LAUER HISTORICAL FARM OPEN HOUSE

The Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District will host an open house of the Lauer Historical Farm, (800 Roush Road) from 1pm to 5pm on Sunday, August 12, 2018.

The project was conceived in the 2005 but had to be placed on hold for over ten years due to a loss of funding. Plans were revised and construction was started in late 2016 and the primary contract was finished in 2017. Landscaping and finish work has continued in 2018, but as we often say, the park area will never be “finished”, but will continue to evolve and improve for many years to come.

The area is named for Ann Nunley Lauer, one of three park commissioners who helped create the Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District in 1972. A number of the furnishings within the converted 1940’s farmstead have been donated from Ann’s estate. The Farm will feature the home, a restored bank barn and an outdoor wedding venue, all of which will be available for weddings, anniversaries, reunions, corporate retreats, etc. Reservations will be accepted for 2019 beginning September 4, 2018 at 8 am by contacting the Park District office.

The farm home will be used for historical and cultural programs, too. Cooking, canning, and daily life on the farm will be covered as well as a wide variety of special events (holidays in the 1940’s, ladies teas, entertainment of the 1940’s, etc.). As time moves forward, the Park District will develop the “working farm” aspect of the LHF. The land will be farmed with period-correct equipment while on-site personnel and volunteers will explain the tremendous advances in Allen County agricultural from before, during, and after World War II. Animals will eventually occupy the farm on a seasonal basis as well. School, scout and other groups will be welcomed at the LHF for outdoor programming. We continue to accept antique equipment and/or long-term loans for period-correct farm items.

Please join us on Sunday, August 12, 2018 from 1pm to 5pm for the open house as we walk back into the 1940’s. We’ll have a short presentation at 2pm to introduce many of the people who have had a role in the planning, development, and success of the Lauer Historical Farm. As always, your comments are valuable to us and welcome.

Kevin L. Haver
Director
In honor of
Lauren Enda
The Essick & Ontiveras Families
Theresa Kearney
Annette Lauer Lang & Phil Lang
Julie Nunley & Rick Jordan

In memory of
Colten Abbey
Norb & Belva Berelsman
Henry Blatz
Janice J Bohyer
Gene Boothby
Mark Brandehoff
Trent Closson
Carolyn Corey
Larry A Curl Sr
Ronald “Chick” Dennis
Kevin Gray
Peter Green
Francis J Guagenti, Sr
Joan Haines
Jeffrey Hawk
Linda Jones
Kathryn “Kitty” Lusk
Larry A Curl Sr
Ronald “Chick” Dennis

SUMMER WOODCARVING
The Lima Area Woodcarvers invite you to attend their summer evenings of carving. Meet at the Wyandot Shelter in Ottawa Metro Park.

Mondays, June 4 & July 2 - 7 p.m.
Monday, Aug. 6 - 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Join the Woodcarvers for their annual potluck dinner. Bring a dish to share, enjoy a great meal and an evening of carving in the great outdoors. Contact Dave Betts at 419-204-1571.

B.E.E.T.L.E. Travel Days

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location 1</th>
<th>Location 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, June 27 &amp;</td>
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<td>July 25</td>
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SPOT THE B.E.E.T.L.E.

The Environmental Education Department’s new program van is HERE! Thanks to the vision and generosity from the late Richard (Dick) B. Evans, we have a Ram Promaster Van (“the B.E.E.T.L.E.”) with the mission of Bringing Environmental Education To Learners Everywhere. The B.E.E.T.L.E. will be fully equipped to visit Allen County’s village, township and city parks as well as libraries, schools and festivals. The exterior will depict a vivid nature scene with realistic wildlife found in Allen County. This van is a very special and unique asset for any Park District in the State of Ohio and we’re honored to be a part of it!

To get started this summer, we’ll host programs at local village and community parks during our travel days in June and July (see schedule below) as well as visit one of our parks almost every Saturday, June - August at 2 pm. These programs may involve animal encounters, hikes, pond studies, nature games and more. Adults, families, kids and kids at heart are welcome to any of these programs. The B.E.E.T.L.E. will also attend as many special events and parades as we can this summer.

