



Friends of the Gorman Nature Center Newsletter

Richland County Park District

Winter 2016-17 Vol 35, No 4

2016 at the Richland County Park District

If our 2016 report looks similar to our 2015 report, it's because we still have...lots of new stuff happening...

New - For the first time in nearly 15 years, the Richland County Park District, once again, has three, full-time staff members. Our Executive Director, **Jason Larson**, who has been with us since fall 2013 and has been working hard, ever since, to develop new community partnerships, events, programming and outreach for the park district and Richland County. Our Director of Education and Volunteer Coordination, **Amanda Kriner**, has been with us since the fall of 2014 and continues to develop new and exciting programming and educational outreach for our public school districts, private schools and local home school groups. Amanda is also responsible for all of our volunteer operations, care of our educational animals and displays, the RCPD website, publicity and press releases and our weekly Mom's & Kids program. Finally, our Director of Land and Facilities Management, **Kyle Bailey**, has been working hard since the fall of 2015, to keep all of the RCPD properties looking their best. Kyle is responsible for the management of all RCPD facilities, land holding and trails, including Gorman Nature Center and the entire B&O Trail. Kyle also directs all of the volunteers who assist with land and facilities maintenance and assists with website development. Stop in for a visit and see what the staff and volunteers have planned for 2017!

The staff of the GNC is grateful to all of you who contributed in some way to this year's operation - members, volunteers, board members and park visitors. This was the **38th year** for the Nature Center and the **22nd year** for the Richland B&O Trail. If you haven't seen our web site, visit gormannaturecenter.org to check on our event schedule, maps and other information.

Additional thanks go to our many faithful visitor center **volunteers** – **Rhonda Berry, Phyllis Chaney, Dr. David Clymer, Jamie Lynn Collins, Linda Collins, Amy Crutchfield, Larry Doktor, Janet Ellsworth, Dean Homerick, Wilietta Johnson-Uhler, Becky Lux, Shayne Marhofer, Chris McQuillen, Pandey Parker, Jen Post, Bill Reese, Sandy Shores, Kristin Smith, Janet Swartz, Linda Tucker, Kim Washington, Jordan Wells, and Stephanie Witherspoon** who keep the Visitor Center open while our small staff is at a school or on the trail.

For the 2016 **Make a Difference Day**, over 30 adults and 54 kids “made a difference” by picking up litter on the Richland B&O Trail. Thanks to **Bellville Girl Scout Troops 2131, 2477, 1030 & 154; Bellville Cub Scout Pack #126; Lexington Girl Scout Troops 165, 2142 & 2092; and Lucas Girl Scout Troop 679!** We also owe a very special thanks to **Deb Altman** for organizing this clean-up event!

Many people helped maintain the GNC hiking trails, provide maintenance support, assist with construction projects and remove invasive species: **Craig Adie, Rhonda Berry, Jamie Lynn Collins, Linda Collins, Brennan Hamilton, Cade Hamilton, Kris Hamilton, Gary Jones, Les Jones, Jan Trexler Kennedy, Ginger Long, Carla Miller and Kristin Smith.**

In addition to programs from our own staff, we also leaned about the minerals of the Cincinnati Arch from **Tom Kottyan** at our Rock & Fossil Day, dragonflies and damselflies from **Judy Semrock & Larry Rosche**, curious critters from **David FitzSimmons** and Ohio spiders from **Sarah Rose.**

Our Richland B&O Trail volunteers for 2016 were: **Craig Adie, Keith Elliot, Mike Fisher, Charlie Marcum, Tom McCready, John Merschdorf, Carla Miller, Dave Moody, Steve Reynolds, Bob Snyder and Terry White** who spent many hours keeping the bike trail safe and neatly trimmed. How many hours, you ask? These faithful volunteers donated over 360 hours– the equivalent of over nine full-time weeks!

