

# HOCKING HILLS STATE PARK NATURALIST PROGRAMS



## DECEMBER 2021 – FEBRUARY 2022

All programs are subject to change. Notify the naturalist if special accommodations are needed for your participation. Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

### Thu, Dec. 2 **Scat-venture Hunt! 11am**

Ever wonder what an animal is telling you when they leave a little something special behind on the trail? Meet the naturalist at the Visitor Center entrance for a ½ mile hike through Old Man's Cave to find out why we are excited about scat!

### Fri, Dec. 3 **Trees Transition from Fall to Winter, 11am**

Join the naturalist as we walk through Old Man's Cave gorge and see how trees survive the winter. Meet at the Visitor Center entrance for a 1-mile hike. Please dress for the weather!

### Sat, Dec. 4 **Wonderful Waterfalls, 10am** - Meet the Naturalist at the Visitors Center for a moderate hike to explore the waterfalls of Old Man's Cave.

**Fireside with a naturalist at Old Man's Cave, 2-4pm.** Join the naturalist for a fireside chat at the naturalist cabin behind the visitor center on pine tar kilns.

### Thu, Dec. 9 **Animal Charades! 11am** - Let's play charades!

Please join us inside the Visitor's Center on the second floor for family fun!

### Fri, Dec. 10 **Evergreens, and the Origin of the Christmas Tree, 1pm** - Join the naturalist behind the Visitor center to learn about evergreens of the area and how they became a Christmas tradition.

### Sat, Dec. 11 **Christmas at Ash Cave** - See Sidebar

### Thu, Dec. 16 **What Are Ohio's Reptiles Up To? 11am** - What are Ohio's reptiles doing this winter? And where did they go? Come find out at the Old Man's Cave Visitor's Center

### Fri, Dec. 17 **Christmas for the Critters, 11am** - Meet our naturalist in the Visitor Center to discover different ways animals can use your old Christmas tree! (We do not accept trees)

### CHRISTMAS AT ASH CAVE Saturday, Dec. 11 5 – 7pm

Come bundled up to enjoy a lighted stroll back to Ash Cave. There will be fun activities, an old-fashioned Santa, and warm refreshments. Join us in decorating our wildlife tree and enjoy the winter landscape.

### Visitors Center

Hours: 10am-4pm daily  
Gift Shop: 11am-4pm daily

19988 SR-664 Logan, OH 43138

Contact the Naturalist with questions: (740) 603-9538

*Hours subject to change*



*Recreation programs and activities can be inherently dangerous. Participants accept and acknowledge that any injury or property damage that occurs during a program or activity is not the responsibility of ODNR or its naturalist educators.*

**Sat, Dec. 18 Tracks in the Snow, 10am** – Meet the naturalist at the Old Man’s Cave Visitors Center for a short hike on the Gorge Overlook trail to discover what critters enjoy the parks trails! Come dressed accordingly to the weather.

**Fire side with a naturalist at Old Man’s Cave, 2-4pm** - Join our naturalist for a fireside chat at the naturalist cabin behind the nature center to learn about our mammal skulls and furs.

**Thu, Dec. 23 Hemlock Talk, 11am** - We will discover why Eastern Hemlocks make the Hocking Hills so special and how they are different from other trees. Meet the naturalist at the Visitor Center entrance for a 1-mile hike! Please dress warm and bring ice cleats and trekking poles if you have them.

**Thu, Dec. 30 Native American Games, 10am-Noon**  
Come to the Visitor’s Center to learn about how Native Americans have shaped the Hocking Hills region and have fun playing some traditional Native American games!

**Thu, Jan. 6 Raptor and Owl Pellet Dissection, 10am** Join us in the Old Man’s Cave Visitor Center to see what our raptors have been eating!

**Fri, Jan. 7 Make your Own Bird Feeder! 1pm** - Come join the naturalist in the Visitor Center and make yourself a pinecone bird feeder. (Peanut butter will be used in this craft)

**Sat, Jan. 8 Frozen Landscapes, 10am** – Meet the naturalist at the Cedar Falls trail head for a short hike to see some of the magnificent ice formations that form in the gorges of the Hocking Hills. Please bring ice cleats or walking sticks (or both) and dress warm for the weather.

**Old Man’s Cave Visitors Center, 2-4pm** - Join the naturalist for a fun time in the snow. Learn how to build a snow shelter. If there is no snow, join our naturalist for a guided historic tour of our visitor center.

**Thu, Jan. 13 Scat-venture Hunt! 11am** - Ever wonder what an animal is telling you when they leave a little something special behind on the trail? Meet the naturalist at the Visitor Center entrance for a ½ mile hike through Old Man’s Cave to find out why we are excited about scat!

**Fri, Jan. 14 Surviving the winter, 11am** - Join the naturalist in front of the visitor center on a ½ mile hike through Old Man’s Cave gorge to learn how animals cope with cold weather. Dress warm for the weather.

