

PORTAGE PARK DISTRICT

Monthly Newsletter



Towner's Woods, photo: Brad Bolton

January 5 | 2023

Greetings!

We're really lichen the news we have to share this January! Read on to learn about a rare species found at the Bird Family Bog Preserve this December.

While it's been a damp start this year, we are still finding plenty of ways to share nature knowledge and get out in the parks. Find all programs on our [Things to Do page](#).

In the Parks

State threatened moss observed at Bird Family Bog Preserve



Dichelyma capillaceum was observed by Tomas Curtis, Natural Areas Specialist, in December of 2022. The species is known from less than 10 populations in Ohio and is state threatened. It grows below the high-water line on trees and dead wood in vernal pools.

Why is this significant?

Helping to preserve healthy ecosystems is important. When a species becomes endangered, it is a sign that the ecosystem is slowly falling apart. Each species that is lost triggers the loss of other species within its ecosystem. We depend on healthy ecosystems to purify our environment. Without healthy forests, grasslands, rivers, oceans and other ecosystems, we will not have clean air, water, or land.



Portage Park District hosts Ohio Moss and Lichen Association Annual Meeting

Portage Park District is hosting the Annual Meeting of the Ohio Moss and Lichen Association on February 4. The Association will hold their official business meeting in the morning and offer a workshop at 1p.m. to members of the public.

The **public workshop** will cover the basics of lichens, mosses and liverworts. Those interested in attending can meet the group at 1 p.m. at the Morgan Operations Center, 8505 Nicodemus Rd., Ravenna, OH 44266. [Register here, space is limited.](#)

Upcoming Programs

Hi Everyone!

I'm officially here full time, so I look forward to meeting all of you! We have some fun events coming up, like a Birding for Beginner's Zoom meeting or Owlbert's Adventures Snowflake Hike .. See you on the trails!

-Holly

Try our [self-guided hikes](#) at Trail Lake Park and Seneca



Birding for Beginners (Virtual Program)

Looking for a new hobby to add excitement and the benefit of time spent outdoors to your life? Winter is a great time to take a few small steps toward learning what birds live in Portage County, or just visit during this season. Register to join the fun as our Park Staff share tips to get started birding, and why this inclusive hobby is not only good for you, but for the environment too! This virtual event will be the first of a series of programs to ignite your curiosity for native birds as you learn more along side us.

[Register to receive a zoom link.](#)

Ponds!

All programs and events can be found on our [Things to Do page](#). Make sure you check out all the great ways to engage with nature!

Our education programs require registration - this helps us keep an optimal staff to participant ratio. Join us and learn about the natural world around us.

Upcoming Senior Hikes:
[Senior Hike - January 5](#)
[Senior Hike - January 19](#)

Visit our [YouTube channel](#).



Owlbert's Adventures: Snowflake Hike -

Bundle up to take a closer look at snowflakes with us! Children ages 3-6 and their families will explore snowflakes using magnifying glasses, and discover what weather conditions produce snowflakes. If there is no snow to be found, we will still enjoy a nature hike together as we talk about winter weather and enjoy beautiful Morgan Park.
[Register here.](#)



Gardening for Pollinators -

Join Portage Park District Volunteer and Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist, Denny Reiser, as he shares his experience with creating a pocket garden using plants that benefit our Portage County ecosystems, and why utilizing these native plants is so important- no matter how large or small your garden is.
 photo: Denny Reiser
[Register here.](#)



Winter Tic Tac Toe-

It's time to have a little winter fun! Anytime this month you can click the register button below to download a winter tic tac toe and enjoy the season with these park activities.

Complete at least three activities to form a horizontal, vertical, or diagonal row. Upload a photo of your completed tic tac toe for a chance to win a Portage Park District lanyard and park poster!

[Register here.](#)

Holiday Luncheon Chili Cookoff

This December, we took the opportunity to come together as a staff and enjoy a luncheon. However, in true PPD style, we

added a little flare and had a chili cook off. Pictured to the right is our first time chili champ - Tomas Curtis! Tomas won against 9 other chilis and went home with bragging rights, a chili trophy and some frog gummy snacks.

Our 2021 defending champ, Bob Lange, had this to say, "I'll be back". It seems our natural areas team really knows their chili!



Wild Hikes Challenge

Our **2023 theme is The Year of the Wood frog!** You'll even find some Wood frog facts on your hiking form this year.

To participate, download your **Wild Hikes form**, and complete hikes before December 31st to earn a hiking staff and/or a 2023 Wild Hikes medallion. Dogs can earn rewards too!

Our office is open for rewards pick-ups. **Email Eric** to schedule a time to get your rewards.

Visit our website

