



Richland County Park District Newsletter

Richland County Park District

Spring 2020 Vol 39, No 2

Gorman Nature Center Calendar of Events - Spring 2020

F-S	Apr 3-5		EECO Annual Conference - annual Environmental Education Council of Ohio conference at Hueston Woods SP - for details see http://www.eeco-online.org/events
Sat	Apr 11	8:00 am	Birds & Breakfast Bird Walk - meet at GNC. (JL)
Sat	Apr 11	10 am	Gorman Nature Center Nature Journaling Club. (Sessions 2nd & 4th Saturday of each month). (KP)
Sat	Apr 11	1:00 pm	The Night Sky - a monthly telescope and planetarium program at GNC. (JL)
F-S	Apr 24-26		Mohican Wildlife Weekend - a variety of nature hikes and programs throughout the "Mohican Area" all weekend - for details see https://www.mohicanwildlifeweekend.com/
Wed	May 6	9 & 10	Oaks & Acorns (For parents and their pre-school children, sessions 9-10 and 10-11 am, each-and-every Wednesday.) (AK & JL)
Thu	May 7	3:30-5 pm	Animal Feeding Days (Help care for the animals each Thursday, 3:30-5:00 p.m., from May 1st – October 31st, each-and-every Thursday.) (AK)
Sat	May 9	11-3 pm	RCPD Rock & Fossil Day! - Call 419-884-3764 for details! (JL)
S-S	May 16-17		Magee Marsh Lake Erie Bird Watching Weekend! - Call 419-884-3764 for details! (JL/AK/KB)
F-S	June 5-6		Time & Optics 8th Annual Optics Fling - www.timeandoptics.com/5th-annual-optics-fling/
Sat	June 13	8:00 am	Beginner's Bird Walk - meet at GNC. (KB)
Sat	June 13	10 am	Gorman Nature Center Nature Journaling Club. (Sessions 2nd & 4th Saturday of each month). (KP)
Sat	June 13	11-2 pm	Stewardship Workshop (Invasive Plants) - meet at GNC. (KB)
Sat	June 13	9:00 pm	Magnificent Moths & Caterpillar Hunting! (KB & JL)
S-S	June 13-14		Richland Lithic & Lapidary Society Gem, Mineral, Jewelry, Bead & Fossil Show @ The Richland County Fairgrounds: www.rlls.webs.com
Thu	June 18	1:30 pm	Summer Nature Walk for Seniors (AK, KB, JL)
Fri	June 19	6:30 pm	Yoga In The Park @ GNC - Call for details!
Sat	June 20	7:30 am	Birds & Breakfast Bird Walk - meet at GNC. (JL)
Sat	June 20	9:30 pm	The Night Sky - monthly telescope program at GNC. (JL)
Sat	June 27	10-2 pm	2nd Annual RCPD Archeology & Arrowhead Day - Call 419-884-3764 for details!
Sat	July 11	8:00 am	Beginner's Bird Walk - meet at GNC. (KB)
Sat	July 11	11-2 pm	Stewardship Workshop (Invasive Plants) - meet at GNC. (KB)
Sat	July 11	3:00 pm	Monarch Butterfly ID Workshop - Call 419-884-3764 for details. (KB)
Sat	July 11	9:00 pm	Magnificent Moths & Caterpillar Hunting! (KB & JL)
Thu	July 16	1:30 pm	Summer Nature Walk for Seniors (AK, KB, JL)
Fri	July 17	6:30 pm	Yoga In The Park @ GNC - Call for details!
Sat	July 18	7:30 am	Birds & Breakfast Bird Walk - meet at GNC. (JL)
Sat	July 18	9:30 pm	The Night Sky - monthly telescope program at GNC. (JL)
Sat	July 18	10:00 pm	Magnificent Moths & Caterpillar Hunting! (KB & JL)
Fri	July 24	9:30 pm	Owl Prowl - Call 419-884-3764 for details. (JL)
Sat	July 25	10-4 pm	RCPD Amphibian & Reptile Day - Call 419-884-3764 for details!
F-S	Aug 7-9	All Day	7th Annual Richland County Park District Pollinator Festival!
S-S	Aug 9-15		The Richland County Fair! Come visit the RCPD at the fair!
Sat	Aug 15	7:30 am	Birds & Breakfast Bird Walk - meet at GNC. (JL)
Sat	Aug 15	9:00 pm	The Night Sky - monthly telescope program at GNC. (JL)

All programs free to the public. Program leaders: (AK = Amanda Kriner, KB=Kyle Bailey, JL=Jason Larson, KP =Kate Peresie)

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.

