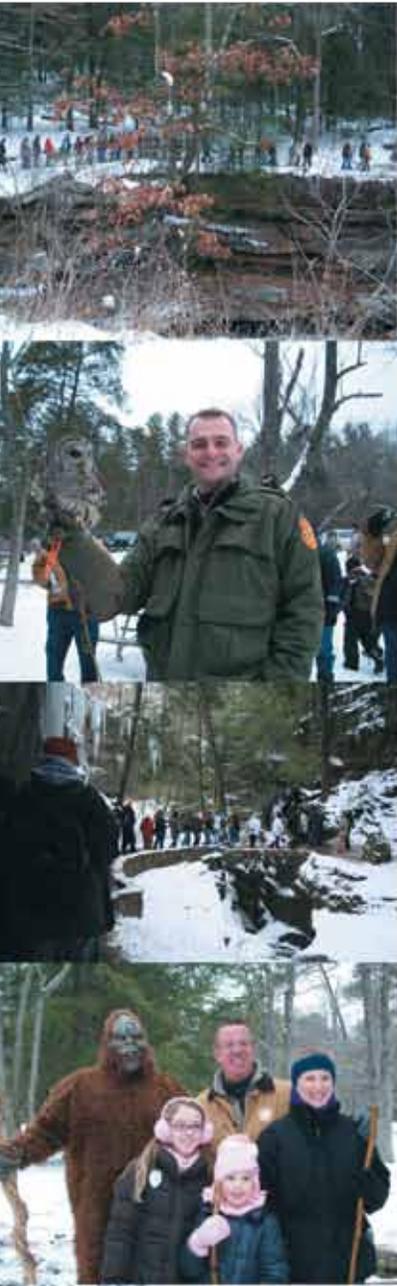


Ohio State Parks

Fall 2011/Winter 2012



Chief's Perspective



One of my family's favorite memories is the fun we have along the trail during the Hocking Hills Winter Hike. Hocking Hills is scenic in every season, but the frosted trees, giant icicles and frozen waterfalls of winter give the place a magical feel. As we walk through the gorge, we become so absorbed in the beauty of the landscape that we forget all about our cold noses and tired feet. Each year, we notice something new and different on the trail, and each time, we share a wonderful experience that leaves a lasting impression on the entire family.

Our state parks offer so many memorable experiences for visitors, especially children. Nature programs give kids and grown ups, alike, the opportunity to discover something fascinating. Healthy treks on our extensive network of trails give hikers a sense of accomplishment. Special events, like fun themed campouts and heritage celebrations, build a satisfying sense of community and connection among neighbors and generations.

This fall and winter, our calendar is packed with great family outings, including fall color walks and festivals in every corner of the state, holiday tours of Malabar Farm and Quail Hollow, the fantastic light display at Alum Creek, and the annual winter hikes at Hocking Hills, Mohican, Findley, and Caesar Creek.

I invite you to come out and join us. Gather your family and friends for a fun, wholesome and memorable adventure. Whether you come for the afternoon, for a campout, or for a getaway weekend in one of our comfortable cottages, you can create a tradition that your family will treasure now, and for generations.



David Payne
Chief, Ohio State Parks

Ohio State Parks

Fall 2011 / Winter 2012

Volume 18, Number 2

Table of

Contents

2 Face Offs

6 Park Spotlight - Rocky Fork

8 Naturalist Corner - On the Move

10 Park Pals - Sleepy Heads - Hibernation

12 Park Points

13 Calendar of Events

18 People in the Parks - Hueston Woods Pioneer Farm

19 Park Improvements

20 Ohio State Parks Gift Shop

Our Mission

To enhance the quality of life through exceptional outdoor recreational experiences and sound resource management.

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Face Offs

In one corner of Ohio, frontier fighters, genteel ladies and devoted drunks, squirrely critters and determined hunters have come face to face in some interesting contests through history.

Pony Tale

It sounds like a lark - sneaking into the enemy's camp at night and spirited away their horses without getting caught - and then sleeping with one eye open, in case your adversary comes to steal them back. On the Ohio frontier, though, horse snatching was a deadly serious cat and mouse game.

The rich hunting grounds framed by the lush East Fork, Paint Creek and Rocky Fork valleys provided the ideal backdrop for Native American encampments organized around the quest for sustenance and shelter. Ordinarily, these were relatively peaceful places. However, one gathering of Shawnee warriors in March 1792 was not so innocent. This Shawnee camp (west of Rocky Fork State Park) was assembled after returning from a horse stealing mission amid the pioneer settlements in Mason County, Kentucky.

A party of 36 frontiersmen, led by the legendary hero Simon Kenton, was dispatched to recover the precious horses. The experienced frontier scouts tracked the equally skilled Indian marauders across

the Ohio River. However, miserable March weather got the best of several of Kenton's party, and they turned back, leaving Kenton with just two dozen men to face an unknown number of Indians.

As they approached within a few miles of the Shawnee camp, Kenton sensed that he was significantly outnumbered, and ordered his men to stay hidden until they could pounce under cover of darkness. Kenton's offensive strategy was to divide into three groups; disperse to the right, left and center of the Indian camp; and attack simultaneously on Kenton's signal using the code word "Boone." Before the plan could be executed, though, one of the less seasoned woodsmen was startled by an Indian who rose from his bedroll to stir the campfire, and he impulsively fired his gun. Chaos ensued as more shots rang out, and Kenton's shouts of "Boone" were echoed by the Indians, who were also well acquainted with the iconic frontiersman.

At first, Kenton hoped to take advantage of the general confusion, assuming that the Indians would panic and hastily retreat across the

stream behind their camp. Instead, the Shawnee warriors held their ground and raised their war clubs, killing one of Kenton's party. After a several minutes of furious fighting, Kenton ordered his men to retreat into the moonless, drizzling night. The Indians pursued them through the woods until daybreak. All of the Kentuckians escaped except for Alexander McIntyre, who was taken prisoner and returned to the camp.

The failure of Kenton's plan was due, in part, to the lack of one crucial piece of intelligence – that the Indians were led by the brave and brilliant Shawnee chief, Tecumseh, who alone could exercise the authority and enforce the discipline necessary to withstand a sneak attack. Although Tecumseh's leadership was undeniably effective during the attack, he also experienced a failure of sorts the following day. The Indians who were assigned to guard the prisoner, Alexander McIntyre, flaunted Tecumseh's rule against cruelty to prisoners. When Tecumseh was away from the camp, the guards killed McIntyre while he was tied up and helpless.

After all the drama of this frontier face-off, it's difficult to pick a clear winner. Although he was outnumbered, Kenton managed to inflict more casualties on the Shawnee. Tecumseh prevented the frontiersmen from stealing back the horses, although it cost 14 human lives, along with a number of the horses that ran off in the skirmish.

Cold Case

Too often, misunderstandings on the frontier resulted in needless tragedies. The life and death of the Shawnee chief Waw-wil-a-way is a prime example. Unlike many of his contemporaries, including Tecumseh, Waw-wil-a-way viewed the settlers as his allies, and he welcomed the pioneers to live peacefully alongside him, his wife and two sons on Hardin Creek (near Paint Creek State Park).

Still, many of the newcomers mistrusted any native American, and rumors of an Indian uprising spread like wildfire in the late 1790s and early 1800s. The tension escalated when the scalped corpse of an influential officer in the state militia, Captain Herrod, was discovered near his doorstep. Nervous settlers were quick to assume that Indians were responsible for the killing. In truth, it was more likely that a white rival of Herrod's had done the deed, hoping to take Herrod's place in the militia.

In 1803, as the controversy over the unsolved murder smoldered, Waw-wil-a-way set out on foot for a 15-mile trek to a trading post for supplies. On the way, he encountered his neighbor, David Wolfe, and two companions, Williams and Ferguson, on horseback. Waw-wil-a-way extended a cordial greeting, but the exchange quickly became uncomfortable. Wolfe dismounted from his horse and asked Waw-wil-a-way pointedly if the Indians had declared war on their white neighbors. Waw-wil-a-way insisted that the Indians considered the settlers to be their brothers, and that relations remained friendly. Next, Wolfe asked the chief if he was aware that Indians had killed Captain Herrod. Taken aback at the news and the accusation, Waw-wil-a-way replied honestly that perhaps too much whiskey may have resulted in a quarrel, or that a white man may have had reason to kill Herrod.

Seemingly satisfied, Wolfe returned to his companions and waved goodbye. As Waw-wil-a-way turned to leave, Wolfe raised his rifle and shot him through the back. Stunned and bleeding, Waw-wil-a-way spun around and took aim at Wolfe with his own rifle. Wolfe dodged the bullet, but Waw-wil-a-way managed to fire another shot squarely at Williams, toppling him dead from his horse.

With his strength fading, Waw-wil-a-way lunged forward with his scalping knife, and sunk it into Wolfe's thigh. Wolfe retaliated with a thrust of his own knife into Waw-wil-a-way's chest. Ferguson stepped into the tussle to assist Wolfe. Incredibly, despite two mortal wounds, Waw-wil-a-way rose up, grabbed Wolfe's rifle, and cracked Ferguson's skull with the butt end.

