

# Spring 2010 Nature Education Programs

Programs are FREE unless noted otherwise. To receive seasonal nature brochures, call 321-6070 to be placed on the Nature Education mailing list.

## Ongoing Events

**FREE Weekend Discovery Exhibits in April and May at Trailside Nature Center in Burnet Woods**  
Saturdays 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. AND Sundays 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. New topics and hands-on activities weekly! Call 751-3679 for more details.

## **Planetarium Shows**

Come join us at the Wolff Planetarium for an introduction to the constellations and some of the legends connected to them. Programs are open to adults and children ages 5 and older accompanied by an adult. Fee: \$3.00 per person. Reservations required. Seating is limited. Call 751-3679 to register.

### **Spring Skies**

Sat., April 3, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. **Spring Constellations**  
Fri., April 16, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. **Spring Constellations**  
Sat., May 8, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. **Hercules Isn't Too Bright**  
Fri., May 21, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. **Hercules Isn't Too Bright**

## **March**

### **Plants, Animals and Camping Fun Brownie Overnight**

*March 12 - 13, 6:00 p.m. Fri. - 3:30 p.m. Sat. – Caldwell Nature Preserve*

2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Brownies will learn some camping basics along with learning about the importance of plants and animals in nature. Each girl sets up a variety of growing experiments to watch at home. Investigate the many unique characteristics that differentiate animals. Practice some useful skills for camping such as knots and learning to pack up a sleeping bag. Girls will earn 3 Try-Its (after completion of their plant experiments): "Plants", "Animals", and "Ready, Set, Go Camping". Troops must bring their own food. Fee: \$25.00 per scout and non-leader adults (non-refundable). For reservations and information, call 761-4313.

### **Sky Search for Junior Girl Scouts**

*Sat., March 13, 10:00 a.m. - noon – Trailside Nature Center, Burnet Woods*

The Wolff Planetarium, the oldest planetarium west of the Allegheny's, will be the focus of this exciting program as we learn about constellations, planets and phases of the moon. Scouts will participate in hands-on activities, learn how to use star maps and find their way by using the North Star. Fee: \$5.00 per scout and non-leader adults. Space is limited, please call 751-3679 for reservations.

### **Spring Awakening Scavenger Hunt**

*Sat., March 13, 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. – Alms Park*

Search out the first signs of Spring on a relaxing walk around this gem of a park. You'll be treated to the first wildflowers of the season, buds bursting, evidence of animals awakening from the long months of hibernation and sweet songs of the season. Be dressed for wet and muddy paths. Families of all ages are welcome. For more information, call 321-6070 ext. 16.

### **Pancakes in the Woods**

*Sun., March 14, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. – California Woods Nature Preserve*

Celebrate the maple season! Enjoy pancakes and sausage grilled by celebrity chefs. Learn about the process and story of maple sugaring. All proceeds benefit California Woods and Magrith Riverlands Preserves. Reservations **NOT** required. Donation: \$6.00 for adults, \$4.00 for children. Call 231-8678 for more information.

### **Sky Search for Junior Girl Scouts**

*Tues., March 16, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. – Trailside Nature Center, Burnet Woods*

The Wolff Planetarium, the oldest planetarium west of the Allegheny's, will be the focus of this exciting program as we learn about constellations, planets and phases of the moon. Scouts will participate in hands-on activities, learn how to use star maps and find their way by using the North Star. Fee: \$5.00 per scout and non-leader adults. Space is limited, please call 751-3679 for reservations.

### **Science Discovery Junior Badge**

*Tues., March 16, 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. – Caldwell Nature Preserve*

Science is the focus for this program as we experience many cool and fascinating branches of science! We will conduct a stream assessment; perform experiments and much, much more. Dress for the weather and have close-toed shoes for the creek. Part of the program will be outside. After completion of the activities, girls will earn their Science Discovery badge. Fee: \$7.00 per scout, leaders are free. For reservations and information, call 761-4313.

### **Northside Greenspace Annual Meeting**

*Thurs., March 18, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. – LaBoiteaux Woods Nature Preserve*

After a brief business meeting, Tim Sisson, President of Western Wildlife Corridor, a land trust in western Hamilton County, will present a program on the Corridor's successful efforts to preserve and protect natural areas on the hills overlooking the Ohio River. All are welcome. For more information, contact [info@northsidegreenspace.org](mailto:info@northsidegreenspace.org) or call 541-9119, or LaBoiteaux Woods at 542-2909.

### **Tracks and Scat 101**

*Sat., March 20, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. – French Park*

Put your nose to the ground and search for signs of wildlife stirring. Often overlooked, tracks and scat may allow you to identify animals and perhaps even what they ate for dinner! Meet at the shelter building at the top of the hill. For more information, call 751-3679.