If you can ‘Spot the B.E.E.T.L.E.’ 10 times this summer (includes festivals and library or park programs) you’ll get a prize! Make sure you stop by, say hello and get a stamp to verify your sighting. Stay tuned to Facebook or call the Naturalist Department (419-223-1025) for updates on the location of the B.E.E.T.L.E.

10th ANNUAL
Saturday, July 28th
Start/Finish: HERITAGE PARK
(Rawnee) 2092 Reed Road, LIMA, OH
A bicycle tour that runs near our area’s scenic rivers and creeks. Money raised supports Rally Point Youth Center.
Start Times Vary:
50 & 62.5 mile riders: 7 a.m. to 9 a.m.
rides may begin
10 & 20 mile riders: 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.
rides may begin
For more information visit rallyup.org or call 419-229-4444.
***To register for programs, please call 419-221-1232 unless otherwise noted.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PARKS LEGEND</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACF</td>
<td>Allen County Farm Park</td>
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<td>AR</td>
<td>Agerter Road River Access</td>
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<td>Deep Cut</td>
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<td>FA</td>
<td>Fort Amanda Park</td>
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<td>HP</td>
<td>Heritage Park</td>
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<td>Hermon Woodlands Metro Park</td>
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<td>KW</td>
<td>Kendrick Woods</td>
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<td>LBS</td>
<td>Lippincott Bird Sanctuary</td>
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<td>LHF</td>
<td>Lauer Historical Farm</td>
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<td>MEEC</td>
<td>McElroy Environmental Education Center</td>
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<td>MTB</td>
<td>McLean Teddy Bear Park</td>
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<td>OMP</td>
<td>Ottawa Metro Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>OMP/AMP</td>
<td>Ottawa Metro Park Amphitheater</td>
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<tr>
<td>OMP/CG</td>
<td>Ottawa Metro Park Campground</td>
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</tbody>
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### June

**IMAGINATURE PLAYGROUP**  
Fri., June 1 - 10 am or 1 pm - HWMP  
Come play with us at the Hermon Woodlands Imaginature Playscape! Join a naturalist at the West Shelter for a mini-program, then spend the rest of the time playing and exploring in the Playscape and creek. Feel free to pack a picnic lunch. Caregivers may want to pack extra shoes and/or clothes for the ride home! No registration is necessary.

**FAMILY NATURE EXPLORATION**  
Sat., June 2 - 10 am - OMP/CG  
Families are encouraged to join a park district naturalist each Saturday morning throughout the summer, rain or shine. Explore nature through a variety of activities including hikes, scavenger hunts, fishing, and live animal presentations. A different activity will be offered each week. Dress to be outdoors. No registration is necessary.

**MEET THE B.E.E.T.L.E.**  
Sat., June 2 - 7 pm - OMP/AMP  
See Amphitheater Program Insert.

**TAI CHI IN THE PARK**  
Thurs., June 7 - 5:30 pm - MTB  
Learn to “flow like water,” quiet your mind, and improve your balance as you practice simple Tai Chi movements. You will learn a “short form”, Sun style, which is ideal for those with arthritis and balance issues. We will meet every Thursday evening in June. Join us for just one or as many classes as you would like. This class will be taught by Mary Lou Paisley who has studied and taught Tai Chi/Qi Gung for over 20 years. No registration is necessary.

**FAMILY NATURE EXPLORATION**  
Sat., June 9 - 10 am - OMP/CG  
See June 2nd program description.

**HISTORIC HOME & GARDEN TOUR**  
Sat., June 9 - 7 pm - OMP/AMP  
See Amphitheater Program Insert.

**KAYAK ADVENTURES**  
Wed., June 13 - 5:30 pm - FA  
Bring your kayak and join a Naturalist as we spend a midsummer evening on the beautiful Auglaize River. Birds, trees, fish—nothing is off limits as we explore the natural history of this hidden gem. This program is dependent on the weather and water level and is designed for boaters with some experience and the proper equipment (registered kayak, life jacket, paddle). Register by June 12.

