Summer E– Newsletter
June—August 2009

Butterflies and Butterfly Monitoring
Laura Seals, Naturalist

Giant Swallowtail

Butterflies are the most easily recognized and beloved insects Ohio has to offer. Dr. Jeffery Glassberg, founder of the North American Butterfly Association, has said, quite fittingly, "Beautiful and graceful, varied and enchanting, small but approachable, butterflies lead you to the sunny side of life."

Butterflies are members of the order Lepidoptera which means "scaled wing." Thousands of tiny scales cover each butterfly wing. These often brightly colored scales produce beautiful patterns that, along with a graceful flight, a habit of spending time on equally beautiful flowers and a nonthreatening demeanor, draw many people to these amazing creatures.

Ohio is home to well over 100 species of butterflies and skippers, including two federally endangered species, the Karner blue and Mitchell's satyr. Though Clermont County does not have quite such a variety, there are over 75 recorded species for the area. As spring turns to summer and the warm months of fall, a parade of butterfly species will be seen throughout the county.

A butterfly's life begins as an egg laid on a host plant; each species of butterfly has a specific host plant. Some caterpillars will feed on a variety of plants but others, like the monarch, are quite particular about what they eat and eggs will be laid on only a specific type of plant; in the monarch's case, milkweed. Caterpillars have one mission after hatching from an egg: eating. Most will go through four to six instars as they rapidly grow. Each instar (growth stage) is started by a molt, or skin shed.

The next step of a butterfly's life cycle is perhaps the most dramatic. After their final instar, all caterpillars pupate, becoming a chrysalis. This stage can last anywhere from a couple of weeks to several months and during this time a metamorphosis, or change, occurs. Inside the chrysalis, the caterpillar transforms into an adult butterfly. After emerging, the butterfly rests and pumps fluids into its wings from it abdomen before they harden and are able to fly away. Adult butterflies feed on nectar, fruit, sap, and sometimes animal feces. Adult butterflies also search out mates before laying eggs and beginning the cycle over again. (Continued on page 3)

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Park District News
Chris Clingman, Director

This past spring has been a busy one for the Park District. It started with the very well attended *Pancakes in the Park* event. Over 300 people enjoyed pancakes with pure maple syrup at Pattison Park Lodge. Volunteers and our naturalists led tours through the sugar bush and the sugar shack to see how maple sap is collected and then boiled down into syrup. Grassy Run Historical Society members demonstrated how syrup and maple sugar were made during the1800's. Bethel Boy Scout Troop 196 cooked up the pancakes and sausage to hungry participants.

In April we saw the highest attendance ever at the Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by the Batavia Rotary Club at Sycamore Park. Over 700 people showed up on a beautiful Saturday morning which was more than triple the previous years' attendance. A special thanks to Wal Mart for donating the 2000 eggs that the Rotary Club members filled with candy.

May brought a change to the landscaping at Pattison Park Lodge and Gazebo. After a couple years of deer damage, drought stress, and 17 years of growth, it was time to rehabilitate the landscaping in the gazebo area. With the help of Natorp's, a plan was developed that kept our traditional color scheme in place while installing some deer "resistant" shrubs and evergreens. The plant selection will also provide a more finished look to the gazebo area during the "off season".

Another project was put in to place during May. Phase one of the Williamsburg to Batavia Hike Bike Trail is now open with the new bridge crossing Cain Run creek. The first section of the trail will now take visitors from the village of Williamsburg through a section of the wildlife area at East Fork State Park to an area overlooking Harsha Lake.

The Park District is currently finalizing plans for the grand opening of the The James L and Frances Wilson Nature Preserve at Sycamore Park. Check our website at http://www.parks.clermontcountyohio.gov for more details this summer.

