



Fall 2024



Photo courtesy of
Grace Bailey

Page 4 Apple Festival 2024

You don't want to miss it! Apple Festival will be held at the Lauer Historical Farm on Saturday & Sunday, October 5 & 6.

Page 9 Walking Thru Autumn

Join us beginning September 7 for the 18th annual Walking Thru Autumn hiking series.

Page 11 Lauer Farm 1944

Travel back in time on October 19 & 20 to 1944 at the Lauer Historical Farm to experience WWII.



Director's Corner

Director

Tyler Black

Board of Commissioners

Robert K. Antibus

Kevin P. Bruin

Donna M Creamer



Tyler Black - Director

Project Updates

ment agreement with The Nature Conservancy for invasive species control.



Office Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Director's Corner	2
Donations	2
Meet the W.I.L.D.	2
Volunteer Opportunities	3
Apple Festival	4
Fall Programs	5 - 7
2025 Facility Reservations	8
Walking Thru Autumn	9
Naturalist Notebook - "Behind the Leaves"	10
Nature Photo Contest	11
Lauer Farms 1944	11

Kendrick Woods Wetland Development

The Park District was awarded a \$2 million grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to re-establish 103 total acres of wetland and riparian habitat along the Auglaize River. This project is taking place within Kendrick Woods and will involve the creation of 43 acres of open water wetland habitat along with public access for great wildlife viewing throughout this corridor. The project is designed to help filter runoff and nutrients before they enter the Auglaize River, which will increase water quality downstream from Kendrick Woods.

The Park District has contracted with Davey Resource Group for engineering and design. The design phase is approximately 60% complete with competitive bidding taking place this fall.

Motter Metro Park Wetland Development

The Park District partnered with The Nature Conservancy to create 21 acres of Motter Metro Park into wetland habitat as well. This project will enhance water quality throughout Riley Creek and will ultimately enhance water quality within Lake Erie. The project began in early July 2024 with excavation being completed by the last week of July. There will be additional seeding and planting of native hardwood trees this fall in the area along with a 10-year manage-

Website Redesign

The Park District has been in the process of updating our website since the beginning of summer 2024. We are pleased to unveil the newly redesigned website with easy to navigate pages, clarity in the offerings we provide, and an enhanced experience for YOU, the user. We are grateful to NOW Marketing Group for the design and implementation of the new web design.

Vehicle Storage Facility

Along with the expansion of the new Park District Headquarters in 2022, the Park District has seen the need for an additional storage facility. This new facility will be mainly for our fleet of vehicles that operate daily to keep the parks clean and safe. This project began in August and is set to be finished in late March 2025.



JAMPD - Vehicle Storage Building
Design Development - 02/27/2023



Yours in servant leadership,

Tyler Black
Executive Director

Volunteer Opportunities

with the Environmental Education and Natural Resource Departments

1st Grade Fieldtrip Training

Wed., Aug. 28 – 10 am – HW

The Park District “Basic Needs” 1st Grade Field Trip is an interdisciplinary, hands-on program focused on the basic needs of living things. We’ve held this field trip in the spring in the past but are moving it to the fall to better fit school curriculum! Volunteers assist the naturalists as they lead student groups through activities at Hermon Woodlands. Please join us on Wednesday, August 28th from 10 am – 12 pm for an in-depth training on the program. Register on the Park District volunteer portal by Aug. 27.

3rd Grade Fieldtrip Training

Fri., Nov. 1 – 9 am – ACF

The Park District “Pioneer Skills” 3rd Grade Field Trip is an interdisciplinary, hands-on, history-based program focusing on 1800’s pioneer life in Allen County. Naturalist-led student groups rotate to volunteer-led/assisted stations at the Allen County Farm Park. This fieldtrip runs the first few weeks of November. Please join us on Friday, Nov 1st from 9 am – 12 pm for an in-depth training on the program. Register on the Park District volunteer portal by Oct. 31.