**TAI CHI IN THE PARK**  
Thurs., June 14 - 5:30 pm - MTB  
See June 7th program description.

**FAMILY NATURE EXPLORATION**  
Sat., June 16 - 11 am - OMP/CG  
See June 2nd program description.

**BUTTERFLY TEA PARTY**  
Sat., June 16 - 11 am to 12:30 pm - ACF  
Tea party, butterflies and dressy party clothes. Games, crafts, and food. That’s how it goes! Children, ages 4-12, and their adult companions are invited to join us for a fun, formal tea party at the Log Cabin. Fancy party clothes are encouraged. A $10 fee for each child and adult must be paid before the program. Register early, by June 13, as seating is limited.

**MIKE HEMMELGARN**  
Sat., June 16 - 7 pm - OMP/AMP  
See Amphitheater Program Insert.

**FATHER’S DAY HIKE**  
Sun., June 17 - 4 pm - MMP  
Ask yourself, what does Dad really want today? If the answer is more family time, we’ve just the program for you! Bring dad out for an afternoon hike and enjoy the outdoors! If the answer is more nap time, we’ve got just the program for you! Leave dad at home to enjoy a well-deserved break and come out for an afternoon hike in the great outdoors! Be prepared for the weather and ground conditions. Register by June 15.

**METRO PARK DISCOVERS (ages 7-9)**  
**SPIDERS**  
Tues., June 19, Wed., June 20 & Thurs., June 21. - 10 am to 3 pm - MTB  
See Metro Park Adventures insert.

**TAI CHI IN THE PARK**  
Thurs., June 21 - 5:30 pm - MTB  
See June 7th program description.

**FAMILY NATURE EXPLORATION**  
Sat., June 23 - 10 am - OMP/CG  
See June 2nd program description.
STEVE MADEWELL  
Sat., June 23 - 7 p.m.  
See Amphitheater program insert.

METRO PARK EXPLORERS (ages 10-14)  
SURVIVAL SKILLS  
Tues., June 26, Wed., June 27 & Thurs., June 28 - 10 am to 3 pm - HWMP  
See Metro Park Adventures insert.

HEALTH THROUGH NATURE  
Tues., June 26 - 5:30 pm - MTB  
Although modern technologies are making our life easier, more and more people are experiencing a sense of unease and anxiety. New scientific research is concluding that our disconnect from nature may be the cause. Scientists are finding that a connection to the natural world is crucial for our health and well-being. Join a naturalist on the fourth Tuesday evening of each month this summer to reap the health benefits of being in nature. Experience the calm and peace that nature provides as you decrease your stress hormones, your blood pressure, and your feelings of anxiety. Register by June 22.

TAI CHI IN THE PARK  
Thurs., June 28 - 5:30 pm - MTB  
See June 7th program description.

FAMILY NATURE EXPLORATION  
Sat., June 30 - 10 am - OMP/CG  
See June 2nd program description.

MICHAEAL MAGE MAGIC  
Sat., June 30 - 7 pm—OMP/AMP  
See Amphitheater Program insert.

FAMILY NATURE EXPLORATION  
Sat., July 7 - 10 am - OMP/CG  
See June 2nd program description.

NATURE’S NURSERY  
Sat., July 7 - 7 pm - OMP/AMP  
See Amphitheater Program insert.

METRO PARK TRAILBLAZERS (ages 5-6)  
BIRDS, BIRDS, BIRDS  
Tues., July 10, Wed., July 11 & Thurs., July 12 - 10 am to 1 pm - MTB  
See Metro Park Adventures insert.

FAMILY NATURE EXPLORATION  
Sat., July 14 - 10 am - OMP/CG  See June 2nd program description.

NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP  
Sat., July 14 - 9 am to 12 pm - MEEC  
Beginners and experts alike will benefit from the experience of accomplished instructor, Chris Collins, the judge of the JAMPD Nature Photography Contest! Put your camera to work as Chris helps us overcome the unique challenges that nature presents to the photographer. This workshop will cover several aspects of nature photography including subject, composition, lighting, and will include time on the trail to apply what we’ve learned! Register by Wednesday, July 11.

DR. INSECTA  
Sat., July 14 - 7 pm - OMP/AMP  
See Amphitheater Program insert.

METRO PARK EXPLORERS (ages 10-14)  
FRONTIER DAY CAMP  
Wed., July 18 & Thurs. July 19 - 10 am to 3:30 pm - FTA  
See Metro Park Adventures insert.

METRO PARK DISCOVERERS (ages 7-9)  
TREES  
Tues., July 17, Wed., July 18 & Thurs., July 19 - 10 am to 3 pm - MTB  
See Metro Park Adventures insert.

JULY

IMAGINATURE PLAYGROUP  
Fri., July 6 - 10 am or 1 pm - HWMP  
Come play with us at the Hermon Woodlands Imaginature Playscape! Join a naturalist at the West Shelter for a mini-program, then spend the rest of the time playing and exploring in the Playscape and creek. Feel free to pack a picnic lunch. Caregivers might want to pack extra shoes and/or clothes for the ride home! No registration necessary.

FAMILY NATURE EXPLORATION  
Sat., July 21 - 10 am - OMP/CG  
See June 2 program description.

HAL WALKER  
Sat., July 21 - 7 pm - OMP/AMP  
See Amphitheater program insert.

METRO PARK EXPLORERS (ages 10-14)  
POLLINATORS  
Tues., July 24, Wed., July 25 & Thurs., July 26 - 10 am to 3 pm - MTB  
See Metro Park Adventures insert.

HEALTH THROUGH NATURE  
Tues., July 24 - 5:30 pm - MTB  
See June 26th program description. Register by July 20.

SEED COLLECTING TRAINING  
Wed., July 25 - 7 pm - OMP Wyandot Shelter  
Join the Land Stewardship Department and learn to collect prairie seeds. We will visit the prairie behind Marimor to learn to identify several prairie grasses and some prairie flowers. We will begin collecting the seeds in the fall to be able to seed in some sparse areas of the park’s prairies. Please register by Tues., July 24.