Generosity of individuals have helped the Park District grow since its creation in 1970. Now with the help of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation, it is easier than ever to help the Park District with a financial donation. Visit the Foundation's website at http://www.greatercincinnatifdn.org/page20423.cfm and click on the drop down menu and click on the Clermont County Park District Fund. You can then make a tax deductible donation to support the Park District projects using your credit card. 2010 will mark the 40th anniversary of the Park District. We are looking for old photographs and stories to help mark the occasion. If you have a story to share please send it to us via email or snail mail. If you have old photographs we can scan it into our computer and return the original.

Plan Your Summer Picnic Now

It's never too early to start planning your next picnic or family gathering. Available dates go fast, so call the Park District main office at 513.732.2977 to check the availability of our picnic shelters for your next gathering.

2009 Clermont County Park District Picnic Shelter Rental Fees

Location	Capacity	Fee
Chilo Lock 34 Park	50	$50
Pattison Park	150	$75
Sycamore Woods	50	$50
Sycamore #2 Shelter	150	$75

Butterflies and Butterfly Monitoring (Continued from page 1)

Great Spangled Fritillary

Each butterfly species goes through some variation of this life cycle, though the steps may vary in length. Some butterflies go through each stage rapidly and produce several broods, or generations, a year. Other species will have only one adult brood per year and may spend months as a caterpillar or pupa. Species like mourning cloaks and question marks spend the winter as adults hiding under tree bark or in other protected places.

This year, for the first time, the Clermont County Park District is participating in the Ohio Lepidopterist's Long Term Butterfly Monitoring at Chilo Lock 34 Park. Each week from April thru September, naturalists and volunteers will walk a set route through the park, identifying and counting butterflies long the way. Information collected during monitoring from all sites throughout the state of Ohio will be sent to the Cleveland Museum of Natural History to be processed.

Spicebush Swallowtail

Gathering data on what species are present, in what numbers and at what time of year on a long term basis gives lepidopterists (scientists who study butterflies) an idea of the health of a butterfly species. They are able to see where butterfly populations are thriving, where they might be disappearing and new places they may be colonizing. New populations of unusual or rare species may be discovered and expanding ranges of common butterflies can be noted.

Anyone with a love of butterflies, experienced or amateur, is invited to participate in any of the weekly monitoring sessions. Please contact the Park District Naturalist office at (513) 876-9013 or lseals@co.clermont.oh.us for more information.

A Special Thanks . . .

To the Batavia Rotary club for sponsoring the Easter egg hunt at Sycamore Park

To the East Fork Bass Anglers for sponsoring the Matt Maupin Memorial Kids Fishing Tournament at Pattison Park.

To Steve Kushner for donating a Grey Squirrel and Ruffed Grouse for our wildlife display in the Chilo Lock 34 Visitor Center and Museum.

Attention Shutterbugs!

If you enjoy visiting the Clermont County parks, and you have a camera, then we're looking for you. The park district has created a group on "Flickr". We are always searching for good photographs to use on our website, newsletter, and media releases. If you would like to join our group and share your favorite Clermont County Park District photos, just visit http://www.flickr.com/groups/clermontcountyparks/

Summer Naturalist Programs
June—August

Water World
Friday June 12, 11:00 am
Chilo Lock 34 Park

Dip into the pond and explore a watery world! Using nets, see what is hiding along the banks and find out if you're quick enough to catch a frog. All ages are encouraged to participate and you are welcome to bring your own net.

Vegetable Gardening 101
Thursday June 18
7:00 – 8:00 pm
Chilo Lock 34 Park

Come learn how to grow vegetables in the home garden with Cindy Burskey, Agriculture, Horticulture and Natural Resources Educator from The Ohio State University Clermont County Extension office. Get answers to some of your burning questions about diseases, soil preparation, and pest control.

Ohio River Sweep
Saturday June 20
9am—1pm
Chilo Lock 34 Park

Join thousands of volunteers along the 981 mile long Ohio River in the annual Ohio River Sweep. Each year thousands of tires, plastic bottles, and other unnatural items are removed from the river. Volunteers will receive a free t shirt for helping, and a lunch following the cleanup. Due to the limited river access, ages 12 and up are recommended. Preregistration is required. Call 513.876.9013 to sign up. If you would like to sign up at another location in Clermont County call Clermont 20/20 at 513.753.9222.