Critter Care Volunteers

Training Session: Sept. 12; Oct. 10; Nov. 14 – 4 pm – MEEC

Continuing opportunities: Every Thursday – 4 pm – MEEC

The park district maintains several live animals as ambassadors for environmental education. Mostly reptiles and amphibians with a few invertebrates and fish, these animals need to be cared for – and that’s where we need your help! We’re looking for excited teenage volunteers to help with our Critter Care program. We tend to the animals in the MEEC every Thursday at 4 pm for 1-1.5 hrs. Each volunteer will be required to attend a training session, stressing animal care and sanitary standards, which includes a volunteer manual. For more information contact Dan Hodges at dhodges@jampd.com

Seed Collection for Habitat Restoration

The Natural Resources Department will have several seed collecting sessions throughout the fall. Collected seeds will be used to reseed sparse areas within various prairies, or to establish new prairie areas via spreading the seeds or growing plugs indoors. Many collection trips will take place at Kiracofe Prairie at Kendrick Woods. A few other parks will be visited as well. Dates will vary according to seed readiness and volunteer availability. Collection will mainly take place in the afternoon. If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact Anne Smedley at 419-221-1232 or asmedley@jampd.com, or registered volunteers can sign up in VicNet.

Volunteer Conservation Work

Spring: Garlic mustard control, transplanting seedlings grown indoors/greenhouse, plug planting for habitat restoration/native garden

Summer: Teasel seed head removal, seed collection (sedges)

Fall: Seed collection (grasses/flowers/trees/shrubs)

Winter: Seed cleaning, indoor or greenhouse planting, habitat restoration seedings

Year round: Invasive woody plant removal

Above projects will appear in the newsletter with more detailed descriptions and dates. If you have a large group interested in a service project, please contact Anne Smedley at 419-221-1232 or asmedley@jampd.com to set up a date.

Johnny Appleseed Metro Park District

APPLE FESTIVAL



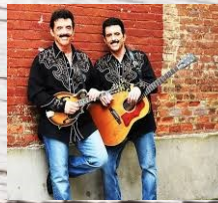
**SAT. & SUN.,
OCTOBER 5 & 6
12 pm to 6 pm
LAUER HISTORICAL FARM
800 ROUSH ROAD, LIMA, OH**

**CHILDRENS ACTIVITIES • HAYRIDES
PUMPKIN PAINTING
STRAW PYRAMID • DEMONSTRATING CRAFTSMEN
APPLES & CIDER • FOOD TRUCKS
AND MUCH MORE!!!!**

ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE

SATURDAY

**1 pm Chris Rowlands
3:30 pm Spittin Image**



SUNDAY

**1 pm FJ Boerog
3:30 pm Shifferly Road**



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT 419-221-1232 OR VISIT JAMPD.COM



Fall Programs

September, October, November

If program description indicates registration required, please register online at jampd.com or by calling 419-221-1232.

PARKS LEGEND

- ACF** Allen County Farm Park
- ATA** Antibus Trail Access
- AR** Agerter Road River Access
- DC** Deep Cut
- FA** Fort Amanda Park
- HP** Heritage Park
- HR** Haver Ridge
- HWMP** Hermon Woodlands Metro Park
- KW** Kendrick Woods
- LBS** Lippincott Bird Sanctuary
- LHF** Lauer Historical Farm
- MEEC** McElroy Environmental Education Center
- MMP** Motter Metro Park
- MTB** McLean Teddy Bear Park
- OMP** Ottawa Metro Park
- OMP/AMP** Ottawa Metro Park Amphitheater

September

TRI-MORAINE: BIRDING ACROSS OHIO AND BEYOND

Tues., Sept. 3 – 6:30 pm – Visitor Center at OSU Lima

Jeremy Dominguez, the Birding Outreach Coordinator and Ornithologist for the Toledo Zoo and Aquarium will bring a flying start to the Tri-Moraine Audubon Society season. His program will delve into how the Toledo Zoo and Aquarium participates in worldwide bird conservation. Register by Sept. 3.

