September, October,

**Nature Center**

Open: Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun 12pm-4pm. Hours may vary.

4006 Pioneer Village Road
Waynesville, OH 45068

Contact Naturalist Erin Shaw
erin.shaw@dnr.ohio.gov

Park Office: 513-897-3055 v3

November 2024

**September**

**Labor Day Weekend - Friday August 30**

Caesar Creek State Park History, Wildlife and Recreation

* 7:00 pm
* Meet the naturalist to learn about the park. Get wildlife identification booklets, maps, fishing info and more as we discuss park history and recreation opportunities at Caesar Creek.
* Ask us questions and tell us your stories.
* Meet at the campground shelter house.

**Labor Day Weekend - Saturday August 31**

How to Identify Trees and Plants in the Campground

* 10:00 am
* Discover different ways to identify trees and plants as we take a closer look at what’s growing nearby.
* Learn why trees and plants are important to humans and wildlife.
* Meet the naturalist at the campground shelter house to learn more.

Kayak / Canoe Wildlife Excursion in the Campground

* 11:00 am
* Learn the basics of canoeing and kayaking.
* Meet at the Yak Shack near the Campground Boat Ramp.
* Wear water shoes (not flip-flops) and clothes that can get wet. Length of excursions will vary.

Info Continues Next Page

* Equipment and instruction will be provided. First come, first serve. Weather dependent.
* Free and open to the public.

Stand-Up Paddle Board in the Campground – (Two Sessions)

* 1:30 pm
* Learn the basics of stand-up paddle boarding.
* Must be onsite before 1pm to participate.
* Session Two begins from the shoreline right after Session One, however all participants must be onsite before 1:30 pm to get waivers, instruction and equipment.
* Meet at the SUP Hut near the Campground Boat Ramp.
* Wear water shoes (not flip-flops) and clothes that can get wet.
* Length of excursions varies depending on participants.
* Equipment and instruction will be provided. Equipment is limited.
* First come, first serve.
* Weather dependent.
* Free and open to the public.

**Labor Day Weekend - Sunday September 1**

Archery – Two Sessions

* 2:00 pm
* Must be on-site before 2pm to register and participate.
* Equipment and instruction provided.
* Meet at the Nature Center.
* Fun for the whole family.

**Thursday September 5**

Ohio Nature In Color Series - Red

* 1:00 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. First, we’ll learn about red flowers, red birds, red giants and more. 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.

**Info Continues Next Page**

**Thursday September 5**

Archery

* 2:00 pm
* Must be on-site before 2pm to register and participate.
* Equipment and instruction provided.
* Meet at the Nature Center.
* Fun for the whole family.

**Friday September 6**

Hobie Cat Sailing Kayaks – Two Sessions

* 1:00 pm
* Learn the basics of kayak sailing. Arrive **before** 1pm to sign waivers and get equipment.
* Meet at the North Pool Hand Launch (located near the public beach).
* Equipment and instruction provided. Equipment is limited. First come, first serve.
* Wear closed-toed shoes and dress to get wet.
* This program is wind and weather dependent. Please check our facebook page for updates the morning of the program. Call the park office if you have questions.

Saturday September 7

Kayak / Canoe Wildlife Excursion in the Campground

* 11:00 am
* Learn the basics of canoeing and kayaking.
* Meet at the Yak Shack near the Campground Boat Ramp.
* Wear water shoes (not flip-flops) and clothes that can get wet. Length of excursions will vary. Equipment and instruction will be provided. Equipment is limited. First come, first serve.
* Weather dependent.
* Free and open to the public.

Stand-Up Paddle Board in the Campground (2 Sessions)

* 1:30 pm
* Learn the basics of stand-up paddle boarding.
* Meet at the SUP Hut near the Campground Boat Ramp.
* Must be onsite before 1:30 to participate.
* Wear water shoes (not flip-flops) and clothes that can get wet. Length of excursions will vary. Equipment and instruction will be provided. Equipment is limited. First come, first serve.
* Weather dependent. Free and open to the public.