Without a word, Waw-wil-a-way stumbled away from the bloody scene, and plunged face first into a field of wildflowers, where he breathed his last. Wolfe knew that, according to Shawnee tradition, Waw-wil-a-way's sons were obliged to seek revenge for their father's death. Wolfe fled the Paint Creek valley hoping to avoid them.

After he was safely hidden away, Wolfe sent a representative to talk to the bereaved brothers and persuade them to spare his life in exchange for a horse, bridle, saddle and rifle for each of them. Like their father, Waw-wil-a-way's sons were big hearted and trusting. They agreed to Wolfe's proposal, and a public gathering was arranged for the trade and pardon.

Hundreds of Shawnees and curious settlers trekked to the Shawnee village at Old Town (west of present day Chillicothe) for the ceremony. The sons of Waw-wil-a-way gave a moving speech, calling on the Great Spirit to symbolically accept the blood and life of Wolfe in exchange for their beloved father. Then, they took Wolfe by the hand, called him "brother," and smoked the peace pipe with him as a tearful audience looked on.

With regard to the murder of Captain Herrod, the killer was never identified and justice was never served. In the heartbreaking face-off between Waw-wil-a-way and David Wolfe, however, the final outcome was a rare and shining example of mercy and forgiveness on the often brutal and unforgiving frontier.

Man versus Beast

In 1807, a plague of sorts scampered across southern Ohio. It was a squirrel stampede that stretched for miles, with furry gray heads bobbing and fluffy tails waving over every inch of ground, undeterred by any obstacle. The squirrels ran up and over pioneer houses, slogged through streams, paddled across lakes, and plowed through farm fields without yielding. Along the way, they devoured the corn crop, leaving famine in their wake.

The squirrel herd continued at its feverish pace until it reached the banks of the Ohio River. As squirrel after squirrel plopped in the water, many were carried away by the current, while others survived by scrambling over the backs of the squirrels that had plunged in ahead of them.

The cause of the strange migration was mysterious, but its effect was unquestionably devastating. Hundreds of settlers who had grown dependent on the corn they raised went hungry that winter. The problem was so severe and widespread that the Ohio General Assembly enacted a law requiring that each taxpayer submit between 10 and 100 squirrel scalps, along with their county taxes.

It appeared that "man" might win this face-off, but nature intervened. The "Act to Encourage the Killing of Squirrels" was repealed and the furry little outlaws were pardoned the following year, after the harsh winter curbed their population.



*"Be it resolved, that the ladies of Greenfield are determined to suppress the liquor traffic in their midst. We demand your liquors, and give you fifteen minutes to comply with our request, or abide the consequences."
July 10, 1865*

Sober Saga

Their ladylike words barely concealed their outrage at the state of affairs in Greenfield. Following the tragic death of an innocent passerby who caught a stray bullet flying through the air during a whiskey-soaked brawl at Newbeck's Saloon, the ladies of Greenfield (near Paint Creek State Park) decided it was time to rescue the upstanding character of their hometown.

True to their word, a procession of indignant women marched into the saloon, and demanded that the proprietor surrender the liquor. When their request was denied, the ladies unleashed a furious assault on the drinking establishment. They produced hatchets, axes and mallets from behind their petticoats and began to demolish the building and its contents. As they smashed the crocks and barrels, liquor splashed into the street and flowed down the gutters. Emboldened by their victory, the ladies marched on to two other local saloons and three drug stores that sold intoxicating concoctions, and insisted that the owners hand over the alcohol. Each one refused, so the angry mob seized the liquor and dumped it.

An exasperated drug store owner insisted that the ladies be arrested, and pressed criminal charges against them. A sympathetic grand jury found no criminal wrongdoing, and the merchant was forced to settle for damages.

In 1873, the ladies of neighboring Hillsboro (near Rocky Fork State Park) started their own temperance campaign, but they employed a different tactic. Rather than threats and axes, the Hillsboro crusaders tried hymns and prayers to persuade the saloon owners and patrons to change their ways. Some of the customers simply ignored the ladies, but one trio of young men ran red-faced from the bar when they recognized their mother, sister and future mother-in-law among the singing activists.

Eventually, the sober serenades deterred customers, and one angry saloon owner retaliated with a law suit for trespass and damages. After a year long legal battle, the saloon owner received a nominal award of \$5, but the moral victory belonged to the ladies of Hillsboro.



Two Faces of Robert McKimie

By all accounts, Robert McKimie was a lively, charming boy whose tousled red hair suited his warm and carefree disposition. Growing up in and around the Highland County town of Rainsboro (near Rocky Fork State Park) under the watchful eye of his aunt, Robert was known amongst the adults for his kindness and friendliness, and popular with his friends for instigating fun and boyhood mischief. He loved exploring the landscape of his childhood, from the sun dappled banks of Rocky Fork to the dark and mysterious Seven Caves.

In 1869, at the tender age of 14, Robert packed up his few possessions and set out for Columbus to join the army, where he was assigned to a cavalry unit in Texas. Two years later, Robert sent his aunt a generous gift of \$50 tucked inside a letter explaining that he had left the army and joined a prosperous cattle raising business in Kansas. He promised to return to Rainsboro to settle down after building his fortune.

True to his word, Robert returned home in September 1877 with enough cash to buy a home, start a dry goods business, and court the town's heartthrob, Clara Ferguson. Robert and Clara married, and started a promising new life together. Robert enjoyed instant success as a merchant and a local celebrity. He delighted in showing off his wealth and entertaining customers and neighbors late into the night with colorful stories of his travels in the American West.

Robert's love for the limelight proved to be his undoing. His neighbors were so impressed with Robert that they shared his larger-than-life tales with relatives and friends beyond Ohio's borders. Eventually, the amusing anecdotes found more skeptical, faraway audiences who were immune from Robert's charms. One astute listener shared his hunch that the rich and famous redhead from Rainsboro had been living a double life as the infamous outlaw known as "Little Reddy" in Texas. The legendary sheriff of Deadwood South Dakota, Seth Bullock, took the tip and rode herd to Ohio to test the theory of Little Reddy's alias.

Bullock's investigation uncovered an astounding story. The criminal Bullock was pursuing was an army deserter who started his life of violent crime by stealing a horse and shooting down its rider. He was caught and sent to the Utah penitentiary for the murder, but escaped after a year by brutally assaulting a guard with an iron bar. Next, he joined Sam Bass and his newly organized gang of stagecoach robbers. He nearly botched their first hold-up by impulsively shooting the stagecoach driver before they caught up to the coach. He was such a cold-hearted loose cannon that the gang kicked him out. He continued to plunder and terrorize travelers through the Black Hills for several months until he, and his ill-gotten gains, disappeared.

Bullock quickly concluded that Robert McKimie was indeed Little Reddy, and tossed him in the county jail in January 1878 for robbery and murder. Robert's adoring wife and loyal friends protested, but Robert wasn't worried. When Highland County Sheriff Newell left town and left his father in charge of the jail for the night, Robert seized the opportunity to make a bold escape. As the old man approached his cell, Robert sprang at him and flew out the door, but not before the elder Newell could fire his pistol at the fleeing felon, and shoot clean through the third finger of Robert's right hand.

For weeks, Robert hid out in the barns, haylofts and homes of his friends, staying just one step ahead of the lawmen. He dyed his hair black, sported a false moustache, and hopped a train for Virginia.

Clara joined him on the lam, and together they slipped further away, from North Carolina to Georgia, and finally to Bermuda. They lived there in luxury for several months until their money was all spent, and Robert was arrested for an unpaid hotel bill. After about six weeks, Robert was released from the Nassau jail and sent to New York to make amends and earn the money for Clara's ticket home.

While Clara stewed alone in Bermuda, Robert resumed his old habits. He stripped an elderly man of his life savings to rescue Clara from Nassau, and schemed in secret as they made their way home to Ohio. Back in Highland County, Robert assembled a gang of his faithful friends, and convinced them to join him on a crime spree. They held up banks, looted stores, broke into homes, and resorted to torture, if need be, to persuade terrified residents to surrender their hidden stashes of cash and valuables. Fear and fury spread through Rainsboro, nearby communities, and neighboring counties as the robberies and assaults continued.

Now that Robert had shown his hometown his true colors, he could no longer hide in plain sight. He returned to his boyhood haunt, the Seven Caves, and chose a remote spot (still known as McKimie's Cave) to serve as his hideout. Robert's partners in crime were not as skilled at evading capture, however. A well-known detective from Springfield, John T. Norris, tracked down Robert's accomplices one by one and tossed them in jail. The men refused to cooperate with Norris' investigation, so Norris interrogated their wives, hoping to tweak a conscience. While Norris listened to the confession of a nervous spouse who was feeling guilty about enjoying her neighbor's stolen silver, smoke was seen rising suspiciously from the chimney of her vacant home.