NATURE PALS: FISHING FUN

Thurs., Sept. 5 – 10 am OR 1 pm
Fri., Sept. 6 – 10 am OR 1 pm
Sat., Sept. 7 – 10 am OR 1 pm – MEEC

Children ages 3-5 along with their adult companion are invited to try their luck at fishing! After our indoor classroom time, we will hike to the pond at Teddy Bear Park. Dress to be outdoors. Register by Sept. 3.

WALKING THRU AUTUMN

Sat., Sept. 7 – 9 am – HP
See Article on page 9.

JOGGING WITH JOHNNY

Mon., Sept. 9 – 5 pm – OMP
Experience autumn in the parks and “fall” into fitness with a Johnny Appleseed accountability-buddy! Join Naturalist Lindsey for a warm-up walk and a few laps around Ottawa Metro Park. All ages and abilities are welcome in their fitness journey, whether you consider yourself a seed, a sapling, or cider! Choose a pace that is comfortable for you. Dress for the weather and come out rain or shine! Meet at the Wyandot Shelter to sign in. Register by Sept. 8.

MONTHLY MOTHING

Mon., Sept. 9 – 8 pm– MEEC
Every second Monday from May to September naturalist Marie will set up the equipment to sample what moths are on the wing in the Teddy Bear Park Forest behind the MEEC. Each month should bring a suite of new moths as different species emerge at different times of the year. Event starts at sunset each month. Register by Sept 6.

WALKING THRU AUTUMN

Sat., Sept. 14 – 9 am – HR
See Article on page 9. (This park does not have restroom facilities).

TREE–TORIAL

Sat., Sept. 14 – 1 pm – MEEC
Get “bark to basics” while learning more about the unique plants we call trees. In this program for elementary-aged children and their families you’ll explore a variety of interactive STEAM stations and “grow” your knowledge of trees! Children ages 7–10 can be registered as participants and accompanied by their parent or guardian. Register by Sept. 13.

INTERNATIONAL OBSERVE THE MOON NIGHT

Sat., Sept. 14 – 6 pm – KW
Join observers around the world to observe our moon! Members of the Lima Astronomical Society will present a program on the Moon, a naturalist from the Park will have family-friendly activities, astronomy handouts will be available, and telescopes will be set up for observing the Moon and other astronomical objects. This event is weather and cloud cover dependent. Check the Lima Astronomical Society Facebook page for updates. Register by Sept. 13.

HEALTH THRU NATURE

Sun., Sept. 15 – 1 pm to 3 pm – MTB
Come and connect with nature as we collaborate with an accredited certified natural mindfulness guide.” Aside from serene peace, this program can also offer stress and anxiety reduction, blood pressure reduction and a boost in concentration and memory. Register by Sept. 12.

PEDAL THE PARKS!

Wed., Sept. 18 – 6 pm – OMP

Put your pedals through their spin cycle and join park staff to explore the trails on two wheels! Enjoy an interpretive bike tour and “wheel”-derness ride as we travel along the Rotary Riverwalk and Ottawa River Bikeway through Lauer Historical Farm to Schoonover Park and back again. Total distance traveled will be around 7 miles. Dress for the weather and bring a water bottle. Helmets are required. Meet at the Wyandot Shelter. Register by Sept. 17.

KAYAK ADVENTURES

Sun., Sept. 22 – 2 pm- 5:30 pm – KW - Cottonwood Trail Access

Join a Naturalist as we enjoy the first day of autumn on the beautiful Auglaize River. Birds, trees, fish—no topic is off limits as we explore the natural history of this hidden gem. This program is dependent on the weather and water level. Participants are limited to 10*, all equipment is provided and sponsored by ODNR's Boating Safety Education Grant. **If you have personal equipment (kayak, jacket, paddle) and are interested in participating, reach out to dhodges@jampd.com for more information.* Prepare for the weather and the water, bring snacks, drinking water, and sunscreen. Register by Sept. 20.

JOGGING WITH JOHNNY

Mon., Sept. 23 – 5 pm - HP

Experience autumn in the parks and “fall” into fitness with a Johnny Appleseed accountability-buddy! Join Naturalist Lindsey for a warm-up walk and a few laps around Heritage Park. All ages and abilities are welcome in their fitness journey. Dress for the weather and come out rain or shine! Meet at the Veterans Shelter to sign in. Register by Sept. 22.

