

CONQUEST

"Capture your students love of learning about the environment"

Fall 2012

KELLY'S KORNER~ JUST GET OUT!

School has started, and you are already trying to plan your year, and make sure you meet all the standards for your curriculum. So, is there any time for you to plan a field trip? Can you take the kids outside to do some free reading, explore or experiment? The simple truth is kids need to get outside and be active more than ever! They need to appreciate nature, examine the little things, and be in awe of the living things.

If you haven't heard of Richard Louv and his bestselling book **Last Child in the Woods**, he sparked a national debate that spawned an international movement to reconnect kids and nature. He coined the term **nature-deficit disorder**; influenced national policy; and helped inspire campaigns in over eighty cities, states, and provinces throughout North America. Child advocacy expert Richard Louv directly links the lack of nature in the lives of today's wired generation—he calls it nature-deficit—to some of the most disturbing childhood trends, such as the rises in obesity, attention disorders, and depression. **Last Child in the Woods** is the first book to bring together a new and growing body of research indicating that direct exposure to nature is essential for healthy childhood development and for the physical and emotional health of children and adults. I recommend every teacher and parent read this!

So, don't tell me that your school can't afford a bus or travel...Or it just doesn't fit with your lessons! We are lucky enough to live in a county that has wonderful outdoor resources right here for you to visit. On the following page, I will highlight some of the best kept secrets of Wayne County—for field trips and wonderful outdoor adventures. You can let nature provide the entertainment, and if you have an interested and enthusiastic leader, parent, teacher or volunteer, that is sometimes all you need to inspire a child. I guarantee that your trip will be one lesson the students will always remember, and it will be worth your effort to consider doing this. If you have questions, please contact me or visit the links on the next page for more information! And please, get those kids outside! ~Kelly

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Important Dates:

Sept. 8-13 Wayne Co. Fair
Sept. 18-20 Farm Science Review—London, Oh
Sept. 27th County Land Judging Contest
Oct. 8th—Columbus Day
Oct. 13-14 Wayne County Farm Tour
Nov. 12th Veterans Day
Nov. 15th Wayne SWCD Annual Meeting

JOHNSON WOODS

Johnson Woods is one of Ohio's largest and best remaining old growth forests. Many trees rise 40-50 feet before limbs occur and several are more than 400 years old. Some are 120ft tall with a diameter of 4 to 5 feet. The 155 acre tract on the south side of Fox Lake Road was a gift, and is now a State Nature Preserve. There is plenty of room for bus parking, a nice handicap accessible boardwalk all the way around the woods, and educational signage around the trails. FMI http://ohiodnr.com/location/johnson_woods/tabid/898/Default.aspx. Another link with a brochure is <http://hikingohioparks.com/johnson-woods-hiking-ohio-parks.html>. The address is 13240 Fox Lake Rd., Marshallville, 44645.



BROWNS BOG

Brown's Lake Bog is one of a handful of sites in Ohio which contain an open kettle-hole lake surrounded by a floating sphagnum moss mat. The bog and surrounding forest were purchased by The Nature Conservancy in 1966. The bog and lake are glacial relicts, and the knolls in the northeast corner and southern part of the property are glacially formed hills called kames. The boreal plant community including round-leaved sundew & pitcher plant are near the bog. The lowland woods south and northeast of the main bog support shallow ephemeral pools during much of the year, and cinnamon ferns are abundant. Parts of the trail do have a boardwalk, and there is also a 1 mile trail loop that splits off the boardwalk and extends into upper woods. Located in Wayne County 2 miles west of Shreve on Brown Rd. A parking area is located on the south side of the road next to the preserve sign. FMI visit ODNR or the Nature Conservancy at <http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/ohio/placesweprotect/browns-lake-bog-preserve.xml>

KILLBUCK MARSH WILDLIFE AREA



This 5,671-acre wildlife area is situated in portions of Wayne and Holmes counties. The area extends north from Holmesville to three miles south of Wooster, and lies between State Route 83 on the east and State Route 226 on the west. About 56% of the acquisition unit consists of marsh and swamp that is flooded during some portion of the year. This complex is Ohio's largest remaining marshland outside of the Lake Erie region. Killbuck Marsh Wildlife Area is one of the few locations in Ohio where the sandhill crane nests and rears its young as does the bald eagle. It is a migration haven, and many species of mammals, water fowl, fish and amphibians can be found here. County and township roads provide good access to most of the wildlife area. Small parking lots are scattered throughout. A walking-only trail for wildlife observation follows the abandoned B&O Railroad, through the center of the area, and is found off of Willow & Clark Roads. FMI visit http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/Home/wild_resourceessubhomepage/WildlifeAreaMaps/NortheastOhioWildlifeAreaMaps/KillbuckMarshWildlifeArea/tabid/19773/Default.aspx. Further info may be obtained from the Area Manager, KMW Area, 1691 Centerville Road, Shreve 44673. Phone (330)567-3390.

