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7-20-19

Dear Matt,

Please accept into Public Comments the enclosed full page newspaper comment in the Tiffin Advertiser-Tribune on 7-20-19, from Tiffin's Airport In Opposition to wind turbines in Seneca County as a matter of air traffic safety.

17-2295-EL-BGN Republic Wind
18-0488-EL-BGN Seneca Wind
18-1607-E-BGN Firelands Wind

Thank you

Respectfully,
Diane + Joe Hudok
6300 S. TR 151
Tiffin, OHIO 44883
Eden Township - Seneca County
Phone 419-443-0533

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PARK PROGRAMS

Tiffin Park & Recreation

A Food, Friends and Fun at Oakley Park event is planned for noon-2 p.m. Friday. The program offers warm lunches, organized games, crafts and activities at the park. Parents, grandparents or child care professionals are encouraged to participate and should stay for the duration of the program. All of the events are Oakley Park. The last date is Aug. 9.

For more information on programs or to sign up for summer camps, visit www.tiffinparks.com or call (419) 448-5408.

Seneca County

Join Seneca County Park District for an evening hike at 7:30 p.m. Monday at Springville Marsh State Nature Preserve, 12250 TR 24, Carey. Participants can spend an evening walking the trail and learning about the marsh. The walk lasts about 1 1/2 hours and qualifies for the Walking Stick Program.

There are three hikes every month that qualify for the Walking Stick Program. One hike is at Garlo preserve and is a nature walk bird talk. The second hike is at a different nature preserve with a different theme, which varies by month. And the third hike is a full moon hike. Attend four hikes and earn a walking stick. Attend another four hikes and earn a medallion for the walking stick and so on. There is no time limit for earning a walking stick. Benefits include getting a little exercise, seeing some wildlife, meeting new people on the trail and having fun.

Make pinecone zinnias during a Craft Creations program at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at Garlo Heritage Nature Preserve, 6777 S. SR 19, Bloomville. Participants can create their own bouquet of zinnia flowers from pinecones. Supplies are provided. All ages are welcome. Registration is required.

For more information or to register for programs, call (419) 447-8091 or email lrose@senecacounty-parks.com. Visit the website at senecacounty-parks.com.

Sandusky County

A Senior Stroll is planned for 9:30 a.m. Monday at Sandusky County Park District's Creek Bend Farm, Lindsey. People ages 55 and older can explore the parks with the series of slower but steady strolls. Registration is required.

People interested in getting into the river to help with fish research are invited to Creek Bend Farm at 4 p.m. July 28. Participants will help survey fish populations in Muddy Creek. Registration is required.

For more information or to register, visit lovemyparks.com or call (419) 334-4495.

Crawford County

Kids up to fifth grade accompanied by an adult can learn about pond life at 6 p.m. Monday at Lowe-Volk Park, 2401 SR 598, Crestline. Kids can join Joy Etter-Link to find out what animals thrive in ponds, and then take a stroll around the pond and use aquatic nets to see what they can catch.

Children are invited to Sticks and Stones Toddler Trot at 6 p.m. Tuesday at Lowe-Volk Park. People say they'll break your bones, but they are so much fun to play with. Join Josh and McKinley in using sticks and stones to construct towers, shelters, fairy houses or something else. For kids not quite in school and younger. Registration is required.

All ages are invited to an archery program at 6 p.m. Thursday at Lowe-Volk Park. Whether for sport, food or fun, archery is an outdoor activity that gets people away from the hustle and gadgets of life, and focusing on one thing - hitting the target. Join Josh, Lisa and Abby for an evening archery shoot that will include an introduction to archery safety and shooting basics. Equipment is provided. No registration is required.

A canoeing program is planned for 10 a.m. Saturday at Neff Reservoir. Join Lisa and Josh for a late morning paddle, and to learn some canoeing basics. Registration is required by Friday.

Viewing the Night Sky is planned for 9 p.m. Saturday at Lowe Volk Park. Join Crawford Park Astronomy Club as they share their knowledge and telescope skills with those interested in celestial sights. Take a telescope along or allow the volunteers assist with those provided. Sky targets include m-87, a giant elliptical galaxy where scientists recently took a photo of its massive black hole; m-104, the Sombrero Galaxy; m-44, an open cluster called the Beehive Cluster; Mizar and Alcor, also called "The Horse and Rider, in the handle of the Big Dipper. The astronomy club meets each fourth Saturday after sunset.

Visitors are invited to watch feeding day at 2 p.m. June 30 at Lowe-Volk Park. Fruits, vegetables, leafy greens, shrimp, worms and mice might be on the menu for the animals in the nature center.

For more information, contact (419) 683-9000 or visit www.crawfordparkdistrict.org.

