

Beaver Creek Wildlife Education Center

2026 Programs and Events

Looking for a way to get out and explore the outdoors this year? Join us for a workshop or outdoor program or come visit the Wildlife Education Center. There is something for all ages and interests. Visit our web site at www.beavercreekwildlife.org for more information or follow us on our Facebook page.

Programs are offered free of charge unless noted. Donations are always appreciated!!

(C) Child/Family-Friendly Activity

April

Saturday, April 18 from 9:00 – 11:00 – Spring Wildflower Hike. Join BCWEC volunteers Cheryl Mattevi and Eileen Dray-Bardon as we welcome early spring wildflowers and wildlife. There is always something new and exciting in bloom in the Beaver Creek forests and hills. The trail ranges from gentle to moderately steep and may be muddy. Suitable for ages 10 and older. Dress for the weather, wear sturdy shoes, and bring a walking stick if you like. The hike will be cancelled if there is a downpour. Please meet in the Beaver Creek State Park parking lot, 12021 Echo Dell Rd., East Liverpool, OH 43920.

****Saturday, April 25 from 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM – Wine and Wildlife. Invitation/registrations required.** Join us at our annual fund-raising benefit event. You will tour the building and displays, grounds and gardens, as you enjoy a variety of hors d'oeuvres, desserts, and Ohio wines. For more information and to request your invitation, please call Karen Henry at 330-932-0908 or contact her by email at kr.swanson59@yahoo.com.

Sunday, April 26 from 10 – 12:00 – iNaturalist Class. Join Tracy Hager, local hiker and outdoor enthusiast, and learn how to use the iNaturalist app, making it easy and fun to identify plants and wildlife right in your own back yard. This outdoor program will start at picnic area 3 in Beaver Creek State Park and will involve a 1 mile moderately difficult hike on the Lower Salamander Trail. Participants must have a smart device capable of downloading the iNaturalist app and should bring their device. The download and account setup are free and participants are encouraged to do that prior to this event. Dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes. Registration is required and limited to 20. Email beavercreekw@aol.com with your contact information to register. Suitable for age 12 and older.

May

Friday, May 1 – Sunday, May 3 - Beaver Creek Birding Bonanza Weekend. The competition will run from Friday at 5:00 PM through Saturday at 5:00 PM. For a full agenda, rules, and information about registering and events, please visit our web site at www.beavercreekwildlife.org.

Friday, May 1 from 8:00 PM – 9:00 PM – Owl Walk #1. THIS SESSION IS FULL! Join Lisbon Mayor Peter Wilson for an owl walk at Hellbender Bluff. **LIMITED TO 25 PARTICIPANTS.** Please email bcbirdingbonanza@gmail.com to register. Make sure you note which walk you would like to attend and how many in your party. Meeting place information will be emailed after acceptance of registration. Dress for the weather, wear appropriate shoes, and bring a flashlight and insect repellent.

Friday, May 1 from 8:00 PM – 9:00 PM – Owl Walk #2. Join Jason Short, Audubon Society of Mahoning Valley President, for an owl walk on Logan's Loop at the Beaver Creek Wildlife Education Center. **LIMITED TO 25 PARTICIPANTS.** Please email bcbirdingbonanza@gmail.com to register. Make sure you note which walk you would like to attend and how many in your party. Meeting place information will be emailed after acceptance of registration. Dress for the weather, wear appropriate shoes, and bring a flashlight and insect repellent.

(C) Saturday, May 2 from 1:00 – 5:00 – Opening Day for the Beaver Creek Wildlife Education Center! The Center will be open for visitors each weekend through the first weekend of October. Come out for a visit! For more information, go to our web site at www.beavercreekwildlife.org. Lunch will be available today for our visitors while supplies last.

(C) Saturday, May 2 from 2:00 – 3:00 – Raptor Hallow. Volunteers from Raptor Hallow will be in the yard at the Wildlife Center with some live birds of prey. They will talk about the birds and visitors can take pictures and watch them fly. Come out for an enjoyable program at the Wildlife Education Center!!

Saturday, May 2 from 8:00 PM – 9:00 PM – Owl Walk #3. Join Richelle Gatto at the group campground in Beaver Creek State Park for an owl walk. **LIMITED TO 25 PARTICIPANTS** Please email bcbirdingbonanza@gmail.com to register & make sure you put which walk you would like to attend and how many in your party. Meeting place info will be emailed after acceptance of registration. Dress for the weather, wear appropriate shoes, and bring a flashlight and insect repellent.

