4 Memory-making pairs with celebrating Geauga winters at Frozen Fest

7 Enjoy repurposed items transformed into amazing art at discARTed

15 Plans for the exciting purchase of the former Wicked Woods Golf Course

18 Griswold Creek restoration project now underway
SIGN UP NOW THROUGH MARCH 1
Register to get on our list for naturalist-led programs “called into action” whenever conditions are right for snowshoeing! Snowshoe programs may be called any time to any Geauga Park District park. Bring your own snowshoes or borrow ours, which will be available onsite first come, first served.
to sign up: bit.ly/gpdsscall2019

Sunday, January 20 • 11 AM - 4 PM
The West Woods in Russell Twp.
• Face painting • Crafts • Ice sculptures
• Bird in the Hand • Snowshoe borrowing
• Sled dog meet-n-greets • Refreshments • Live music
• Guest appearances by a famous winter snowman, a reindeer herder, ice princesses and live reindeer!

Exhibit on display February 19 through April 15
The West Woods Nature Center • 10 AM - 4:30 PM daily
See discarded and recycled objects transformed into unique artwork
Artists interested in submitting artwork see details on page 14.

Sundays, March 3, 10 & 17 • Noon - 4 PM
Swine Creek Reservation in Middlefield Twp.
• Visit the sugarhouse and sample the syrup
• Gather sap with a horse-drawn sap sled • Costumed interpreters
• Live music and maple treats in the lodge
Welcome the signs of spring with maple sugaring fun!

Bird Banding Hotline
Sometime in January - March
8 AM - Noon at The West Woods
Get an up close view of birds that come to the feeders as they are banded. Details on page 8.

Frog Fest & Salamander Run Call List
Sometime in March - April
8 - 9:30 PM at The West Woods
Witness the natural phenomenon of spring breeding behavior of amphibians on a warm, rainy night. Details on page 12.

SNOWSHOE CALL LIST

FROZEN FEST

FROZEN FEST

WINTER PROGRAMS on pages 8-13

UPCOMING EVENTS Mark your calendars!

WINTER PROGRAMS on pages 8-13

• Registration is required in advance for limited enrollment programs on a first come, first served basis. Registration can be completed online or at 440-286-9516.
• Programs may be cancelled in the event of severe weather or a storm warning.
• Programs are generally free of charge; those with fees are noted. Payment of fees must be made at the time of registration with a credit/debit card.
• Registration fees are refundable up to five days prior to the event, or if the Park District cancels the program.
• If you or a member of your family has special needs, please call the Park District regarding available accessibility accommodations.

UPCOMING EVENTS Mark your calendars!

WINTER PROGRAMS on pages 8-13

UPCOMING EVENTS Mark your calendars!

WINTER PROGRAMS on pages 8-13
FROM THE BENCH

Dear Park Friends and Geauga County Neighbors,

Preserved and protected under a blanket of winter snow, Geauga County’s wonderful parks are the place to go.

I hope you will take some time to enjoy the winter magic through a variety of outdoor recreational opportunities available at Geauga County’s 10,000+ acres of amazing Parks.

Experience nature’s beauty as you walk along a park trail, learn to snowshoe or cross-country ski, ride a sled, or enjoy the warmth of a crackling fire in one of the Park’s many pavilions. For the hearty, you can camp in one of the lean-to camp sites at Headwaters Park (reservation and nominal fee required).

The fifth year of the highly successful Frozen Fest will be held on January 20, 2019, at the West Woods in Russell Township. Fun for families and friends, this free program provides a great opportunity for Geauga seniors, singles and families to enjoy the best winter experience in Geauga County.

This winter, I hope you and your family will take some time to connect with your amazing Geauga County Parks.

Hope to see you this winter at our Geauga County Parks!

Sincerely,

Timothy J. Grendell
Geauga County Probate/Juvenile Court Judge
“Is it time? Are we there yet?” These are familiar words from children on car trips, but in January they may add: “Is it snowing yet outside and inside?” Once again, we’re excitedly awaiting Geauga Park District’s Frozen Fest, held each January at The West Woods. I vividly recall the first year of this event, 2015, and how magical it was for my two daughters and me to attend. That year truly lived up to its name as a snowstorm hit just right, making everyone think Elsa really was in town.

The weather didn’t keep anyone away, though. In fact, participants and park friends couldn’t believe the turn-out! The falling snow, crystal blue “frozen” water, and snowflake sugar cookies, along with face painting and all the decorations and activities, transformed The West Woods into a Magical Winter Wonderland. All this, and with varying amounts of falling snow, is how it’s also been for the nearly handful of Frozen Fests that followed.

There are so many reasons to come out for this enchanted day of family fun, one might ask: why would one not come? Activities are for all ages and any number of interests, learning modalities and ability levels. Visitors can explore hands-on animal pelts and bones, view live reindeer, interact with snow dogs and their owners, play ice games, see their name written in an ice sculpture, hear and sing along with music from Anna, Olaf and local musicians, and more.

by Kristine Edwards

Photos above by Kristine Edwards
Each year, our family takes along more and more school friends, remembering to hit the hiking trails, too. There, one can learn the art of patience along with the joy of having a chickadee land right on your hand to enjoy a bird seed snack. Talk about priceless, seeing a child’s face (or a picture of your own) when those birds' tiny feet first touch down!

I am a Kenston teacher, and my family, friends and students have been coming to the parks for approximately 20 years now. Frozen Fest wonderfully encompasses Geauga Park District’s mission to balance conservation education and outdoor recreational experiences with quality and healthy family fun. All of Geauga Park District’s naturalist educators, along with Special Events Coordinator Teresa Runion, have vibrant personalities that exude excitement for their programs and their personal love of getting outside at any time of year. It actually was one of these naturalists who first inspired me to view winter in a different light, reminding me that it is one of the most vibrant times of the year, when you see daily changes as each day grows longer and lighter. So now, as we bundle up for a hike, to try snowshoeing, or to attend something new at the nature center, my children, students and I have a heightened awareness and newfound appreciation of the beauty of winter and its ongoing changes. We could for hours sit observing the birds from the nature center’s large indoor viewing windows, stand at The West Woods’ Bird in the Hand Feeding Station, or hike searching for track and scat evidence of winter-active animals, all the while observing natural changes in the environment and signs of the coming of spring.

