

Friends Caring for Cowan Lake

SEASONAL NEWSLETTER



Adena mound artifacts and fossils—Photo courtesy of Wade Hall

A Blast from the Past....

Fifty years ago Cowan Lake was designated a state park. But as is the case everywhere we go there is more to the story. There's the ancient history of indigenous people, including Adena burial mounds in Cowan Lake and settlers to the area which over time became primarily farming land. The lake began as an idea in the 30's with the Army Corp of Engineers. The Corp project never developed, so local funding and support developed the lake for recreation. The Spillway/dam was completed and the lake began to fill in 1950. Cowan Lake was then named a State Park in 1968. The lake is mainly supplied from Cowan Creek (named after pioneer surveyor John Cowan) and Wilson Creek. The lake is 700 acres and has one island (Austin Island) named after the last family living on the current land which is now the park. Today beautiful wooded areas surround the lake. Learn more about the history and the natural wonders of the park by visiting the Naturalist Cabin including artifacts from one of the Adena mounds excavated in 1949.



Help us celebrate Cowan Lake's 50th birthday on the weekend of July 21st and 22nd—hope to see you there!

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Fond Farewells

It is with great sadness that I will soon be leaving Cowan Lake. Cowan Lake State Park holds such a special place in my heart, as I know it does for so many of you. It is full to the brim with shady hiking paths, incredible biodiversity in our plants and wildlife, and stunning wildflower displays. Cowan Lake is truly a jewel in the Ohio State Park system.

As I prepare to take a step into my next horizon, I will carry this place with me. From the dive of an osprey, to the slap of a beaver tail, to the majesty of a bald eagle flying overhead, the sights and sounds will continue to surround me. The beautiful blooms of our American Lotus, filling the air with their gentle fragrance on a soft summer evening, will take my breath away for years to come.

I know that this incredible park will continue to blossom in countless wonderful ways, and I wish both the Park and all of you the best for the future adventures that await!





Green Up Day - Photo courtesy of Wade Hall

WHAT IS THAT?



You have probably noticed several tree shelters in the park. These tubes (recycled milk cartons) protect newly planted seedlings from deer, rabbits, and mowers. The shelters also act as a greenhouse promoting faster and healthier growth. Volunteers are planting native trees for the future. If interested in helping, please contact trees@cowanlakestatepark.com.

Volunteer Opportunities

If you want a chance to give back to the parks we have several opportunities. Not all of them occur during the weekends and times depending on the activity of course vary.

- Trail maintenance team
- Assisting with paddling and/or archery programs
- Assisting with park events

If you are interested in any of these, please contact volunteer@cowanlakestatepark.com

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Upcoming Events

Pollination Celebration June 22nd and 23rd Starts 7 pm Friday

Be part of National Pollinator Week by participating in our events starting Friday night at the camp ground shelter, a scavenger hunt on the Saturday and investigate our pollinators on the park Saturday afternoon

Jake's Event June 23rd 10 am—2 pm

Come visit with the National Wild Turkey Federation for this kid friendly event. Fishing, archery, paddle sports, and a full range of fun activities.

4th of July Camp Out June 29th-July 4th

Come celebrate Independence Day at Cowan Lake State Park. Make your reservation early.

Lake Fest/50th Birthday July 21st and 22nd

Cowan Lake State Park is turning 50 this year! Come help us celebrate Cowan Lake and our community-Overnight camping on the beach, bonfires, races, kayaking, sailing, fishing, and more! Check out our website for more details. Schedule posted soon!

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