

Cedar Bog Review

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Autumn 2021

**Mike Crackel, Site Manager,
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A word from our Site Manager:

What a busy year we've had! Lots of visitors have enjoyed the many plants and animals that can be found at the Bog. The wildflowers have been spectacular this past year. Everything has been growing like crazy!

Keeping up with everything that needs to be done in the preserve has been a challenge. Keeping up with trimming around the boardwalk to keep it open has been a job in itself.

We have had some help from several organizations, working to remove invasive species and restore habitat. It is hard work but the rewards are worth the efforts.

Given everything that needs to be done to maintain this incredible place, volunteers are much needed. We could not do everything and remain open if it were not for the efforts of our volunteers. We are very grateful for everything they do!

Mike Crackel

2021 Calendar of Events

Our final event of the year is coming up quickly. Boo in the Bog will be Friday and Saturday, October 8th and 9th from 6:00pm – 8:30pm.

Come join us for this outdoor, family friendly event. Guides will lead visitors around the jack-o-lantern lit boardwalk to learning stations. Volunteer naturalists will give a short presentation about some of the different animals that can be found here at the Bog. You can also enjoy some not so scary stories around a bonfire (weather permitting). Food and beverages will be available for purchase.

Admission is \$5.00 for adults and \$4.00 for students. Children 5 and under are free.



THE BOG HERMIT

I'm sure many of you have heard stories about a "Bog Hermit" who lived in or near Cedar Bog. Here is a bit of information that came our way recently:

David Orrin Steinberger was born on March 25, 1857 in Champaign County, one of six children born to George and Barbara Elizabeth Funk Steinberger. He attended a nearby common school at an early age and during the 1873-1874 school year enrolled in the Wittenberg Preparatory Department. By the following year he was in the Sub Freshman Class. Steinberger later studied at the National Design and Art League Schools in New York City, and in 1894, returned to Wittenberg College to teach art.

During the Spanish American War Steinberger drew the "Accoloid" otherwise known as an allegorical picture of Cuba, and donated the drawing to the American Red Cross.

Around 1900 he was stricken with tuberculosis. Believing a cure could be found if he moved west, Steinberger traveled to Colorado for a time, but returned to his father's farm having made the decision

to live the remainder of his life outdoors. His home for over 14 years was a combination tree house and cabin built at the base of a tall oak tree, along the banks of Mad River on Route 68, a mile south of the Champaign County line. A tree house he called "Camp A Loft" was constructed for him on the farm. Steinberger's health improved considerably with outdoor living, so much that he believed it to be a cure and never again lived his life surrounded by four walls.

Steinberger became known as "the man who lived in a tree", and as "the Hermit of Mad River". He died on Dec 12, 1945 at the age of 88. He is buried in Ferncliff Cemetery in Springfield.

Thank you to Kristina Kitchen from the Springfield Historical Society for this article.



David Orrin Steinberger



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The Cedar Bog Association is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization tasked with running and maintaining Cedar Bog Nature Preserve. Volunteers are necessary to accomplish that mission.

We need volunteers! If you have ever wanted to help or give back to something worthwhile, we need you. No experience or special skills are needed. We can find some way you can help. If you have people skills and have run a cash register, your help in our Nature Center is much needed. Anyone with a general knowledge of the Bog can be trained to work with visitors and guide tours. Habitat maintenance will always be a never-ending job.

If you are available just one or two days a month (or more), we could use your help. Even just one day a month can make a big difference. It is up to all of us to help keep Cedar Bog open to the public and to preserve this incredible place.



PLEASE HELP!

We are also looking for volunteers to bolster our Board of Trustees committees. We need some fresh ideas and perspectives. All committees are chaired by one of our board members and include other board members and Cedar Bog Association volunteers.

Our committees handle everything from event scheduling to enticing new volunteers to grant writing to fundraising to writing the newsletter and social media. If you have a special skill or passion, please consider helping with one of our committees.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Site Manager Mike Crackel in the Nature Center or call 937-484-3744 and leave a message. We will be glad to call you back and find the right place for you at Cedar Bog.

Mike

Donations can be made quickly and securely by credit card or through your PayPal account. Please scan the QR Code below to be taken to our donation page. Thank you for supporting The Cedar Bog Association.