I love hearing exclamations of, “We didn’t even know you could do that!” or “Winter is fun!” As for Frozen Fest, why would one not come for all the magical hands-on fun? “Are we there yet?” My response is simple: “Not until we attend Frozen Fest!” See you, Olaf, Anna, Elsa and others in January.
Park Spotlight

Spend Some Time at Orchard Hills Park

Located on Caves Road in Chester Township, Orchard Hills Park is a 237-acre parcel previously operated as a golf course and now being restored to a more natural state. Since 2009, Natural Resource Management has planted well over 12,000 native trees and shrubs here, with contributions of time and labor by many volunteer groups. In addition to the planting of about 350 native trees, 2018 also included the seeding of about 13 acres of native meadow: great pollinator wildflowers and native grasses to develop over the next few years. Restoration also helps protect and preserve stream corridors, improve water quality, and reestablish more natural and healthy functioning streams.

Winter is a fantastic season to get to know this popular yet tranquil park. Try the fantastic sledding hill with its truly incredible view from the top. A nearby shelter with a fireplace is a great place to warm up. And park staff regularly groom its cross country skiing trails; watch our social media for notice. Other seasons beckon you to relax pondside or cast a line from a fishing pier, play on an orchard-themed playground, host an event in the indoor-outdoor lodge, or simply wander rolling hills showcasing Geauga County’s picturesque landscape.

Field Notes:

Primarily a mature beech-maple forest ecosystem with clean headwater streams and wetlands for the Chagrin River.

Contains 3.6 miles of trails, considered easy to moderate, with small hills.
When you sign up between January 3 and June 3, your family will be among the first to hear about free events and activities in your parks, and if you live in Geauga County, you will also be entered to win camping equipment of your choice. Choose from tents, sleeping bags, camping cookware, lanterns, and so much more.


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**JANUARY jumps into the new year!**

### Adventure/Discovery

- **Bird Banding Hotline**
  Sometime January-March, 8 AM-noon, The West Woods
  Put your name on a hotline list and get a call when we decide to throw up a mist net at The West Woods to do some banding at the feeders. **Registration required.**

- **Ice Science Drop-In**
  Thursday, January 3, 1-3 PM
  The West Woods
  Beautiful! Powerful! Dangerous! Cold! Ice has an amazing story to tell. Kids (and their adults) drop in anytime between 1 and 3 PM for some hands-on exploration of ice during winter break. **Registration required.**

- **Burton Christmas Bird Count**
  Saturday, January 5, 9:30 AM-12:30 PM, The West Woods
  Come to the cozy West Woods lobby and help count birds for the Burton Christmas Bird Count. Results will be included in the data for the day. Each year, thousands of volunteers throughout the Americas take part in this wildlife census. The data is used by Audubon and other organizations to help guide conservation action. **Registration required.**

- **Learn to Cross Country Ski**
  Sunday, January 6, Noon-2 PM
  Orchard Hills Park
  Learn the basics of cross country skiing including clothing, equipment and proper technique. Indoor presentation followed by outdoor instruction. Ski rental available in advance from Geiger’s in Chagrin Falls, 440-247-4900. A special rental rate for this program applies. **Registration required.**

- **Travelogue: Utah’s “Mighty Five”**
  Sunday, January 6, 2-3 PM
  The West Woods
  Utah is home to five national parks, collectively referred to as The Mighty Five. Join the Sauder family as they take you through their spring break travels to Zion, Bryce Canyon, Capitol Reef, Arches and Canyonlands National Parks in southern Utah! **Registration required.**

- **Fabulous Fungus**
  Sunday, January 6, 3:30-4:30 PM
  The West Woods
  Fungus comes in all kinds of sizes, shapes and colors. Learn more about the natural history of fungi and see what kinds we have in Geauga County during this illustrated overview. **Registration required.**

### Arts

- **Geauga Park District Volunteer Orientation**
  Wednesday, January 9, 2-3 PM & 7-8 PM, The West Woods
  Find out about the opportunities for volunteers, and begin the application process to become an official volunteer. Paperwork includes background check for ages 18+; youth under 14 must volunteer with an adult. **Registration required.**

- **Ultima Thule Space Probe**
  Friday, January 11, 7-8 PM
  Observatory Park
  Learn about NASA's New Horizons probe, which reaches the distant planetoid Ultima Thule this month. Program followed by night sky viewing using park telescopes until 11 PM if weather permits. Also January 25. **Registration required.**

- **Coffee with the Birds**
  Saturday, January 12, 9-11 AM
  The West Woods
  Join Naturalist Tami Gingrich as she identifies winter birds at the feeder. Swing by anytime during the hours listed, grab a hot beverage and settle in by the big windows for some close-up viewing. **Registration required.**

- **Backyard Bird Feeding Basics**
  Saturday, January 12, 9:30-10:30 AM, The West Woods
  Join Cristin Smith from Nature’s Way Bird Products as she presents tips on feeding wild birds and how to attract the widest variety. Also learn quick and easy squirrel-proofing and enter a raffle to win a free bird feeder. **Registration required.**

- **Scout Day: Wolf Cub Scout Paws on the Path**
  Saturday, January 12, 9:30-11 AM
  The Rookery, Great Blue Heron Lodge
  Join us as we work on requirements 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7 and take an outdoor winter hike to observe Nature this season. **Registration required.**

- **Scout Day: Brownie Girl Scout Outdoor Adventurer**
  Saturday, January 12, 1-3 PM
  The West Woods, Nature Center
  Complete all requirements for the Outdoor Adventurer Try-It Badge! Dress for the weather, as we will be outside much of the program, trying snowshoeing if weather permits! Bring a cardboard milk or juice carton. **Registration required.**