Saturday, May 2 from 8:00 PM – 9:00 PM – Owl Walk #4. Join Jennifer Balsinger, President of Butler Bird Club, at the Beaver Creek State Park Campground for an owl walk. **LIMITED TO 25 PARTICIPANTS** Please email bcbirdingbonanza@gmail.com to register & make sure you put which walk you would like to attend and how many in your party. Meeting place info will be emailed after acceptance of registration. Dress for the weather, wear appropriate shoes, and bring a flashlight and insect repellent.

Sunday, May 3 from 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM – Migration Bird walk. Join Matthew Smith and Ryan Moss from Division of Natural Areas & Preserves of Ohio, and Audubon Society of Mahoning Valley President Jason Short at Sheepskin Hollow State Nature Preserve along North Fork Little Beaver Creek State Wild & National Scenic River. We will walk the rail bed and look for spring migrants. Parking is limited so carpool if possible. Please park in the small parking areas by bridge and underpass until filled up. Then start parking along Jackman Road, the lane west of the iron bridge. Please do not block any roads or lanes. We will meet by the iron bridge around 8:45.

Sunday, May 3 from 2:00 – 3:00 – 250 Years of Birds in America. Join Wildlife Center volunteer Jason Short, President of the Audubon Society of Mahoning Valley under the pavilion as he talks about birding in America over the past 250 years. He will discuss their history, uses, extinction, conservation, symbolism, and how American culture has made the hobby of birdwatching into a billion dollar industry.

(C) Sunday, May 10 from 1:00 – 4:30 – Observing Nature Up Close. Join BCWEC volunteers as they share some spring-time images under their dissection microscopes. You can learn how microscopes work and examine spring plant parts, including pollen, petals, and maybe an insect that lives on the plant!

(C) Sunday May 17 from 1:00 – 4:30 – Carolyn's Nature Craft - Pinecone Bird Feeders. It's time to treat our feathered friends! Join wildlife center volunteers under the pavilion to create your very own pinecone bird feeder. We'll turn simple pinecones into backyard bird buffets that your local birds will love. It's hands-on, a little messy, and a whole lot of fun! Supplies provided for the first 25 participants. Meet under the pavilion.

(C) Sunday, May 17 from 1:00 – 4:00 – SCAVENGER HUNT on Logan's Loop Trail!!

Kids and their adults can take a fun short hike on Logan's Loop trail, located behind the Beaver Creek Wildlife Education Center, and try to find all the animals on the scavenger hunt list. When the hunt is completed, families will receive a booklet about the animals they found on the trail. Adults can pick up the scavenger hunt paper, a pencil, and a clip board at the desk. The hike is .6 miles long and has a couple steeper areas. Participants should wear sturdy shoes. Come on out to the Beaver Creek Wildlife Education Center for some family fun and see how many of the hidden animals you can find!! Event will be canceled if bad weather.

June

(C) Saturday, June 6 from 10:30 – 12:00 - Wildlife Watchers 103. Gardening for pollinators, bees and butterflies. Join BCWEC volunteers Cheryl and Eileen under the pavilion at the Wildlife Education Center. You will learn how to plant a garden that attracts butterflies and other pollinators, which plants host the different stages of these beneficial and beautiful creatures, and how to collect seeds for next year's garden. Share some plants and seeds while supplies last. Registration required by sending your contact information to edraybardon@yahoo.com. Class size limited to 25. Suitable for age 10 and older.

(C) Sunday, June 7 from 10:00 - 12:00 – Homing Pigeons for Beginners. Join Shawn Nelson under the pavilion as he talks about how to raise and race homing pigeons. He will have live birds to show and will release some birds at the end of the program! There will be a free raffle for kids and beginners where the winner will receive a pair of pigeons to raise for racing. Literature will be available for how to be successful in this hobby. You don't want to miss this wonderful program!!

(C) Sunday, June 7 from 1:00 – 4:30 – Nature Craft – Seashell Craft. Younger kids and their adults can join Robin and other BCWEC volunteers under the pavilion and create a seashell picture. All supplies will be provided. Bring your creativity and have some fun!

(C) Sunday, June 14 from 12:00 – 1:30 - Stream Stomp!! Meet Matthew Smith and Ryan Moss from ODNR Div. of Natural Areas and Preserves in the parking lot of Beaver Creek State Park, 12021 Echo Dell Rd., East Liverpool, OH, for a fun time finding critters that live in Little Beaver Creek, a Wild & Scenic River. They will identify what is found and talk about water quality and how it affects these organisms. You must wear boots or closed-toe shoes to get in the creek for this activity. Come prepared to have fun and maybe get wet!! After the program you can have a picnic in the park and then visit the Wildlife Education Center in the afternoon. This event will be cancelled in the case of unsafe high water or rainstorms.