SUMMER MOTHS!  
Fri., July 27 - 9:30 pm - MTB  
Due to their nighttime activity, moths often get the short end of the stick. Truth is, moths are overwhelmingly more abundant than their daytime cousins, the butterflies. Not only that, but many are arguably as beautiful or even more so! Join a Naturalist for a look at these nocturnal beauties. We will set up black-lit sheets to attract moths, put out bait, and explore the woods at night! Dress for the weather and ground conditions. A flashlight and photography equipment is recommended. Bring bug spray (not for the moths of course) and your sense of adventure!
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<th>Location</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FAMILY NATURE EXPLORATION</td>
<td>Sat., July 28</td>
<td>10 am - OMP/CG</td>
<td>See June 2nd program description.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matt Keeler</td>
<td>Sat., July 28</td>
<td>7 pm - OMP/AMP</td>
<td>See Amphitheater Program insert.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Metro Park Trailblazers (ages 5-6)</td>
<td>Tues., July 31, Wed., Aug. 1 &amp; Thurs., Aug. 2</td>
<td>10 am to 1 pm - MTB</td>
<td>See Metro Park Adventures insert.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Campfire Sing-Along</td>
<td>Thurs., Aug. 2</td>
<td>7 pm - HWMP</td>
<td>CREEKS babble, fires crackle, bees buzz, crickets chirp and we sing! Or we try anyway. Break out your singing voice, or your listening ears, and join a naturalist for an evening of nature songs, some familiar, some new to learn. We'll sit around a campfire, enjoy some s'mores and sing (or listen, if that's your thing) to our hearts content. Song books will be provided. Bring bug spray. Register by July 31.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Imaginature Playgroup</td>
<td>Sat., Aug. 3</td>
<td>10 am or 1 pm - HWMP</td>
<td>Come play with us at the Hermon Woodlands Imaginature Playscape! Join a naturalist at the West Shelter for a mini-program, then spend the rest of the time playing and exploring in the Playscape and creek. Feel free to pack a picnic lunch. Caregivers might want to pack extra shoes and/or clothes for the ride home! No registration necessary.</td>
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<tr>
<td>FAMILY NATURE EXPLORATION</td>
<td>Sat., Aug. 4</td>
<td>10 am - OMP/CG</td>
<td>See June 2nd program description.</td>
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<td>Little Hog Creek Dulcimers</td>
<td>Sat., Aug. 4</td>
<td>7 pm - OMP/AMP</td>
<td>See Amphitheater Program insert.</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Night Out</td>
<td>Tues., Aug. 7</td>
<td>6 pm to 9 pm - HP</td>
<td>Come join family and friends at Heritage Park for National Night Out. There will be food, games for the kids, a 5K fun run and displays from your local Fire and Law Enforcement Departments. Parking will be at Apollo Career Center. Take this opportunity to spend an evening with your family.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nature Pals: Morning at the Beach</td>
<td>Thurs., Aug. 9</td>
<td>10 am to 11:30 pm - OMP Beach</td>
<td>Children, ages 3-5, and their adult companion and siblings are invited to celebrate summer with a trip to the Ottawa Metro Park Beach. Enjoy the water, along with games and a scavenger hunt. Dress for swimming and remember to bring sunscreen. $3 per child, adults get in free. Register by August 7.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Just for Kids: Stream Stroll</td>
<td>Fri., Aug. 10</td>
<td>1 pm to 2:30 pm - OMP/AMP</td>
<td>Kids, ages 5-12, are invited to explore life in a creek. We will be searching the creek for clues of who lives there by using dip nets and hand lenses. Be prepared to get wet and muddy. Wear old clothing and water shoes, rubber boots or old gym shoes. Parents might want to pack an extra outfit for the ride home. Register by August 8.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Nature Exploration: Stream Stroll</td>
<td>Sat., Aug. 11</td>
<td>10 am - OMP/CG</td>
<td>Families are invited to join a naturalist for an exploration of the creek. Come get right into the water and mud as we explore with dip nets. Wear old clothing and water shoes, rubber boots, or old gym shoes. Parents might want to pack an extra outfit for the ride home.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dragons and Damselflies</td>
<td>Sat., Aug. 11</td>
<td>2 pm - LBS</td>
<td>Flying jewels and tigers of the sky, these aerial masters are invertebrate kings. Their larvae are aquatic, so you will usually find the adults near water, like at Lippincott Bird Sanctuary. Come enjoy your afternoon learning, observing, catching and experiencing these awesome insects! Some nets will be provided, be prepared for the weather and to get your feet wet/muddy. Register by August 9.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Conkers</td>
<td>Sat., Aug. 11</td>
<td>7 pm - OMP/AMP</td>
<td>See Amphitheater Program insert.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lauer Farm Open House</td>
<td>Sun., Aug. 12</td>
<td>1 pm to 5 pm - LHF</td>
<td>See article on page 1.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Perseid Meteor Shower</td>
<td>Sun., Aug. 12</td>
<td>9:30 pm - KW</td>
<td>Join members of the Lima Astronomical Society at Kendrick Woods at dark for meteor viewing. Telescopes will be present for astronomical viewing. Bring mosquito repellent and a comfortable chair or blanket. In case of rain or thick clouds the program will be cancelled.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Nature Exploration</td>
<td>Sat., Aug. 18</td>
<td>10 am - OMP/CG</td>
<td>See June 2nd program description.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chris Rowlands</td>
<td>Sat., Aug. 18</td>
<td>7 pm - OMP/AMP</td>
<td>See Amphitheater Program insert.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fossil Creek Band</td>
<td>Sat., Aug. 25</td>
<td>7 pm - OMP/AMP</td>
<td>See Amphitheater Program insert.</td>
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YOU DON’T WANT TO MISS IT!!!
Mark your calendars now! It’s almost time for the 26th Apple Festival to be held at the Allen County Farm Park on:
Saturday, September 29
Sunday, September 30
12 Noon to 6 p.m.
Admission and parking are free. Look for details and schedule in the Fall Cider Press newsletter.