### Astronomy

- **Nassau Night Sky Viewing**
  Saturday, January 12, 7-11 PM
  Observatory Park, Nassau Astronomical Station
  Observe the wonders of the night sky using this facility’s giant research-grade telescope! If inclement weather, join us for a planetarium presentation in the McCullough Science Center instead. Also January 26. **Registration required.**

- **Travelogue: The Island of Rhodes**
  Sunday, January 13, 2-3 PM
  The West Woods
  Located 70 miles off the coast of Turkey in the eastern Mediterranean, this island is a hotbed for flora, especially orchids, bird migration, interesting insects and animals, and remnants of bygone cultures. Join Tom Sampliner, photographer and past Native Plant Society president in conjunction with the Native Plant Society of Northeastern Ohio. **Registration required.**

- **Black Bears Returning Home**
  Sunday, January 13, 3:30-5 PM
  The West Woods
  Lost with the settlement of Ohio's primeval wilderness, the Black Bear is attempting a comeback in Ohio after a 150-year absence. Discover the “bear facts” about Ohio's largest mammal through illustrations, tracks, pelts and other hands-on activities. **Registration required.**

### Kids

- **Volunteer Orientation**
  Wednesday, January 9, 2-3 PM
  Science Center instead. Also January 26. **Registration required.**

- **Scout Day: Brownie Girl Scout Outdoor Adventurer**
  Saturday, January 12, 9:30-11 AM
  The Rookery, Great Blue Heron Lodge
  Join us as we work on requirements 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7 and take an outdoor winter hike to observe Nature this season. **Registration required.**

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  Saturday, January 12, 1-3 PM
  The West Woods, Nature Center
  Complete all requirements for the Outdoor Adventurer Try-It Badge! Dress for the weather, as we will be outside much of the program, trying snowshoeing if weather permits! Bring a cardboard milk or juice carton. **Registration required.**

### Seniors

- **Black Bears Returning Home**
  Sunday, January 13, 3:30-5 PM
  The West Woods
  Lost with the settlement of Ohio's primeval wilderness, the Black Bear is attempting a comeback in Ohio after a 150-year absence. Discover the "bear facts" about Ohio's largest mammal through illustrations, tracks, pelts and other hands-on activities. **Registration required.**

- **Volunteer Orientation**
  Wednesday, January 9, 2-3 PM
  Science Center instead. Also January 26. **Registration required.**
17 Elderberries: Down on the Farm  
Thursday, January 17, 1-2:30 PM  
The West Woods  
Return to Geauga County 60 years ago and experience rural living before the modern era of development. Refreshments provided. A collaboration with the Geauga Department on Aging and University Hospitals Geauga Medical Center.  
Registration required.

18 Astrotots: The Right Stuff!  
(Ages 3-5 w/adult)  
Friday, January 18, 10-11 AM & 1-2 PM, Saturday, January 19, 1-2 PM, Observatory Park  
Discover what it takes to get ready for a job in outer space! Interview an astronaut. Engage in out-of-this-world challenges.  
Registration required.

19 Learn to Snowshoe  
Saturday, January 19, 9-11 AM  
Big Creek Park, Meyer Center  
Learn the basics of snowshoeing including clothing, equipment and proper technique. Indoor presentation followed by outdoor snowshoe hike. Borrow ours or bring your own! Ages 8+.  
Registration required.

19 Winter Ansel's Cave Hike: History Written in Rock  
Saturday, January 19, 1-3 PM  
The West Woods  
Hike with a naturalist two miles to Ansel’s Cave to discover its history written in rock – a rare opportunity to go into this restricted area! Held rain or shine.  
Registration required.

19 Nassau Astronomy Night with CVAS  
Saturday, January 19, 7-11 PM  
Observatory Park, Nassau Astronomical Station  
Join members of the Chagrin Valley Astronomical Society to take in the wonders of the night sky using our newly restored telescope and discover all this amazing facility has to offer!  

20 Total Lunar Eclipse  
Sunday, January 20, 11 PM-3:30 AM  
Observatory Park  
Bundle up for a view of the total lunar eclipse using park telescopes, then warm up inside. Eclipse lasts until 3:30 AM but most-dramatic portion between 11 PM and midnight.  

21 X-treme Winter Fun Day  
(Grades 5-10) Monday, January 21, 1-4 PM, Orchard Hills Park  
Have an X-treme amount of winter fun outside with friends! Try snowshoes, go sledding, learn about winter wildlife and warm up by a fire with hot cocoa and s’mores. Dress for the weather. Drop-off program; must have a signed waiver.  
Registration required.

24 Maple Town Tune Traders  
Thursday, January 24, 7-10 PM  
The West Woods, Nature Center  
Short performances and sharing of songs and tunes in the round. All musical genres, instruments and musicianship levels welcome. Come to play, sing or simply enjoy as audience. Snacks to share welcome.  

25 Homeschool Days: Geology Rocks!  
(Ages 5-7 & 8-12) Friday, January 25, 2-3:30 PM  
The West Woods  
Homeschoolers, enjoy hands-on fun learning about rocks and geology topics. Adults may attend (need not register) or drop off child with waiver. Indoor program followed by outdoor exploration, so dress for the weather.  
Registration required.

25 Ultima Thule Space Probe  
Friday, January 25, 7-8 PM  
Observatory Park  
See description for January 11.  

26 Lake Erie Birding Van Trip  
Saturday, January 26, 9 AM-4 PM  
Big Creek Park, Meyer Center  
Look for rare gulls, ducks and other water birds along Lake Erie’s frozen shoreline with experts birder John Pogacnik. Restaurant stop for lunch break. Bring binoculars; spotting scopes provided.  
Registration required.

26 Timbertots: Nature Trackers  
(Ages 3-5 w/adult) Saturday, January 26, 10-11 AM, Claridon Woodlands  
Join Nora the Explorer and become Nature trackers, searching for signs of animals in the wintertime!  
Registration required.  
Also January 28.

27 Bring In Your Telescope  
Saturday, January 26, 4-6 PM  
Observatory Park, Robert McCullough Science Center  
Do you have a telescope but feel unsure of how to set it up and use it? Drop by anytime between 4 and 6 PM and we’ll help get you started!  