(C) Sunday, June 14 from 1:00 – 4:30 – Observing Nature Up Close. Join BCWEC volunteers as they show images of macroinvertebrates from Beaver Creek under their dissection microscopes. You can learn how microscopes work and examine some of the small living creatures that live in Beaver Creek.

(C) Sunday, June 21 from 1:00 – 4:30 – Carolyn's Nature Craft – Rock Painting. Our pet rock snake is growing... and it needs YOU! Join wildlife center volunteers under the pavilion and paint a rock any way you choose — bright colors, silly faces, cool patterns — then add it to our ever-growing snake. Come help us make it longer and more colorful than ever! Supplies provided for the first 25 participants.

(C) Sunday, June 21 from 1:00 – 4:00 – SCAVENGER HUNT on Logan's Loop Trail!!

Kids and their adults can take a fun short hike on Logan's Loop trail, located behind the Beaver Creek Wildlife Education Center, and try to find all the animals on the scavenger hunt list. When the hunt is completed, families will receive a booklet about the animals they found on the trail. Adults can pick up the scavenger hunt paper, a pencil, and a clip board at the desk. The hike is .6 miles long and has a couple steeper areas. Participants should wear sturdy shoes. Come on out to the Beaver Creek Wildlife Education Center for some family fun and see how many of the hidden animals you can find!! Will be canceled in case of bad weather.

Saturday, June 27 from 1:00 – 2:00 – Ohio River Birding Trail. Join Jamey Emmert, Avian Education Coordinator with the Ohio Division of Wildlife, under the pavilion and learn about the plans to establish the Ohio River Birding Trail which will highlight up to 100 premier birding hotspots along the river's shoreline. She will also discuss what makes the Ohio River region special for birds and birders. Beaver Creek State Park will be one of the hotspots on the trail!

(C) Sunday, June 28 from 2:00 – 3:00 – Three Rivers Avian Center presents Wings of Wonder. Volunteers from the Three Rivers Avian Center from Hinton, WV will be under the pavilion at the Wildlife Education Center with six of their program birds of prey. They will talk about the birds and tell their stories of how they arrived at their rehabilitation center. The birds will include two owls, two falcons, a hawk, and a bald eagle. You will be able to take pictures and ask questions.

July

(C) Sunday, July 5 from 1:00 – 5:00 – Wood Carving Demonstration. Spend some time under the pavilion at the Wildlife Education Center this afternoon and watch Chip Hudson as he demonstrates how to carve wooden items from various types of wood. You can examine samples of his work, ask questions, and try your hand at carving something.

(C) Saturday, July 11 from 1:00 – 4:30 - “Learning to Look, Looking to See”. Join Wildlife Center volunteer Mary Spooner any time during the afternoon for this fun hands-on activity. Learn to look and then look closer to see what you can observe. Write the what, when, and where of your observations. Participate in a drawing activity and take home a naturalist journal to start you on your own nature journey. Work at your own pace.

(C) Sunday, July 12 from 1:00 – 4:30 – Observing Nature Up Close. Join BCWEC volunteers as they show images of mosses and lichens from Beaver Creek under their dissection microscopes. You can learn how microscopes work and examine some of the small things found in Beaver Creek.

(C) Saturday, July 18 from 10:30 – 12:00 - Wildlife Watchers 104 Rain Gardens, Prairies, Grasslands This time of year the Center's rain garden is buzzing with critters! Our rain garden is a miniature prairie, and hosts a variety of grasses and flowers that attract all kinds of wildlife. Join BCWEC volunteers Cheryl and Eileen and help count how many kinds of wildlife we can find! Participants will learn how to make a rain garden, while seeing first hand how important this grassland area is to wildlife. This is a good time to journal your observations of butterflies as they begin their life cycle, and to see what needs planted for next year. Registration required by sending your contact information to edraybardon@yahoo.com. Class size limited to 25. Suitable for age 10 and older.

(C) Sunday, July 19 from 1:00 – 4:30 – Carolyn’s Nature Craft –Tree Cookie Picture. Let your imagination run wild! Join wildlife center volunteers under the pavilion to create your own mixed-media masterpiece using wood cookies, twigs, sand, and other natural treasures. Build a woodland scene, a forest friend, or something completely unique — the only limit is your creativity! Supplies provided for the first 25 participants.

