



# CHITCHAT

A publication for Geauga Park District volunteers

## Greetings, Volunteers! VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION

Well, that was quite the winter we had this year. We finally had plenty of opportunities for snowshoeing. But now the days are getting warmer, frogs are calling, flowers, birds, insects ... too much to list ... spring is returning! With spring, of course, comes the Binocular Blitz part of Nature Scopes, which this spring will be held at The West Woods, NOT The Rookery as usual. Boating programs will also be restarting, and summer camps will be kicking off in June.

Andy

SAVE THE DATE!



### Volunteer Brunch & Celebration

April 11, 2026 • Veterans Legacy Woods

Please keep an eye out for your invitation to our annual Volunteer Awards Brunch & Celebration. We hope to see everyone there!



Photo by Deb Burt



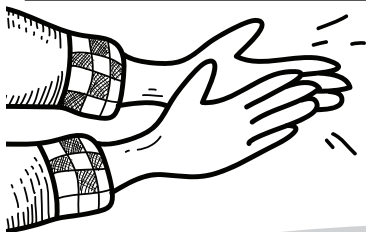
Photo by Tom Malinchak



Photo by Tom Malinchak



Photo by Tom Malinchak



### ACCOLADES + TESTIMONIALS



"Always a great job done by the naturalists and the other volunteers!"

"Fabulous hike, wonderful naturalist, great volunteers. I learned a lot, got some good exercise, enjoyed the fresh air with the snow, and just really enjoyed the program. Thank you so much to all the volunteers..."

"Thank you to the naturalist and volunteer Mike for taking us on a great snowshoe trek, with mix of on and off trail travel. I gained more confidence on snowshoes through this experience."

"I am not very crafty, but with the instructors and the volunteer assistance, I was able to complete the craft. It looks great."

"Volunteers helped with the presentation to make the concepts more concrete."

"This was another amazing event. The naturalists and volunteers are so engaging with the kids."

"The naturalist and all her volunteers did an excellent job and we had a lot of fun as always"

## SPRING 2026

## CAMP HELP NEEDED

### Nature Explorer Day Camp (Entering Grades 3 & 4)

- (1) Nature Explorer Fishing Assistant &
- (1) Nature Explorer Craft Volunteer

Wednesdays, July 8 & August 5, 9–11 AM  
The West Woods, Affelder House

*Fishing assistant volunteer will help campers get worms on hooks, fish off hooks, and help with instruction as needed. Craft volunteer will assist with a Nature craft in the Affelder House.*

### Nature Adventure Day Camp

#### Fishing Volunteer

Mondays, June 8, 15, 22, & July 27,  
12:30–2:30 PM, Claridon Woodlands Park

*Help campers get worms on hooks, fish off hooks, and help with instruction as needed.*

#### Biking Volunteer

Tuesdays, June 9, 16, 23, & July 28,  
9 AM–Noon, Claridon Woodlands

*Help unload the bicycle trailer and fit campers to bikes, then join campers for a bike ride along The Maple Highlands Trail. Bring your own bike or borrow one of ours.*

#### Orienteering Volunteer

Tuesdays, June 9, 23, & July 28,  
12:30–2:30 PM, Claridon Woodlands

*Join camp staff and campers on an orienteering adventure using a compass. You will be expected to walk 1 mile to the orienteering course with the campers and back for a total of at least 2 miles.*

#### Geocaching Volunteer

Tuesday, June 16, 12:30–2:30 PM  
Claridon Woodlands

*Join camp staff and campers on a geocaching adventure. You will be expected to walk 1 mile to the orienteering course with the campers and back for a total of at least 2 miles.*

#### Kayak Rescue Volunteer

Wednesdays, June 10, 17, 24, & July 29,  
9–11:30 AM, Headwaters Park

*Help unload boats, ensure campers are geared up safely, launch campers onto the reservoir, act as a kayak rescue assistant, and put boats away. Must be kayak-rescue-trained in 2025 or 2026.*