*Vacation leave Sept. 9 - 13*

**Saturday September 14**

Lunar Eclipse / Harvest Moon

* 5:30 pm
* Did you know we’re going to have a Lunar Eclipse of the Harvest Moon? 3 nights from now on Sept. 17th.
* How does the moon affect wildlife behavior?
* Meet the Park Naturalist at the campground shelter house to learn more.
* Optional, stay afterwards for our Harvest Moon Canoe / Kayak program. See details below to participate.

Moon Canoe - Harvest Moon / Partial Lunar Eclipse Float

* 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
* Join the Naturalist as we watch the sunset and (almost) full moon rise over the lake from canoes and kayaks.
* Learn about the soon coming partial lunar eclipse, harvest moon and super moon!
* Learn the basics of canoeing and kayaking. Instruction and equipment provided.
* Children must be accompanied and in boat with an adult.
* (Required) Bring a flashlight or headlamp.
* Dress in layers. Bug spray recommended.
* Wear water shoes (not flip-flops) and clothes that can get wet.
* Equipment is limited. First come first serve.
* People with personal boats are welcome to join us.
* Pre-registration is NOT required.
* Weather dependent. Check the park facebook page for updates.
* Meet at the Yak Shack near the Campground Boat Ramp.
* Free and open to campers and the general public.

**Wednesday September 18**

Hobie Cat Sailing Kayaks – Two Sessions

* 1:00 pm
* Learn the basics of kayak sailing. Arrive **before** 1pm to sign waivers and get equipment.
* Meet at the North Pool Hand Launch (located near the public beach).
* Equipment and instruction provided. Equipment is limited. First come, first serve.
* Wear closed-toed shoes and dress to get wet.
* This program is wind and weather dependent. Please check our facebook page for updates the morning of the program. Call the park office if you have questions.

***Thursday September 19***

*Offsite – Partnership program with Scenic Rivers and LMWN – river clean up - safety sweep*

***September 20-22***

*Offsite for OWOA*

**Thursday September 26**

Invasive Plants Species Removal Techniques

* 10:00 am – 11:30 am
* Learn why invasive plants are a problem.
* Learn techniques on how to remove invasives and restore areas to native habitat through a presentation and hands on demonstration.
* Dress in layers, wear sturdy shoes, bring water and dress for the weather.
* Meet at the Nature Center.

**Thursday September 26**

Nature Center Wildlife Tours

* 1:00 pm – 3:30 pm
* Join us for guided wildlife tours around the Nature Center.
* Meet our resident live wildlife ambassadors up close.
* Learn about park history, our hiking trails, campgrounds and much more!

**Friday September 27**

Hobie Cat Sailing Kayaks – Two Sessions

* 1:00 pm
* Learn the basics of kayak sailing. Arrive **before** 1pm to sign waivers and get equipment.
* Meet at the North Pool Hand Launch (located near the public beach).
* Equipment and instruction provided but limited. First come, first serve.
* Wear closed-toed shoes and dress to get wet.
* This program is wind and weather dependent. Please check our facebook page for updates the morning of the program. Call the park office if you have questions.

**Saturday September 28**

Watercraft Workshop - Paddling Techniques

* 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
* Join us for a land-based discussion followed by an in-water skills development workshop focused on paddling techniques for canoe, kayak and stand-up paddleboard.
* This program is geared for adults.
* Pre-registration suggested. Space limited. Email erin.shaw@dnr.ohio.gov
* Meet at the Yak Shack near the Campground Boat Ramp. Arrive before 10am to participate.
* Wear water shoes (not flip-flops), dress in layers. Wear clothes that can get wet and bring dry clothes to change into afterwards.
* Weather dependent.