(C) Sunday, July 19 from 1:00 – 4:00 – SCAVENGER HUNT on Logan’s Loop Trail!!

Kids and their adults can take a fun short hike on Logan's Loop trail, located behind the Beaver Creek Wildlife Education Center, and try to find all the animals on the scavenger hunt list. When the hunt is completed, families will receive a booklet about the animals they found on the trail. Adults can pick up the scavenger hunt paper, a pencil, and a clip board at the desk. The hike is .6 miles long and has a couple steeper areas. Participants should wear sturdy shoes. Come on out to the Beaver Creek Wildlife Education Center for some family fun and see how many of the hidden animals you can find!! Will be canceled in case of bad weather.

August

(C) Saturday, August 1 from 1:00 – 4:30 - Flint Knapping and Arrow Making. Spend some time under the pavilion this afternoon and watch Chip Hudson as he demonstrates how to make arrowheads from different materials and how to make arrows using the arrowheads. You can examine samples of his work, including knives, bows, and arrows, and ask questions. You can even try your hand making an arrowhead!

(C) Sunday, August 2 from 1:00 – 2:00 – Ohio School of Falconry. The Ohio School of Falconry will be set up in front yard of the Wildlife Education Center. Joe Dorian will demonstrate how the birds fly and capture their food and talk about each bird. You will be able to take pictures of the birds. At the end of the program, ten names will be drawn from those attending the program (must be at least 9 years old to do this.) Those people will be able to have one of the birds fly to their arm!

Saturday, August 8 from 11:00 – 12:30 – Amazing Hellbenders! Join some experts in the classroom at the Wildlife Center, and learn about North America's largest salamander, the Eastern Hellbender. You will see two short videos that highlight information about this amazing amphibian. After the videos there will be a discussion panel where you can ask questions and learn how you can help improve Ohio's aquatic habitats so the Hellbender can survive. NRCS, DNAP, and the SWCD have programs to support aquatic habitat to enhance their population.

(C) Saturday, August 15 from 11:00 – 12:30 - Wildlife Watchers 102. Phenology (Say What??) and the Power of Effective Observation. Join BCWEC volunteers Cheryl and Eileen in the classroom at the Wildlife Center. Participants will learn the basics of phenology (as in phenomenon) - which is the method by which many events in nature can be predicted – like when will the hummingbirds arrive? When will the cherry blossoms bloom in D.C.? Tips on improving our observation skills and the basics of nature journaling will be shared. Participants will be provided with an opportunity to practice these skills on the grounds of the Center. Registration required by sending your contact information to edraybardon@yahoo.com. Class size limited to 25. Suitable for age 10 and older.

(C) Sunday, August 16 from 12:00 – 1:30 - Stream Stomp!! Meet Matthew Smith and Ryan Moss from ODNR Div. of Natural Areas and Preserves in the parking lot of Beaver Creek State Park, 12021 Echo Dell Rd., East Liverpool, for a fun time finding critters that live in Little Beaver Creek, a Wild & Scenic River. They will identify what is found and talk about water quality and how it affects these organisms. You must wear boots or closed-toe shoes to get in the creek for this activity. Come prepared to have fun and maybe get wet!! After the program you can have a picnic in the park and then visit the Wildlife Education Center in the afternoon. This event will be cancelled in the case of unsafe high water or rainstorms.

(C) Sunday, August 16 from 1:00 – 4:30 – Observing Nature Up Close. Join BCWEC volunteers as they show images of macroinvertebrates from Beaver Creek under their dissection microscopes. You can learn how microscopes work and examine some of the small living creatures that live in Beaver Creek.

(C) Sunday, August 16 from 1:00 – 4:30 – Carolyn's Nature Craft – Seashell Wind Chimes. Catch the summer breeze! Join wildlife center volunteers under the pavilion and create your very own seashell windchime. You'll design a beachy masterpiece that jingles and sparkles in the wind — a perfect reminder of sunny summer days. Supplies provided for the first 25 participants.

(C) Sunday, August 16 from 1:00 – 4:00 – SCAVENGER HUNT on Logan's Loop Trail!! Kids and their adults can take a fun short hike on Logan's Loop trail, located behind the Beaver Creek Wildlife Education Center, and try to find all the animals on the scavenger hunt list. When the hunt is completed, families will receive a booklet about the animals they found on the trail. Adults can pick up the scavenger hunt paper, a pencil, and a clip board at the desk. The hike is .6 miles long and has a couple steeper areas. Participants should wear sturdy shoes. Come on out to the Beaver Creek Wildlife Education Center for some family fun and see how many of the hidden animals you can find!! Will be canceled in case of bad weather.