### Junior Naturalist Day Camp

#### Fishing Volunteer

Wednesdays, June 3, July 15,  
9:30–11:30AM, Swine Creek Reservation

*Help campers get worms on hooks, fish off hooks, and help with instruction as needed.*

## GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT

# 2026 summer Camps



## SAFETY TRAININGS

### Kayak & Canoe Safety Training

*All volunteers interested in assisting with our boating programs must have this training, which is valid for two years.*

### Kayak Rescue Training for Volunteers

Tuesday, June 2, 7–9 PM, Burton Wetlands

### Canoe Rescue Training for Volunteers

Wednesday, June 3, 7–9 PM, Burton Wetlands

*Participants are trained in the specified boat rescue procedures along with other volunteer duties such as loading and unloading boats, fitting participants in proper equipment, checking people in and general program safety.*



Photo by Olivia Hoffman

## April

- 4/1 Snipe Hunt & Hike  
9–10:30 AM, Frohring Meadows
- 4/1 Full Moon Hike: The Crow Moon  
8–9 PM, Observatory Park
- 4/3 Wildlife Egg-stravaganza  
10:30 AM–1 PM, The West Woods
- 4/4 Woodpecker Wander Hike  
9–11 AM, Eldon Russell Park
- 4/7 Homeschool Days:  
Welcome to a Woodland  
10:30 AM–Noon, Big Creek Park
- 4/7 Geauga Walkers  
1–2:30 PM, Headwaters Park
- 4/10 Black Holes  
7–8 PM, Observatory Park
- 4/10 Skydance: Flight of the Woodcock!  
7:30–9 PM, Burton Wetlands  
Nature Preserve
- 4/10 Night Sky Viewing  
8–11 PM, Observatory Park
- 4/11 What's In A Woods:  
A Forester's Perspective  
1–4 PM, Orchard Hills Park
- 4/11 Bring In Your Telescope  
4–5 PM, Observatory Park
- 4/11 Night Sky Viewing  
8–11 PM, Observatory Park
- 4/12 Annual Spring Bird Walk Series  
7:30–9:30 AM, Burton Wetlands  
Nature Preserve
- 4/12 Veterans Legacy Woods Stream  
Restoration Presentation and Hike  
10 AM–1 PM, The West Woods,  
Nature Center
- 4/12 Bald Eagle Hike  
Noon–2:30 PM, Headwaters Park
- 4/16 Timbertots: Animal Babies  
10–11 AM, Sunnybrook Preserve
- 4/16 Elderberries: Create Nature Art  
11:30 AM–2 PM, The Rookery
- 4/17 Timbertots: Animal Babies  
10–11 AM, Sunnybrook Preserve
- 4/18 Backcountry Adventure for  
Youth & Teens, 10 AM–3 PM,  
Thompson Ledges Township Park
- 4/18 Hound Hike  
12:30–1:30 PM, Headwaters Park
- 4/18 Ansel's Cave Hike:  
History Written in Rock  
3–5 PM, The West Woods



- 4/18 April Evening Adventure  
7:30–9 PM, Eldon Russell Park
- 4/19 Annual Spring Bird Walk Series  
7:30–9:30 AM, Frohring Meadows
- 4/19 Timbertots: Animal Babies  
10–11 AM & 1–2 PM, The Rookery

- 4/19 Backcountry Hike: Ravines,  
Rocks & Ledges  
1–4 PM, The Rookery
- 4/19 Campfire Cooking: Dutch Ovens  
4–6 PM, Headwaters Park
- 4/21 Geauga Walkers  
1–2:30 PM, The Rookery
- 4/24 Night Sky Viewing  
8–11 PM, Observatory Park
- 4/25 Buckeye Trail  
LONG Haul Hike! -16.6 Miles  
8 AM, Headwaters Park



- 4/25 Touch a Truck!  
9 AM–1 PM, The West Woods
- 4/25 Wildflowers and Wine  
9:30 AM–Noon, Laleure Winery
- 4/25 The Sky Tonight Planetarium Show  
4–5 PM, Observatory Park
- 4/25 Nassau Night Sky Viewing  
8–11 PM, Observatory Park
- 4/26 Annual Spring Bird Walk Series  
7:30–9:30 AM, The Rookery
- 4/26 Spring Wildflower Walk  
4–5:30 PM, The West Woods