We want to thank **Janet Cramer** and all of the following Richland County Master Gardner members - **Regina Berg, Pamela Ellis, Jennifer Hurst, Shayne Marhofer and Suzanne Mayer** for work on the new pollinator gardens, dedicated to the memory of **Marjorie Gorman.**

The following helped with our major GNC events and festivals – Mohican Wildlife Weekend, GNC Rock & Fossil Day, RCPD Pollinator Festival and The Big Sit: **Gay & Kay Abrams, Deb, Gavin and Samantha Altman, Susie Boyer, Bill & Mary Byrley, Gary Cowell, Amy Beth Crutchfield, Nola Dean, Dave Grove, Jen & Natalie Grove, Stan Esbenshade, Pat Everly, Terry Hubble, Lawrence Hull, Mike & Carolyn Kelley, Marcia Kinnard, Tom & Pam Kottyan, Jena Lafon, Danny & Pam Lauer, Joel Likins, Ed Lux, Owen Lux, Shayne Marhofer, Mike McCullough, Christian, Christy and Elise Nunn, Mick Pinka, Rinda Sansom, Mandi & Carrie Stephens, Bryan Summer, Jan Swartz, Roger Troutman, Walt Upchurch and Anthony Wheaton.**

Assisting with animal feeding days, programs and trail maintenance were our RCPD junior volunteers for 2016: - **Gavin Altman, Samantha Altman, Katelyn Grove, Natalie Grove, Sammi Grove, Logan Harriman, Savanna Harriman, Amara Hutchinson, Elise Nunn, Christian Nunn and Katie Troyer.**

The following volunteers helped with the RCPD participation in the 2016 Richland County Fair assisting with display staffing, programming, etc.: **Maria Bon, Linda Collins, Jan Ferrell, Katelyn Grove, Natalie Grove, Sammi Grove, Logan Harriman, Savanna Harriman, Dean Homerick, Wilietta Johnson-Uhler, Jena Lafon, Chris McQuillen, Pandey Parker, Barb Sanders, Jan Swartz and Stephanie Witherspoon.**

Green Newsletter

If you would prefer an email version of the newsletter to save paper and postage, please email us at gormannaturecenter@gmail.com. Thanks.

Thanks to the following
**FRIENDS OF THE
NATURE CENTER** for
their recent support.
They helped make 2016
a successful year!

Volunteers

in 2016

CRAIG ADIE
RHONDA BERRY
PHYLLIS CHANEY @
DR DAVID CLYMER @
JAMIE COLLINS @
LINDA COLLINS @
AMY BETH CRUTCHFIELD
LARRY DOKTOR
KEITH ELLIOT
JANET ELLSWORTH @
MIKE FISHER *
DEAN HOMERICK **
WILIETTA JOHNSON-
UHLER
GARY JONES
LES JONES
BECKY LUX *
CHARLIE MARCUM
SHAYNE MARHOFER @
TOM MCCREADY @
CHRIS MCQUILLEN **
JOHN MERSCHDORF **
DAVE MOODY *
PANDY PARKER @
JEN POST @
BILL REESE @
STEVE REYNOLDS *
RINDA SANSOM ***
SANDY SHORES @
KRISTIN SMITH @
BOB SNYDER @
JANET SWARTZ *
LINDA TUCKER *****
KIM WASHINGTON *****
JORDAN WELLS
TERRY WHITE *
LINDA WILSON ***
STEPHANIE
WITHERSPOON

***** over 25 years
**** over 20 years
*** over 15 years
** over 10 years
* over 5 years
@ - new for 2016

EAGLE (SUSTAINING)

DICK & JOYCE ADAIR
CONSTANCE AU
ANGUS & JANE BARTON
JOEL & MARGARET
BLACK
DR & MRS CLEMENTS
TIM CULLER
JAMES & CYNDDDE
DEWEESE
KATHERINE FERNYAK
LESLIE GARDNER
PAM & GLENN HARTZ
NANCY & BRUCE
JACKSON MD
TOM & DEB JONES
DAVE & DIANE KRACKER
KAY & BEN LOCKE
MARY MASSIE
JEANNINE MCKEE
STEVE & DEB MCKEE
OLIVE MILLER
DON & DIANA PLANT
ANNE & DAVID SEISS
D A STEWART
DICK & CATHY STOFFER
JANET SWARTZ
HELEN & RICHARD
TAYLOR
GREG & SUSAN VIGESAA
JIM WALTER

Hawk (sponsoring)