Your METRO PARKS!

ALLEN COUNTY FARM PARK
1582 Slabtown Road

AGERTER ROAD RIVER ACCESS
16410 Agerter Road

DEEP CUT HISTORICAL PARK
22900 St. Rt. 66

FT. AMANDA STATE MEMORIAL
22800 St. Rt. 198

HERITAGE PARK
2092 Reed Road (West Entrance)
1772 Reed Road (East Entrance)

HERMON WOODLANDS
485 N. Wapak Road

KENDRICK WOODS
971 N. Defiance Trail

EVANS ARCHERY RANGE
1376 N. St. Marys Road

LAUER HISTORICAL FARM
800 Roush Road

LIPPINCOTT BIRD SANCTUARY
3093 Bellefontaine Road

McLEAN TEDDY BEAR PARK
2004 N. Dixie Hwy.

MOTTER METRO PARK
10740 Columbus Grove-Bluffton Rd. Bluffton

OTTAWA METRO PARK
2632 Ada Road

PARK OFFICE/MELOROY CENTER
2355 Ada Road

ROTARY RIVERWALK/ OTTAWA RIVER BIKEWAY
From Heritage Park to Ottawa Metro Park

BLUFFTON

MCLEAN TEDDY BEAR PARK

LIPINCOTT BIRD SANCTUARY

MOTTER METRO PARK

OTTAWA METRO PARK

ALLEN COUNTY

DELPHOS

LIMA

SPECKERVILLE

YOUR METRO PARKS!
INTERESTING NEIGHBORS!

My family has some real interesting neighbors living across the street from us. They’re not very friendly. They ignore us most of the time but every once in a while when I happen to glance out of the window, I catch one of them staring at our house. It can be a bit unsettling! I guess we are kind of lucky in that they spend the winter down south, so we only have to deal with them seven or eight months each year. I guess our biggest complaint is when they invite all of their relatives and friends over and hang out in the yard.

Oh, and did I mention, that they like to eat . . . roadkill?!

Ha Ha! Have you guessed who our neighbors are yet? We live across the street from a softball field that in March becomes inundated with Turkey vultures returning from their southern wintering grounds. We have counted as many as 43 vultures in the field at one time. That sure is a large “committee” of vultures!

With a bald, red, wrinkly head that only a mother would love, the Turkey vulture is one of our largest resident raptors. Their wingspan can be as wide as six feet! That’s hard to imagine when you see them high up in the air with their wings spread out as they glide in circles on the air currents.

Turkey vultures have some very interesting and unique features. Here is the Top 10 List:

#10. Their immense six-foot wingspans make them the second largest bird in this area, second only to the Bald eagle whose average wingspan comes in at 6 – 7.5 feet.

#9. They do not have vocal chords so they can’t make any sounds beyond a grunt or hiss.

#8. They are called “Turkey” vultures because their red head resembles that of a Wild turkey.

#7. They are the sanitation workers of the natural world. As scavengers, they eat carrion (dead animals) that few other animals will eat which helps circulate important nutrients back into the environment.

#6. Unlike most birds, they have a keen sense of smell. They can smell dead, rotting flesh miles away.

#5. Their aforementioned featherless head makes it much easier to insert their head into a dead carcass. No slimy innards or bacteria stuck in their feathers!

#4. They will often stand with their wings fully extended to dry their feathers or to warm up their bodies in the sunshine. The sun’s heat might also help kill any bacteria on the feathers, picked up while eating carrion.