## May

- 5/1 Full Moon Hike:  
The Sandhill Crane Moon  
8:30–9:30 PM, Observatory Park
- 5/2 Afternoon Tea and Wildflower  
Walk  
12:30–2:30 PM, The Rookery
- 5/3 Annual Spring Bird Walk Series  
7:30–9:30 AM, Eldon Russell Park
- 5/3 Scout Day: Nature Walk  
1:30–3 PM, Eldon Russell Park
- 5/3 Family Campfire Safety  
2–3:30 PM, Claridon Woodlands
- 5/4 Birding for Beginners  
6:30–8 PM, Troy Wetlands
- 5/5 Geauga Walkers  
1–2:30 PM, Big Creek Park
- 5/8 Radio Astronomy  
7–8 PM, Observatory Park
- 5/8 Night Sky Viewing  
8–11 PM, Observatory Park
- 5/9 Hound Hike  
9:30–10:30 AM,  
Beartown Lakes Reservation
- 5/9 Winging It & Wine Birdwalk  
9:30–Noon, Laleure Winery
- 5/9 Horseback Trail Ride  
10 AM–1 PM, The West Woods
- 5/9 ASM Minerals Garden  
& Dome Tour  
4–5 PM, ASM
- 5/9 Night Sky Viewing  
8–11 PM, Observatory Park
- 5/10 Annual Spring Bird Walk Series  
7:30–9:30 AM, Big Creek Park
- 5/10 Wonders of Spring Hike:  
Big Creek Park  
9–11 AM, Big Creek Park
- 5/10 Mother's Day Wildflower Walk  
1–3 PM, Swine Creek Reservation
- 5/16 World Migratory Bird Day Bird Sit  
6:30–11:30 AM, Holbrook Hollows
- 5/17 Annual Spring Bird Walk Series  
7:30–9:30 AM, Swine Creek  
Reservation
- 5/17 Wildflower Wander  
9–10:30 AM, The West Woods

## May (continued)

- 5/17 Holbrook Heron Hike  
1–4:30 PM, Holbrook Hollows
- 5/19 Geauga Walkers, 1–2:30 PM,  
Bessie Benner Metzenbaum Park
- 5/21 Elderberries: Birding for Beginners  
9:30–11:30 AM, The Rookery
- 5/22 Night Sky Viewing  
8–11 PM, Observatory Park
- 5/23 Wings of Spring  
10–11 AM, The West Woods
- 5/23 Afternoon Stroll  
2–3 PM, The Rookery
- 5/23 The Sky Tonight Planetarium Show  
4–5 PM, Observatory Park
- 5/23 Nassau Night Sky Viewing  
8–11 PM, Observatory Park
- 5/24 Let's Go Birding!  
8–10 AM, Burton Wetlands  
Nature Preserve
- 5/24 Big Tree Hike!  
2:30–4:30 PM, The West Woods
- 5/27 Toddler Time: Sensing the Spring  
9:30–10:30 AM & 11 AM–Noon,  
Beartown Lakes Reservation
- 5/28 Timbertots: Wonderful Wings  
10–11 AM, The West Woods
- 5/28 Orienteering Adventure  
for Families  
1:30–3:30 PM, Chickagami Park
- 5/29 Timbertots: Wonderful Wings  
10–11 AM, The West Woods
- 5/30 Nature Trek Fitness Hike  
9–11 AM, Headwaters Park

- 5/30 Authorized Access Hike:  
Wildlife of the Landfill  
9:30–11:30 AM, Waste Manage-  
ment's Closed Lake County Landfill
- 5/30 Timbertots: Wonderful Wings  
10–11 AM & 1–2 PM,  
The West Woods
- 5/31 Birding Hallowed Ground  
7:30–9 AM, Memorial Cemetery
- 5/31 How to Geocache 101  
1–3:30 PM, Big Creek Park
- 5/31 Full Moon Hike: A Blue Moon  
9:30–10:30 PM, Observatory Park