Summer Solstice Walk
Sunday June 21
10:00 am
Kelley Nature Preserve

Celebrate the official beginning of summer with a naturalist led hike along the scenic Little Miami River.

Live Reptiles and Global Warming
Wednesday July 8
7:00 pm
Pattison Park

Join herpetologist and retired naturalist Al Winstel to find out what all that global warming fuss is about and how it might affect the world's reptiles and amphibians in this Powerpoint and live animal program.

Monarch Waystations
July 11, 9:00 am
Chilo Lock 34 Park

Monarchs are well known for their extraordinary annual migration to Mexico. Discover how you can create a monarch haven in your own yard with a few simple additions and help prepare Chilo Lock 34 Park's own Butterfly Patch to become a certified Monarch Waystation.

Ohio River Sightseeing Cruises

Saturday Evening Dinner Cruises

$43.95* + tax and gratuities
Departures 5:30 & 8:30 pm

Contact BB Riverboats to Reserve Your Seat
1.800.261.8586
www.bbriverboats.com

Lock and Dam Cruises

Adults $16.00* Children $9.00*

Saturday Departures
1:00 & 3:00 pm
Sunday Departures
12:00, 2:00 & 4:00 pm

* A portion of the proceeds from each ticket will benefit the Clermont County Park District.

Sponsored by
the Clermont County Park District
and the Friends of the Jennie Wade.

Clermont County Park District

Come early or stay late for these free on land activities.

Visit the AEP Riverworks Discovery booth from 1:30—4:30 pm in the park. They will have hands-on river related children's activities.

Naturalist Programs inside Visitor Center
River History
Saturday 2:00
Sunday 1:00 & 4:00

Live Animal Talk
Saturday 12:00 & 3:30
Sunday 2:30

Frogs
Friday July 17
8:00 pm
Chilo Lock 34 Park

The singing spring peepers and american toads has stopped for the year, but other frogs have begun singing nightly in search of a mate. Follow the naturalist to the nearby pond, and discover who is making these sounds and why. Bring a flashlight, net (if you have one), and shoes or boots that can withstand mud and water.

Busy Beavers
Sunday July 19
1:00 pm
Sycamore Park

Join the naturalist to discover more about one of nature's finest engineers. Get an up close and personal look at what makes these aquatic mammals so unique. We'll also take a hike along the river to search for signs of these builders.

Slimy or Scaly?
Wednesday July 22
1:00 pm
Pattison Park

Join the naturalist for an up close look at some of our native reptiles and amphibians.

River Critters
Wednesday July 25
11:00 am
Sycamore Park

Summer is hot but the water's cool! Jump into the river to explore life underwater. Wear your old shoes and be ready to get wet exploring what's living in the East Fork of the Little Miami River with a park naturalist, kick nets and seines. All ages are welcome but children must be closely supervised by an adult.

Butterfly Walk
Saturday August 1
2:00 pm
Chilo Lock 34 Park

Search the meadow and the wetland's edge for a variety of butterflies and skippers. Test your speed against these winged creatures with a butterfly net. All ages are welcome; long pants and hiking boots or tennis shoes are recommended.

Evening Walk
Thursday August 6
7:00 pm
Kelley Nature Preserve

Late summer provides a spectacular display of wildflowers in the meadow at Kelley Nature Preserve. Follow a naturalist on a relaxing evening walk through the forest and field to enjoy the colorful display of flowers.

Kids Crafts: Twig Birdhouses
Wednesday August 12, 10:00 am
Pattison Park
Encourage the birds to spend time at your house by creating a birdhouse from twigs to welcome them.

Wetlland Walk
Sunday August 23, 1:00 pm
Chilo Lock 34 Park
The wetland is full of color during late summer as coneflowers, sunflowers, and goldenrods are in full bloom. Follow the naturalist to see what's in bloom, what lies in the wetland, and why wetlands are so important.