MARY AMICK
ROBERT & CANDACE
BRENNER
M & C CHENGELIS
PAUL CORBITT
MARY DAMRON
IRENE DARROW
DENNIS & POLLY DAVIS
CYNTHIA DORSEY
BARBARA & JIM EAKINS
JANET & BILL
ELLSWORTH
CHRIS & CHARIL FUHRER
GRATTON & LINDA
HAMILTON
KINGWOOD ORCHID
SOCIETY
SARAH LICHTENSTEIN

BILL & DEB MARSH
STEPHEN VANHOLDE &
MICHELLE MOOD
ERVIN & CAROL ANNE
MYERS
ADDISON & ANDIE
NAVRATIL
NORTH LIBERTY GARDEN
CLUB
BOB & SANDY NYE
DEB & RON REED
MARY RHODES
TIM & JAN RHODES
PETER & SUSAN
ROBERTS
MELISSA SAPRANO
SCHRAEDLY
ACCOUNTING
MARILYN WEILER
PAT WISENBARGER

Owl (supporting)

LUCY AMSBAUGH
LINDA BOWMAN
CHRIS BOX & FAMILY
CHRISTOPHER CLARKE
JOHN CLARY
JOAN COLLARD FAMILY
GARY COWELL
BRUCE & GENEVA
CUMMINS
JOYCE CURRY
LARRY DOKTOR
LARRY EICHER
ANDREW & LYNN FAHMY
TOM & BEV FASIG
JENNIFER FENTON
JACK FISHER
MARY & DON FISHER
BILL & TONYA FLANEGAN
LOUISE FLEMING-
DUFALA
RON & NANCY FOLTZ
CAROL FRY
NANCY & SID HALL
MARYANNE & BEN IRWIN
TOMMI JOHNSON
MRS ROBERT W JONES
EILEEN LEVISON
JOYCE & JIM LUMLEY
ELAINE L LYBARGER
ROBERT & DIANA
MALONE
JOHN & BARB
MCCAMMON
DAVID MILLS
LADONNA O'NEAL

BETTY POLLOCK
BILL & EUDORA
PONTIOUS
ELIZABETH PRITCHARD
JOAN RADER
DAVE & DEBBIE
ROBERTS
ARLYN RUSH
JULIA SCHILLING
DR & MRS RJ SHRILLA
CHRISTINE SUTTER
EDWARD & MARILYN
TREASE
MICHAEL UDOLPH
LARRY & JEAN VON BLON
FAMILY
NANCY & TOM
WEIDEMEYER
ANTHONY & MARILYN
WHEATON
ANNE & CLIFF WILLIAMS
HARRY & JOAN
WIRSTROM
JON & KRISTIN YOUNG

Cardinal, Flock & Fledgling (individual, family & student)

ELIZABETH AU
STEVE & BETH CAGAN
GREG & LESLIE
CORNETT
BILL FISHER
BETTY JEAN FRANCE
JOETTA GOODMAN
INGRID & TOM GRIFFITHS
MARGARET JOYCE
MICHAEL & JAYNE KLEIN
GEORGE LOESCH
BRYAN MCCLELLAND
CRYSTAL MCMILLEN
ROBERTA MOORE
ARIEL MORNINGSTARR
CHRISTIAN & ELISE
NUNN
SHIRLEY PURCELL
REDMOND FAMILY
SARAH SCHMITKONS
GLENNA SHEAFFER
JIM & CAROL SKEEN
LARRY & ELAINE SMITH
ROGER & ANN STILLION
ELLEN TIETJEN
RITA WALSH

BIRD FEEDING WORKSHOP!

Saturday, January 7 - 1:00 p.m.

Learn the basics of attracting birds to your yard! This program will cover the basics, including the best kinds of birdseed to use, bird feeders, water features, plantings, how to deal with critters, etc. Come have all of your questions answered. Call 419-884-3764 for details!

BEGINNING BIRD WATCHING

Saturday, January 14 - 1:00 p.m.

Come learn the basics of bird watching. We will examine basic I.D., optics, field guides, etc. Registration is required. Fee is \$20. Fee covers the cost of the field guide. Field trips are taken throughout the year to gain field experience. Call 419-884-3764 for details!