**Sat. Jan. 15 56th Annual Winter Hike 9-11am.** See Sidebar

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**56<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Hike**  
**Saturday, Jan. 15**  
**Starting at 9am; Until 11am**  
Join us for our annual winter hike! The hike starts at upper falls and ends 6 miles down the trail at Ash cave. Be sure to dress for the winter weather. Naturalists will be stationed along route with fun activities.



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF  
**NATURAL  
RESOURCES**

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- Thu, Jan 20 Raptor and Owl Pellet Dissection, 10am** - Join us in the Visitor Center to see what our raptors have been eating!
- Fri, Jan. 21 Guess the Predator, 1pm** - Join the naturalist in this mysterious case of Who Done It! where we will study 3 predator-prey crime scenes and determine the culprit! Meet at the Visitor Center entrance to begin the investigation.
- Sat, Jan. 22 Nature's Tiny Architects, 10am** - Join the naturalist at the Old Man's Cave Visitors Center to explore the varieties of nests our small, feathered friends make with just their beaks! Try your "hand" at making a nest of your own!
- Critter tracking, 2-3pm** - Join the naturalist for a critter tracking game starting at the Visitor center. Please remember to dress for the cold.
- Thu, Jan. 27 Bat Box Demo, 11am-1pm** - Learn how to make a bat box that will give female bats a summer maternity roost to refuge in, instead of your attic!
- Fri, Jan. 28 Cave Formation, 1pm** - Meet the naturalist at the Cedar Falls trailhead for a half mile hike. Learn how caves of the area were formed.
- Sat, Jan. 29 The Wonders of Ash Cave, 10am** - Join the naturalist at the Ash Cave trail head for an easy, historic hike to Ash Cave. Please dress appropriately for the weather and bring ice cleats or hiking sticks (or both) for a safer hike. This is a flat, paved trail totaling at a 1/2-mile hike.
- Fireside chat, 2-4pm** - Join the naturalist for a fireside chat about flint knapping. Meet at the naturalist cabin behind the visitor center.
- Thu, Feb. 3 Hemlock Talk, 11am** - We will discover why Eastern Hemlocks make the Hocking Hills so special and how they are different from other trees. Meet the naturalist at the Visitor Center entrance for a 1-mile hike! Please dress warm and bring ice cleats and trekking poles if you have them.
- Fri, Feb. 4 Winter Prints, 11am** - Meet the naturalist at the Visitor center to play a guessing game! Can you guess what animals left their prints in the snow?
- Sat, Feb. 5 Wonderful Waterfalls, 10am** - Meet the Naturalist in front of the Visitors Center for a moderate hike to explore the waterfalls of Old Man's Cave. Please dress appropriately for the weather and bring along ice cleats or hiking sticks as the trails may be ice-covered.

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**Sat, Feb. 5 Old Man's Cave Visitors Center, 2-4pm** - Join the naturalist in the visitor center for a skulls and furs program.

**Thu, Feb. 10 Native American Games, 10am-Noon**  
Come to the Visitor's Center to learn about how Native Americans have shaped the Hocking Hills region and have fun playing some traditional Native American games!

**Fri, Feb. 11 Skulls and Furs, 1pm** - Meet the naturalist at the Visitor Center to learn about internal structures of the animals in our area

**Sat, Feb. 12 Sweethearts Hike 5-7pm.** See sidebar

**Thu, Feb. 17 Raptor and Owl Pellet Dissection, 10am** - Join us in the Visitor Center to see what our raptors have been eating!

**Fri, Feb. 18 Make your Own Bird Feeder! 1pm** - Come join the naturalist in the Visitor Center and make yourself a pinecone bird feeder. (Peanut butter will be used in this craft)

**Sat, Feb. 19 Cedar Falls Stroll, 10am** - Meet the naturalist at the Cedar Falls trail for a short hike to Hocking's largest volumed waterfall. Please dress appropriately for the weather and bring along ice cleats or hiking sticks as the trails may be ice-covered.

**Fireside chat, 2-4pm** - Join the naturalist at the naturalist cabin behind the visitor center, for a fireside chat on the history of pine tar kilns.

**Thu, Feb. 24 Bat Box Demo, 11am-1pm** - Learn how to make a bat box that could give female bats a refuge for their maternity roost! Meet the naturalist inside the Visitor's Center on the second floor.

**Fri, Feb. 25 Guess the Predator, 1pm** - Join the naturalist in this mysterious case of Who Done It, where we will study 3 predator-prey crime scenes and determine the culprit! Meet at the Visitor Center entrance to begin the investigation.

**Sat, Feb. 26 Nature's Tiny Architects, 10am** - Join the naturalist at the Old Man's Cave Visitors Center to explore the varieties of nests our small, feathered friends make with just their beaks! Try your "hand" at making a nest of your own!

**Critter tracking, 2-4pm** - Join the naturalist for a critter tracking game starting at the Visitor center. Please remember to dress for the cold.

## **Sweethearts Hike Saturday, Feb. 12 5-7pm**

Bring your sweetheart to enjoy a wintertime stroll to Ash Cave. Meet at the Ash Cave parking lot. Be sure to bundle up for the weather. Warm refreshments will be provided. Walking sticks and ice cleats are suggested.

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