Watercraft Workshop – Safety and Gear for Paddlers

* 1:00 pm- 1:45 pm
* Join us for a land-based discussion followed by in-water skills workshop focused on paddling safety gear and how to use it for canoeing, kayaking and stand-up paddleboarding.
* This program is geared for adults with paddling experience.
* Pre-registration suggested. Space limited. Email erin.shaw@dnr.ohio.gov
* Meet at the Yak Shack near the Campground Boat Ramp. Arrive before 1pm to participate.
* Wear water shoes (not flip-flops), dress in layers. Wear clothes that can get wet and bring dry clothes to change into afterwards.
* Weather dependent.

Watercraft Workshop - Rescue Maneuvers for Paddlers

* 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm
* Join us for a land-based discussion followed by an in-water workshop focused on rescue maneuvers for canoeing, kayaking and stand-up paddleboarding.
* Practice skills such as flipping boats upright in deep water and helping others get back into their boat mid-lake.
* This program is physically difficult and geared for adults with paddling experience.
* Pre-registration required. Space limited. Email erin.shaw@dnr.ohio.gov
* Wear water shoes (not flip-flops), dress in layers. Wear clothes that can get wet and bring dry clothes to change into afterwards.
* Meet at the Yak Shack near the Campground Boat Ramp.
* Weather dependent.

**October**

**Thursday October 3**

Meet our Sleepy Reptiles - Nature Center Wildlife Tours

* 1:00 pm – 3:30 pm
* Meet our resident live wildlife ambassadors up close.
* Learn how reptiles prepare for the winter.

Ohio Nature In Color Series - Orange

* 1:00 pm
* Awaken creativity and learning skills through art and nature. Join the park naturalist as we explore color (ROYGBIV). This week we’ll be observing orange flowers, orange birds, orange bugs and more. 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 October 4**

Hobie Cat Sailing Kayaks – Two Sessions

* 1:00 pm
* Learn the basics of kayak sailing. Arrive **before** 1pm to sign waivers.
* Meet at the North Pool Hand Launch (located near the public beach).
* Equipment and instruction provided. Equipment is limited. First come, first serve.
* Wear closed-toed shoes and dress to get wet.
* This program is wind and weather dependent. Please check our facebook page for updates the morning of the program. Call the park office if you have questions.

**Saturday October 5**

The “101 Alternatives to the Chalkboard" Educators’ Conference

* Join the Park Naturalist for various presentations at Camp Kern throughout the weekend.
* The “101” Conference is THE weekend outdoor education experience designed to inspire teachers and outdoor educators with creative ways to provide exciting learning experiences. Enjoy meaningful large and small group sessions, excellent company, and fine eating.
* To register or for more information, contact: Dave Moran, Outdoor Education Director dmoran@daytonymca.org YMCA Camp Kern 5291 St Rt 350 Oregonia, OH 45054 513-932-3756x1527.
* This event is made possible by the Environmental Education Council of Ohio and the Ohio Environmental Education Fund.

*Oct. 9 – 10 – Vacation days*

**Friday October 11**

Hobie Cat Sailing Kayaks – Two Sessions

* 1:00 pm
* Learn the basics of kayak sailing. Arrive **before** 1pm to sign waivers.
* Meet at the North Pool Hand Launch (located near the public beach).
* Equipment and instruction provided. Equipment is limited. First come, first serve.
* Wear closed-toed shoes and dress to get wet.
* This program is wind and weather dependent. Please check our facebook page for updates the morning of the program. Call the park office if you have questions.

**Saturday October 12**

Camping Under the Cosmos –Celebrating International Astronomy Day

* 1:00 pm
* Awaken your sense of wonder while camping with your friends and family. Meet the Park Naturalist to discover ways to explore the cosmos from the comfort of your chair.
* Check out astronomy gear, books and resources that are easy to use and to pack along.
* Learn games and activities fun for the whole family.
* Meet at the campground shelter house.

Watercraft Workshop - Celestial Navigation – Canoe and Kayak Excursion – Celebrating International Astronomy Day

* 2:00 pm
* Arrive before 2pm to sign waivers and get watercraft equipment.
* We’ll launch our boats after a brief discussion on ways humans and migrating birds navigate open waters through observation of the stars.
* Learn how to use star charts to practice from your backyard.
* Wear water shoes (not flip-flops) and clothes that can get wet. Length of excursions will vary. Equipment and instruction provided. Equipment is limited. First come, first serve.
* Meet at the Yak Shack near the Campground Boat Ramp.
* Weather dependent.
* Free and open to campers and the general public.