#3. They defecate on their legs to help keep them cooler in the summer. As the liquid in the waste evaporates, it cools the blood vessels in their feet. (Who needs A/C?) The strong acid in their waste also destroys any bacteria that might be on their legs leftover from the carrion.

#2. The digestive chemicals in their stomach are extremely acidic and corrosive, allowing them to feed on animals that may have died from botulism, anthrax, salmonella and cholera. Their stomach acids actually kill the bacteria without harming the vultures. Vultures, thus, have an extremely important role in the ecosystem; they help prevent the spread of diseases from rotted corpses.

AND #1. They have a unique way to protect themselves from predators. When threatened, a Turkey vulture will regurgitate semi-digested food. If you thought that dead, rotting flesh smells, think about how semi-digested dead, rotting flesh would smell! Eww!

Turkey vultures spend their winters in the southern US and Mexico, migrating north typically in March. The town of Hinckley, Ohio celebrates the return of the Turkey vultures each year. They claim that the birds arrive in Hinckley like clockwork annually on March 15th. Every year on this date, birders gather early in the morning at “Buzzards’ Roost” at the Cleveland Metro-parks Hinckley Reservation to witness this annual rite of spring. The town also officially designates the Sunday on or immediately following March 15th as Buzzard Sunday. Thousands of people gather for the celebration that includes a pancake breakfast, naturalist-led hikes, games, storytelling, and a craft fair.

Ohio is home to two different species of New World vultures - the Turkey vulture (Cathartes aura) and the Black vulture (Coragyps atratus). Instead of a red head, a Black vulture has – guess what? – a black head! Black vultures are also a bit smaller than Turkey vultures. The northern limit of the range for Black vultures is southern Ohio, so they are not typically seen in Allen County.

Black vultures have recently become irritating neighbors at some of the Ohio State Parks. In the summer of 2016, Black vultures at Caesar Creek State Park were observed attacking and shredding rubber and vinyl parts on vehicles in the parking lot, resulting in hundreds of dollars of repair work for destroyed windshield wipers, sunroof seals, and window weather strips. Biologists aren’t sure what is causing this unusual behavior. Their only hypothesis at this point is that the rubber and vinyl might be emitting an “attractive” chemical odor caused by the sun’s heat and/or UV light. Motorists at Rocky Fork and Hueston Woods State Parks are experiencing the same problems. Park staff are doing what they can to prevent the damage. Along with trying to scare off the birds, they have also started offering visitors large tarps and bungee cords for covering their vehicles. The reports of damage have decreased dramatically since the inception of the “anti-vulture kits”. Reports of similar problems are surfacing from other states as well.

Although Ohio’s vultures can be irritating, and sometimes disgusting in our human eyes, they are important neighbors. From being natural sanitation engineers cleaning up all of the dead animals to stopping the spread of extremely dangerous bacteria, vultures fill an important niche in our natural ecosystem. They are important to have around! And even though I started this article making it sound as if I don’t like the Turkey vultures that live across the street from my house, I don’t mind them. I enjoy watching them sun themselves in the morning with their long extended wings, and I enjoy watching them soar peacefully on the air currents so high up in the air. They are good neighbors to have!

Beth Theisen
Naturalist
INSECT WORD SEARCH

ANT
BEE
BEETLE
BUTTERFLY
CICADA
CRICKET
DAMSELFLY
DRAGONFLY
FLY
GRASSHOPPER
HORNET
LADYBUG
MAYFLY
MOSQUITO
MOTH
WASP

H H I W G R A S S H O P P E R U Z B J D
B U T T E R F L Y E A Y A N T V K Y R G
R Z B S X K J F Z G G G H H T O M A P I
P D U Y G D L W I Y U C I H L L G T G U
L Q R W P P X D C N B V T Y Q O O L J J
A T L F O T N G H L Y Y G M N F V I M G
C N S O R O B K W Z D Q L F I I D A A H
J E A B X E O W B K A T L R A L Y Q T M
W F U G E W P T H G L Y E W A F T R J P
L E J T U K A T H R L F Z J L O N E W B
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