Long Term Butterfly Monitoring
Chilo Lock 34 Park
Weekly, June - September
Attention all citizen scientists and butterfly lovers! The Clermont County Park District is now participating in Long Term Butterfly Monitoring with the Ohio Lepidopterists. Each week, butterflies will be observed, identified and counted at Chilo Lock 34 Park. Due to the weather specific nature of the program, it is difficult to set up monitoring times in advance. Anyone interested in participating in one or more of the weekly monitoring sessions can contact Laura Seals at lseals@co.clermont.oh.us or phone the naturalist's office at 513.876.9013.

PRESCHOOL STORY TIME

Preschool Story Time: Baby Animals
Wednesday June 10
1:30 pm
Sycamore Park

Animal babies are everywhere! Look for begging baby birds in nests and places where fawns slept. Search along the river for ducklings and turtle nests. Angie the Librarian will be back sharing stories all about baby animals.

Preschool Story Time: Snakes
Wednesday July 15
1:30 pm
Sycamore Park
Please note the date change for July's Preschool Story Time- it will be held on the 3rd Wednesday instead of the second Wednesday.
Preschoolers will visit with a live snake, search for snakes hidden in the park and listen to snake stories with Angie.

Preschool Story Time: River Critters
Wednesday August 12
1:30 pm
Sycamore Park

Stick your toes in the water and cool off from the summer's heat! Preschoolers are invited to explore what lives in the water using small nets along the river's shore. Read stories of watery worlds with Angie the Librarian! Though the water level of the East Fork of the Little Miami is typically low in August and we will be staying along the river's edge, **parents must closely supervise all children during this program.**

Chilo Lock 34 Visitor Center and Museum

If you haven't been to the Chilo Lock 34 Visitor Center and Museum recently, start planning your trip now. We've been busy adding new displays.

Summer Hours of Operation

Memorial Day—Labor Day

Sunday —Friday
12 pm to 5pm

Saturday
11 am to 5 pm

The visitor center's newest displays are now complete. Get an up close look at a few live animals in our *Flora and Fauna* display, or discover fascinating river facts on our hand painted mural of the *Ohio River*. Both displays were hand painted by the park district's visitor center attendant, Wayne McClain.

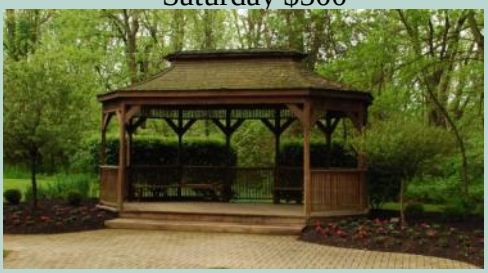
Pattison Lodge and Gazebo & Hartman Log Cabin Now Taking Reservations for 2010.

Call 513.732.2977 to make your reservation.

Pattison Lodge and Gazebo Rental Rates

In Season (May 15— October 15)
Monday through Thursday $200
Friday and Sunday $475
Saturday $550

Out of Season (October 16—May 14)
Monday through Thursday $200
Friday and Sunday $425
Saturday $500



Hartman Log Cabin Rental Rates

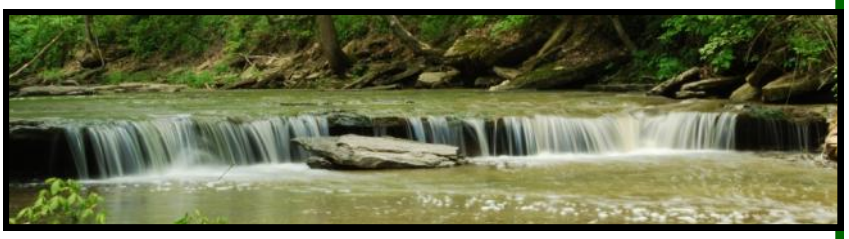
In Season Rates (May 15-October 15)
Monday through Thursday $100
Friday through Sunday $150
**Includes the use of the picnic shelter*