27 Nassau Night Sky Viewing  
Saturday, January 26, 7-11 PM  
Observatory Park, Nassau Astronomical Station  
See description for January 12.  

27 Travelogue: Birding Mongolia  
Sunday, January 27, 2-3 PM  
The West Woods, Nature Center  
Dot Bambach shares the fulfillment of a decades-long dream to visit Mongolia. From windswept steppes to snowy mountain lakes and the Gobi Desert, it is a country with a great variety of both habitats and birds. Learn about its long and fascinating history and rich cultural tradition in this presentation.  

27 Otters & Eagles, Etc.: The Wildlife of Bass Lake  
Sunday, January 27, 3:30-4:30 PM  
The West Woods, Nature Center  
With a quiet canoe, camera, coffee and patient observation, Nature enthusiast Chris Parker has documented the wonderful wildlife that occurs at Bass Lake Preserve. Join him to share close encounters with Bald Eagles, river otters, mink, osprey, swans, loons, Prothonotary Warblers and much more.  

28 Timbertots: Nature Trackers  
(Ages 3-5 w/adult) Monday, January 28, 10-11 AM & 1-2 PM, Claridon Woodlands  
Registration required.  

29 Geauga Walkers  
Tuesday, January 29, 1-2:30 PM  
Claridon Woodlands  
See description for January 15.
2 Nature Break: Women's Retreat
Saturday, February 2, 9 AM-12:30 PM, Big Creek Park
Retreat to the park to re-energize and relax. Activities include snowshoeing or walking, Zumba, and a Nature-themed craft and lesson. Fee of $6 includes a light breakfast and a soup and salad lunch. Please dress in layers with comfortable clothes for both indoor and outdoor activities. Registration required.

2 Backcountry Ravine Exploration
Saturday, February 2, 1-4 PM, Orchard Hills Park, Pondside Shelter
Join a naturalist for a rugged off-trail adventure into some of these rock ledges, streams, and ravines. Hikers should be physically capable of several miles of difficult off-trail challenges. Dress for the weather and wear boots or shoes with good traction. Registration required.

3 Birding for Beginners
Sunday, February 3, 1-3 PM, Swine Creek Reservation, Lodge
Join other beginning birders as we practice identifying the winter birds found at our feeders, then head out to see what birds we can find along the Squaw Root Trail.

3 Timbertots: Reduce Reuse Recycle!
(Ages 3-5 w/adult)
Sunday, February 3, 2-3 PM, The West Woods
Learn all about “the 3 Rs” with songs, games, and crafts! Part of the program will include making an art project for our upcoming discARTed Recycled Art Exhibition. Registration required. Also February 4.

4 Timbertots: Reduce Reuse Recycle!
(Ages 3-5 w/adult)
Monday, February 4, 10-11 AM & 1-2 PM, The West Woods
See description for February 3. Registration required.

8 Make a Star Finder
Friday, February 8, 7-8 PM, Observatory Park
Make-and-take a cardboard “star finder.” This classic astronomy device helps you point out and identify objects in the night sky. Followed by night sky viewing until 11 PM if weather permits. Also February 22.

9 Winter Hawk Watch Van Trip
Saturday, February 9, 10 AM-Noon & 1-3 PM, Swine Creek Reservation
A birding adventure into Amish farmland for raptors including Rough-legged Hawks, Harriers and Kestrels and as well as Horned Larks, Snow Buntings, Lapland Longspurs and other winter birds of open country. Bring binoculars. Registration required.

9 Scout Day: Junior Girl Scouts Animal Habitat Badge
Saturday, February 9, 10-11:30 AM, The West Woods
Join naturalists to earn your Animal Habitats Badge. Indoors and outdoors, so dress for the weather. Registration required.

9 Scout Day: Webelos Earth Rocks
Saturday, February 9, 1:30-3:30 PM, The West Woods
Work toward your Earth Rocks Elective Adventure. Indoors and outdoors, so dress for the weather. Registration required.

9 Nassau Night Sky Viewing
Saturday, February 9, 7-11 PM, Observatory Park, Nassau Astronomical Station
Observe the wonders of the night sky using this facility’s giant research-grade telescope! If inclement weather, join us for a planetarium presentation in the McCullough Science Center instead. Also February 23.

10 Backcountry Hike
Sunday, February 10, 1-3 PM, The West Woods, Turkey Ridge
Naturalist-led off-trail hike and, if conditions are right, enjoy the splendor of ice formations on the Sharon Conglomerate ledges. Rugged hike with some steep climbs and possible deep snow, muddy, wet or icy conditions off trail. Registration required.

10 The Sky Tonight Planetarium Show
Sunday, February 10, 2-3 PM, Observatory Park, Robert McCullough Science Center
Join us for a planetarium presentation about what to watch for in the night sky this week. Building open house 1-4 PM. Weather permitting, also view the sun using our safe solar-viewing equipment. Also February 24.

10 The Secret Life of Turkey Vultures
Saturday, February 9, 1-3 PM, Swine Creek Reservation
Become an official Citizen Scientist and participate in this worldwide bird count coordinated by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society. Stop in anytime during listed hours to identify and count birds at the feeding station.

10 Backcountry Hike
Saturday, February 10, 1-3 PM, Orchard Hills Park, Pondside Shelter
Join other active seniors on weekly hikes of 1 to 1 ½ miles. Naturalist led. If temperatures are below 20°F, call to see if the program will still be held. Call Geauga Senior Center for full schedule, 440-279-2137. Also February 26.

12 Geauga Walkers
Tuesday, February 12, 1-2:30 PM, The Rockey
Join other active seniors on weekly hikes of 1 to 1 ½ miles. Naturalist led. If temperatures are below 20°F, call to see if the program will still be held. Call Geauga Senior Center for full schedule, 440-279-2137. Also February 26.

15 Great Backyard Bird Count: Swine Creek
Friday, February 15, 10 AM-2 PM, Swine Creek Reservation
Become an official Citizen Scientist and participate in this worldwide bird count coordinated by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society. Stop in anytime during listed hours to identify and count birds at the feeding station.

