

CRAWFORD COUNTY

JANUARY

Jan. 16 — Rock 'n' Fossils, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Lowe-Volk Park Nature Center. Mineral, rock and fossil displays! You can even bring in a personal collection of rocks or fossils for some identification assistance by members of the Richland Lithic and Lapidary Society. Lowe-Volk Park, 2401 SR 598, three miles north of Galion. Call the Crawford Park District with questions at (419) 683-9000 or www.crawfordparkdistrict.org.

Jan. 23 — One Cool Hike, 1 p.m., Lowe-Volk Park. Join Crawford Park District naturalist Josh Dyer for this cool winter hike that will take a look at nature in winter and who is surviving how. Lowe-Volk Park, 2401 SR 598, three miles north of Galion. Call the Crawford Park District with questions at (419) 683-9000 or www.crawfordparkdistrict.org.

Jan. 29 — Walk & Woof: Howl at the Moon, 7 p.m., Lowe-Volk Park. Venture through the woods with your dog to hear what other animals may be howling at the moon. All ages and breeds welcome. Flashlights recommended. Lowe-Volk Park, 2401 SR 598, three miles north of Galion. Call the Crawford Park District with questions at (419) 683-9000 or www.crawfordparkdistrict.org.

Jan. 31 — Winter Bird Walk, 3 p.m., Lowe-Volk Trails and Nature Center. PowerPoint presentation followed by a bird observation walk. Lowe-Volk Park, 2401 SR 598, three miles north of Galion. Call the Crawford Park District with questions at (419) 683-9000 or www.crawfordparkdistrict.org.

FEBRUARY

Feb. 6 — Nature movie and popcorn family night, 6:30 p.m. Lowe-Volk Park Nature Center. Disney film, "Homeward Bound: The Incredible Journey." The free movie will begin at 6:45. Drinks available for a donation. Lowe-Volk Park, 2401 SR 598, three miles north of Galion. Call the Crawford Park District with questions at (419) 683-9000 or www.crawfordparkdistrict.org.

Feb. 13 — Picture share: Tellin' Tales and Leesville History, 2-4:30 p.m. Lowe-Volk Park Nature Center. Dig in the attic, closets, dresser drawers and photo albums. Share your local history and family pictures. You can scan your pictures to take them back home. If you have names and locations, that would be helpful but not mandatory. With the assistance of volunteers, we hope an on-line research photo archive. Lowe-Volk Park, 2401 SR 598, three miles north of Galion. Call the Crawford Park District with questions at (419) 683-9000 or www.crawfordparkdistrict.org.

Feb. 14 — Sweetheart's hike, 7 p.m., Lowe-Volk Park Nature Center, on candle lit trails. Lowe-Volk Park, 2401 SR 598, three miles north of Galion. Call the Crawford Park District with questions at (419) 683-9000 or www.crawfordparkdistrict.org.

Feb. 20 — Attracting and managing purple martins, 2 p.m.,

Lowe-Volk Park Nature Center, 2401 SR 598, three miles north of Galion. Call the Crawford Park District with questions at (419) 683-9000 or www.crawfordparkdistrict.org.

Feb. 27 — Arrowhead Day, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Lowe-Volk Park Nature Center. Local collectors will display their finds and members of the Johnny Appleseed Chapter of the Archaeological Society of Ohio will be on hand to display and assist in answering your questions about artifacts that you have not identified. There will be informative presentations and a silent auction of donated artifacts. Lowe-Volk Park, 2401 SR 598, three miles north of Galion. Call the Crawford Park District with questions at (419) 683-9000 or www.crawfordparkdistrict.org.

Feb. 28 — Nature hike, 3 p.m., Sears Woods State Nature Preserve. Join Crawford Park District naturalist Warren Uxley. Sears Woods parking lot, 1486 Mt. Zion Road, west of Bucyrus. Call the Crawford Park District with questions at (419) 683-9000 or www.crawfordparkdistrict.org.

ATTRACTIONS

Brownella Cottage, 132 S. Union St., Galion — Original home and furnishings of Bishop William Montgomery Brown. Houses Galion Historical Museum. 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sundays May-October. Weekday group tours by appointment year round. (419) 468-6734 or (419) 468-6947.

Bucyrus Historical Society, 202 S. Walnut St. — Features memorabilia from founding families of Bucyrus, plus items from America's wars, and souvenirs from aviatrix Loretta Schimmoler, a friend of Amelia Earhart. Open 1-4 p.m. Monday and 2-4 p.m. Sunday April-December. (419) 562-6386.

Carl's Gas Station, 836 Hopley Ave. — A place to enjoy the historic Sinclair gas station, vintage cars and memories from the 1950s. (419) 562-8225.

Cooper's Mill, 1414 N. Sandusky Ave., Bucyrus — Step back in time and watch old-fashioned apple butter, jams and jellies cooking over a wood fire. Features homemade fudge and gift shop. Open 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Saturday. (419) 562-4215.

Crestline Shrunk Memorial, 211 N. Thomas St. — Features items from Crestline's beginnings. Special features are the Railroad Room and the Indian Room. Open 1-4 p.m. Saturdays Memorial Day-Labor Day. (419) 683-3904.

D. Picking & Co., 119 S. Walnut St., Bucyrus — Last of the old copper shops in America still making original product, apple butter kettles, primarily by hand. Tours 10-11 a.m. and 12:30-2 p.m. Monday-Friday. (419) 562-6891.

Heckert Nature Preserve, on the south side of SR 19, halfway in between Bucyrus and Galion, contains unusually large and well preserved wetland areas.

HideAway Bed & Breakfast Inn, 15 minutes north of Marion — Featured in the New York Times, the inn welcomes tours for picnics and watching the resident great horned owl and bald ea-

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gles. (800) 570-8233

J & M Trading Post, 6867 Leesville Road, Leesville — The Rev. Lee's General Store, circa 1830. Historic setting near famed Indian fighter Col. Crawford's Capture Site Monument. Open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Saturday, closed Sunday. Open holidays by chance. (419) 683-4307

Lowe-Volk Park, on SR 598 three miles north of Galion, is 38 acres in size and features one and one-half miles of hiking trails that visit three streams including the start of the Sandusky River, a picnic area, catch and release fishing in the pond and streams, fern covered sandstone ledges, forests, wetlands and open fields. The **Lowe-Volk Park Nature Center** features a classroom, 17 interpretive nature and local history exhibits, live reptile and amphibian displays, a bird feeder and butterfly garden observation room. Center is handicapped accessible and has restrooms available.

Sears Woods State Nature Preserve, one mile southwest of Bucyrus on SR 4, then two miles west on Mt. Zion Road. The 98-acre natural area features one of the best preserved forests in Ohio. The hiking trails are more than a mile in length and visit a small meadow and large forest, with some of the trail along the Sandusky River.

Unger Park, on Nevada Road about one mile west of the square in Bucyrus, is 53 acres in size and features more than two miles of hiking trails that are open daily from sunrise to sunset. Visitors can see a prairie, forest, wetland, pond, and the Sandusky River. The trails connect to Aumiller Park and the Friendship bridge over the Sandusky.

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