Robert had brazenly assumed he could enjoy a soft bed and hot meal in his friends' empty cabin without being detected, but vigilant neighbors raised the alert that the outlaw could be hiding out there. A posse of



more than 100 angry citizens, robbery victims and law enforcement officers swarmed the cabin and demanded that Robert surrender. True to form, Robert managed to hold the crowd at bay and nearly slip away with a hostage, until sharpshooters grazed his face and chest. Back in the Highland County jail awaiting trial, Robert plotted yet another escape, but was foiled. He was convicted of a string of robberies, and served out his entire 14 year sentence in the Ohio State Penitentiary in Columbus.

After his release from prison, Robert headed back to the Black Hills. From there, the facts about Robert's later life grow hazy. Among Robert's contemporaries in Rainsboro, many were relieved that his reign of terror had ended for good, while others grew nostalgic for the romance of the genuine Wild West desperado in their midst. Rumors persisted that the mysterious two-faced man changed his identity once again, reformed his wicked ways, and led a comfortable and respectable life as a wealthy businessman and Sunday school teacher in the West. A local legend claimed that he left behind a stash of loot in McKimie's Cave, which has never been found.

The face-off between good and evil in a single soul made a lasting impact on an entire community. Whether the real Robert McKimie was the charming boy and kind old man that some befriended, or the daring bandit that others despised, he was truly the colorful main character in one of the most bizarre chapters in southwest Ohio history.

- Jean Backs, Editor

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Rocky Fork

The landscape of Rocky Fork is a wonder of water. The irresistible force of flowing streams carved the deep and narrow Rocky Fork gorge, nearly 90 feet high and 200 feet wide. The steady drip of rain and percolating groundwater hollowed out caverns. The ambition of an early entrepreneur created the lake to provide recreation, and the vision of contemporary land managers created wetlands to restore balance.

The Rocky Fork region sits at the edge of the Appalachian plateau, along the margin of the prehistoric glaciers that leveled western Ohio, and left the rugged topography of southeastern Ohio untouched. The landscape is well drained by ancient networks of robust streams including Rocky Fork Creek, Clear Creek, Paint Creek, and Rattlesnake Creek. As the last glacier crept toward the area 12,000 years ago, it blocked the flow of Rocky Fork Creek. The stream reversed direction, and the powerful gush sliced through the stream bed, then carved the dramatic gorge through the limestone bedrock. The roiling water scoured the gorge walls, leaving them pock marked with caves and rock overhangs.

Beneath the shallow soils of Highland County, the persistent and subtle influence of water sculpted the unique geology of the area to create hidden wonders. This area boasts Ohio's highest concentration of karst terrain, characterized by easily eroded dolomite limestone bedrock lying near the surface, where it is prone to quick and severe weathering. Continuous exposure to rainwater tinged with acidity weakened and gradually dissolved the high pH limestone, forming caverns, caves and sinkholes.

Evidence of water's work as a creative agent abounds in the spectacular Seven Caves, near the park. The amazing complex of roomy caverns, snug grottos and winding dark passages is punctuated with glossy stalactites hanging from the ceiling and stalagmites jutting from the floor. Incredibly, these rock hard formations are the result of the trickling of mineral infused water, dripping steadily over millennia.

Native Americans found the area hospitable as productive hunting grounds, a comfortable camp and a convenient travel route. They also found deep spiritual significance here, as the fascinating Fort Hill earthwork crafted by the Hopewell culture attests.

Pioneers were also attracted to the lush valley, and quickly put the abundance of water to work. Over the course of the 19th century, at least six different mills were built on Rocky Fork Creek to harness the power of swiftly flowing water to grind grain, saw logs, card wool and weave cloth.

Had railroad enthusiast Albert E. Boone realized his goal, nearby Rainsboro might have become a boomtown, and the Rocky Fork valley could have been a railroad hub rather than a vacationer's mecca. Boone envisioned a rail line, the Black Diamond, chugging along from the Ohio River valley to the East Coast laden with lumber, flour, wool and blankets produced by local mills. The Rocky Fork area was surveyed in 1897 for the project, and many residents were giddy with the promise of greater prosperity. A railroad depot, stockyard and telegraph office were slated for Rainsboro, and a new town to be called Lodore was planned around McCoppin's Mill on the banks of Rocky Fork Creek. Like many aspiring railroad companies of the era, though, Black

Diamond never moved beyond the planning phase to the costly work of laying track, and Boone's dream fizzled.

Another turn-of-the-century visionary, Col. Walter H. Hutchins of Cincinnati, saw a very different future for Rocky Fork. Hutchins pic-





The Rocky Fork region's unique natural features provide ideal habitat for unusual flora and fauna. The moist, shady limestone cliffs are sprinkled with lovely *Sullivantia*, a very rare wildflower in Ohio, which blooms in the gorge in mid-summer. Nearby, the chalky white limestone outcroppings along the Paint Creek lakeshore are speckled with the nests of cliff swallows.

Amid these stunning natural assets, Rocky Fork State Park offers outstanding recreational facilities far beyond anything Col. Hutchins could have imagined. Today, the 1,384-acre lake is a boater's paradise, offering six boat launch ramps in every corner of the lake, more than 600 boat docks for seasonal rental, a full-service marina, and designated boat camping and boat swimming areas. There are no limits on horsepower, so speed boaters can have a blast in the open zones, while paddlers explore the peaceful coves and fingers.

tured a sparkling lake nestled in the emerald forest of the Rocky Fork valley. With the population of Cincinnati hurtling past 300,000, Hutchins understood that city weary souls craved a summertime escape where they could swim, boat and fish. He was a frequent visitor to Rocky Fork and the Seven Caves, and was impressed with their potential as tourist attractions. To enhance the recreation offerings in the area, Hutchins proposed building a dam near McCoppin's Mill, and transforming a stretch of the tumbling waters of Rocky Fork Creek into a placid lake surrounded by the scenic valley.

Hutchins spent decades advocating for his dream, which finally became reality as the Ohio Division of Conservation (precursor to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources) began purchasing property along Rocky Fork Creek in the 1940s. Work began on construction of the dam near historic McCoppin's Mill in 1949, and Rocky Fork was designated as an Ohio State Park the following year. The lake finally took shape after the dam was completed in 1953.

More than a dozen years ago, a 90-acre wetland was established in a quiet cove where the waters of Rocky Fork Creek enter the west end of the lake. Since the lake was created, sediment carried by the stream's swift current had been piling up in the lake and clogging the navigation channel. Working in harmony with nature, lake managers used the unwanted sediment to build earthen levees in the cove to create a shallow backwater where the incoming sediment could drop. Then, they molded more of the dredged sediment into peaks, valleys, and hummocks in the lake bed where wetland plants could get a foothold. Today the wetland is as beautiful as it is functional, teeming with a diversity of water loving plants and attracting a variety of resident birds, including bald eagles, and migratory waterfowl, such as loons and roseate spoonbills.

The popular family campground offers 172 campsites, including 100 electric sites, 27 non-electric sites, and a generous 45 full-hookup sites, offering sewer and water service in addition to electricity. Fun extras for campers include a miniature golf course, volleyball and basketball courts, a nature center, and dozens of nature programs and theme campouts.

The park offers plenty more to entertain overnight guests as well as afternoon visitors. Along the lakeshore, there are shady picnic areas, two sun drenched swimming beaches, and a wheelchair accessible fishing pier. The 18-hole disc golf course at the South Beach Area hosts tournaments from time to time, as well as casual players any time. Groups looking for an appealing venue for their special event can choose from outdoorsy picnic shelters, or indoor comfort in the roomy activity center, complete with heat, A/C, a fireplace and fully-equipped kitchen.





On the Move

The reasons why animals migrate – more food, better climate, and safer places to raise young – may seem obvious, but how they do it is an enduring mystery.

Bird banding projects have demonstrated again and again that, from generation to generation, birds migrate to the precise locations that their ancestors selected. For many species, the journey is so well orchestrated that the traveling birds can be found at the same spot on the map, on the same day, from year to year.

Researchers have discovered that the gradual shortening of the length of day as fall approaches triggers hormonal changes in birds that tell them that it's time take flight. It makes sense that this type of reliable external cue would signal when to go, but how do they know where to go? And how do birds manage to not get lost when winging their way across vast expanses of open ocean or unbroken forest?

It might be in their DNA. Some young songbirds take their maiden migration flight by themselves, and they still make a beeline to the same wintering grounds their parents enjoyed. The youngsters are not just following the flock, so essential data about the direction and distance of their migratory route must be programmed into their genes.

Birds appear to be especially sensitive to the Earth's magnetic field, and those tiny bird brains come equipped with a compass to point them in the right direction. Some land and water based creatures, from salamanders to salmon, also respond to the subtle pull of the magnetic field. Starlings study how the sun moves across the sky during the day to plan their route, and stargazing mallards align their flight with the North Star.

Many migrants are so single-minded, they don't stop to rest or eat until they reach their final destination. Adaptations in their bodies and behaviors facilitate these amazing feats of endurance. Hollow bones, special stores of fat, and shrinking livers and intestines help birds stay airborne and conserve precious energy. For some birds, there is safety and comfort in numbers. The familiar "V" formation adopted by migrating waterfowl helps reduce wind resistance, and the individuals

take turns leading the flock so no one gets too tired. Other birds travel in disorderly clusters to confuse and discourage predators.