### **Garlic Mustard Pulling Party**

*Sat., March 20, 10:30 a.m. - noon – LaBoiteaux Woods Nature Preserve*

Learn why we get so excited about pulling this invasive plant from our park. Why is this weed so successful and what's the harm? Observe areas bursting forth with wildflowers and others buried under this weed. How much can you remove? Friendly competitions will be encouraged. Bring your team! For more information, call 542-2909.

### **A History of Cincinnati Parks – Slide Presentation**

*Sat., Mar. 20, noon - 1:30 p.m. – Trailside Nature Center, Burnet Woods*

Sit back and relax as you enjoy a guided tour through the history of your favorite Cincinnati Parks. The program will examine the early development of Mt. Airy, Mt. Echo, Ault Park and more. Seating is limited; please call 751-3679 for reservations.

### **Recycling and You for Homeschoolers: Ages 7 – 10**

*Thurs., March 25, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. – LaBoiteaux Woods Nature Preserve*

Discover nature's cycles working for free in the woods. Dig into the worm composting bins, play a game with the water cycle, learn about natural resources and compete to become a master recycler. You will become your family's recycling expert! Pack a lunch and dress for a hike. Fee: \$5.00 per person attending. Paid registration is required by March 19.

### **Bridging to Brownies – Outdoor Adventurer**

*Thurs., March 25, 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. – California Woods Nature Preserve*

Daisy Scouts! Try your hand at some fun Brownie activities such as "Day Hike" and "Touch, Smell and Listen," while we explore the great outdoors. We will make a snack, take a hike, and use our senses on this adventure. Fee: \$5.00 per scout and non-leader chaperone. Call 761-4313 for more information and reservations.

### **Eggsceptional Eggstravaganza**

*Sat. March 27, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. – Wilson Commons*

Springtime is here and it is time to think about eggs. Join in the fun as we learn about eggs, play a game or two. The program will finish with an egg hunt. For children ages 3-10 and their adults. No restrooms on site. Reservations required. Call 751-3679 for more information or reservations.

## **April**

### **Evening Wildflower Walk**

*Fri., April 9, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. – Buttercup Valley Preserve*

This is the first in series of brief Friday evening walks held on the second Friday of each month and followed by optional dinner at a Northside establishment. Meet at the end of Northview Avenue.

This program is presented by Northside Greenspace. For more information, contact [info@northsidegreenspace.org](mailto:info@northsidegreenspace.org) or call 541-9119.

### **Across the Universe – Slide Presentation**

*Sat., April 10, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. – Trailside Nature Center, Burnet Woods*

Sit back and relax as you enjoy a guided tour through the depths of space and time. We'll examine the planets and moons of our local solar system as well as scenic destinations within our Milky Way galaxy... and more. For more information, call 751-3679.

### **Statues, Stories and Sweets, Oh My!**

*Sat., April 10, 8:45 - 9:30 a.m. – Lytle Park*

*9:45 - 10:30 a.m. – Piatt Park*

Discover these downtown gems in the Emerald Crown of Cincinnati Parks. Participate in a site specific scavenger hunt, listen to fascinating stories of this historic park and end your visit with a sweet treat.

Call 321-6070 ext 16 for information.

### **Backyard Composting**

*Sat., April 10, noon - 2:00 p.m. – Avon Woods Nature Preserve*

Composting is a great way to recycle yard and food waste into a nutrient-rich soil amendment for your garden. Learn about the various types of compost systems, including ones suitable for apartments, how to maintain your system, what should and should not be composted, and how to use the finished product. Reinforce what you learn by building a tasty "Compost Sundae" snack. This program is brought to you through a partnership with Hamilton County Solid Waste Management District. For more information, call Cher Mohring at 946-7737 or email at [cher.mohring@hamilton-co.org](mailto:cher.mohring@hamilton-co.org).

### **Garlic Mustard Removal**

*Sat., April 17, 9:00 a.m. - noon – Buttercup Valley Preserve*

Garlic Mustard is an invasive plant that crowds out our native wildflowers. Come and help continue the process of removing it from this beautiful preserve. Pizza will be provided for all volunteers at noon.

Meet at the end of Northview Avenue. This service project is coordinated by Northside Greenspace.

For more information, contact [info@northsidegreenspace.org](mailto:info@northsidegreenspace.org) or call 541-9119.

### **Wildflower Walk and Talk**

*Sat., April 17, 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. – Burnet Woods*

Let's celebrate spring as we walk the wooded hillsides of Burnet Woods in search of our woodland wildflowers. From their early folklore to some of their more interesting reproductive strategies, we'll learn about the fascinating world of these living jewels. Meet in front of the Trailside Nature Center.

For more information, call 751-3679.

### **Photographing Wildflowers**

*Sat., April 17, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. – LaBoiteaux Woods Nature Preserve*

Bring your point-and-shoot digital camera on a quest to capture the beauty of spring woodland wildflowers. Our focus will be on composition, form lighting and learning to utilize your camera's capabilities. Ages 16 and up. Call 542-2909 for more information.