2019 Mansfield Christmas Bird Count

The weather for this year's Christmas Bird Count was a bit erratic, with wind and rain during the morning hours that made calling for owls difficult, but mild temperatures helped to keep some water open. The abundance of water birds and the quantity and quality of our bird counters resulted in a very good count!

As you may know, for the past 120 years, Americans have been counting birds in their communities around Christmas time. It is the world's largest scientific project, run mostly by "citizen scientists". Birders in Mansfield have been counting for 59 of those 120 years.

As usual, there were several highlights during the day. This year's "bird du jour" honors was shared by a very cooperative **Merlin**, seen and photographed by **Greg & Jamey Emmert**, and two **Virginia Rails** found along the B&O Trail by **Merrill Tawse** and **Tyler Theaker**.

Open water allowed our counters to compile a total of 18 species of waterfowl and 4 species of gulls. Those are impressive numbers anywhere in the state of Ohio, for a CBC, let alone an inland county.

At the end of the day we had **80 species**. Our count average for the 1980's was 61.4, 1990's was 67.6, 2000's was 69.2, and for the 2010's so far the average is 78.9.

This was the **59th** Mansfield Christmas Bird Count.

December 14, 2019. 4:30 am to 6:30 pm and 6-7:00 pm. Temperature 34-40 F. Wind NW, 5-15 mph. 1 inch of snow on ground. Still water partly open, and moving water partly open. AM cloudy & PM partly cloudy. Morning rain showers. 59 observers in 15 field parties plus 26 observers at feeders. Total party hours: 80.75; 30.5 on foot, 50.25 by car, plus 78.5 hours spent at feeders and 4 hours owling. Total party miles:

576.95; 24.5 on foot, 552.90 by car, plus 29 miles owling. A total of 141 species have been seen over the 59 years. The highest species count was 84, found in 2015. The 2020 Mansfield CBC is scheduled for Saturday, December 19.

A hearty thanks to the record **59** field counters who participated in the **59th** Mansfield Christmas Bird Count: **Field Workers** – Ken Arthur (11), Kyle Bailey (5), Hannah Beam (8), Jenny Bowman *, Al Brown *, Amanda Cicila (3), Gary Cowell (12), Irene Darrow (21), Lisa Durham *, Greg Emmert (2), Raymond Fisher *, Bill Flanagan (10), Tonya Flanagan *, Jamey Graham-Emmert (2), Chip Gross *, Cheryl Harner (12), April Jackson (14), Montse Juarez *, Marcia Kinnard (6), Noah Kinnard *, Jason Larson (7) [compiler], Chris Laux (30), Becky Lux (9), Dan Lux *, Dennis Lux *, Ed Lux (9), Jackie Lux *, Deb McKee *, Steve McKee (43), Atlee Miller (6), David Miller *, Johnathan Miller *, Robert Miller *, Sarah Nelson *, John Precup (3), Hannah Pryor (2), Karen Pryor (2), Albert Schlabach *, Maskin Sidhu (3), Heidi Sieving (6), Hilda Sieving *, Ava Swanson *, Zoe Swanson *, Jean Taddie (3), Merrill Tawse (40), Sylvia Taylor *, Tyler Theaker (3), Olivia Togliatti (2), Aaron Troyer (3), Albert Troyer (15), Sarah Troyer (9), Kerry VanKeuren (15), Matthew Ward *, Floyd J. Yoder *, Johnny Yoder *, Leon Yoder *, Orus Yoder *, Kerry Van Keuren (11), Steven Yoder * and Wayne Yoder *

Feeder Watchers – Deborah Altman (4), Gavin Altman (4), Samantha Altman (4), Celia Anderson (6), Constance Au (34), Jeannie Auxter (22), Rhonda Berry (5), Ann Brown (12), Amy Beth Crutchfield (7), Jan Ferrell (19), Georgeann Fistek (21), Bruce Gorrell (10), Sue Hoffer (13), Dean Homerick (25), Dee Lorentz (11), Pat McGinty (15), Susie Muth (15), Christian Nunn (4), Christy Nunn (4), Elise Nunn (4), Virginia Roquemore (5), Eva Smith (33), David Spain (14), and Dick & Sandy Spayde (31), Evelyn Thomas (15), Roger Troutman (34), and Jan Wisner (6).