CREATIVE WRITING IN THE OUTDOORS

Saturday, January 28, February 11, March 11 & April 22, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. - Ages 10-18

This class will be a chance for kids who are interested in getting their creative juices flowing! It will be great opportunity for students who love to write and want more practice, as well as students who don't usually enjoy classroom style writing projects, to get outside and do something fun. We will use nature as an inspiration for building stories, creating poems, expanding vocabulary and more! Students should dress for the weather as each session will be outside, and bring their own writing journals and other writing materials. There is no cost for this program, but registration is required as there will be a limit on class size. Please call GNC at 419-884-3764 to register or with any questions.

Home School Program: Creative Writing in the Outdoors

10 week series - Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m., and 1:00 p.m. January 17th - March 21st, 2017 - Ages 10-18

This class will be a chance for home-schooled kids who are interested in getting their creative juices flowing! It will be great opportunity for students who love to write and want more practice, as well as students who don't usually enjoy classroom style writing projects, to get outside and fulfill school writing requirements in a fun way. We will use nature as an inspiration for building stories, creating poems, expanding vocabulary and more! Sessions will be offered individually, but will build upon one another to develop skills throughout the 10 week series. Students should dress for the weather as each session will be outside, and bring their own writing journals and other writing materials. There is no cost for this program, but registration is required as there will be a limit on class size. Please call GNC at 419-884-3764 to register or with any questions.

THE NIGHT SKY

Fri., Dec. 2 [7:00 p.m.], Mon., Jan. 30 [8:00 p.m.],
Tue., Feb. 28 [8:00 p.m.] & Thu., Mar. 30 [8:30 p.m.]

Come learn a bit about the moon and stars, view some constellations and planets, take home a free star chart and have all of your astronomical questions answered. Guests should be able to view spectacular constellations, a planet or two, (like Jupiter or Saturn) and maybe even a few galaxies! Telescopes and binoculars will be available for use, but please feel free to bring your own. These events will be held ONLY if the sky is clear. If the program is canceled, please inquire about our astronomy email list and additional program information. What could be more fun than an evening of astronomy at Gorman Nature Center? Participants will meet at the GNC visitor center.

GNC MOMS & KIDS

Wednesdays - 9:00 & 10:00 a.m.

Join us each-and-every Wednesday for GNC's Mom's & Kids program! Each weekly program is designed for parents and their pre-school aged children. There are two, identical sessions, one from 9:00-10:00 a.m. and one from 10:00-11:00 a.m. Sessions are free and open to the public. Program content varies from week-to-week, focuses on a nature-related topic and is delivered in a manner appropriate to pre-school aged children. Prior to each session, we send out an update to let parents know what the upcoming session will be about, remind kids to bring nature-related show-and-tell items, what to wear, etc. For more information or to inquire about being added to our email listing, please call 419-884-3764.

Friends of Gorman Nature Center

Support the Friends of Gorman Nature Center

Supporting the Friends of GNC is an investment.

Donations and sponsorships from the Friends of Gorman Nature Center are vital for sustaining the excellent opportunities that our staff offers to the public.

Schools

FOGNC donations allow the RCPD to offer free educational programs for schools in Richland County year round. The GNC staff receives field trips at the nature center and will also travel to schools to teach in-class.

Public

FOGNC funds assist in maintaining the GNC trails and the B&O Bike Trail for public enjoyment year round. Our staff also offers over 100 programs every year to the public free of charge. These programs include excellent opportunities for educational field trips and lectures from experts in their fields. Without FOGNC sponsors we would not be able to provide these unparalleled free opportunities to the public.

Conservation

FOGNC donations are also used to protect and maintain park district land. The RCPD's desire is to keep our land in pristine condition for the enjoyment of the public for years to come.

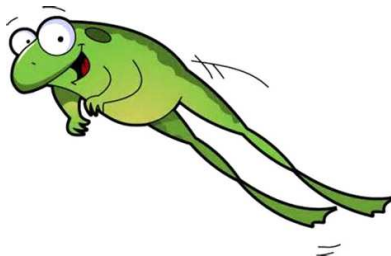
The Richland County Park District is dedicated to introducing and interpreting our region's natural heritage to the citizens of Richland County.

The Richland County Park District operates two primary facilities: The Gorman Nature Center and the Richland B&O Bike Trail.

Both of these properties are supported by funds from the Friends of the Gorman Nature Center which is a 501(c)(3) non-profit.