Out of Season Rates (October 16—May 14)
Monday through Sunday
$100

Williamsburg to Batavia Hike Bike Trail — Phase One Completed

With the installation of the new pedestrian bridge crossing Cain Run Creek, the first phase of the Williamsburg to Batavia Hike/Bike Trail is now complete. The trail begins at the end of Broadway Road in Williamsburg, follows Williamsburg-Bantam Road, then crosses the bridge over Cain Run

The project is a collaborative effort between the villages and townships of Williamsburg and Batavia, ODNR - Division of Wildlife, ODNR—Division of Parks and Recreation, US Army Corps of Engineers, and the Clermont County Park District.



Waterfall on Cain Run Creek

Pattison Park Gazebo Landscaping gets Makeover

The landscaping surrounding the gazebo at Pattison park was recently renovated. After two summer droughts, deer damage, and 17 years of growth it was time for a new look.

The color scheme will be kept the same with New Guinea impatiens adding most of the color. Ornamental grasses and boxwood shrubs were also selected to add a color during the winter months.

If you're interested in reserving the Pattison lodge and gazebo stop by and check out the new look. For reservation information, please call 513.732.2977. More pictures can be viewed at http://www.flickr.com/photos/clermontcountyparks/sets/72157617702180983/

Nature Notes
Keith Robinson, Naturalist

Early June – Bullfrogs and green frogs can be heard in the evenings near ponds, rivers or lakes, calling for their mates.

Mid June – Lightning bugs are prevalent in the evenings. Males flash their lights in a certain pattern to attract females who are hiding on the ground.

Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis)*

Early July – Cardinal flower begins to bloom in the wetland at Chilo Lock 34 Park. Named for its brilliant red flower, it is a popular nectar source for butterflies and hummingbirds.

July – American goldfinches begin their nesting season. They begin nesting much later than most other songbirds, and utilize the downy seeds from thistle plants to line their nests.

Late July – The meadow is in bloom at Kelley Nature Preserve. Visit the preserve to see royal catchfly, purple coneflower, grey-headed cone-flower, wild bergamot, and many other beautiful blooming flowers.

Royal catchfly (*Silene regia*)

August – Katydids can be heard singing their names (*katy-did, katy-did)* in the evenings.

August – Dog day cicadas begin singing during the day. These relatives of the periodical 17 year cicadas are present every summer.

Chilo Lock 34 Park
521 County Park Road
Chilo, OH 45112
39 Acres
Features a three story visitor center and museum in an old lock and dam building along the Ohio River. The park has picnic shelters, playground, and a boat ramp and dock with public access to the Ohio River.

Crooked Run Nature Preserve
77 Acres
Adjacent to Chilo Lock 34 Park is Clermont County's only state dedicated nature preserve. Crooked Run attracts a diversity of wildlife, including birds, making this a popular bird watching spot.

Pattison Park
2228 US Highway 50
Batavia, OH 45103
45 acres
This park is home to the Pattison Lodge and Gazebo, a popular wedding and reception site. A fishing lake, picnic shelter, playground, paved walking trail, and hiking trails with interpretive signs are also found at Pattison Park.

Sycamore Park
4082 State Route 132
Batavia, OH 45103
158 acres
Sycamore Park recently expanded from 53 to 158 acres, making it the largest park within the Clermont County Park District. Picnic shelters, tennis courts, sand volleyball courts, and two playgrounds make this a popular park for summer picnics. Hiking trails and fishing access to the East Fork of the Little Miami River are available.

Kelley Nature Preserve
297 Center Street
Loveland, OH 45140
42 acres
This nature preserve features hiking trails and a canoe access to the Little Miami River, designated as a state and national scenic river.

Thank You for supporting
Pancakes in the Park

Over 350 people came visited Pattison Park on Saturday March 14th for the fourth annual *Pancakes in the Park.* Visitors were treated to pancakes with delicious pure Ohio maple syrup.