(# of years participating)
* = first-time participant
-Continued on page 6



Gray Catbird



Merlin

News from Fleming Falls



Greetings Friend of The Falls!

Last time the greeting was “Friend of Camp Mowana.” It is our hope that your love for Mowana will continue to buoy the efforts of Richland County Park District (RCPD) as we secure the property and take steps to make the land and its amenities safe for the public. Like you, we feel the magic in these forests and falls. Our priority is to protect them, as well as to provide access for the public when we re-open as a park-preserve.

Much has happened since RCPD took possession of the property in the bitter cold of the last days in November. The Richland County Commissioners have supported our efforts, making it possible to assess and remedy many dangerous and damaging situations. Dangers created by large fallen trees and live electric lines on the ground, and damage to unheated water pipes in outbuildings created an urgent need for professional remediation by the Richland County maintenance department. Our deepest gratitude goes to Chuck Minich and his team for their incredible efforts on behalf of the county.

Converting a private camp to a public park is a huge undertaking. And Fleming Falls Preserve is subject to all the mandates of Clean Ohio Funding as well as all other county and state requirements for public lands. There are no shortcuts. The needs of our visitors will be equally as important protecting the beauty, clean water, soundscape, tree canopy and wildlife habitat that we all treasure.

Much has happened behind the gates in December, January and February. The Ohio EPA has been out to inform us of several unacceptable wells. All the buildings have been professionally assessed for asbestos, which must be removed. An assessment of complicated electrical wiring is underway. Unused propane tanks are being removed, and structures deemed undesirable will be demolished in the coming months.

But take heart, the spirit of Hoppy remains. Fleming Falls is such a unique refuge of natural solitude in a busy, noisy world -- from its stunning, scenic ravines to massive, old-growth stream-side hemlocks, its scatterings of mature oaks, recovering second-growth woodlands and open grasslands. Every contractor I have met on the grounds quickly becomes enthused over the intrinsic beauty and restful soundscape. All are eager to help with our goal to reunite you with this land, to preserve it unscathed and potentially better than ever.

But just as we patiently must wait for winter to turn to spring, we must wait for the completion of the slow, careful steps to return one of the most beautiful landscapes in Richland County to you, who like me loves this priceless place. I look forward to the day when we again can share it and enjoy it together.

Cheryl Harner
Richland County Park Board, Commissioner

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.

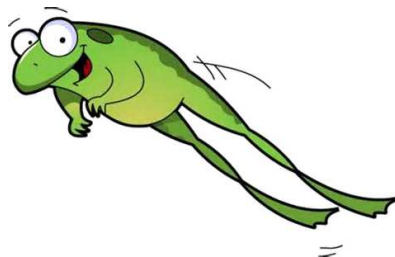
The Richland County Park District is dedicated to introducing and interpreting our region's natural heritage to the citizens of Richland County.

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!

GNC Rock & Fossil Day!

Saturday, May 9, 11 am - 3 pm

Spend the day here at GNC learning all about fossils, minerals, rocks and geology! Who knows what kind of amazing things you might see! Bring your rocks and fossils for identification! Visit all of the displays filled with geological wonders! There might even be a few things to purchase! Join Bryan Summer at 12:00 for a special presentation on the Ohio Flint and Rock Tumbling, too! This event is sponsored by the Richland County Park District and the Richland Lithic and Lapidary Society.

A Note from the RCPD Director

In light of the recent concerns about the spread of COVID-19 around the US and with Governor DeWine declaring a state of emergency and Stay-At-Home order within the state of Ohio, we want everyone to know that the Richland County Park District is committed to ensuring the citizens of Richland County that we can continue to serve our community should we see a significant spread of the virus in our area.

As a result of this executive order, the Richland County Park District (RCPD) is implementing a temporary policy to allow for staff to work both on site and from home, avoid non-essential travel and cancel in person meetings and programs. As a result, the Gorman Nature Center Visitor Center will be closed until at least Friday, May 1st. In addition, all programs, group meetings, events, etc. will be cancelled until at least May 1st. All public hiking trails on our properties (Gorman Nature Center, the B&O Trail, etc.), will remain open dawn-to-dusk, throughout the year. For health and safety reasons, outdoor restrooms at Gorman Nature Center and those along the B&O Trail, will be closed until further notice.

We will continue to schedule our monthly calendar of events, in the hope that programs and events can resume once the state orders are lifted.

Thank you for your continued support of the RCPD. Stay healthy and safe!

