build a shelter using logs.
* Meet at the Nature Center.

**Friday February 28**

Meet the Animals

* 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
* Take a guided tour of the Nature Center with the Naturalist. Learn about wildlife you may see in the park as you meet our live ambassadors upclose.
* Meet at the Nature Center.