Wildlife council receives fishing regulation proposals

COLUMBUS — Ohio Wildlife Council received several new fishing proposals at its recent meeting, according to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife. If approved, proposed regulations will take effect Jan. 1, 2020.

The Division of Wildlife proposed to increase the number of lines per angler to three while fishing in Ohio's portion of Lake Erie, including areas immediately upstream in creeks, rivers and tributaries. Under current regulations, an angler can fish with up to two lines simultaneously statewide.

On the Ohio River, it was proposed to reduce the combined daily bag limit of sauger, saugeye or walleye to six fish. An additional proposal would establish the sauger, saugeye and walleye length limit at 14 inches in the western fishing unit (South Point west to the Indiana state line). These proposals are designed to align Ohio River fishing regulations with bordering states.

It was further proposed to move Ohio's free fishing dates to Father's Day weekend annually.

Additionally, Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area reservoir has been drained and proposed to be removed from site-specific regulations.

A complete list of proposals is available at wildohio.gov. A statewide public hearing on the proposed rules will be held at the ODNR Division of Wildlife's District One office Sept. 12.

GARDENING

Learning about the squash family

This year I have planted several members of the squash/cucumber family — the cucurbits. The family can be recognized by its herbaceous vines with tendrils, separate male and female flowers, and female flowers with an inferior (found below the petals) ovary. There are cucumbers, summer and winter squash growing as well as hard-shelled gourds and luffa. The last two groups are growing so I can get pictures of their vines and flowers for a talk in November. This is a fascinating family, important economically for all the edible squash, pumpkins, cucumbers and melons.

Susan Carty is a local gardener.

The summer squash growing is zucchini but there does not seem to be the usual insect pollinators so I help. Male flowers can be recognized by just a stem coming from the base of the flower and a column of stamens in the center. I pick one, peel off the petals to expose the stamens and pollen and bring it over to a female flower. Female flowers can be recognized by the little zucchini beneath the petals and a more complex center to the flower. The interior of the female flower gets swabbed by the pollen laden stamens.

Cucumber flowers are much smaller so its up to natural pollinators to do the job but you can still see tiny cucumbers beneath the female flowers. Usually there are many more male flowers than female and they bloom first, getting your hopes up for cucumbers, but you have to wait until the female flowers start blooming. Cucumbers are very good at hiding, you can search the vines a couple of times but will still miss a couple hiding. Its fun, trying to outwit a cucumber. Strawberries are also good at hiding but cucumbers are the champs. I grow pickling cukes and just made the first pints of dill pickles using fresh dill and garlic from the garden.

Winter squash with thicker skins, such as butternut, have vines that really run so they were planted in the bookcase raised beds at a distance from the main garden. The drawback to that its many leaves were missing the other morning, probably deer snacks.

Hard-shelled gourds are interesting in that they have white, night-blooming flowers. To ensure pollination I'm out in the garden about 8:30 in the evening transferring pollen from male to female flowers. The flowers are crumpled by the morning. I planted martin/birdhouse gourds since I use them (beloved by wrens) for birdhouses and give many birdhouses away.

Luffa (vegetable sponge) is usually not recognized as plant material at all, let alone a cucurbit, but it has the characteristic vine with tendrils and separate male and female flowers. The leaves and vines are rank smelling and usually have ants on them. Flowers are in clusters so maybe the ants can move between male and female flowers pollinating but I am not leaving it to chance.

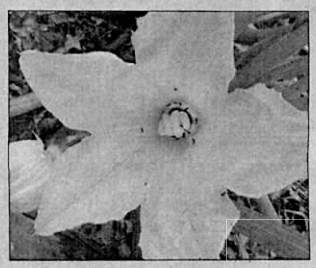
Hand pollinating serves another purpose as cucurbits will cross pollinate. I have seen crown of thorns (soft-shelled gourd) – spaghetti squash hybrids, and the warty pumpkins you sometimes see now received those warty genes from a gourd. If you grow different cucurbits, or buy squash or gourds, the seeds you save may not grow into what you expect. We also have a couple of native cucurbit species (wild cucumber) that may get into the cross pollination act if grown too close to a garden.

Have fun!

Susan Carty is a local gardener and a professor emerita of biology at Heidelberg University. Contact her via:news room@advertiser-tribune.com

PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Zucchini flowers: male side view, opened, and female side view and front view.



OUTDOOR BRIEFS

FELC hosting Summer Gala

Franciscan Earth Literacy Center's 12th annual Summer Harvest Gourmet Gala is set for 6-9:30 p.m. Aug. 9.

Tickets are on sale for a gourmet dinner and festivities under a large tent on the St. Francis grounds, 200 St. Francis Ave.