15 Great Backyard Bird Count: The West Woods
Friday, February 15, 11 AM-4 PM, The West Woods
Become an official Citizen Scientist and participate in this worldwide bird count coordinated by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society. Stop by the nature center anytime during listed hours to help compile a list of birds seen at the big windows. Also February 16.
15 Fur-Real Frontier Tales
Friday, February 15, 7-8:30 PM
Clarnon Woods
Geauga’s early settlers had some wild neighbors: wolves, bears, mountain lions, rattlesnakes. Gather around the fireplace for stories straight out of Geauga’s 1800s history.

16 Great Backyard Bird Count: The West Woods
Saturday, February 16, 11 AM-4 PM
The West Woods
See description for February 15.

16 Wildlife Detectives Hike
Saturday, February 16, 1-3 PM
The West Woods
Learn about various types of wildlife evidence (tracks, droppings, nests, shed and molted material, and meal remains), then venture into the woods to discover these clues revealing animal presence and activity! Mostly outdoors rain or shine, so dress for the weather. Registration required.

17 Winter Tree ID Hike
Sunday, February 17, 1-3 PM
Big Creek Park, Aspen Grove
Discover the diversity of trees here and learn to identify them by their bark and buds. Hike approximately one mile over hilly terrain. Registration required.

17 Meet the Artists: discARTed Recycled Art Exhibition
Sunday, February 17, 2-4 PM
The West Woods
Join dozens of artists in celebrating 200+ pieces created for this community art exhibition featuring creative works of art transformed from discarded/found materials. Refreshments served. Exhibit on display until April 15.

18 Nature Explorers: Space Explorers
(Ages 6-7 & 8-11)
Monday, February 18, 12:30-2:30 PM
Observatory Park
Become space explorers at Observatory Park! Tour the night sky in the planetarium and participate in space-related activities. Indoors and out, so dress for the weather. Drop-off program; participants must have signed waiver. Registration required.

19 Full Moon: The Young Bear Moon
Tuesday, February 19, 7-8:30 PM
Observatory Park
Learn some Native American sky lore about the winter sky, then watch the full moon rise over Observatory Park!

22 Make a Star Finder
Friday, February 22, 7-8 PM
Observatory Park
See description for February 8.

23 Maple 101 Workshop
Saturday, February 23, 9 AM-Noon
The West Woods, Nature Center
Beginners and experienced producers wishing to hone sugaring skills will learn everything they need to know including tree biology and identification, why sap flows, tapping, collecting methods, sugar bush management, producing the finished product, canning and packaging. Some local sugaring history will also be included. Registration through the office of co-presenter Geauga County OSU Extension Office at 440-834-4656. Registration required.

23 Sweet Maple: How to Make Maple Confections
Saturday, February 23, 1-2:30 PM
The West Woods, Nature Center
Join two local maple producers, James Miller of Sugar Valley Maple and Tom Salo of Salo Maple, as they demonstrate sweet ways to use Geauga County maple syrup.

23 Coffee with the Birds
Saturday, February 23, 1-3 PM
Swine Creek Reservation
Join Naturalist Tami Gingrich as she identifies winter birds at the feeders. Grab a hot drink and pull up a chair for a front row seat.

23 Nassau Night Sky Viewing
Saturday, February 23, 7-11 PM
Observatory Park, Nassau Astronomical Station
See description for February 9.

24 The Sky Tonight Planetarium Show
Sunday, February 24, 2-3 PM
Observatory Park
See description for February 10.

24 Travelogue: Katmai National Park Salmon Run
Sunday, February 24, 2-3 PM
The West Woods
Geauga residents Morris Pengilly and Joy Wyatt share their wildlife experiences at Brooks River Falls Camp in Alaska. They witnessed the annual sockeye salmon run with many hungry bears converging streamside, hoping to catch a meal as thousands of salmon swim upstream to their spawning areas.

24 Nature in Music: Beethoven & the Immortal Beloved
Sunday, February 24, 3:15-4:30 PM
The West Woods
Beethoven was a Nature lover and was often musically inspired by his trips into the countryside. We will look at a song cycle entitled “To the Distant Beloved” and learn how it is tied in with Nature and a mystery woman known as “the immortal beloved.”

26 Geauga Walkers
Tuesday, February 26, 1-2:30 PM
Eldon Russell Park
See description for February 12.

28 Elderberries: Mystery Mammals of Geauga County
Thursday, February 28, 1-2:30 PM
The West Woods
Join us for this indoor lecture program about seldom-seen wildlife of Geauga County: bobcats, otters, bears, flying squirrels, fische and porcupines. Refreshments provided. A collaboration with the Geauga Department on Aging and University Hospitals Geauga Medical Center. Registration required.

28 Maple Town Tune Traders
Thursday, February 28, 7-10 PM
The West Woods
Short performances and sharing of songs and tunes in the round. All musical genres, instruments and musicanship levels welcome. Come to play, sing or simply enjoy as audience. Snacks to share welcome.

www.geaugaparkdistrict.org • PARK EXPLORER
MARCH means maple-sugaring

**Frog Fest & Salamander Run Call List**

Sometime in March-April, 8-9:30 PM
The West Woods, Nature Center

Register for the call list to witness the phenomenon of Wood Frogs, Spring Peepers and possibly large salamanders moving into woodland poools on a rainy night. Anticipated date between early March and early April. Notification by phone the day of the program. Registration required.

**3 Sap’s-a-Risin’!**

Sunday, March 3, Noon-4 PM
Swine Creek Reservation

Visit Geauga Park District’s sugar house, sugarbush and lodge for a sweet taste of how maple sugaring methods have evolved from the Native American tradition to modern methods! Help gather sap in the sugarbush with a horse-drawn sap sled, experience the tapping, gathering and boiling methods used throughout history, see sap boiling in the sugar house and taste some maple syrup, then warm up with live music by The Real Deal String Band and maple treats in the lodge. Also held March 10 and 17.

**4 discARTed Family Day**

Saturday, March 2, 1-4 PM
The West Woods, Nature Center

Bring your family to The West Woods Nature Center to create make-n-take projects from recycled materials anytime during listed hours, then view the discARTed Recycled Art Exhibition. Free and fun for all ages!