Hummingbirds are incredible creatures in many respects, and their migration is no exception. Before the summer ends, the tiny ruby throated hummingbird guzzles so much nectar and slurps so many insects that it packs on more than two grams of fat, nearly doubling its body weight. It needs all the energy it can muster for each leg of its solo voyage, from the 20-mile-a-day jaunts over the fields, forests and cities of the eastern U.S., to the 500-mile non-stop flight across the Gulf of Mexico. When the hummingbirds return from southern Mexico in the spring, they stagger their departure dates over several weeks to prevent possible catastrophic losses to the species if severe weather strikes during their Gulf crossing.

Not all winged migrants are birds. Each summer, three or four generations of monarch butterflies hatch, feed, breed and die within four to six weeks. However, the last batch of monarch butterflies to hatch in the early fall lives six to eight months, so that they can make an epic journey. These fearless fliers flutter all the way to sunny central Mexico where they congregate for the winter amid the oyamel trees. As spring returns up north, this migrant generation of monarchs is in the mood to breed. They take wing again, this time heading north in search of the blooming milkweed that will provide the perfect nursery for hungry monarch caterpillars.

Some migrations simply defy our understanding. The puzzling squirrel stampede described in "Face Offs" (page 3) was a recurring event in the early 1800s. For unknown reasons, mass migrations of gray squirrels occurred in five year cycles for several decades,

according to historical reports. Each time, significant numbers of the squirrels drowned in streams in their frenzied march. The squirrels seemed fat and healthy, and the forests provided an abundance of mast, so food did not appear to be the motivating factor. We may never know what caused each exodus, but they finally ended as Ohio's landscape was altered forever by the unstoppable progress of a state on the move.





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Park Pals

Sleepy Heads

Some animals adapt to winter by hibernating.

When the weather gets chilly, they curl up in a cozy spot and go into such a deep sleep that they don't feel hungry or cold for months!



Q. What do body fat, fur, water, and mud have in common?

A. They all help insulate animals from the cold.

A layer of body fat or thick fur helps keep a critter warm from the inside out. Many animals and birds get ready for winter by eating as much as they can when there is plenty of food around during the summer and fall. Mammals grow thick fur coats in the fall and birds fluff up their feathers to trap their body heat. Some mammals develop patches of special brown fat near their brain, heart and lungs.

A layer of soil, or even a blanket of snow and ice, can protect critters from the frosty winter wind. Cold blooded turtles and amphibians, like salamanders and frogs, bury themselves in the mud in the bottom of a pond. The cold water holds lots of oxygen, which they can breathe through their skin. Snakes are also cold blooded, but they have a different strategy for winter warmth. They slither by the dozens into a hollow log or animal den, and spend the winter curled up together in a creepy snake ball.

Q. When is a black bear green?

A. When it hibernates.

Hibernating animals do all of the eco-friendly things that people do when they want to go green. First, the animals pile on the insulation, and then they lower the thermostat, so they use less fuel.



Can't wait for Spring? Make a hibernating

You will

- An empty paper towel or toilet paper tube
- Pom poms
- Google eyes
- Felt or construction paper (for ears & tail)

Make a cave:

Color the tube brown or gray. You can glue on some bark and fall leaves to resemble a log in the forest.

Make a critter:

Glue two pom poms together to make the body and head. You can make the arms and legs from small pom poms or circles of felt. Glue on the google eyes. Cut three half circles from the felt to make two ears and a tail.



Q. What's so special about Groundhog's Day?

A. Before the groundhog pops up from its burrow, it performs an amazing feat!

The groundhog (also known as a woodchuck) is a true hibernator because it lowers its body temperature from a toasty 98 degrees (about the same as your temperature) to as low as 38 degrees (that's really cold – water freezes at 32 degrees). It also slows down its heart beat from 80 beats per minute to just 4 beats per minute! Every few weeks during the winter, the hibernating groundhog gets up for a quick potty break – and then goes right back to sleep.

Like the groundhog, a hibernating black bear slows its heart rate to a crawl, but the bear's body temperature drops just a little. The black bear doesn't eat or poop for months, though, and a mama black bear can sleep right through the birth of her cubs in late winter!



What about the birds?

Many birds migrate – that is, they fly south to spend the winter in a warmer climate. Some birds stick around all year, like cardinals, chickadees, titmice, and woodpeckers. You can show you care by filling a songbird feeder with sunflower seeds, hanging up a suet cake, and keeping a dish of clean water for drinking and bathing.



Q. Where do other furry critters go when it snows?

A. Look up, down, and all around!

Some mammals cuddle up in a den and sleep for days during cold snaps, but they wake up easily on a mild day to grab a snack and some fresh air. Squirrels stay cozy in their nest high in a tree, while bigger critters like skunks, opossums, and raccoons hide out in a den or hollow log.

Why hibernate?

Fill in the blanks to show what you have learned.

1. Winter is coming, and it's almost time for the groundhog to
2. First, he eats non-stop to put on body fat for
3. Soon, his body will adapt with a 60-degree drop in body
4. When the snow falls, he will stay warm and snug curled up in his
5. Shhh...now the groundhog is
6. Rest well, Mr. Groundhog, so you can wake up for Ground Hog

Now, read the letters in the boxes, from 1. to 6.

Animals hibernate to save

1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6.

pal to help you "bear" the wait!

need:

- Markers or crayons
- Glue
- Fall leaves, strips of bark, pine needles, or twigs
- Glitter

Place the critter in the cave.



Draw a picture or write a poem about winter on a piece of paper, fold it, and place the picture in the cave with the critter. You can sprinkle glitter on the cave to represent snow.

Put the cave and critter in a quiet place, where it can rest until spring.



PARK POINTS

This year, get a strong start on keeping your New Year's resolution to get fit!

Getting outdoors and getting some exercise can be daunting on a frosty winter day, if you head out on your own. There's fun in numbers, so why not join the hundreds (even thousands) of hikers who brave the cold to stretch their legs and enjoy spectacular scenery on guided treks at our state parks? See the calendar of events for dates and details. Hiking with friends and family, any season of the year, is a healthy habit, and we offer more than 1,000 miles of trails in all lengths and levels of difficulty to suit your hiking group.

Keep earning your rewards!

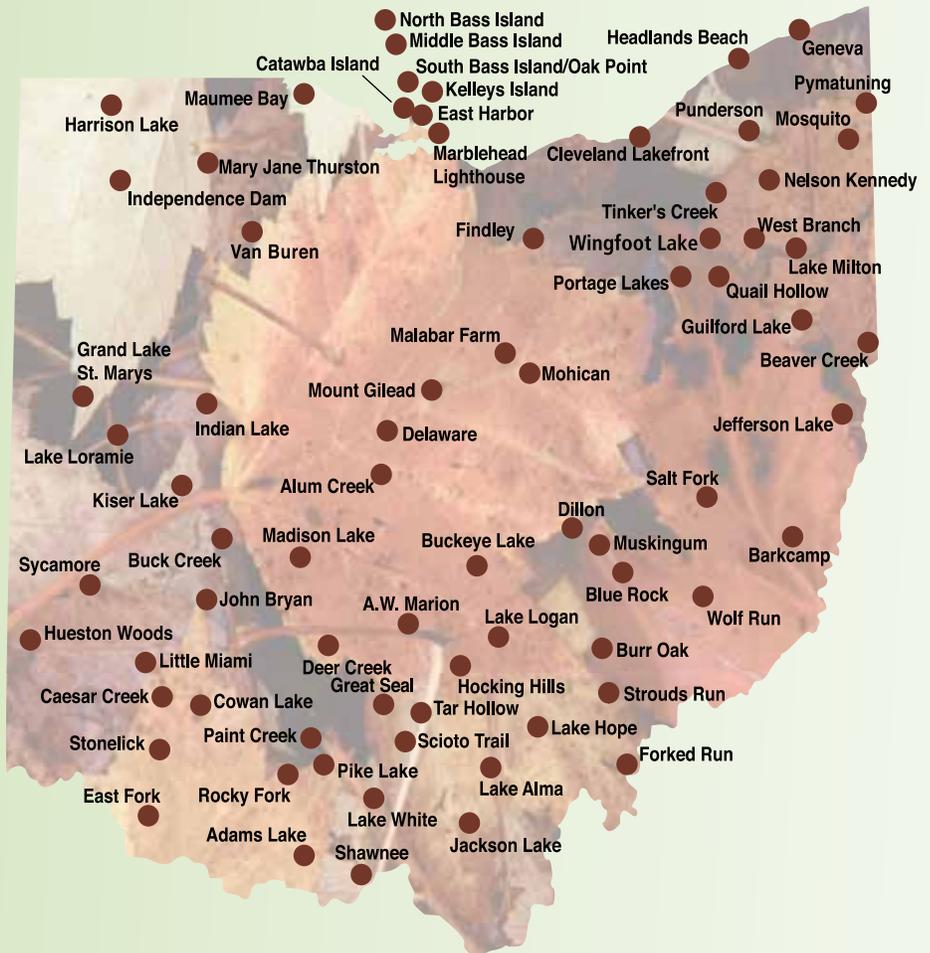
Be sure to use your Ohio State Parks Rewards Card when making a reservation or registering for a campsite or getaway rental at any of our state parks, or reserving a cottage at Buck Creek, Cowan Lake, Dillon, Hocking Hills, Lake Hope, Mohican, Pike Lake or Pymatuning. You can also earn rewards points for shelter house rentals, rounds of golf, and purchases from state park camp stores. Rewards points add up fast, so keep tabs on your account balance on our website, ohiostateparks.org! Don't have an Ohio State Parks Rewards Card? Sign up today on our website, or by calling 1-866-644-6727.