WOOSTER MEMORIAL "SPANGLER" PARK

Wooster Memorial or "Spangler" Park is found off of U.S. Route 250 just five miles West of Wooster, located at the intersection of Jefferson and Silver Roads. Consisting of over three hundred and twenty plus acres of pristine woodland for hiking. There are over six miles primitive of trails, scenic overlooks, the Rathburn Run, picnic pavilions and public restrooms. Wooster Memorial offers some wonderful educational opportunities or just a place to get back to nature. Foot traffic is all that is allowed. Wooster Memorial Park is known for its beautiful trees, steep ravines, rich spring flora and scenic Rathburn Run (during periods of high water, the Run may not be crossable). There are 2 websites that offer more information and include trail maps. Visit http://www.woosteroh.com/parks_spangler.php and Friends of WMP website at <http://friendsofwmp.com/>

OTHERS: Funk Bottoms Wildlife Area, Shreve Lake, Grosjean Park & Many of YOUR Local Parks!

WEBWORMS



Silken nest colony of webworms.

No, I'm not talking about a computer virus. I'm talking about the **fall webworm**, *Hyphantria cunea* (Drury). I'm sure you've seen the unsightly, light gray, silken webs on the trees in late summer and early fall around the area. Webworms enclose leaves and small branches in their nests, unlike the tent caterpillars which make a smaller nest in the crotch of branches. So what are they and how bad are they for the trees? This pest is native to North America and is common from Canada into Mexico. It is one of the few American insect pests that has been introduced into Europe and Asia. It is common all across Ohio though it seems to have major outbreaks every few years. Fall webworm larvae have been known to feed on over 85 species of trees in the United States. Pecan, walnut, American elm, hickory, fruit trees and some maples are preferred hosts in the most of Ohio. Persimmon and sweetgum are also readily attacked in southern Ohio while willow, cottonwood, and alder is only occasionally attacked. This pest usually eats leaves late in the season and the nests are generally concentrated to limited areas. Because of this, little real damage is done to most trees. However,

the nests can look very unsightly and multiple generations in long summers can lead to significant defoliation. Fall webworm (*Hyphantria cunea*) is a less important native defoliator of hardwood forests because most of the foliar damage is done in the late summer and early fall after trees have produced and stored most of their energy away for the season. Fall webworm will feed on almost any deciduous tree, but prefers black walnut, hickory, cherry, and American elm. A larval colony will build a silken nest around foliage and begin feeding inside the nest. Larvae expand their nest to include new branches as they seek additional foliage on which to feed. Larvae are yellowish, hairy, and have either a black or red head. Two generations per year are common in Ohio.



The adult webworm Moth

LIFE CYCLE The adult moth lays her eggs on the underside of leaves in 'hair'-covered clusters of a few hundred. Eggs hatch in about a week. **Larva:** The caterpillars are highly variable in coloration, ranging from a pale yellow, to dark grey, with yellow spots and long and short bristles. There are two cream stripes along the sides. Webs are progressively enlarged, and much messier looking than those of tent caterpillars (which occur only in spring and have shorter hairs and very little yellow on their bodies). Larvae feed inside the tents until the late instars. Very young larvae feed only on the upper surfaces of leaves. Later, they consume whole leaves. The larval stage lasts about four to six weeks. **Pupa:** The pupal stage overwinters in the bark and leaf litter at the base of the trees. The thin brown cocoon is made of silk with bits of detritus interwoven. This stage overwinters. The adult is mostly white in the north, but in the south, it may be marked with black or brown spots on the forewings. It is quite 'hairy', and the front legs have bright yellow or orange patches. The underwings will have less marking than the forewings, and the abdomen often has a sprinkling of brown hairs. It has a wingspan of 35–42 mm. Now you know about this hungry caterpillar!

WE NEED YOU!

That's right. We need teachers, students, parents, and concerned citizens. It's that time of year again, a very special time in Wayne County—it's **FAIR TIME!!!** And once again, we are working with the fair board to help promote **RECYCLING** at the fair. So, please tell your students to look for the green cans—and to help train others to recycle their plastics, aluminum and glass containers. The Wayne County Fair is also collecting paper and cardboard during the fair to recycle. This is a huge effort, and many parties are involved, so we want to make it another successful year. I understand that recycling is something that should be taught and practiced year around, but hope that we can really emphasize it's importance at huge events like the one coming up! And don't forget to stop by the Wayne SWCD building to check out the winning posters and visit us!