**5 Nature Trek Hearty Hike**

Saturday, March 2, 2-5 PM
Swine Creek Reservation

Let’s move it, move it, people! Burn off some extra winter calories on this fitness hike turned up a notch. We’ll hike almost all the trails of the park. Should have the ability to walk at least 6.5 miles with hills, rain or shine. Please prepare for the weather and bring water and a snack.

**6 Winter Campfire & Night Hike**

Saturday, March 2, 7:30-9 PM
Sunnybrook Preserve, Lodge

Gather around a blazing outdoor campfire with hot chocolate for a story or two, then journey into the darkness to experience the curious world of Nature at night!

**7 Maple Driving Tour**

Sunday, March 3, 10 AM-5 PM
Swine Creek Reservation, Sugar House

Geauga Park District is a featured stop on both the statewide Maple Madness Tour and the local Northeast Ohio Maple Tour. Stop in any time during listed hours. From 1-4 PM we will collect sap in our sugarbush with a horse-drawn sap sled. Also featured on the tour March 10. Visit www.ohiomaple.org for details.

**8 Black Holes**

Friday, March 8, 7-8 PM
Observatory Park

They are the universe’s ultimate mystery! Learn all about these extreme gravity regions and where to find them. Program followed by night sky viewing until 11 PM if weather permits. Also March 22.

**9 Timbertots: Maple Sugar Time!** (Ages 3-5 w/adult)

Saturday, March 9, 10-11 AM & 1-2 PM, Swine Creek Reservation, Woods Edge

Explore outdoors and enjoy hands-on activities to discover where and how we get real maple syrup! Entirely outdoors, so dress for the weather. Registration required. Also March 9.

**9 Timbertots: Maple Sugar Time!** (Ages 3-5 w/adult)

Saturday, March 9, 10 AM-5 PM
Swine Creek Reservation, Sugar House

See description for March 3.

**10 Tree Tapper’s Ball**

Saturday, March 9, 7:30-10:30 PM
Parkman Community House, 16295 Main Market (Rt. 422)

Celebrate the maple season with our old-fashioned square dance. Novices needn’t feel like saps; all dances are taught in fun fashion. The Swine Creek Sapsuckers will provide rip-snortin’, old-time string band music for roof-rasin’ entertainment. Dress casually. Registration is required and begins February 25; limit of eight per registering group.

**10 Maple Driving Tour**

Sunday, March 10, 10 AM-5 PM
Swine Creek Reservation, Sugar House

See description for March 3. Live music by Mr. Haney String Band. Also held March 17.

**11 The Sky Tonight Planetarium Show**

Sunday, March 10, 2-3 PM
Observatory Park

Join us for a planetarium presentation about what to watch for in the night sky this weekend. Building open house 1-4 PM. Weather permitting, also view the sun using our safe solar-viewing equipment. Also March 24.

**12 Geauga Walkers**

Tuesday, March 12, 1-2:30 PM
Swine Creek Reservation, Woods Edge

Join other active seniors on weekly hikes of 1 to 1 ½ miles. Naturalist led. Call Geauga Senior Center for full schedule, 440-279-2137. Also March 26.

**13 Scout Day: Bear Cubs Scouts Fur, Feathers & Ferns**

Saturday, March 16, 9:30-11 AM
Swine Creek Reservation, Woods Edge

We’ll work on requirements 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5. Registration required.

**14 Become a Better Bluebird Landlord**

Saturday, March 16, 10-11 AM
The Rookery

Naturalist Tami Gingrich, who has been in charge of Geauga Park Districts bluebird boxes for more than 25 years, will give an overview of the natural history of the Eastern Bluebirds and answer questions on how to become a better bluebird landlord.
16 Make a Bluebird House
Saturday, March 16, Noon-3 PM
The Rookery, Fee: $10
Build and take home a house that any bluebird would be proud to call home! We’ll also provide pointers on where and when to place your birdhouse to attract bluebirds. Fee covers supplies; participants should register “by the birdhouse” rather than “by the person.” Registration required. 🔄

16 Scout Day: Cadette Girl Scouts Trees Badge
Saturday, March 16, 2-3:30 PM
Swine Creek Reservation, Woods Edge
Join us in the sugarbush to learn about trees as part of the Trees Legacy Badge. We’ll cover requirements 1, 2, 4 & 5. Registration required. 🔄

16 Nassau Astronomy Night with CVAS
Saturday, March 16, 7-11 PM
Observatory Park, Nassau Astronomical Station
Join members of the Chagrin Valley Astronomical Society to take in the wonders of the night sky using our newly restored telescope and discover all this amazing facility has to offer! 🔄

17 Sap’s-a-Risin’!
Sunday, March 17, Noon-4 PM
Swine Creek Reservation
See description for March 3. Live music by The Woodpeckers. Also March 10. 🔄

20 Full Moon Program: The Worm Moon
Wednesday, March 20, 7:30-8:30 PM, Observatory Park
The full moon in March is known as “The Worm Moon.” Come to Observatory Park to get a grip on earthworm anatomy and behavior, then watch the full moon rise using park telescopes! 🔄

21 Elderberries: Geauga County’s Maple Sugaring Heritage
Thursday, March 21, 11:30 AM-2 PM, Geauga Century Village Bond Building
Join us for a look at Geauga’s Maple sugaring history! Pancake lunch served at 11:30 AM, followed by a mini sap bucket craft and tours of the Maple Museum of Geauga County. Plus, allow us to “tap” into your maple memories! A collaboration with the Geauga Department on Aging and University Hospitals Geauga Medical Center. Registration required. 🔄

22 Art Stamp Monogram Workshop
Friday, March 22, 7-8:30 PM
The West Woods, Fee: $24
Join artist Barbara Mikin to create a framed monogram print from recycled materials. Print may also be utilized for stationery, book covers, textiles, etc. Ages 14+. Refreshments served. Wheelchair/stroller accessible. Registration required. 🔄