HOP TO IT!

Become a Richland County Park District Volunteer Today!!



With all of the land, trails and activities that the RCPD oversees, it is impossible to do everything without the help of our amazing crew of dedicated volunteers. If you are willing to volunteer your time and talent with us then we would love to have you join our volunteer family. RCPD volunteers have flexible hours as well as a variety of duties to choose from, including docents, program presenters, indoor and outdoor maintenance, trail work, invasive species removal, nature center greeters, special events and much more!

Call us at 419-884-3764 or email us at: gormannaturecenter@gmail.com for more information!

Gorman Nature Center

Calendar of Events - Winter 2016-2017

Fri	Dec 2	7:00 pm	The Night Sky - a monthly telescope program at GNC - only if the sky is clear. (JL)
Sat	Dec 3	10:00 am	What's Up Duck? Annual Waterfowl Watch at nearby reservoirs. Meet at GNC! Call 419-884-3764 for details. (SM & JL)
Wed	Dec 7	9 & 10	Moms & Kids (For parents and their pre-school children, sessions 9-10 and 10-11 am, each-and-every Wednesday.) See page 3 for details. (AK & JL)
Sat	Dec 10	8:30 am	Breakfast w/ the Birds - meet at GNC. See page 6 for details or call 419-884-3764. (JL)
Sat	Dec 17	All Day	Mansfield Christmas Bird Count - call 419-884-3764 for details.
Sat	Dec 31	All Day	Mohican Christmas Bird Count - email roger.troutman@gmail.com for details.
Sat	Jan 7	1:00 pm	Winter Bird Feeding Workshop! Call 419-884-3764 for details. (JL)
Fri	Jan 13	7:00 pm	Owl Prowl - come join us for an informative program about Ohio owls followed by a hike to find them! See page 6 for details or call 419-884-3764. (JL)
Sat	Jan 14	8:30 am	Breakfast w/ the Birds - meet at GNC. See page 6 for details or call 419-884-3764. (JL)
Sat	Jan 14	1:00 pm	Beginning Bird Watching Course! Call 419-884-3764 for details. (JL)
Tue	Jan 17	10:00 am	Home School Program - Creative Writing in the Outdoors! (10 week series - Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. Jan. 17th - Mar. 21st, 2017.) See page 5 for details. (AK)
Sat	Jan 28	10:00 am	Creative Writing in the Outdoors! See page 3 for details. (AK)
Sat	Jan 28	12-4 pm	GNC Junior Naturalist Series - Surviving the Winter! See page 6 for details. (AK)
Sat	Jan 28	7:00 am	Castalia Pond/Medusa Marsh Birdwatching Trip. Call 419-884-3764 for details. (JL)
Mon	Jan 30	8:00 pm	The Night Sky - a monthly telescope program at GNC - only if the sky is clear. (JL)
Fri	Feb 3	7:00 pm	Owl Prowl - come join us for an informative program about Ohio owls followed by a hike to find them! See page 6 for details or call 419-884-3764. (JL)
Sat	Feb 11	10:00 am	Creative Writing in the Outdoors! See page 3 for details. (AK)
Sat	Feb 11	12-4 pm	GNC Junior Naturalist Series - Surviving the Winter! See page 6 for details. (AK)
Sat	Feb 18	8:30 am	Breakfast w/ the Birds & The Great Backyard Bird Count - meet at GNC. See page 6 for details or call 419-884-3764. (KB)
Sat	Feb 18	9-11 am	A Bird in the Hand - spend Saturday morning with the birds for this hands-on, "bird's-eye" view of winter birds and bird banding. See page 6 for details. (SM)
Thu	Feb 23	1:30 pm	Winter Nature Walk for Seniors - meet at GNC. (AK, KB, JL or SM)
Sat	Feb 25	All Day	Ohio Natural History Conference - for details see: www.ohiobiologicalsurvey.org
Tue	Feb 28	8:00 pm	The Night Sky - a monthly telescope program at GNC - only if the sky is clear. (JL)
Sat	Mar 4	9-12 pm	Invasive Plant Identification & Removal Workshop! (KB)
Sat	Mar 11	8:30 am	Breakfast w/ the Birds - meet at GNC. See page 6 for details or call 419-884-3764. (JL)
Sat	Mar 11	10:00 am	Creative Writing in the Outdoors! See page 3 for details. (AK)
Sat	Mar 11	12-4 pm	GNC Junior Naturalist Series - Surviving the Winter! See page 6 for details. (AK)
Sat	Mar 18	All Day	Shreve Migration Sensation - for details see www.happypages.com/migration
Thu	Mar 30	8:30 pm	The Night Sky - a monthly telescope program at GNC - only if the sky is clear. (JL)