WALKING THRU AUTUMN

Sat., Sept. 21 – 9 am- DC

See Article on page 9.

FEEDING DAY

Thurs., Sept. 26 – 4 pm - MEEC

The Park District maintains several education animals, using them throughout the year for nature presentations and programs. Join the Critter Care volunteers to help feed all our animals. Register by Sept. 25.

WALKING THRU AUTUMN

Sat., Sept. 28 – 9 am – MMP

See Article on page 9. (This park does not have restroom facilities).

October

NATURE PALS: ROCK STAR! PICK-UP KIT

**Mon., Sept. 30 thru Fri., Oct. 4
9 am to 4 pm – Park Office**

Get ready to rock-n-roll! Nature Pals' traditional in-person format is postponed this month as we gear up for the Apple Festival. Nature Pals and their families are invited to come to Apple Fest for fall festivities, as well as register online to pick up a Nature Pals take-home kit. The Nature Pals: Rock Star! Pick-Up Kit contains fun activities that Nature Pals and their families can do together at home. Please reserve a kit online, then come to the Parks Office any time between 9 am and 4 pm from Sept. 30 through Oct. 4 to pick up your reserved kit. Register for your pick-up kit by Sept. 20.

TRI-MORAINE: NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY 101

Tues., Oct. 1 - 6:30 pm – Visitor Center at OSU Lima

Do you love nature? Do you own a camera? Then this class is for you! Join professional wildlife photographer Jamie Cunningham of Sabrewing Nature Tours for tips and tricks to capturing great images, no matter what type

of camera you are using! This class covers the basics from do's and don'ts, when is the best time to shoot, composition, recommended gear, beginning editing and more! This program is co-sponsored with the Tri-Moraine Audubon Society. Register by Oct. 1.

WALKING THRU AUTUMN

Sat., Oct. 5 – 9 am – ACF

See Article on page 9.



**SAT. & SUN., OCT. 5 & 6
12 pm to 6 pm
Lauer Historical Farm
800 Roush Road,
Lima, OH**

See Article on page 4.

JOGGING WITH JOHNNY

Mon., Oct. 7 – 5 pm – OMP

See Sept 9. program description. Register by Oct. 6.

INTRO TO WOODCARVING

Mon., Oct. 7 – 7 pm – MEEC

This program is designed to give a basic overview of wood carving. Experienced members of the Lima Area Woodcarvers will cover topics such as carving styles, projects, tools, wood, sharpening and more. This program is for any skill level, beginners included. This program is limited to ages 13 and up (under 18 must be accompanied by an adult). Register by Oct. 7.

WALKING THRU AUTUMN

Sat., Oct. 12 – 9 am – KW

See Article on page 9.

WALKING THRU AUTUMN

Sat., Oct. 19 – 9 am – MTB

See Article on page 9.

ROCK ON!

Sat., Oct. 19 – 1 pm – MEEC

Can you dig it? We bet you can! In this program for elementary-aged children and their families, you'll discover the nature of rocks and minerals and explore how these cool compounds are formed. Examine various formations up-close and experience interactive geology stations! Children ages 7-10 can be registered as participants and accompanied by their parent or guardian. Register by Oct. 18.

LAUER FARMS 1944

Sat., Oct. 19 - 10 am to 5 pm &

Sun., Oct. 20 - 10 am to 3 pm

Lauer Historical Farm

800 Roush Road, Lima, OH

See page 8 for details.

JOGGING WITH JOHNNY

Mon., Oct. 21 – 5 pm – HP

See Sept 23. program description. Register by Oct. 20.

WALKING THRU AUTUMN

Sat., Oct. 26– 9 am – HW

See Article on page 9.

PHOTOGRAPHS DUE!

Sun., Oct. 27 – 11:59 pm – Online

Turn in your photos for our 47th annual Nature Photography Contest! Follow us on Facebook and Flickr to view the results. Winners will be displayed at ArtSpace Lima and then at the MEEC! Official rules and more details at johnnyappleseedparks.com.