(C) Saturday, August 22 from 1 – 4:30 – “Getting Your Energy Along the Food Chain”. Join Wildlife Center volunteer Mary Spooner under the pavilion any time this afternoon and do a fun hands-on interactive activity for all ages to enjoy. Explore where energy comes from and how it moves along the food chain.

September

(C) Sunday, September 6 from 1:00 – 4:30 – “Wetland Metaphores”. Join Wildlife Center volunteer Mary Spooner any time during the afternoon for this fun hands-on activity and discover the importance of wetlands. A wetland serves many purposes and we will use common things to help us discover the jobs performed by wetlands. Reach into the box, pull out an object, and determine how it represents a function of a wetland. Work at your own pace.

(C) Saturday, September 12 from 11:00 – 12:30 - Wildlife Watchers 101. Bird Watching Basics: Habitats, Counts, Feeder Watches, and Tally Sheets. Join BCWEC volunteers Cheryl and Eileen in the classroom at the Wildlife Center to learn the ins and outs of birding and making bird-friendly habitats. This workshop, partially funded by a grant from ODNR, will focus on wildlife habits and observations. Participants will use the Center's bird feeders to learn how to use binoculars and to identify common Ohio feeder birds by sight and by ear. They will also plant some native shrubs and trees to attract birds and other wildlife. Bring your own binoculars or borrow one of ours. Registration required by sending your contact information to edraybardon@yahoo.com. Class size limited to 25. Suitable for age 10 and older.

Saturday, September 19 from 11:00 - 12:30 - Geology of Little Beaver Creek. Why is Beaver Creek such a beautiful area? Because of geology! Join Geologist and BCWEC volunteer Cheryl Mattevi under the pavilion as she explains how the rocks of the area formed, and how glaciers and streams carved the scenic valley. It is a gorgeous gorge! Pack a lunch and stay to see the Center, or take a hike along the stream afterward to see the rocks first hand. Suitable for teens and adults.

(C) Saturday, September 19 from 1:00 – 4:00 - Geology Road Show Rock Hounds of all ages are invited to join geologist Cheryl Mattevi under the pavilion. You can bring rocks, mineral, or fossil specimens to this open house geology time. Whether you just want rock identification, want to learn where to find interesting rocks, or would like some more information on your finds or tips on how to arrange your collection, this presentation is for you.

(C) Sunday, September 20 from 1:00 – 4:30 – Carolyn’s Nature Craft –Tree Cookie Ornament. Get a head start on holiday cheer! Join wildlife center volunteers under the pavilion to create your very own tree cookie ornament. Decorate it with your own creative flair and take home a nature-inspired keepsake that’s perfect for the holidays. Supplies provided for the first 25 participants.

(C) Sunday, September 20 from 1:00 – 4:00 – SCAVENGER HUNT on Logan’s Loop Trail!! Kids and their adults can take a fun short hike on Logan's Loop trail, located behind the Beaver Creek Wildlife Education Center, and try to find all the animals on the scavenger hunt list. When the hunt is completed, families will receive a booklet about the animals they found on the trail. Adults can pick up the scavenger hunt paper, a pencil, and a clip board at the desk. The hike is .6 miles long and has a couple steeper areas. Participants should wear sturdy shoes. Come on out to the Beaver Creek Wildlife Education Center for some family fun and see how many of the hidden animals you can find!! Will be canceled in case of bad weather.

October

(C) Saturday, October 3 from 10 – 5– The Wildlife Education Center will be open extended hours on Saturday for visitors. This is the final weekend the center will be open for the 2026 season.

(C) Sunday, October 4 from 1:00 – 5:00– The Wildlife Education Center will be open for visitors. This is the final day the center will be open for the 2026 season.

(C) Sunday, October 4 from 1:00 – 4:00 – Build a Bird Feeder. Kids age 7 and older and their adults can join Wildlife Education Center volunteers under the pavilion and build a wood bird feeder. All supplies are provided for the first 30 participants.

Sunday, October 4 at 4:00 – Drawing for the raffle items. Will you be the lucky winner of the spot in the Squirrel Taxidermy class for 2027 or the Smart Bird feeder with camera or the fishing charter on Lake Erie? Purchase your tickets in the gift shop at the Wildlife Education Center all season. Winners need not be present.