Jason Larson
Executive Director - Richland County Park District



A celebration of wildlife, habitat, heritage, and natural history.

April 24-26 2020

Mark your calendars

For the 19th Annual

Mohican Wildlife Weekend

www.MohicanWildlifeWeekend.com

Thirteen program sites:

Gorman Nature Center, Ohio Bird Sanctuary, Pleasant Hill Lake Park, Charles Mill Lake Park, Shelby Wetlands, Hazel Willis Woods, Mohican State Park Lodge & Conference Center, Malabar Farm State Park, Mohican Outdoor School, Byers Woods, Landoll's Mohican Castle, Clearfork Reservoir Marina, Wolf Creek Grist Mill

Many programs listed on the website!

Gorman Nature Center sponsored events:

Saturday:

Backpacking Basics for Beginners!, 8 am, Kyle Bailey

Story Walk!, 10 am

Backpacking the Clearfork Valley Trail! 12 pm, Kyle Bailey

Hands-on Animals!, 2 pm, RCPD Staff & Volunteers

Sunday:

GNC Bio Blitz!, 8 am, Jason Larson

Story Walk!, 10 am

Adaptations for Survival!, 10 am, Amanda Kriner

Hands-on Animals!, 2 pm, RCPD Staff & Volunteers

Please clip and send to:

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

- ___ \$2.00 Fledgling (student)
- ___ 5.00 Cardinal (individual)
- ___ 10.00 Flock (family)
- ___ 25.00 Owl (supporting)
- ___ 50.00 Hawk (sponsoring)
- ___ 100.00 Eagle (sustaining)

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) _____

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

**-continued from pg 2
Bird Count Results**

Total: 80 species,
approx. 30,126
individuals

Greater W.F. Goose cw
Canada Goose 1270
Mute Swan 1
Tundra Swan 21
Wood Duck 1
Gadwall 8
Am. Black Duck 15
Mallard 583
Northern Pintail 1
Redhead 6
Ring-necked Duck 79
Lesser Scaup 4
Bufflehead 21
Common Goldeneye 8
Hooded Merganser 25
Common Merganser 4
Red-breasted Merganser 5
Ruddy Duck 16
Ring-necked Pheasant 1
Wild Turkey 9
Common Loon 1
Great Blue Heron 3

Black Vulture 74*
Turkey Vulture 8*
Bald Eagle 10
Northern Harrier 1
Cooper's Hawk 10
Red-shouldered Hawk 5
Red-tailed Hawk 38
Rough-legged Hawk 1
American Kestrel 5
Merlin 1*
Peregrine Falcon 1*
Virginia Rail 2*
Killdeer 14*
Bonaparte's Gull 60
Ring-billed Gull 250
Herring Gull 42
Lesser Black-backed Gull cw
Rock Pigeon 121
Mourning Dove 158
E. Screech Owl 7
Great Horned Owl cw
Barred Owl 2
Belted Kingfisher 8
Red-headed Woodpecker 3
Red-bellied Woodpecker 85
Downy Woodpecker 121
Hairy Woodpecker 33
Northern Flicker 27*

Pileated Woodpecker 16
Blue Jay 333
American Crow 23,566
(roost)
Horned Lark 4
Carolina Chickadee 99
Black-capped Chickadee
15
chickadee sp. 66
Tufted Titmouse 199
Red-breasted Nuthatch 1
White-br. Nuthatch 140
Brown Creeper 3
Carolina Wren 47
Golden-crowned Kinglet 14
Eastern Bluebird 203
Hermit Thrush 2
American Robin 7
Northern Mockingbird 4
Gray Catbird 1
European Starling 432
Cedar Waxwing 47
Yellow-rumped Warbler 6
Eastern Towhee 1
Amer. Tree Sparrow 37
Field Sparrow 5
Song Sparrow 105
Swamp Sparrow 11



Peregrine Falcon

White-throated Sparrow 17
White-crowned Sparrow 6
Dark-eyed Junco 456
Northern Cardinal 308
Red-winged Blackbird 1
Common Grackle 2
House Finch 169
American Goldfinch 204
House Sparrow 430

*** - new record high
cw - seen count week**



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 your support!

Published quarterly by
Friends of the
Gorman Nature Center
Park Commissioners
Cheryl Harner
Eric S. Miller
Ray Piar
Park District Staff
(full or part-time)
Jason Larson
Amanda Kriner
Kyle Bailey
Mike Solon
Janet Ellsworth
Larry Poth
Kim Kettering

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