Looking for holiday gift ideas?

An Ohio State Parks gift card is a great choice for family, friends, neighbors, business associates, even door prizes for holiday parties. The gift cards are available in any denomination, and can be used for all kinds of outdoor fun in our state parks, including camping and getaway rentals, cottage or lodge stays, and rounds of golf. It's easy and convenient to purchase your gift cards on-line from our website, ohiostateparks.org, in person at most state park offices, or by calling toll-free 1-866-644-6727.

So Many Parks to Enjoy...



Spruce up your vehicle, and sport your support for our state parks and state nature preserves!

Next time you renew your license plates, pick a nature preserve or state park plate design. A portion of the license plate fee goes to support programs at Ohio's most amazing natural places. See our website, ohiostateparks.org, for more information.

Want to give yourself a little boost while preparing your taxes?

Consider donating a portion of your Ohio income tax return to the Natural Areas check off fund. It's as easy as marking the "natural areas and endangered species fund" check off box on your 1040 form, and writing in the amount you want to give - every little bit helps!

Green Tip:

Still burning those old-fashioned incandescent light bulbs? Take a tip from our state parks, and use energy and cost efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs, instead. Compact fluorescent bulbs are 5 times more efficient than incandescent bulbs, and cost about one-third as much per hour burned. On average, you can save \$40 in electricity costs and 691 pounds of carbon dioxide over the 10,000 hour life of your compact fluorescent bulb. Compact fluorescent bulbs contain a trace of mercury, so be sure to recycle them when they finally burn out. (Popular home improvement chain stores offer recycling programs).

Nifty new LED lights are even more efficient. Their intensely bright, tiny bulbs make great lightweight flashlights for greener camping!

Calendar of Events

Note – Some events listed in this calendar are tentative.

Please check the calendar of events pages on our website, www.ohiostateparks.org, or call the park for updates.

We offer a wide variety of special events for the entire family to enjoy. Color key:

Especially for Kids

Basic Nature

Friendly Gatherings

Heritage Celebrations

Holiday Fun

Fun & Fitness

SEASONAL EVENTS

Fantasy of Lights, Alum Creek (C) - Nov. 18 - Jan. 2, at the campground. Hours are 5:30-9:30 PM Sun. thru Thurs. and 5:30-10:30 PM Fri. & Sat. A million lights in 130 holiday displays, plus visits with Santa & refreshments. A fee is charged per car. (740) 369-2900 or (740) 548-6056, or www.alumcreek.com.

OCTOBER 2011

Indian Summer Campout, Caesar Creek (SW) - Sept. 30 - Oct. 2. Seasonal crafts, games & family fun. (937) 382-1096.

Fall Festival, Delaware (C) - Sept. 30 - Oct. 1 at the campground. Crafts, games, wagon & boat rides, movies, decorated campsite & costume contests. (740) 548-4631.

Halloween Campout #1, East Harbor (NW) - Sept. 30 - Oct. 1. Scarecrow & decorated campsite contests, kids' crafts and games, hayrides, haunted house, bonfire & cookout. (419) 734-4424 ext. 2.

Fall Campout, Findley (NE) - Sept. 30 - Oct. 1. Crafts, trick or treating, & hayrides. (440) 647-5749.

Halloween Campout, Grand Lake St. Marys (NW) - Sept. 30 - Oct. 2. Free lunch, kids' games, pumpkin carving, hayrides, costume & campsite decorating and trick or treat. (419) 394-3611.

Halloween Festival #2, Hueston Woods (SW) - Sept. 30 - Oct. 1. Campsite decorating, games, Halloween treats & a haunted trail. (513) 523-6347.

Halloween Bash, Mosquito Lake (NE) - Sept. 30 - Oct. 2. Trick or treat, movies, games, bike & stroller parade, campsite decorating, pet & costume contests, pontoon boat rides, hay wagon rides, movie, dance & potluck dinner, plus a car show & craft show on Sun., 12 - 4 PM. (330) 637-2856

Harvest Moon Campout, Pike Lake (SW) - Sept. 30 - Oct. 2. Campsite and cottage decorating, pumpkin carving, hayrides, kids' games, a craft show & bean supper. (740) 493-2212.

6th Annual Barkcamp Race, Barkcamp (SE) - Oct. 1. Choose from a trail ½ marathon (7:30 AM), 5-mile trail walk (8 AM), 10K trail run (8:30 AM), 5K road walk (9 AM) or kids' race (10:30 AM). Fee for racers benefits American Cancer Society. www.thebarkcamprace.net or (740) 484-1872 to register.

Fall Campout, Hog Roast & Cast-Iron Cookoff, Blue Rock (SE) - Oct. 1. Plus antique tractors & a kiddie tractor pull. (740) 453-4377.

Ohio River Open Disc Golf Tournament, Forked Run (SE) - Oct. 1. A fee and pre-registration are required to compete. See discgolfsce.com/courses/Forked_Run_State_Park.

Festival at the Grist Mill, Mohican (NE) - Oct. 1. Oktoberfest celebration with authentic food, refreshments & entertainment. (419) 668-2497 or wolfcreekmill.org.

Smokey Bear Fire Awareness Weekend, Shawnee (SW) - Oct. 1 at the campground. Fire safety tips and activities for kids with Smokey Bear & friends. (740) 858-6652.

Pioneer Days, Beaver Creek (NE) - Oct. 1-2 at the pioneer village & Gaston's Mill. Craft displays & demonstrations of pioneer life, including the working grist mill. (330) 382-9227. Beaver Creek Wildlife Education Center open 10 AM-5 PM, duck race at 3 PM Sun. (330) 385-3091 or www.beavercreekwildlife.org.

Apple Butter Festival, Hueston Woods (SW) - Oct. 1-2 at the pioneer farm. Arts, crafts & traditional apple butter making. (513) 524-4250.

Traditional Music, Quail Hollow (NE) - Oct. 6 & 20, 6-9 PM at the manor house. Bring an instrument or just listen. (330) 877-6652.

Fall Festival & Campout, Alum Creek (C) - Oct. 7-8. Campsite decorating and costume contests, pumpkin carving, treats & crafts. (740) 548-4631.

Fall Campout, Buck Creek (SW) - Oct. 7-8. Crafts, nature programs, games, contests, trick or treat & hayrides. (937) 322-5284

Halloween Campout #2, East Harbor (NW) - Oct. 7-8. Scarecrow & decorated campsite contests, kids' crafts and games, hayrides, a haunted house, bonfire & cookout. (419) 734-4424 ext. 2.

Halloween Campout, Findley (NE) - Oct. 7-8. Games, pumpkin carving, trick or treating and hayrides. (440) 647-5749

Halloween Campout, Harrison Lake (NW) - Oct. 7-8. Costume parade, trick or treat, pumpkin carving, a silent auction & chili and vegetable soup lunch. (419) 237-2593.

Halloween Festival #3, Hueston Woods (SW) - Oct. 7-8. Campsite decorating, games, Halloween treats & a haunted trail. (513) 523-6347.

"Louie" Historical Drama, Malabar Farm (NE) - Oct. 7-9. Package includes a house tour, BBQ dinner, and theatrical production of Louis Bromfield's life story. Fri. & Sat. performances start at 7 PM; dinner at 6 PM; self-guided house tours 4-6 PM. Sun. performances start at 3 PM; dinner at 2 PM; self-guided house tours Noon-2 PM. Tickets are \$35 per person. (419) 892-2784.





Fall Campout, Mary Jane Thurston (NW) - Oct. 7-8. Moonlight movie, scarecrow making contest, floating doughnut contest, chili supper & owl prow, plus the Grand Rapids Apple Butter Festival on Sunday. (419) 832-7662.

Apple Butter Festival, Mt. Gilead (C) - Oct. 7-8. Apple butter making, campsite decorating, costume contest, pumpkin carving, fall hikes, entertainment, ham & bean soup and much more. (419) 946-1961.

Halloween Campout, Paint Creek (SW) - Oct. 7-8. Campsite decorating and costume contests, hay rides & trick or treat. (937) 981-7061 or (937) 393-4284.

Halloween Campout, Guilford Lake (NE) - Oct. 7-9. Campsite decorating, cornhole tournament, kids' activities, trick or treat, a haunted trail & potluck dinner. (330) 222-1712.

Halloween Campout, Lake Loramie (NW) - Oct. 7-9. Pumpkin carving, campsite decorating, trick or treat, movies, games & a potluck supper. (937) 295-2011.

