



Fernald Preserve Update

Although I enjoyed my temporary assignment as a team leader in the Office of Legacy Management, it's great to be back at Fernald as the site manager. I consider it the best job in the Department of Energy. I want to thank Art Kleinrath for serving as acting site manager during my absence.

Now that 2011 has arrived, I want to summarize our 2010 activities and accomplishments and give you a preview of our plans for this year. Nearly 10,000 people visited the Visitors Center in 2010 and spent time in the exhibit area, used the Community Meeting Room, or attended an event highlighting the site. In keeping with our education mission, we were able to increase the number of elementary, secondary, and college students that used the site to 1,400 in 2010. We also saw sizeable increases in the number of senior citizen, Boy and Girl Scout, and conservation groups that visited the site. Last year, nearly 2,000 people used The Community Meeting Room, which is available free of charge for use by local non-profit organizations. The Community Meeting Room was the setting for, among other things, an Eagle Scout ceremony and Cub Scout pack meetings. In addition, new events were added, such as Eggstravaganza, Goodness Snakes, Nature's Kaleidoscope, Turkey Walk and Talk, and the New Year's Eve hike that drew large numbers of people to the site.

On the natural resource front for the year, Fernald participated in the [North American Butterfly Association](#) butterfly count, which was the first step in developing an inventory of butterfly species for the site. We increased our site bird list to over 200 species with sightings of the black-necked stilt, Wilson's phalarope, and merlin. We also continued our participation in the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas project and the [National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count](#). New birds are regularly being added to the Fernald Preserve's list.



The following upcoming activities at the Fernald Preserve have been scheduled, so mark your calendars and come join the fun.

On Saturday, March 26, at 7:30 p.m., we will highlight our twilight-dancing feathered friend, the [American woodcock](#). Then we will walk out to an open field, where we hope to hear and locate this amazing shorebird that lives in the forest. It may start a spectacular sky dance of ascending spirals and downward swoops, all intended to attract a mate.

All day Saturday, April 23, 2011, we'll be highlighting the site's 140 acres of water habitat, including open water, wetlands, and vernal pools. Stop by the Visitors Center for a dip net and instructions on how to catch, observe, and identify aquatic insects and amphibians. You will also have the opportunity to become a water molecule moving through the water cycle, in a fun, active, hands-on game. See an amazing demonstration of a hidden treasure—groundwater. Make a craft, build an aquatic food web, learn cool facts like how beavers eat underwater without drowning, and more.



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Remember, I'm very interested in your ideas and suggestions for ways to improve the programs and facilities at the Fernald Preserve, so please feel free to stop by my office in the Visitors Center, or you can contact me at (513) 648-3148 or [e-mail](#).

We at the Fernald Preserve wish you a safe and healthy 2011.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Powell".

Jane Powell
U.S. Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management
Fernald Preserve Site Manager

3/11



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