All programs free to the public. (AK = Amanda Kriner, KB = Kyle Bailey, JL = Jason Larson, SM = Steve McKee)



I am eager to help support natural history education in Richland County and to receive your quarterly newsletter. Please enroll me in "Friends of the Nature Center" at the following level for one year:

Name _____
Address _____ _____
Phone (optional) _____

Please clip and send to:

Friends of the Gorman Nature Center
2295 Lexington Ave.
Mansfield OH 44907-3027

<input type="checkbox"/> \$2.00 Fledgling (student)
<input type="checkbox"/> 5.00 Cardinal (individual)
<input type="checkbox"/> 10.00 Flock (family)
<input type="checkbox"/> 25.00 Owl (supporting)
<input type="checkbox"/> 50.00 Hawk (sponsoring)
<input type="checkbox"/> 100.00 Eagle (sustaining)

Enclosed is my membership donation for \$_____ (please make checks payable to "Friends of the Nature Center")

A Bird in the Hand

Saturday, February 18 at 9-11 am

Watching a bird at your feeder or in a tree is great, but seeing one up close is very special. Spend Saturday morning with the birds for this hands-on, "bird's-eye" view of winter birds and bird banding. Steve McKee will catch wild birds at the GNC feeders and apply numbered metal bands to their legs. Fun for all ages. This activity will take place in conjunction with Breakfast with the Birds and The Great Backyard Bird Count!

Owl Prowls

Friday, January 13 and February 3 at 7:00 pm

Ever wonder what happens at Gorman Nature Center after dark? Well here is your chance to find out! Join the GNC staff for a winter evening owl prow! Participants will learn all about local owls, get to see an Eastern Screech Owl up-close-and-personal and then take a hike out into the GNC woods to "hoot and holler" for our resident owl species! Meet at the GNC visitor center and remember to dress for the weather.

Breakfast with the Birds

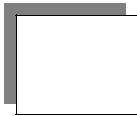
Saturday, December 10, January 14, February 18 and March 11 at 8:30 am

Too cold for a bird walk in the out-of-doors? Join us inside for Breakfast with the Birds! Participants will enjoy a variety of hot and cold beverages, fruit and apple cider doughnuts while watching and learning all about the common winter birds that visit our feeders. These programs are free, but if you partake of the breakfast bounty, donations are requested to cover the cost of the food and beverages. Participants will meet in the animal display room at the GNC visitor center. A bird hike will follow for those interested. Free ODNR, Ohio bird guides and CD's will be available.

GNC Junior Naturalist - Surviving the Winter Series

Saturday, January 28, February 11, March 11 & April 22, 12 - 4 pm

This series of programs will cover topics that will help young naturalists begin their journey towards a greater understanding of our natural world. Programs will begin with an indoor session and conclude with a hike or activity to reinforce and practice what they have learned. Registration is required and cost of the series is \$20. Program fee will cover the cost of our required field guide which participants will get to take home. Participants may attend as many or as few sessions as they are interested in, but the registration fee will cover all 4 programs. Ages 12-18. Call 419-884-3764 for additional details and to register.



A red X in the box at the right means that it is time to renew your "Friends of the Nature Center" membership. Thanks for you support!

Published quarterly by
Friends of the
Gorman Nature Center
Park Commissioners
Cheryl Harner
Eric S. Miller
Marion Zaugg
Nature Center Staff
(full or part-time)
Jason Larson
Amanda Kriner
Kyle Bailey
Steve McKee
Stephanie Witherspoon
Anthony Arata
Maria Bon

2295 Lexington Ave
Mansfield OH 44907-3027
419-884-3764
gormannaturecenter.org
Address Service Requested



Non-profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Mansfield OH
Permit No. 121