Hobo Stew Campout, Van Buren (NW) - Oct. 7-8. Moonlight movies, costume contests, floats, pumpkin carving, & hobo stew made from ingredients brought by campers. (419) 832-7662.

Cast Iron Cooking, Caesar Creek (SW) - Oct. 8. Cast iron pots provided. Pre-registration by Oct. 2 and a \$10 fee required. (513) 897-2437.

Hocking Hills Motorcycle Run, Hocking Hills (SE) - Oct. 8. Meet at the Lake Logan parking lot. Cruise 122 miles thru 5 state parks & Wayne National Forest. (740) 385-6841 or hockinghillspark.com.

Horse-Drawn Wagon Rides, Lake Hope (SE) - Oct. 8, 2-5 PM, at the nature center. Continuous 20 minute rides. (740) 596-3030.

Fall Color Walk, Malabar Farm (NE) - Oct. 8, 10 AM-Noon. Meet at the visitor center. 2-mile hike. (419) 892-2784.

Autumn Lighthouse Festival, Marblehead Lighthouse (NW) - Oct. 8, 10 AM-5 PM. Annual community festival is held in nearby Lakeside. Historic displays, entertainment, crafts & food. Lighthouse tours offered from 10 AM to 3 PM. (419) 734-4424 ext. 2 or www.lake-erie.com

Halloween Campout, Shawnee (SW) - Oct. 8. Pumpkin carving, trick or treat & a costume parade. (740) 858-6652.

Fall Breakfast, Stonelick (SW) - Oct. 8. Fundraiser for the Friends of Stonelick State Park. www.friendsofstonelick.org or (513) 734-4323.

Fall Color Canoe Paddle, Van Buren (NW) - Oct. 9, 2-3:30 PM. Must pre-register, (419) 348-7679. \$10 donation per canoe.

Halloween Campout, Indian Lake (NW) - Oct. 14-15. Pumpkin carving, site decorating and costume contests, pet costume contest, trick or treat, hayrides, movies, games & soup supper. (937) 843-2717.

Halloween Campout, Jackson Lake (SE) - Oct. 14-15. Campsite decorating, costume party & trick or treat. (740) 682-6197 or (740) 384-3345.

Haunted Trail, Lake Milton (NE) - Oct. 14-15, 7-10:30 PM. Spooky scenes along the accessible paved trail. (330) 654-4989.

Halloween Campout #1, West Branch (NE) - Oct. 14 -15. Trick or treat, movies, games, pumpkin carving, campsite decorating & a haunted trail. (330) 296-3239.

Halloween Fall Campout #1, Beaver Creek (NE) - Oct. 14-16. Kids' activities, campsite decorating, costume contest, trick or treat, potluck dinner & a haunted trail. (330) 385-3091.

Fall Campout, Cowan Lake (SW) - Oct. 14-16. Trick or treat, games & fall-themed activities. (937) 382-1096.

Not-Quite-Halloween Campout, East Fork (SW) - Oct. 14-16. Hayrides, stew, trick or treat & movies. (513) 734-4323.

"Louie" Historical Drama, Malabar Farm (NE) - Oct. 14-16. Package includes a house tour, BBQ dinner, and theatrical production of Louis Bromfield's life story.

Fri. & Sat. performances start at 7 PM; dinner at 6 PM; self-





guided house tours 4-6 PM. Sun. performances start at 3 PM; dinner at 2 PM; self-guided house tours Noon-2 PM. Tickets are \$35 per person. (419) 892-2784.

Halloween Campout #1, Mohican (NE) - Oct. 14-16. Pet & campsite decorating contests, trick or treat, nature programs & crafts for campers & cottage guests. (419) 994-4290.

Halloween Campout, Rocky Fork (SW) - Oct. 14-16. Campsite decorating and costume contests, movies, silent auction, games and a haunted trail. (937) 393-4284.

Fall Festival, Cleveland Lakefront (NE) - Oct. 15, 1 PM at Euclid Beach. All kinds of family fun, hayrides, kids' activities, games & crafts. (216) 881-8141 ext. 3001.

Grandma Gatewood's Fall Colors Hike, Hocking Hills (SE) - Oct. 15, 1 PM at the Old Man's Cave Visitor Center. 6-mile strenuous hike. (740) 385-6841.

32nd Annual Fall Hike, Lake Hope (SE) - Oct. 15, 10 AM. Meet at the beach shelter house for a 3-mile hike, then enjoy a bean soup & cornbread lunch. (740) 596-3030.

Horse-Drawn Wagon Rides, Lake Hope (SE) - Oct. 15, 2-5 PM, at the nature center. Continuous 20 minute rides. (740) 596-3030.

Fall Hike, Shawnee (SW) - Oct. 15, 9 AM. Meet at the Shawnee backpack trail parking lot off Rte. 125. Check out the fall color and gorgeous scenery on a new loop that passes by the Copperhead Fire Tower. (740) 858-6652.

Halloween Campout, Stonelick (SW) - Oct. 15. Costume, pumpkin and campsite decorating contests, hayrides, trick or treat & hobo stew. www.friendsofstonelick.org or (513) 734-4323.

Howl-o-Ween Dog Walk & Costume Parade, Mosquito Lake (NE) - Oct. 16, 12 - 3 PM at the Dog Park. Food, vendors & contests for people and pets. (330) 637-2856.

Fall Hike, Sycamore (SW) - Oct. 15, 1 PM at the Overlook Picnic Area off Providence Road. (513) 523-6347.

Pre-Halloween Campout, Deer Creek (C) - Oct. 21-22. Hayrides, crafts & games. (740) 869-3124.

Halloween Campout, East Fork (SW) - Oct. 21-23. Games, contests, hayrides & trick or treat. (513) 734-4323.

Halloween Campout, Forked Run (SE) - Oct. 21-22. Campsite decorating contest, games, trick or treat, & spooky hayrides. (740) 767-3570.

Halloween Campout, Lake Alma (SE) - Oct. 21-22. Campsite decorating, trick or treat & a spooky haunted trail. (740) 384-4474 or (740) 384-3345.

Haunted Trail, Lake Milton (NE) - Oct. 21-22, 7-10:30 PM. Spooky scenes along the accessible paved trail. (330) 654-4989.

Trail of Lost Souls, Maumee Bay (NW) - Oct. 21-22, 7-10 PM at the Big Hill in the meadow area. A small fee is charged. (419) 836-8828.

Halloween Campout, Maumee Bay (NW) - Oct. 21-23. Campsite decorating, hayrides, trick or treat, crafts, kite building, a Halloween dance & games. (419) 836-8828.

Halloween Campout #2, Mohican (NE) - Oct. 21-23. Pet & campsite decorating contests, trick or treat, nature programs & crafts for campers & cottage guests. (419) 994-4290.

Halloween Campout #2, West Branch (NE) - Oct. 21-22. Trick or treat, movies, games, Halloween crafts, campsite decorating & a haunted trail. (330) 296-3239.

Halloween Fall Campout #2, Beaver Creek (NE) - Oct. 21-23. Kids' activities, campsite decorating, costume contest, trick or treat, potluck dinner & murder mystery. (330) 385-3091.

Halloween Campout & Party, Beaver Creek (NE) - Oct. 22 at the horsemen's camp off Sprucevale Rd. Bridle trail scavenger hunt, pumpkin decorating, campsite decorating, horse and rider costume contest, potluck dinner & hayrides. (330) 227-9952 or russo53@localnet.com

Horse-Drawn Wagon Rides, Lake Hope (SE) - Oct. 22, 2-5 PM, at the nature center. Continuous 20 minute rides. (740) 596-3030.

Spooky Carnival of Fun, Maumee Bay (NW) - Oct. 22-23, 12-4 PM at the nature center. Spooky games, crafts, refreshments & videos. \$5 per child fee. (419) 836-9117.

"Hollow"een Fest, Quail Hollow (NE) - Oct. 22, 4-8 PM. Haunted Manor House tours, hayrides & a bonfire. \$2/per person fee. (330) 877-6652.

Halloween Party, Sycamore (SW) - Oct. 22. Games & seasonal activities. (937) 854-4452.

Owl Prowl, Van Buren (NW) - Oct. 22, 7 PM at shelterhouse #3. Live owl program & a guided hike. (419) 832-7662.

Halloween Campout, Dillon (SE) - Oct. 28-29. Costume and campsite decorating contests, pumpkin decorating & trick or treat. (740) 453-4377.

Haunted Trail, Lake Milton (NE) - Oct. 28-29, 7-10:30 PM. Spooky scenes along the accessible paved trail. (330) 654-4989.

Halloween Campout, Deer Creek (C) - Oct. 28-30. Hayrides, trick or treat, crafts, games & campsite decorating. (740) 869-3124.

Haunted Hocking, *Hocking Hills (SE) - Oct. 28-30 at the Old Man's Cave campground*. Campsite & pumpkin decorating, hayrides, trick or treat & movies. (740) 385-6841.

Venison Chili Cook-Off, *Findley (NE) - Oct. 29, 1 PM at the nature center*. Bring your favorite recipe, venison is provided by the park. Pre-registration required. (440) 647-5749 or (440) 647-4490.