Stargazing at John Bryan State Park - International Astronomy Day

* 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
* Join the Park Naturalist for an astronomy event in one of our sister state parks. This event is coordinated by the Miami Valley Astronomical Society. Our Park Naturalist will be there with a ‘nocturnal wildlife’ table in addition to provided telescopes and space viewing gear.
* Telescopes and binoculars provided by MVAS members will be set up for the public to view the night sky. The public DOES NOT need to bring their own telescopes; just questions and curious minds.
* This event is held in the parking lot located past the John Bryan State Park Playground but before the Day Lodge. Watch for the signs when you enter the park.
* For the safety of our members, their equipment, and our guests, NO PETS will be permitted in the stargaze/viewing area.
* There is no public parking in the lot where the astronomical equipment is set up, as well as no parking in the grassy areas adjacent to the observing areas.  Public parking areas are available a short walk away both before and after the observing area.
* Out of consideration for everyone's night vision only red lights in the observing area (no white light flashlights).
* Stargazes are WEATHER PERMITTING. Should a stargaze cancellation be required, a cancel notice will be announced on our Facebook page. If no cancellation notice appears, please assume that the event is going forward as planned.
* FREE and OPEN to the public/park visitors.

**Thursday October 17**

Invasive Plants Species Removal Techniques

* 10:00 am – 11:30 am
* Learn why invasive plants are a problem.
* Learn techniques on how to remove invasives and restore areas to native habitat through a presentation and hands on demonstration.
* Dress in layers, wear sturdy shoes, bring water and dress for the weather.
* Meet at the Nature Center.

Archery

* 2:00 pm
* Must be on-site before 2pm to register and participate.
* Equipment and instruction provided.
* Meet at the Nature Center.
* Fun for the whole family.

**Friday October 18**

Hobie Cat Sailing Kayaks – Last Chance of the Season – Two Sessions

* 1:00 pm
* Learn the basics of kayak sailing. Arrive **before** 1pm to sign waivers and get equipment.
* Meet at the North Pool Hand Launch (located near the public beach).
* Equipment and instruction provided. Equipment is limited. First come, first serve.
* Wear closed-toed shoes and dress to get wet.
* This program is wind and weather dependent. Please check our facebook page for updates the morning of the program. Call the park office if you have questions.

**Saturday October 19**

Kayak / Canoe Wildlife Excursion in the Campground – Last Chance of the Season

* 11:00 am
* Learn the basics of canoeing and kayaking.
* Meet at the Yak Shack near the Campground Boat Ramp.
* Wear water shoes (not flip-flops) and clothes that can get wet. Length of excursions will vary. Equipment and instruction will be provided. Equipment is limited. First come, first serve.
* Weather dependent.
* Free and open to the public.

Stand-Up Paddle Board in the Campground – Last Chance of the Season

* 1:30 pm
* Learn the basics of stand-up paddle boarding.
* Meet at the SUP Hut near the Campground Boat Ramp.
* Wear water shoes (not flip-flops) and clothes that can get wet. Length of excursions will vary. Equipment and instruction will be provided. Equipment is limited. First come, first serve.
* Weather dependent.
* Free and open to the public.

Sunday October 20

Perimeter Hike

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

**Friday, Saturday, Sunday - October 25, 26, 27**

Fall Campout

* Join us for a weekend of seasonal family fun at the campground including; Trick-or-treat, night hike, costume contest, campsite decorating and more.
* See separate flyer for details. The flyer will be posted on the park facebook page closer to the date of the event.