### **Mammal Mania**

*Sun., April 18, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. – Fernbank Park*

Drop by anytime between 1:00-3:00 p.m. to learn about the many different mammals in our local area.

We will show examples of mammals and meet a live furry friend or two. There will be different activities to tryout. Meet by the playground. Call 761-4313 for more information.

### **Green UP Day**

*Sat., April 24, 9:00 a.m. - noon – Avon Woods and California Woods Nature Preserves*

Roll up your sleeves and help make YOUR parks more enjoyable for all! Assist Cincinnati Parks staff on beautification projects. For more information, please call the numbers associated with individual parks. We hope you and your family will join us! Call 861-3435 for Avon Woods; call 231-8678 for California Woods.

### **Fishing Fun**

*Sat., April 24, 10:00 a.m. - noon – Burnet Woods Lake*

Bring your small fry out for a morning of fishing fun. You are welcome to bring your own equipment or use a cane pole from the Nature Center. Bait and training are provided; a fishing license is NOT required. Meet at the north end of the lake. For more information, call 751-3679.

### **Wildflower Walk**

*Sat., April 24, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. – California Woods Nature Preserve*

Ohio's spring wildflowers are a wonder to behold. Join us for a hike along a nationally designated Scenic Trail as we search for wildflowers such as Nodding Trillium, Celandine Poppy, Dutchman's Breeches, and discuss facts and folklore surrounding these floral gems. Meet outside the Nature Center. Call 231-8678 for more information.

## **May**

### **Garlic Mustard Removal Part 1**

*Sat., May 8, 9:00 a.m. - noon – John Parker Woods Preserve*

Garlic Mustard is an invasive plant that crowds out our native wildflowers. Come and help continue the process of removing it from this beautiful preserve. Pizza will be provided for all volunteers at noon. Meet at the park entrance at the end of Bruce Avenue. This service project is coordinated by Northside Greenspace. For more information, contact [info@northsidegreenspace.org](mailto:info@northsidegreenspace.org) or call 541-9119.

### **View From the Top**

*Sat., May 8, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. – Mt. Airy Forest, Everybody's Treehouse*

Stroll through the universally accessible treehouse, built amongst a dozen trees for a top view of forest life. Learn about some of the animals that make Mt. Airy their home. Explore a hands-on display and discover signs of spring in Cincinnati's largest park. Call 542-2909 for more information.

### **Evening Walk**

*Fri., May 14, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. – Buttercup Valley Preserve*

This is the second in series of brief Friday evening walks held on the second Friday of each month and followed by optional dinner at a Northside establishment. Meet at the end of Northview Avenue. This program is presented by Northside Greenspace. For more information, contact [info@northsidegreenspace.org](mailto:info@northsidegreenspace.org) or call 541-9119.

### **Little Tyke Hike**

*Sat., May 15, 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. – Armleder Park*

Little Tykes ages 3 – 6 and favorite adults enjoy a nature themed short story, then hike to explore the park in search of spring creatures. This trail will be stroller-friendly. Meet by the restrooms. Call 231-8678 for more information.

### **Not so Wild Flowers**

*Sun., May 16, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. – Hauck Botanical Gardens*

Enjoy a spring tour of Cornelius Hauck's "Sooty Acres". We will take in all of the scents and colors of the Hauck collection of flowering bulbs, trees, and other plantings. Meet at the front gate on Reading Rd. Call 761-4313 for more information or to sign up for the tour.

### **Garlic Mustard Removal Part 2**

*Sat., May 22, 9:00 a.m. - noon – John Parker Woods Preserve*

Garlic Mustard is an invasive plant that crowds out our native wildflowers. Come and help continue the process of removing it from this beautiful preserve. Pizza will be provided for all volunteers at noon. Meet at the park entrance at the end of Bruce Avenue. This service project is coordinated by Northside Greenspace. For more information, contact [info@northsidegreenspace.org](mailto:info@northsidegreenspace.org) or call 541-9119.

**Incredible Insects**

*Sat., May 22, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. – Roselawn Park and 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. – Inwood Park*

Have you ever heard of an insect that lives in its own spit? What about insects that taste with their feet? Use sweep nets and other equipment to search the park for these incredible insects and many more. Meet near the comfort stations at both locations. Call 861-3435 for more information.

**Sunset Stroll**

*Sat., May 22, 8:30 - 9:30 p.m. – Mt. Echo Park*

Join us for an evening stroll along the wood's edge. What animals will be coming out to enjoy the sunset with us? We'll watch for deer, rabbits, bats, raccoons and others who start their "day" at dusk. Meet at the overlook. For more information, call 751-3679.

**Summer Kick-Off and Community Celebration**

*Sat., May 29, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. – Burnet Woods*

Everyone is invited to join the **FREE** festivities as we kick-off the start of summer. Enjoy music, refreshments, face painters, balloon artists, nature activities and more. Meet in front of the Trailside Nature Center. For more information, call 751-3679.