CONSIDER CONSERVATION

The following FREE Presentations can be scheduled by calling the Wayne SWCD office.

- ◆ **ENVIROSCAPE MODEL** (Grades 4-12, 45mins– 1hr.) Visually explains point & non-point source pollution on a watershed. Students get a hands-on demonstration of the effects of water run-off, & then learn how they can improve the watershed with conservation practices. Excellent for any environmental lesson.
- ◆ **FREDDIE THE FISH** (Grades K-4, 30-45mins.) Students get a visual understanding of the effects of pollution on “Freddie”(a sponge in a jar) as they are told about his journey downstream. Human impact on water and the importance of clean, healthy water is taught.
- ◆ **LIVING SOIL PROFILE** (Grades K-5, 45mins—1hr.) Students learn how soil is formed and discover the properties of soil. Intro & 3 different learning stations with hands-on soil smudge, rock rubbing, & coloring a soil profile are all covered.
- ◆ **INCREDIBLE JOURNEY** (Grades K-6, 30-45mins.) Students learn about water on earth, it’s value & the water cycle. They act out the cycle of a water droplet as they travel to different locations. Best if done outdoors, or in a large area.
- ◆ **TREE-MENDOUS TREES** (Grades K-6, 30-45mins.) Build a tree from the inside out (Heartwood to Bark) with your students! They will learn the value of trees, along with the forms and functions of the parts of a tree. Needs a big space.
- ◆ **BIRDS & BEYOND** (Grades K-6, 45mins. –1hr.) Students learn about birds, habitat, and conservation as they learn with Audubon toy bird replicas. They learn what makes a bird a bird, why birds are important & listen to over 30 bird songs.
- ◆ **MIGRATION MANIA** (Grades 2-6, 30-45mins) Reinforces definition of habitat. Discussion on why and what animals migrate, then an activity on bird migration. They learn the effects of humans have & the importance of habitat preservation.
- ◆ **TONY THE TRASHBAG** (Grades 2-6) Students learn the impacts of litter as they act out the movement of a plastic bag, and find out how it effects the whole environment, including harming animals. (Similar to Incredible Journey program) *Teachers can request a power point slide show that corresponds to the lesson presented.*
- ◆ **OUTDOOR EDUCATION** Call & schedule us to do a program or help out at your outdoor event. From fishing & stream studies to outdoor educational lessons, we can assist you & your school, or simply provide you with information or materials to borrow. Don’t forget to check out the loaner educational kits. ANY program can be modified to fit!

The following Educational Trunks can be loaned out for a 2-3 week period.

Celebrate the Harvest A-Z Kit (Grades K-3) This trunk covers farming, agriculture & Autumn harvest. It contains lessons, posters, photos, books, videos, and toys. Wonderful kit for fall harvest or supplement to farming & agricultural lessons.

Birds & Beak Adaptations Trunk - This trunk has all the materials you need to do the “Fill the Bill” educational activity. Students learn eight different types of beaks & how each is adapted to feed on different foods. Also includes educational bird CD’s, books & information.

For Heaven SNAKES! The snake trunk comes with a boa constrictor hand puppet, books & videos. Great for a whole unit!

RAINFOREST Teacher Trunk Talk about a treasure trunk! This educational trunk contains a macaw parrot puppet, along with a lot of educational books, stories, videos, and lesson plans. Wonderful kit to supplement a unit.

STREAM Stewardship –This trunk has a preserved macroinvertebrate collection, the Save Our Stream manual, water quality books, lessons, and videos. Great for an “indoor” stream study.

Animal Tracks Kit –This trunk contains animal track molds for 10 different animals with directions on how to use plaster of paris, or make stamps & comes with field track guides. Makes for a great art project too!

Honey Files Video & Teachers Guide (Grades 4-6) Complete w/ lessons & a video on honeybees. *(Also available online)*

Take Me Fishing - \$20 Fee Need fishing poles for your outdoor program? We have 17 quality poles, and tackle boxes.

The Wayne Soil & Water Conservation District, 428 W. Liberty St. Wooster, Oh 44691 (330)-262-2836
Contact Kelly Riley, Education Specialist Email: Kriley@wayneoh.org

Programs available Monday through Thursday. WEBSITE: <http://www.wayneswcd.org>