Oct 29 - Nov. 1 – Away to assist / instruct Law enforcement paddling course

November

Oct 29 – Nov. 1 – Away to assist / instruct Law enforcement paddling course

Thursday November 7

Nature Center Wildlife Tours

* 1:00 pm – 3:30 pm
* Join us for guided wildlife tours around the Nature Center.
* Meet our resident live wildlife ambassadors up close.
* Learn about park history, our hiking trails, campgrounds and much more!

Nature In Color Series - Yellow

* 1:00 pm
* Awaken creativity and learning skills through art and nature. Join the park naturalist as we explore color (ROYGBIV). This week we’ll be observing yellow. Learn about yellow birds, yellow flowers and yellow leaves and more. 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, Saturday, Sunday November 8, 9, 10

Owl Fest

* Details will be posted on a separate flyer closer to the event. See our park facebook page for more info.
* Join us for citizen science opportunities as we catch, band and release saw-whet owls.
* Experience and interactive presentation with the Ohio School of Falconry to see live owls in flight and up-close.

**Thursday November 14**

Nature Center Wildlife Tours

* 1:00 pm – 3:30 pm
* Join us for guided wildlife tours around the Nature Center.
* Meet our resident live wildlife ambassadors up close.
* Learn about park history, our hiking trails, campgrounds and much more!

Fossil Frenzy

* 1:00 pm
* Learn about the special fossils in our area and how to get a free collecting permit from the Corps of Engineers.
* Try your hand at sorting and identifying fossils set out on the table.
* Meet at the Nature Center.

**Friday November 15**

Night Hike

* 7:00 pm
* Explore ways to navigate the night through sensory awareness.
* Join the park naturalist for a moderate three-mile guided hike as we observe nocturnal wildlife in the park.

**Saturday November 16**

Cast Iron Cooking – Two Sessions

* 11:00 am – 2:00 pm
* Join the Park Naturalist as we demonstrate different ways to cook in a Dutch Oven over an open fire. Learn the basics of cast iron cooking and hear tips from seasoned chefs.
* Meet at the Nature Center
* Pre-registration required with the Nature Center Friends group (NCACC) for a potluck lunch. All equipment, cast iron pot, ingredients and materials are provided and made possible through the NCACC. Space is limited.
* Check out the Caesar Creek State Park Facebook page for more details. The pre-registration link will be available on Eventbrite as the event gets closer.

**Sunday November 17**

National Take a Hike Day

* 1:00 pm
* Join us for a moderate 3-mile guided hike to see the Swinging Bridge, Horseshoe Falls and Pioneer Village. This is a general naturalist hike, all ages welcome.
* Wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather.
* Meet at the Nature Center.

**Thursday November 21**

Invasive Plants Species Removal Techniques

* 10:00 am – 11:30 am
* Learn how invasive species affect native wildlife.
* Learn techniques on how to remove invasives and restore areas to native habitat through a presentation and hands on demonstration.
* Dress in layers, wear sturdy shoes, bring water and dress for the weather.
* Meet at the Nature Center.

Nature Center Wildlife Tours

* 1:00 pm – 3:30 pm
* Join us for guided wildlife tours around the Nature Center.
* Meet our resident live wildlife ambassadors up close.
* Learn about park history, our hiking trails, campgrounds and much more!

**Friday November 22**

Guided Naturalist Hike

* 10:00 am
* Join us for a guided hike with the Naturalist to see the Swinging Bridge, Horseshoe Falls and Pioneer Village.
* Distance based on participants.
* Wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather.
* Meet at the Nature Center.

**Saturday November 23**

Meet Our Resident Wildlife Ambassadors

* 11:00 am
* Join the Naturalist as we show our live resident wildlife ambassadors.
* Meet our snake, turtles, red tailed hawk and screech owl.
* Hear stories of why these animals are in the nature center.
* Learn ways you can help preserve Ohio native habitat.
* Meet at the Nature Center.
* Dress for the weather.

Archery – Last Chance of the Season

* 2:00 pm
* Must be on-site before 2pm to register and participate.
* Equipment and instruction provided.
* Meet at the Nature Center.
* Free and fun for the whole family.