2021 Cedar Bog Sightings



Sleepy Barred Owl

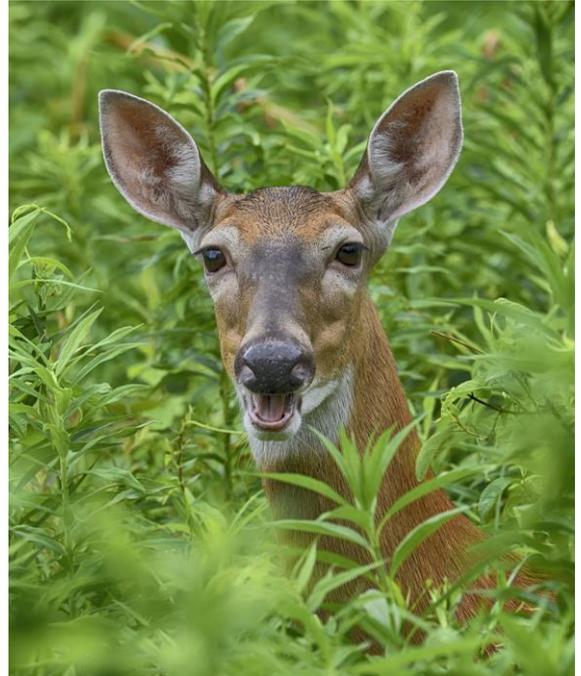


Hummingbird Moth on Manarda

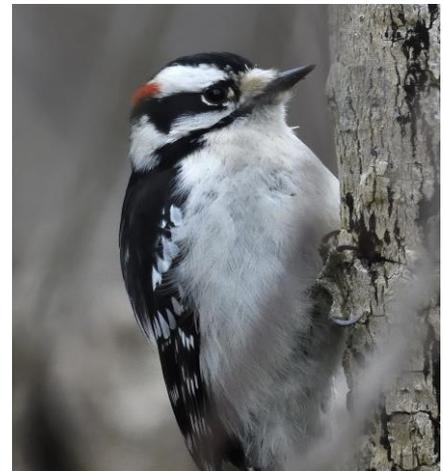


Juvenile Gray Ratsnake

2021 Cedar Bog Sightings



White-tailed Deer



Downy Woodpecker



Tiger Swallowtail on Teasel

We have been working with several agencies on habitat restoration this past year. The Ohio Natural Areas and Preserves Association (ONAPA) and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Natural Areas and Preserves (DNAP) and numerous volunteers have worked service days to clear and restore habitat. The hope is this effort will benefit the Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnakes that call Cedar Bog home. The corridor created between known habitat and restored prairie habitat should allow the Massasaugas to expand into new areas. One more service day is scheduled for October 19, 2021.



Before



After

More Ways to Give

A membership to the Cedar Bog Association is the perfect way to support Cedar Bog. Memberships allow access to the boardwalk any time the preserve is open and to educational programs throughout the year. Please consider becoming a member or giving a gift membership to your favorite naturalist! More information can be found on our website at:
<https://www.cedarbognp.org/get-involved/>

Please be aware that the ENTIRE Preserve, including the boardwalk, will be closed to the public on the following days:

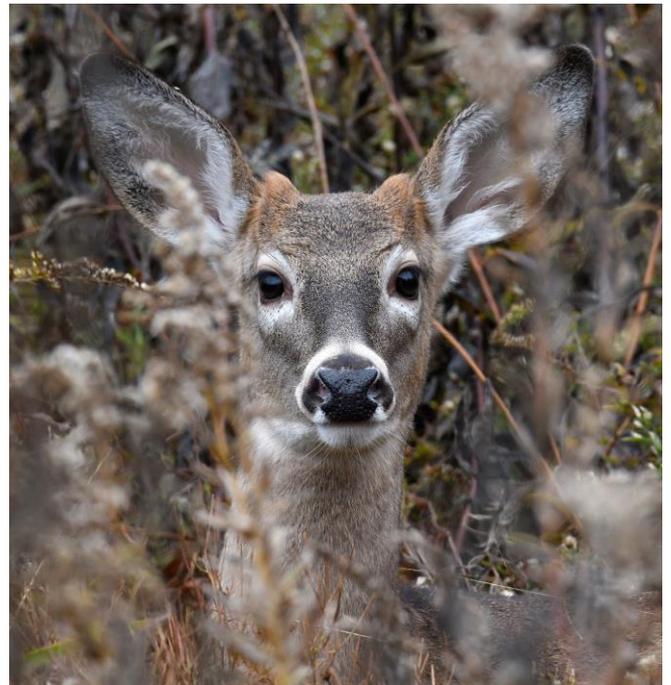
November 20 - 21, 2021

November 29 - December 5, 2021

December 18 - 19, 2021

January 8 - 11, 2022

Thank you for everyone's cooperation.



Due to rising postage, printing and handling costs, all future Newsletters will be distributed by email only. Please make sure we have a current, active email address when you renew your membership. If you still wish to have a paper copy of the newsletter, you may pick one up at the Nature Center during normal open hours. Thank you for your understanding.