FEEDING DAY

Thurs., Oct. 31 – 4 pm - MEEC

See Sept 28 program description. Register by Oct. 30.

November

NATURE'S NIGHT LIGHTS: GLOWING PLANTS & ANIMALS!

Fri., Nov. 1 – 7:30 pm – HR

Scientists are discovering dozens of animals that glow under ultraviolet light, from flying squirrels to millipedes! Join us on this naturalist-led hike as we discover the glowing plants and animals that live right here in our own parks. Please dress for a hike in the woods. Register by Oct. 30.

JOGGING WITH JOHNNY

Mon., Nov. 4 – 5 pm – OMP

See Sept 9. program description. Register by Nov. 3.

WOODCARVING: SNOWMAN

Mon., Nov. 4 – 7 pm – MEEC

Carve a friendly snowman with help from the Lima Area Woodcarvers. This project is for all skill levels, beginners included. Program is limited to 10 participants, ages 13 and up (under 18 must be accompanied by an adult). Register by Nov. 1.

TRI-MORAIN: ATTRACTING BIRDS WITH NATIVE PLANTS

Tues., Nov. 5 - 6:30 pm – Visitor Center at OSU Lima

Dave McPherson collects and grows plants that are native to Ohio. Star Farms, located south of Kenton provides native plants that are excellent for humans and birds. Dave will share specifics of certain species and how they help support the bird population. Need ideas on how to improve birding in your yard? Join us for great information and news about available plants. Register by Nov. 5.

NATURE PALS: PIONEER LIFE

Thurs., Nov. 6 – 10 am OR 1 pm

Fri., Nov. 7 – 10 am OR 1 pm

Sat., Nov. 9 – 10 am OR 1 pm – ACF Children 3-5 years old and their adult companion are invited to travel back

in time to see what life was like in rural Ohio during the mid-1800s! Children will have fun helping with chores at the cabin and playing pioneer games. Note: This program is held at the Allen County Farm Park! Register by Nov. 5.

NATURE DIY: RAVISHING WREATHS

Sat., Nov. 16 – 11 am to 1 pm - MEEC

Spend a "crafter-noon" making wreaths from natural materials! Learn how to wrap a grapevine wreath and spend some time decorating it with objects found in nature. All ages and skill levels are welcome! Some pre-wrapped wreaths will be available for younger participants. Feel free to bring along any bobs and bits to help decorate your wreath and to share with others! Register by Nov. 15.

JOGGING WITH JOHNNY

Mon., Nov. 18 – 5 pm – HP

See Sept 23. program description. Register by Nov. 17.

ALLEN COUNTY NATURAL HISTORY

Mon., Nov. 18 – 6 pm – Lima Public Library

Allen County has been named on a map for around 200 years, but nature here has been doing its thing for much longer than that! The story of natural history in this area is tremendous and diverse. Join a naturalist for an overview of the history of our area from a natural perspective. We are partnering with the Library, who will have a selection of books on this topic available for your further learning! Register by Nov. 17.

LATE FALL HIKE

Fri., Nov. 22 – 9 am – MMP

Explore the prairie in late fall at beautiful Motter Metro Park. We'll inspect habitat restoration work and enjoy the sights and sounds of nature in late autumn. Dress for the weather. Register by Nov. 21.

2025 Shelter & Facility Reservations to be Accepted

On Tues, September 3, the Park District will begin accepting 2025 reservations.

On Tuesday, September 3, the Park District will begin accepting 2025 reservations for shelters in Heritage, Hermon Woodlands, Kendrick Woods, Lauer Historical Farm, McLean Teddy Bear, Ottawa Metro, Fort Amanda, Allen County Farm Park and the Allen County Farm Park Cabin. All reservations include use of electricity. The Park District Office hours are 8 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday. Please call 419-221-1232 for information.