Cost is $75 per ticket, or $520 per table of eight. Deadline to RSVP is Aug. 2.

Honorary co-chairpeople are Anne Lange DeVine and Rob Huntington.

For tickets, call Linda at (419) 447-0435 or buy them online www.felctiffin.org.

Join ODNR at state fair

COLUMBUS -- The Ohio Department of Natural Resources is hosting outdoors activities at the Ohio State Fair July 24-Aug. 4 at its 8-acre park, which features a variety of shows, displays and interactive exhibits that will provide visitors with a glimpse into the many outdoor recreational activities Ohio has to offer.

This year, the Natural Resources Park celebrates Smokey Bear's 75th birthday. One of the most popular Ohio State Fair traditions for guests of all ages is talking with Smokey, the 14-foot-tall animatronic bear who greets everyone by name and educates visitors about preventing wildfires. This year, fairgoers can use the new Commemorative Smokey Bear Snapchat filter to celebrate 75 years of preventing wildfires. It's a great addition to your fair pictures or selfie with Ohio's favorite bear. The gift shop, located near the information booth, offers a variety of items including 75th anniversary Smokey Bear souvenirs.

In addition, the park offers:

- Amphitheater with free entertainment daily, such as lumberjacks, musical acts, Columbus Zoo animals, and retriever dogs.
- Kayak pond and personal watercraft simulator.
- Indoor air gun and archery building.
- Butterfly house and wildlife boardwalk.
- Kids fishing pond with bluegill.
- Geological walkway through Ohio's history.
- Camper Village and trail.

Located in the southeast corner of the fairgrounds, the park is open 9 a.m.-7 p.m. daily with most activities starting at 11 a.m. Activities are free with fair admission.

For more information or to check out the daily amphitheater schedule, visit ohiodnr.gov/statefair.

For more information about the Ohio State Fair, visit ohiostatefair.com.

ODNR to host state forest open house meetings

COLUMBUS -- The Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry invites the public to attend any of four regional open houses in late July and early August to learn more about management plans for Ohio's state forests.

The northwest Ohio meeting is set for 4:30-6:30 p.m. Aug. 1 for Maumee and Mohican Memorial state forests at the Findlay district office, 952 Lima Ave., Findlay. Call (419) 424-5004 for more information.

"Our state forests offer many ecological and economic benefits to Ohio," said Dan Balser, chief of the Division of Forestry. "The open house process allows us to strategically plan for the future, and we carefully consider comments from the many constituents and users of our diverse state forests."

Division of Forestry forest managers and foresters develop annual work plans to guide management activities for each of Ohio's 22 state forests covering more than 200,000 acres combined. These open houses provide an opportunity for the public to better understand and comment on Ohio's plans for sustainable forestry, which include recreation, treating invasive species, prescribed burning and timber harvesting.

Other meetings are in Athens July 31, Chillicothe Aug. 6 and Bloomingdale Aug. 7.

Comments will be accepted for up to 30 days after the respective open house. Open house information and annual work plans will also be posted on the Division of Forestry website at forestry.ohiodnr.gov.

Canoe instructor course gets national recognition

COLUMBUS — Ohio's canoe instructor course has become the third paddling skills curriculum in the nation to earn the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators' Verified Course mark. Developed by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, the curriculum will be used to train and certify natural resources officers, naturalists, local boating education partners and others in paddling instruction.

The course was reviewed by a third-party assessment panel which confirmed that the content conforms to the American National Standards for on-the-water skills.

With the support of the Seneca County Commissioners and the surrounding community since 1968, we have been seeking and receiving federal and state grants to remove houses and obstacles in the object free area around the Seneca County Airport. Removing these obstacles was in compliance with FAA guidelines to make the airport safer for private and commercial air traffic. It is very troubling that we now have local officials that support the construction of industrial wind turbines in Seneca County. These turbines would definitely be a safety hazard to air traffic. They will directly affect the landing approach to the airport. If turbines are built, it will change the landing minimums and thus the safety factor at the local airport. This could deter airplanes (including small jets) from landing and in return, deter business within Seneca County. They will also affect a medical helicopter's ability to land at the scene of a nearby accident. Seneca County is a rural community with substantial agriculture. The National Aerial Applicators Association (crop sprayers) are against the wind turbines in an agricultural community for safety reasons. They will obviously be unable to spray or seed fields in the vicinity of these turbines. From an aviation perspective, wind turbines are not desirable in Seneca County.

Tiffin Aire Inc.
by: Brad & Kim Newman

We support Tiffin Aire and the Seneca County Airport:

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by Steve Everhart

Tiffin Stor-N-Lock
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