Great Seal Scream, *Great Seal (SW) - Oct. 29*. PDGA sanctioned pro/am disc golf tournament. Fee and pre-registration required to compete. See chillicothediscgolf.com.

Haunted Trail, *Lake Alma (SE) - Oct. 29, dusk to 10 PM*. Trail starts at the Pine Hill Trailhead. (740) 384-4474 or (740) 384-3345.

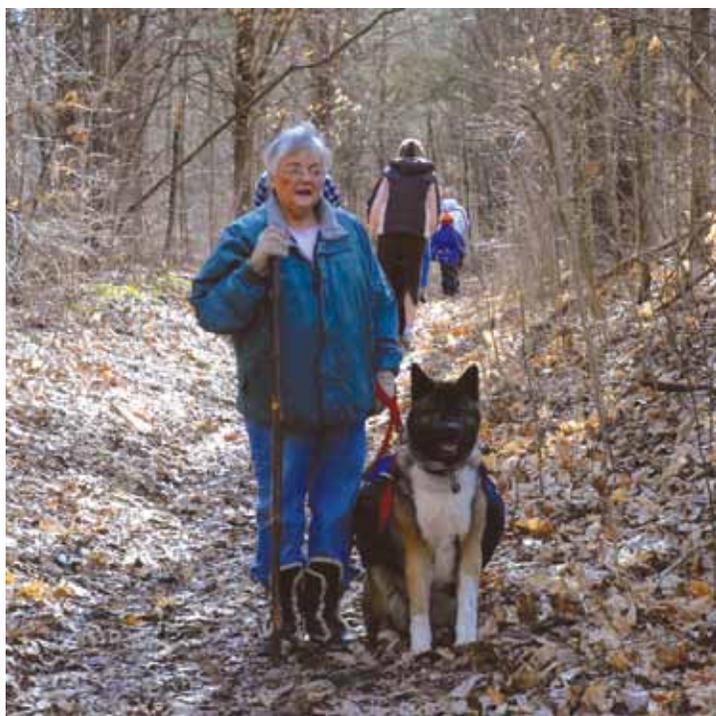
Horse-Drawn Wagon Rides, *Lake Hope (SE) - Oct. 29, 2-5 PM, at the nature center*. Continuous 20 minute rides. (740) 596-3030.

ROAR Day, *Lake Hope (SE) - Oct. 29, 9 AM - 3 PM at the shelterhouse and Hope School*. Appalachian crafts, food & entertainment plus Halloween treats. (740) 596-3030.

Harvest Barn Dance, *Malabar Farm (NE) - Oct. 29, 7-10 PM*. Beginners welcome. (419) 892-2784.

Trout or Treat Kiddie Derby, *Shawnee (SW) - Oct. 29*. Fishing for kids 12 & under, plus an archery program. (740) 858-6652.

Halloween at the Park, *Salt Fork (SE) - Oct. 29*. Make Halloween crafts and decorate pumpkins & cookies at the lodge in the afternoon. Then hike the haunted trail to the cottage area for trick or treat and a costume contest. (740) 439-3521 or (740) 439-2751.



NOVEMBER 2011

Traditional Music, *Quail Hollow (NE) - Nov. 3, 6-9 PM at the manor house*. Bring an instrument or just listen. (330) 877-6652.

Snowflake Festival, *Mt. Gilead (C) - Nov. 4-5*. Campsite decorating, nature programs & crafts. (419) 946-1961 or (740) 548-4631.

Frontier Trail Hike, *Hocking Hills (SE) - Nov. 5, Noon-4 PM at Ash Cave*. Explore the history of the Hocking Hills region with a walk back through time dramatized by costumed interpreters along Ash Cave trail. (740) 385-6841.

Veterans Day Celebration, *Hueston Woods (SW) - Nov. 5 in the campground*. Veterans will be honored with a parade, recognition ceremony and fun family activities including a cookout. (513) 523-6347.

Hearthside Cookery Workshop, *Malabar Farm (NE) - Nov. 5-6, 10 AM-5 PM*. Learn open-hearth cooking skills by preparing a Thanksgiving feast using farm fresh foods and cast iron cookware. Each day is a complete workshop. Pre-registration and a \$30 fee required. Space is limited, so register early. (419) 892-2784.

Bobcat Trail Marathon, *Burr Oak (SE) - Nov. 6*. Meet at the lodge. A fee is required to compete & racers must pre-register. www.bobcattrailmarathon.org.

Traditional Music, *Quail Hollow (NE) - Nov. 17, 6-9 PM at the manor house*. Bring an instrument or just listen. (330) 877-6652.

Fantasy of Lights, *Alum Creek (C) - starts Nov. 18 and runs thru Jan. 2, at the campground*. Hours are 5:30-9:30 PM Sun. thru Thurs. and 5:30-10:30 PM Fri. & Sat. A million lights in 130 holiday displays, plus visits with Santa & refreshments. A fee is charged per car. (740) 369-2900 or (740) 548-6056, or www.alumcreek.com.

Jubilee, *Salt Fork (SE) - Nov. 18-19 at the lodge*. Hear gospel groups from around the country perform traditional tunes. (740) 439-3521 or (740) 439-2751.

Craft Show, *Salt Fork (SE) - Nov. 25-26 at the lodge*. (740) 439-3521 or (740) 439-2751.

DECEMBER 2011

Fantasy of Lights, *Alum Creek (C) - runs thru Jan. 2, at the campground*. 5:30-9:30 PM Sun. thru Thurs. and 5:30-10:30 PM Fri. & Sat. A fee is charged per car. (740) 369-2900 or (740) 548-6056, or www.alumcreek.com.

Bigfoot 50K & 3-Person Relay, *Salt Fork (SE) - Dec. 4, 7 AM*. Meet at the lodge. Share the 10.4 mile loop with a relay team or run the loop 3 times solo. A fee is required to compete & racers must pre-register. www.ohiooutside.com/bigfoot50k/index.html.

Candlelight Holiday Tours, *Malabar Farm (NE) - Dec. 2-4. Hours are 5-9 PM Fri. and Sat.; 11 AM- 5 PM Sun*. Tour Louis Bromfield's "Big House" all decked out for the holidays. Enjoy freshly baked cookies and hot cider, along with holiday shopping at the gift shop. Fees are \$5/adult and \$3/child. (419) 892-2784 or www.malabarfarm.org.

Christmas at the Hollow, *Quail Hollow (NE) - Dec. 8-10*. Tour the historic Stewart Manor, decorated for an old-fashioned holiday. Enjoy refreshments, holiday crafts and entertainment, and visits with Santa. (330) 877-6652.

Candlelight Holiday Tours, *Malabar Farm (NE) - Dec. 9-11. Hours are 5-9 PM Fri. and Sat.; 11 AM- 5 PM Sun*. Tour Louis Bromfield's "Big House" all decked out for the holidays. Enjoy freshly baked cookies and hot cider, along with holiday shopping at the gift shop. Fees are \$5/adult and \$3/child. (419) 892-2784 or www.malabarfarm.org.

Christmas in Ash Cave, *Hocking Hills (SE) - Dec 10, 5-7 PM*. Celebrate the season with a candle-lit stroll to Ash Cave, refreshments, a bonfire, carolers, Santa and a tree decorated for wildlife. (740) 385-6841.

Holiday Traditions Workshops, *Caesar Creek (SW) - Dec. 17, sessions start at 10 AM and 2 PM at the nature center*. Create holiday decorations



& ornaments from natural materials. Pre-registration and a \$12 fee required. (513) 897-2437.

Holiday Raptor Invasion, Hueston Woods (SW) - Dec. 17, 11 AM at the Hueston Woods Lodge. Educational raptor program with local birds of prey. (513) 524-4250.

JANUARY 2012

Sled Dog Classic, Punderson (NE) - Date TBA, snow conditions permitting. Pre-registration and a fee are required for racers. Spectators are admitted free. (440) 564-2279 or www.siberiancleveland.org.

Winter Hike, Mohican (NE) - Jan. 15, 1 PM. Meet at the camp store/commissary. Experience winter's beauty while watching for the elusive bald eagle. After the hike enjoy warm soup & refreshments (419) 994-5125.

47th Annual Winter Hike, Hocking Hills (SE) - Jan. 21, continuous starts from 9-11 AM. Rugged 6-mile trek from Old Man's Cave to Ash Cave. Wear layered clothing & good footwear. Refreshments available for a donation. A shuttle bus returns hikers to Old Man's Cave. (740) 385-6841.

Winter Bird Hike, Hueston Woods (SW) - Jan 21, 10 AM at the nature center. Hike park trails & learn the art of birding from an expert. (513) 524-4250.

Can You Name a Tree By its Bark?, Van Buren (NW) - Jan. 22, 2 PM at shelterhouse #3. Learn how to identify a tree in the winter by its bark, then head out on a trail to test your skills. (419) 832-7662.

FEBRUARY 2012

32nd Annual Buckeye Trail Winter Hike, Findley (NE) - Feb. 4, 10 AM. Moderate 5-k, 10-k or interpretive hikes. Followed by bean soup & cornbread. (440) 647-5749.