22 Black Holes
Friday, March 22, 7-8 PM
Observatory Park
See description for March 8. 🔄

23 Salamander Saunter
Saturday, March 23, 9:30-10:30 AM
Big Creek Park, Aspen Grove
Accompany Naturalist Tami Gingrich as she visits several vernal pools to check preset traps in search of giant mole salamanders and other aquatic critters. Learn about the amazing amphibian migration into these important woodland puddles. 🔄

23 Backcountry Heron Hike
Saturday, March 23, 10 AM-Noon
Burton Wetlands Nature Preserve
Venture off trail on a two-mile round-trip hike to the site of a heron nesting colony with possible views of returning Great Blue Herons. Expect wet, muddy conditions with uneven terrain. Registration required. 🔄

23 Nassau Night Sky Viewing
Saturday, March 23, 7-11 PM
Observatory Park, Nassau Astronomical Station
See description for March 9. 🔄

24 Duckwatching by the Fire!
Sunday, March 24, 1-5 PM
Headwaters Park, Boathouse
Drop in anytime to enjoy a blazing fire and assist in tallying how many ducks and water birds we can identify on the East Branch Reservoir! Observation mainly from the Boathouse area. Bring your binoculars, scope, camera and chair to help keep a list. 🔄

24 Hound Hike
Sunday, March 24, 1:30-2:30 PM
Eldon Russell Park
Bring your dog for a hike on the newly opened Duane Ferris Trail, letting your dog alert you to the sights, sounds and smells of early spring. Dogs must be on a leash (8-foot max) and be well behaved. Bring bags to clean up after your dog. 🔄

24 The Sky Tonight Planetarium Show
Sunday, March 24, 2-3 PM
Observatory Park
See description for March 10. 🔄

26 Geauga Walkers
Tuesday, March 26, 1-2:30 PM
Walter C. Best Wildlife Preserve
See description for March 12. 🔄

28 Maple Town Tune Traders
Thursday, March 28, 7-10 PM
The West Woods, Fee: $24
Join musician Stephen Sprowls of The Rookery as he explores the region with his music for all ages. Featuring songwriting based on the seasons of early spring. Registration required. 🔄

30 Ice-off Waterfowl Van Trip: Mosquito Lake
Saturday, March 30, 7:30 AM-12:30 PM
Swine Creek Reservation
March and April are good times to see spring migratory waterfowl. Join us for a trip to some of Trumbull County’s birding hotspots, Mosquito Lake and surrounding areas. March and April are good times to see spring migratory waterfowl. We’ll provide transportation and a naturalist to assist with bird identification; bring your own binoculars or scope, camera, water and snack. Registration required. 🔄

30 Skydance: Flight of the Woodcock!
Saturday, March 30, 7:30-8:30 PM
Burton Wetlands Nature Preserve
March and April are good times to see spring migratory waterfowl. Join us for a trip to some of Trumbull County’s birding hotspots, Mosquito Lake and surrounding areas. March and April are good times to see spring migratory waterfowl. We’ll provide transportation and a naturalist to assist with bird identification; bring your own binoculars or scope, camera, water and snack. Registration required. 🔄
Next time you go to throw something out, imagine it taking on a whole new life — as artwork.

Back by popular demand, with its awesome concept to repurpose discarded materials, Geauga Park District's *discARTed Recycled Art Exhibition* returns to The West Woods Nature Center from February 19 to April 15.

Once on display, *discARTed* will be free to visit daily 10 AM to 4:30 PM.

*DiscARTed's* first two installations, in 2009 and 2013, showcased more than 100 artists and 200 pieces each and attracted close to 7,000 visitors.

Goals for this project include:

- increasing environmental awareness, encouraging recycling, and demonstrating sustainability though the use/reuse of discarded or recycled materials
- showcasing the creative talents of community members and regional artisans in a unique way, and
- delighting visitors with the unexpected connection of discarded materials to finished artwork, as well as the cleverness of the transformation.

“*DiscARTed* is a challenge to the community to ‘think outside the trash can,’” said Teresa Runion, special events coordinator. “Works created from recycled materials are carriers of memory and history, carrying vestiges of their former function into something new. The possibilities for raw materials are endless — and requests for the return of *discARTed* have never stopped coming.”

**CALL FOR ENTRIES!**

Functional, decorative and youth art made of discarded/found materials may be entered into *discARTed* by being delivered January 29 and 30 to The West Woods Nature Center.

For guidelines and an application to enter, please visit http://bit.ly/gpdspecial or pick up an application between 10 AM and 4:30 PM at The West Woods Nature Center or Big Creek Park’s Meyer Center.

With questions, contact Teresa at 440-279-0802 or trunion@geaugaparkdistrict.org.
We are grateful to Ed & Connie Babcock for the sale of Wicked Woods Golf Course to Geauga Park District. These 180 acres in Burton and Newbury townships are a great addition to your county parks. The Babcocks have a love of Nature, parks and the Geauga County community at large, and we are thankful they chose Geauga Park District for the sale of this beautiful property. Their choice will serve as a lasting legacy, conserving this land for generations to come.

Geauga Park District will take possession of the property on January 1, 2019. While we will not operate a golf course on the property, we are confident we can create a park setting revolving around our mission to preserve, conserve and protect the natural features of Geauga County. At the same time, we will continue to work hard to maintain the momentum gained the past five years in creating more accessibility to park-owned lands. We will continue to provide our residents with a variety of outdoor recreational experiences in Nature;

park staff will continue to open creatively designed park infrastructure and facilities; and naturalists will continue to offer a variety of adventurous programs and fun special events.

We continue to discuss options for our operations of the former banquet facility and clubhouse. The concepts discussed so far are preliminary. They range from a restaurant, to a banquet facility, or perhaps with your support we will simply operate the facility as one of our lodges that will accommodate one of your family gatherings.

We appreciate your patience as we plan for the future of this exciting new park. With it, we hope to continue to engage our residents in unique and exciting ways while providing meaningful park services. Please check our website for updates as they become available.