2025 FEES

Heritage Park

Veterans Shelter -	\$75
Freedom Shelter -	\$50
Lions Shelter -	\$75

Fort Amanda Park

Fort Amanda Shelter -	\$35
-----------------------	------

Teddy Bear Park

Hornung Shelter -	\$50
Wheeler Shelter -	\$50

Hermon Woodlands

East Shelter -	\$125
West Shelter -	\$125



Hermon Woodlands West Shelter & Interior



Kendrick Woods

Oak Shelter -	\$50
Hickory Shelter -	\$50
Maple Shelter -	\$75

Ottawa Metro Park

Miami Shelter -	\$75
Erie Shelter -	\$75
Wyandot Shelter -	\$75

Allen County Farm Park

Friday, Saturday, Sunday & Holidays - \$300 for 5 hrs., \$60/each additional hour. Monday through Thursday - \$250 for 5 hrs., \$50/each additional hour

Allen County Farm Park Cabin

(maximum capacity of 28)
Monday through Sunday—\$50 for 5 hrs., \$10/each additional hour.

Lauer Historical Farm

Friday, Saturday, Sunday & Holidays
Lauer House - \$300 - 5 hrs., \$60/each additional hour

Lauer Barn - \$300 - 5 hrs., \$50/each additional hour



Lauer Historical Event Barn & Interior



Erie Shelter at Ottawa Metro Park

Pergola - 10 am to 2 pm or 3 pm to 7 pm - \$50

Celebration Garden Venue - \$150 (Includes Pergola)

Lauer Historical Farm

Monday through Thursday

Lauer House - \$200 - 5 hrs., \$40/each additional hour

Lauer Barn - \$200—5 hrs., \$40/each additional hour

Pergola - 10 am to 2 pm or 3 pm to 7 p.m. - \$50

Celebration Garden Venue - \$100 (Includes Pergola)

Lee & Ruby Roebuck Shelter (enclosed year-round facility)

Friday, Saturday, Sunday & Holidays

\$300 - 5 hrs., \$60/each additional hour

Monday through Thursday

\$150 - 5 hrs., \$30/each additional hour



Lee & Ruby Roebuck Shelter & Interior



Walking Thru Autumn

There is nothing quite like a brisk walk and a breath of fresh air on a crisp autumn morning! Please join us for the 18th annual Walking Thru Autumn hiking series.



It's the natural thing to do!

There is nothing quite like a brisk walk and a breath of fresh air on a crisp autumn morning! Please join us for our 18th annual Walking Thru Autumn hiking series. Each week 60-90 participants gather for a guided hike, to take in the beauty of fall and explore some of the 30+ miles of Park District trails. Upon completing 6 out of the 8 offered hikes, participants will receive a 2024 Metro Parks hiking stick medallion. Hand-made wood hiking sticks are available for \$10. All hikes start at 9:00 a.m., last approximately 1.5 hours and will be on easy to moderate terrain.

Register online at www.jampd.com. September 7th marks the first hike; however, participants may register as late as September 20th for the final 6 hikes. Registrations and walk-ins after this date are encouraged but will not be eligible for the hiking stick medallion.

Come enjoy the beauty of fall in your Parks!

Walking Thru Autumn 2024

Sept	7	Heritage Park
Sept	14	Haver Ridge

Sept	21	Deep Cut
Sept	28	Motter Metro Park
Oct	5	Allen County Farm
Oct	12	Kendrick Woods
Oct	19	McLean Teddy Bear
Oct	26	Hermon Woodlands



Naturalist Notebook

“Behind the Leaves: The Hidden World of Squirrels”



Fox Squirrel

When autumn comes, the beautiful fall foliage puts on quite the display. But what is there to look forward to once the leaves have left the branches looking bare? The hidden world of tree-dwelling animals that normally takes place just out of view, behind the leaves!

Once the normal leafage is out of the way, you may notice large balls of dried leaves that don't fall to the ground as the season progresses. These are the nests of tree squirrels, called dreys! Here in Ohio you are most likely to encounter two types of squirrels that make these large leaf-ball dreys: gray squirrels and fox squirrels. **Gray squirrels** are mostly gray with **white bellies** and tend to be found in larger forest blocks, cities, and parks. **Fox squirrels** are reddish-gray with **red bellies** and tend to be associated with agricultural woodlots. Sometimes you may even see a black squirrel! These are gray squirrels with a genetic propensity to produce increased levels of the pigment melanin, making them black instead of gray.

