

The Wilderness Center's Public Programs

The Wilderness Center offers a wide spectrum of programs that are both entertaining and educational for every member of the family.

Environment Investigators is a fun way for us to reinforce science education. Come to The Wilderness Center the first Saturday each month and participate with your children. We band birds, identify trees, test water, investigate insects, and look at stars. As with all programs, members receive first notice for registration. And, *Environment Investigators* is always a sell out.

One of our most exciting events is the *Enchanted Forest*. Each October families are led by robed guides along nighttime forest trails lit by jack-o-lanterns. Along the way they encounter nature's creatures such as the o'possum and shrew, who tell stories of their lives in the forest. Participants are encouraged to dress for the occasion. After the walk families swap stories and ideas about their encounters on the trail while sipping cider and munching pretzels. The *Enchanted Forest* is a fun, educational alternative to Halloween.

Other special events at The Wilderness Center include *Chicken BBQ* in October, *Earthly Delights Auction* in November, birdseed sale in November, Christmas bird count, *Maple Sugaring & Pancake Brunch* in March, *Astronomy Day or Space Day* in March, *Backpacking Day* in April, *International Migratory Bird Day* in May, *Summer Days Enrichment* in July, Spring & Fall *Woodcarvers Shows*, *Storytellers in Concert*, and *Foto Fests*.

There are many exciting courses and workshops to keep you busy at TWC. Some of these include rappelling, canoe trips, environmental yard management, nature identification, and basket making. You may want to try your hand at building a hummingbird feeder or learning how to create a butterfly garden. The possibilities are endless.

We take advantage of the headquarter's tract and the satellite areas which contain many opportunities for interesting nature walks and educational programs. The properties at Zoar Woods, Doughty Gorge, and Wiles Woods, have produced such favorites as fern walks, glacial and ecology talks, and wildflower excursions. Our popular birds and breakfast migration walks draw large groups. In the late summer, TWC's prairies become a blaze of color. Walking through the tall grass gives you a firsthand experience of early prairie openings in Ohio. In Sigrist Woods, you can visit one of the last virgin forest remnants in the state. In addition, you may participate in walks that focus on flowers, weeds, insects, mammals, and ecology.

The activities don't end at sunset. Come listen to the spring peepers and watch the dance of the timber-doodles in the early evening. Join us for an owl prowl. Come late to watch the stars through public star watches, seasonal lectures, and star-fests.

Come to The Wilderness Center in all seasons, at all times of the day or night, in all kinds of weather. Enjoy, marvel, study, revere. We're here for you. Participate in The Wilderness Center.

On the entertainment side, the Storytellers perform two concerts each year, usually in the spring and fall, good times for spooky stories and tall tales. We often have folk and acoustic musical artists for a annual spring concert. The Band Concert each August is always popular.

The Wilderness Center is seldom quiet. The programs provide a wide variety of opportunities and experiences that educate the public in a fun setting. Please accept our invitation to come and be a part of all that The Wilderness Center has to offer.