Thank you. John Oros, Executive Director
## Park Locations and Amenities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Facilities</th>
<th>Trail Mileage</th>
<th>Access</th>
<th>Horseback Riding</th>
<th>Pets</th>
<th>Beach</th>
<th>Picnic Areas</th>
<th>Restrooms</th>
<th>Bathrooms</th>
<th>Baggage Claim</th>
<th>Parking</th>
<th>Open Season</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bass Lake Preserve</td>
<td>1145 Lakeview Drive, Munson, 44023</td>
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<td>The Maple Highlands Trail (TMHT)</td>
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*ICONS LISTED AT RIGHT IN THE ORDER THEY APPEAR*

2019 Caveman Crawl T-Shirt Design Contest!

Enter your design for a chance to be featured on this year’s race T-shirt!

Artwork is due April 19, so harness your inner caveman and get creative! See our website for contest details and official rules.
What to Know About Cross Country Skiing & Snowshoeing

Did you know we groom for cross country skiing at The Maple Highlands Trail and Orchard Hills Park? Or that we loan snowshoes free to Geauga residents ($5 for out-of-county residents) out of The West Woods Nature Center? Watch our social media for grooming updates, and visit News & Updates on our website for details about snowshoeing and other wintertime fun in your parks.

ACCESSIBLE TRAILS • PAVED TRAILS • OPEN SHELTERS • ENCLOSED LODGES • RESTROOMS • PLAYGROUNDS • HIKING • X-COUNTRY SKIING • HORSES • BICYCLES • CAMPING • FISHING • BOATING • SLED HILL

Track down this geocache in Swine Creek Reservation!

PART A: N 41° 25.922 W 081° 01.487
Expires January 1, 2020
Details on our website under Activities

Take a strenuous hike down the Valley Trail. Keep the stream in your sight and you cannot fail!

View the current fee schedule on our website under Reservations. All enclosed lodges, but not all open shelters, are equipped with electricity. Boating on Bass Lake requires a permit. Permitted watercraft are kayaks, canoes and electric motors; gasoline engines are permitted only in Eldon Russell Park. Learn more on our website under Activities.

www.geaugaparkdistrict.org • PARKEXPLORER 17
Clean water is so important to everyone, especially here in Geauga County where so many people rely on wells for their daily use. Knowing this, Geauga Park District purposefully seeks opportunities to help protect and improve our precious water resources.

This spring, as it did during the winter, Geauga Park District will resume work to protect and restore a 1,345-foot stretch of Griswold Creek at Bessie Benner Metzenbaum Park in Chester Township. Griswold Creek is a coldwater habitat stream that flows through Chester and Russell townships and enters the Chagrin River in Hunting Valley. Such coldwater streams have significant amounts of groundwater feeding them, and they maintain cool temperatures needed by sensitive fish like the Redside Dace, a declining fish species in Ohio.

Unfortunately, human changes in the watershed – such as the removal of native plants and more stormwater runoff from increased roads, driveways, and rooftops – have led to problems at Griswold Creek. For example, increases in stormwater flows have caused the stream channel to down-cut and become incised, destabilizing the streambanks and causing increased erosion. Griswold Creek now rarely connects to its historic floodplain.

Geauga Park District is grateful to Chagrin River Watershed Partners, Inc. (CRWP) for assisting with a grant application to obtain funding for this restoration project through a $260,765 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) grant via the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. The contract for the project’s design and construction was awarded to a restoration company called Davey Resource Group.

To restore this property, sandstone riffle rock structures will be installed in the stream channel to raise water elevations and increase the connectivity of the stream with its floodplain. These structures will also encourage natural deposition of sediment to raise the channel. Woody material from on-site, such as dead ash trees, will be incorporated near the riffle structures to help stabilize the banks and provide fish habitat.

Additionally, wetland pools in the floodplain areas will be excavated and planted with native vegetation to create habitat for amphibians and reptiles. Native trees and shrubs such as willows, dogwoods, and buttonbush will also be planted along the stream corridor to anchor the soils and provide shade for fish and aquatic invertebrates. These native plants will help filter pollutants, cool down stormwater, and increase the overall water quality of Griswold Creek.

Geauga Park District’s Natural Resource Management staff will continue to monitor the progress of these efforts, with the help of West Geauga High School’s science classes, as well as the long-term management of invasive species after completion.
**Meet the Spotted Salamander**

**WHERE WE LIVE**

We are carnivores and we have sticky tongues. We eat worms, spiders, centipedes, slugs, millipedes and crickets. We can live for more than 20 years!

**FAVORITE FOOD**

Females lay egg masses containing 30-250 eggs. The mass is surrounded by a jelly-like substance. The eggs can survive if the water freezes.

As we hatch, we are similar to tadpoles with gills and we have to live in water. As we grow, we develop lungs and move to forests to live.

On average, we grow to be 6-7 inches long, but we can be as long as 9 inches. Our bellies are gray and our backs are black with rows of yellow dots running from head to tail.

When we hatch, we are similar to tadpoles with gills and we have to live in water. As we grow, we develop lungs and move to forests to live.

**Make your own discARTed art from recycled materials**

1. Ask an adult to help you cut the bottoms of two pop bottles. You can use small ones or 2-liter bottles for a bigger container.
2. Cut strips of felt, then glue them around the edge of the cut bottles.
3. Cut a small circle or square of felt. Glue it to the outside to create a hinge.
4. Use the bottle caps for the eyes. Either draw a black pupil or use buttons. Glue them to the top of the container.
5. Cut a small piece of felt for a tongue to hold your container closed. Glue it to the inside of the bottom container and affix with a small piece of velcro.
6. Come to The West Woods during the discARTed Recycled Art Exhibition (details on page 14) to see all the really creative things that people will make out of recycled items that might have otherwise been considered junk.

**TAPPER'S FUN Page**

As adults, we have lungs and strong legs and will spend our days beneath logs, rocks, soil or leaf litter. Most people never see us, but sign up for the Frog Fest and Salamander Run Call List to get your chance! (details on page 12)
Come to The West Woods and see how fun winter can be!

FROZEN FEST
SUNDAY, JAN. 20
11 AM-4 PM

FREE winter activities for the whole family.

www.geaugaparkdistrict.org
440-286-9516