Winterfest, Geneva (NE) - Feb. 4. Activities at the park and in the town of Geneva during this community winter carnival include snowmobile rides, a chili cookoff & more. (440) 466-8400.

Sweethearts Hike, Hocking Hills (SE) - Feb. 11, 5-7 PM at the Ash Cave parking lot. Take a romantic stroll to Ash Cave and enjoy a cozy fire & refreshments. (740) 385-6841.

Cabin Fever Reliever Hike, Van Buren (NW) - Feb. 11, 10 AM - Noon. Meet at shelterhouse #3. Choose from a self-guided 2-mile or 5-mile loop hike through rolling forest terrain. Enjoy winter nature displays and a hot chili lunch starting at 11 AM. (419) 832-7662.

Winter Hike, Caesar Creek (SW) - Feb. 18 continuous starts from 10 AM - noon from the Wellman Meadows boat ramp off Oregonia Road. 4-mile self-guided trek through meadows and valleys. (513) 897-2437.

Winter Hike, Hueston Woods (SW) - Feb. 18, 11 AM. Meet at the nature center & car caravan to the Big Woods for a guided hike through old growth forest. (513) 524-4250.

Maple Syrup Weekend, Caesar Creek (SW) - Feb. 25-26, at the Pioneer Village. Brunch available from 11 AM to 2 PM for a fee; free walking tours at 10 AM, 11 AM, Noon & 1 PM. Warm up with a woodland walk & learn how sap is collected to make syrup. (513) 897-2437.

Polar Bear Plunge, Geneva (NE) - Feb. 25, at Breakwater Beach. Spectators are welcome. "Plungers" must pre-register. Proceeds benefit Special Olympics. (440) 466-8400 or (614) 239-7050.

MARCH 2012

Maple Syrup Festival, Hueston Woods (SW) - Mar. 3-4 & 10-11 at the main beach parking area. Explore the process of maple sugaring from the methods used by Indians to modern methods. Pancake breakfast offered from 7 AM-1 PM for a fee. Tour the sugar bush from Noon-4 PM. (513) 523-6347.

36th Annual Maple Syrup Festival, Malabar Farm (NE) - Mar. 3-4 & 10-11, Noon-4 PM. Take a horse-drawn wagon ride to the sugar camp for demonstrations of sugar making, pioneer life and entertainment. Food is available, and maple products are for sale. (419) 892-2784.

Maple Sugaring in the Hills, Hocking Hills (SE) - Mar. 10-11, Noon-4 PM at the naturalist cabin behind the Old Man's Cave visitor center. Discover how syrup is made, and try a sample. Pancake breakfast offered at the dining lodge for a fee. (740) 385-6841.

Woodcock Walk, Shawnee (SW) - March 10, 7 PM. Meet at the lodge for a guided hike to see the amazing courtship display. Wear dark colors. (740) 858-6652.

Stalk of the Wild Woodcock Walk, Van Buren (NW) - March. 24, 7:30 PM at the Nature Center shelterhouse. View the fascinating flight display of this member of the shorebird family. (419) 832-7662.

Guardians of the Past

The Oxford Museum Association is tireless in its quest to preserve history in and around Hueston Woods State Park. The Museum Association operates the park's pioneer farm, and brings history to life with programs and special events that provide modern day park visitors with delightfully old-fashioned experiences.

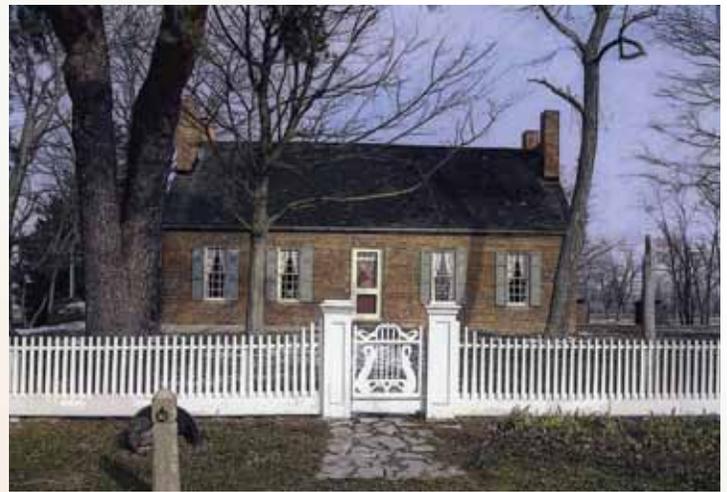
The heart of the pioneer farm is the historic Doty Homestead, at the center of the former Doty Settlement. At one time, this bustling little hamlet featured a church and cemetery, a one-room school, a blacksmith shop, a furniture shop, a distillery, and a creekside sawmill and fulling mill, where homespun cloth was prepared to make fabric for clothing and home goods. Although the settlement was named after the Doty family, the area was first claimed by Joseph Morris in the early 1830s.

Joseph Morris and his family weathered their first few seasons in rural Oxford Township in a crude dugout, until Morris completed the sturdy two-story brick home that still stands today. After moving in, Morris made a comfortable living selling his homemade whiskey in Cincinnati, and returning home with a cart full of groceries to sell in the town of Oxford, five miles down the road. A few years later, though, Morris lost his fortune in the Panic of 1837. He



was compelled to sell his home and farm, which were eventually purchased by his brother-in-law, Samuel Doty. Generations of the Doty family remained at the farm for more than 50 years.

The pioneer farm became part of Hueston Woods in the 1950s. Initially, the old brick home served as the park office and the nearby barn provided a roomy outbuilding for park equipment. Meanwhile, history buffs in nearby Oxford were establishing the Oxford Museum Association to protect the area's considerable historic treasures. By 1959, the park staff had settled into a new office, and the Museum Association had stepped up to lease the pioneer farm from the park and open it to the public as a museum and interpretive center.



In the early years, apple butter making demonstrations were held occasionally at the pioneer farm as part of the Museum Association's mission to foster awareness and appreciation of 19th century rural and small town life. The events were so popular that a new tradition, the annual Apple Butter Festival, was initiated in 1965. The following summer, the annual Arts & Crafts Show got its start. The Apple Butter Festival celebrates its 46th anniversary this fall (see the calendar of events for details).



In 1980, the pioneer farm experienced a setback when the original barn and the artifacts inside it were lost to fire. Fortunately, there was an 1840s-vintage barn available at Sycamore State Park, west of Dayton. With help and expertise from the Museum Association, professional barn restorers, and community volunteers, the state park staff carefully disassembled the Sycamore barn and reconstructed it on the Hueston Woods pioneer farm site.

Another fascinating piece of history near the pioneer farm, the old Doty Settlement cemetery, was revived in 2004. The tombstones, many of which date back to the 1850s, had toppled, and the woods had encroached on the burial plots over time. The Museum



Association and the Oxford Township Trustees teamed up to undertake the ambitious project to restore the cemetery to its original beauty and dignity.

The most recent addition to the pioneer farm ties the rural



farmstead to the nearby town of Oxford, literally and symbolically. In late 2007, the entire community rallied to rescue a charming late 1800s-era house slated for demolition to make way for a new apartment building. From 1890 until 1962, the pretty Italianate building dubbed the “Township House” had served as a local government meeting space and the township clerk’s office. For the following 45 years, the building housed a variety of small businesses until investors acquired the site for the apartment project. The new owners recognized the significance of the building, and they offered to help the Museum Association relocate the old Township House to a suitable spot at the pioneer farm. On a snowy December day, the

house was lifted onto a trailer and paraded through town to its new home in the countryside, followed by a procession of volunteers and curious onlookers. Today, the Township House serves as a museum featuring artifacts and exhibits of Oxford Township’s past, as well as Hueston Woods State Park history.

Thanks to the Oxford Museum Association’s hard working and dedicated guardians of the past, the Hueston Woods pioneer farm will remain a vibrant monument to Ohio’s heritage far into the future.



Park Improvements

At **Hocking Hills**, work has started on realignment of a one-mile section of State Route 664 at the Old Man’s Cave area. For decades, park visitors had to walk across the state highway which separated the large parking lot from the park entrance at this popular area. The highway will be relocated to the north, behind the parking lot, creating a safe entrance with a new visitor plaza that will serve as a focal point for guests arriving at the park. This major park improvement was made possible with the generous assistance of two key partners, the Ohio Department of Transportation and the Friends of Hocking Hills State Park. Additional facilities planned for future construction include an A-frame bridge and accessible trail.

Construction work is underway on a new dining lodge at **Lake Hope** to replace the historic stone and timber structure that was destroyed by fire in 2006. The design for the new dining lodge features all of the rustic charm of the original, plus environmentally sustainable approaches for energy efficiency, water conservation, and recycled materials that will achieve the Silver LEED designation. The main level of the lodge will include seating for 120 guests, as well as café, gallery space for local artisans, a convenient camp store for Lake Hope campers, and office space. The lower level will feature a 120 person banquet room with stage, catering kitchen and adjacent outdoor patio.

Park Pals answers (continued from page 11)

Why hibernate?

- hibernate
- insulation
- temperature
- burrow
- sleeping
- Day

Animals hibernate to save energy