## June

- 6/2 Geauga Walkers Summer Picnic  
Noon–2:30 PM, The West Woods
- 6/3 Inclusive Experience: For the birds!  
10:30–11:30 AM, The West Woods
- 6/6 Searching for Snakes  
10 AM–Noon, The Rookery
- 6/6 Bald Eagle & Osprey Kayak  
10 AM–Noon & 1–3 PM,  
Headwaters Park
- 6/6 Stream Walk  
2–3:30 PM, Sunnybrook Preserve
- 6/7 Drop-in Nature Craft: Solar Prints  
10–11:30 AM & 2–3:30 PM,  
The Rookery
- 6/7 Evening Bird Walk  
7:30–9 PM, The Rookery
- 6/8 Timbertots: Fish Fun!  
10–11 AM, Beartown Lakes  
Reservation
- 6/9 Timbertots: Fish Fun!  
10–11 AM, Beartown Lakes  
Reservation
- 6/11 Toddler Time: Sensing the Summer  
9:30–10:30 AM & 11 AM–Noon,  
Walter C. Best Wildlife Preserve
- 6/12 Make A Sundial  
7–8 PM, Observatory Park
- 6/12 Night Sky Viewing  
8–11 PM, Observatory Park
- 6/13 Welton's Gorge Backcountry  
Gorge Exploration  
9–11:30 AM, Welton's Gorge
- 6/13 Timbertots: Fish Fun!  
10–11 AM & 1–2 PM,  
Walter C. Best Wildlife Preserve
- 6/13 Movie Night: Finding Nemo  
6–10 PM, Observatory Park
- 6/13 Night Sky Viewing  
8–11 PM, Observatory Park
- 6/14 Basic Learn to Canoe  
9 AM–Noon, Bass Lake Preserve
- 6/14 Streamlife Exploration for Families  
1–3 PM, The West Woods
- 6/16 Geauga Walkers  
1–2:30 PM, Chickagami Park
- 6/17 Grandparents in the Park  
Summer Picnic  
11:30 AM–1:30 PM  
Beartown Lakes Reservation
- 6/18 Elderberries: Fire Building &  
Campfire Cooking  
9 AM–Noon, Chickagami Park
- 6/19 Basic Learn to Kayak  
6:30–8:30 PM, Headwaters Park
- 6/20 Paddle Fest 2026  
9–10:30 AM, Headwaters Park
- 6/20 Horseback Trail Ride  
Connecting the Parks  
10 AM–2 PM, Holbrook Hollows

- 6/20 Paddle Fest 2026  
11:30–1 PM, Headwaters Park
- 6/20 Nights Out in the Parks:  
Guys Without Ties  
7–8:30 PM, Big Creek Park
- 6/21 Dragonflying Hike  
2–3:30 PM, Orchard Hills Park
- 6/21 Ansel's Cave Summer Solstice Mag-  
ic Hike  
7–9 PM, The West Woods
- 6/26 Night Sky Viewing  
8–11 PM, Observatory Park
- 6/27 Practical Knots for Camping  
10 AM–12:30 PM & 2–4:30 PM, Big  
Creek Park
- 6/27 The Sky Tonight Planetarium Show  
4–5 PM, Observatory Park
- 6/27 Nassau Night Sky Viewing  
9–11 PM, Observatory Park
- 6/28 Hound Hike  
9–10 AM, Veterans Legacy Woods
- 6/28 Polliwog Paddle Family Canoe  
1–2:30 PM, Eldon Russell Park
- 6/29 Full Moon Hike:  
The Strawberry Moon  
9–10 PM, Observatory Park
- 6/30 Geauga Walkers  
1–2:30 PM, Beartown  
Lakes Reservation