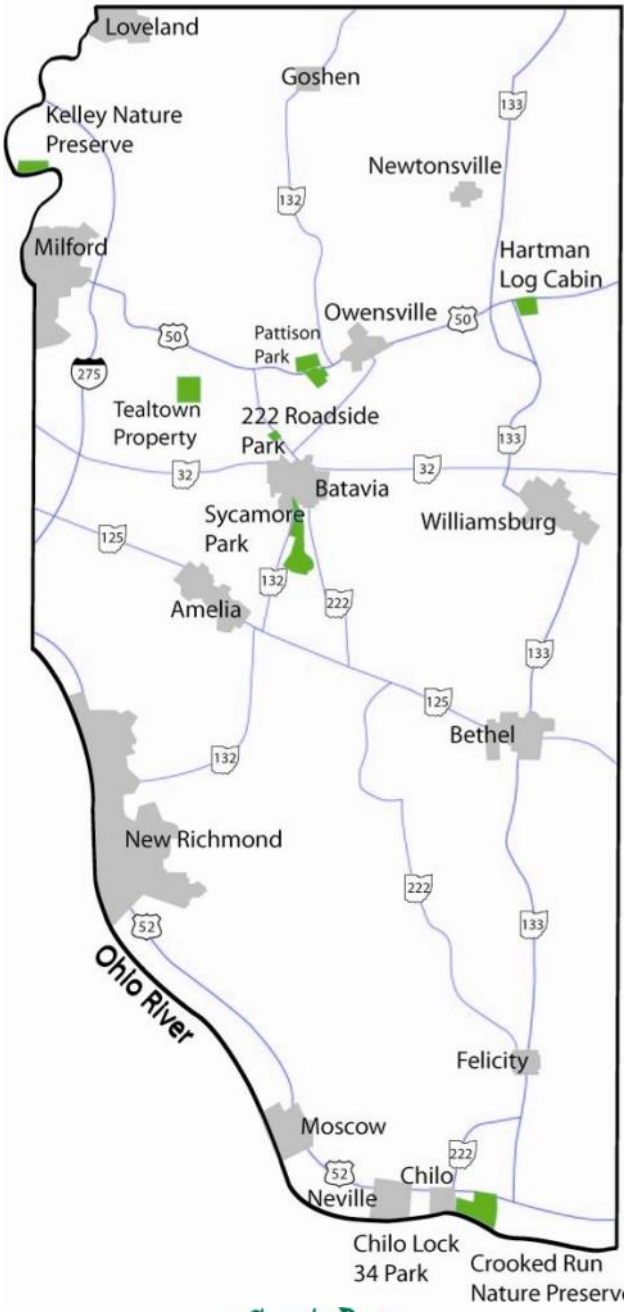
Thank You to the following individuals and businesses who helped make the event the most successful one to date.

Sponsors
Owensville IGA
IHOP
Wal-Mart
Cole Custom Signs
Chief Beaver Tree Service

Sap Bucket Sponsors
Steve and Shirley Seals
Spring Grove Farm
Eva Brannen Sturm

Volunteers
Dave Anspach
Veronica Brannen
Ron Gregory
Adam Hoople
Rick Johnson
Lew Spurlock
Ken Stewart
Grassy Run Historical Society

The Clermont County Park District operates five parks, three green spaces, and two nature preserves totaling 449 acres.



Mission Statement

To acquire, plan, develop, program, and maintain park property in the county for residents and nonresidents alike. To secure the preservation of open space and places of scenic or historical value.

Board of Park Commissioners

William Stearns, *Chairman*
Kenneth Stewart
David Anspach

Chris Clingman, *Director*

Monthly board meetings are held the second Thursday of the month at 12:00 pm in Pattison Park Lodge. All meetings are open to the public. For more information call 513.732.2977.

Contact Information

Administrative Office
Pattison Park
2228 US Highway 50
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513.732.2977
parkdistrict@co.clermont.oh.us

Naturalist Office
Chilo Lock 34 Park
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