These squirrel's nests, or dreys, are built to lend squirrels shelter from the elements. They may look like a haphazard pile, but they are an impressive piece of animal architecture! They are made of a framework of fresh, bendy twigs that the squirrel places carefully. Over time the sticks harden into place. The squirrel will then add layer upon layer of leaves, smoothed out and arranged in a shingle-like fashion.

They then line the inside of the nest with fur and feathers, moss and soft bark, anything to help make it cozy and warm. Some of the dreys you see will be real homes, but squirrels can also build fake dreys to throw off predators! If a red-tailed hawk spends time and energy ripping apart a drey and is not always rewarded with a tasty squirrel dinner, that hawk may not waste future efforts doing a task that it thinks will have a low chance of success. In this way, squirrels use their incredible brains to protect their homes and families.

This time of year, it seems like both gray squirrels and fox squirrels are everywhere! They are running, climbing, chasing each other, eating and storing food. For squirrels, the hardest thing about winter is not actually the cold, since they are endotherms (warm blooded) and use the energy gained from food to heat their bodies. The challenge is finding enough food throughout the winter to do that! To combat this situation, you will see them cache, or store, the excess food that they find during this season. Just like humans canning and preserving our food for a future date, this allows squirrels access to important resources later in the season. They do not work together though, and this makes them act, well, squirrelly! A squirrel that thinks another squirrel is watching it cache its food may pretend to hide one store of food nearby, but then take the food somewhere else

far away for its true storage!

The combination of squirrels' soft adorable bodies and cunning ingenuity make them very fun to watch. As the trees lose their leaves, we get an expanded view of the hidden world of squirrels. Their antics and interactions, their dreys and fake dreys; their rich little lives taking place right alongside ours. Whether you are as busy as a squirrel or as tranquil as a tree, I hope you take some time to observe and appreciate the nature all around us this autumn season. Cheers!

Marie Walton

Naturalist

Environmental Education
Department



Gray Squirrel

NATURE PHOTO CONTEST

Calling photographers of all ages - submit your photos! This is our 48th year; let's make it the best yet! This contest is designed to showcase the beauty and uniqueness of our own backyard. As such, we will be accepting only those photos taken in Allen County, Ohio. There are so many amazing natural things right here; all we have to do is look!

There are 4 categories for your entry:

- Flora (plants, mushrooms)
- Fauna (animals)
- Landscape
- Parks Potpourri

Youth and adult entries will be judged separately. Cash awards will be given for Best of Show and to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in each category for youth and adult competitions. Awards are sponsored by Alloway Environmental Testing.

All photos will be displayed on the Park District Flickr page. Winners will be displayed at Art Space Lima through December and then will be displayed in the MEEC through 2025.

See complete rules and online entry details at www.jampd.com. All entries must be submitted online by Sunday, October 27.

Meet the W.I.L.D.

Look forward to this family-fun evening next spring! Details will be in the Spring 2025 newsletter.

LAUER FARMS 1944

Join us as we travel back in time to 1944 at the Lauer Historical Farm to experience World War II. Interact with 150-200 living history re-enactors and watch as the Allied Forces battle the oppositional Axis Powers. This is the largest WWII re-enactment in Northwest Ohio.

SAT., OCTOBER 19

10 am to 5 pm

(Battles at 11 am & 4 pm)

SUN., OCTOBER 20

10 am to 3 pm

(Battles at 11 am & 2 pm)



LAUER HISTORICAL FARM

800 ROUSH ROAD, LIMA, OH

BATTLES • MILITARY CAMP LIFE

DEMONSTRATIONS • DISPLAYS

EDUCATIONAL SPEAKER SERIES

HOME FRONT SUPPORT

LEARN ABOUT LIMA'S ROLE IN THE WAR

MILITARY VEHICLES

PLUS MUCH MORE!!