# THANK YOU! Volunteer hours for November, December & January are 1,289!

Adams, Julie  
Albert, Jane  
Allen, Kathy  
Alley, Mary Beth  
Antloga, Mirko  
Aveni, Paula  
Baker, Barbara  
Barnhart, Gary  
Barnhart, Judy  
Berger, Sue  
Berger, William  
Berman, Debbie  
Berman, Ted  
Beukeman, Heather  
Boehnlein, Sister Julie  
Callahan, Joyce  
Carter, Elaine  
Cline, Linda  
Coffey, Cindy  
Collier, Patricia  
Coudriet, Debi

Cverna, Fran  
Doudican, Mike  
Duncan, Thomas  
Everett, Melissa  
Fath, Joan  
Fath, Mike  
Fish, Bonnie  
Fisher, Annie  
Fleming, Marissa  
Fletcher, Charles  
Gavin, Michael  
Glove, Jann  
Glove, Richard  
Green, Belinda  
Green, Marin  
Grubach, Paul  
Hall-Nemeth, Jane  
Hodakievic, Doug  
Hodakievic, Jan  
Hoffman, Olivia

Hrusovsky, Rachele  
Hughes, David  
Hughes, Patti  
Hurt, Mike  
Jeromin, Jen  
Keeseey, Tom  
Kievets, Clara  
Koza, Cheryl  
Kramer, Mike  
Leffler, Gail  
Leven, Barry  
Leven, Gloria  
Lexow, Paul  
Logan, Amy  
Lundstrom, Bill  
Lundstrom, Susan  
Lynch, Steve  
Mathiott, Bryceson  
Mckinney, Rachel  
Mekeel, Jim

Mekeel, Lynn A  
Metcalf, James  
Metcalf, Jeanette  
Morgan, Kevin  
O'Donnell, John  
Ondrusko, Noreen  
Orben, Cindy  
Owen, Marcia  
Pavlisko, Joe  
Peterca, Kevin  
Philbrick, Ruth  
Roebuck, Renell  
Ronzi, Rachael  
Rybak, Maria  
Samardge, Becky  
Sauder, Brad  
Schultz, Frank  
Sedivy, Becky  
Senderak, John  
Shisila, Karen

Slane, Annette  
Slane, Benjamin  
Smith, Matthew  
Smith, Sarah  
Soucek, Joseph  
Steigerwald, Georgie  
Stith, Bari  
Swaney, John  
Toth, Bert J  
Toth, Claudia  
Tretera, Fran  
Trimmer, Andrea  
Wallin, John  
Weinrich, Amber  
Williams, Sonny  
Wolfe, Denise  
Wolfe, Timothy  
Yohe, Ron  
Zelazny, Bill  
Zoeller, Gwenn

*Thanks to all the volunteers!  
Geauga Park District truly appreciates your time and hard work.*



## VOLUNTEER TRAIL TEAM

A few parks are still in need of Volunteer Trail Team coverage: Bass Lake Preserve, Big Creek Park, Burton Wetlands, Observatory Park and Welton's Gorge. In this volunteer role, you'd visit the assigned park at least twice per month to do light trail maintenance and report any major issues. Contact Andy at [aavram@geaugaparkdistrict.org](mailto:aavram@geaugaparkdistrict.org) for more information.

## SUMMER CAMP VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION



Photos by Sonny Williams



Geauga Park District  
9160 Robinson Road  
Chardon, OH 44024-9148



Held entirely outdoors  
whatever the weather

## Saturday, April 25, 10 AM–2 PM at The West Woods

Help visitors get an up-close look at the vehicles and equipment used to keep our parks in tip-top shape!

- Assist visitors with exploring and helping kids get on and off Park District equipment
- Assist with children's activities held in the pavilion
- Oversee the sand play area



## IPADDFEST



## For the Water-Savvy Volunteers

Saturday, June 20, at Headwaters Park

Registered participants will challenge themselves to activities including a treasure hunt and relay in this 2nd annual event. Some volunteers will check in participants and manage prizes, while other canoe-rescue-trained volunteers remain on the water the duration of the event.



Find a detailed list of spring volunteer opportunities at [geaugaparkdistrict.org](http://geaugaparkdistrict.org).