

# The Co-Hiker



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## Member News ...

### Hiking Milestones

Connie Sheridan ..... 1,000 miles!  
 Mike Passerini ..... 500 miles!

### Current Board Members

*President*.....John Troutman  
*VP/Trail Master* ..... Connie Sheridan  
*Secretary*..... Linda Coe  
*Treasurer* ..... Gerlinde Lott  
*Co-Hiker Editor*.....Jamie Abel  
*Membership* .....Kate Graham  
*Special Events*.....Jeanne Barbee  
*Historian*.....Betty Bradley  
*Social Events* .....Carol Beal  
*Webmaster* ..... Kathy Lince

### Prayer of the Woods

*I am the heat of your hearth on the cold winter nights, the friendly shade screening you from the summer sun, and my fruits are refreshing draughts quenching your thirst as you journey on.*

*I am the beam that holds your house, the board of your table, the bed on which you lie, and the timber that builds your boat.*

*I am the handle of your hoe, the door of your homestead, the wood of your cradle, and the shell of your coffin.*

*I am the bread of kindness and the flower of beauty. “Ye who pass by, listen to my prayer: Harm me not.”*

— from Portugal



Clear Creek Metro Park

### Prairie Oaks Metro Park

Aug. 17, 2013

John Troutman, leader; Whaja Troutman, sweep

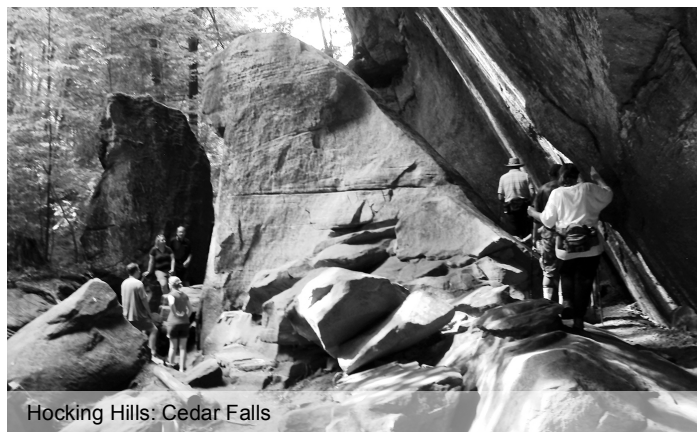
It was a beautiful, sunny day as 10 members hiked around the lakes at the Prairie Oaks Metro Park. Lots of folks were there with their dogs, since one of the lakes is designated as a canine swimming hole. We did see a curious sight as several guys were standing on what appeared to be surfboards and using long-handled oars to paddle around. It reminded us of fishermen using poles to move their jon boats around lazy rivers in the south. Afterward, we ate dinner at El Vaquero, where another member met us. 🌻🌻

### Hocking Hills: Cedar Falls to Ash Cave

Aug. 10, 2013

Connie Sheridan, leader; Bob Merkle, sweep

Nineteen hikers met at the trailhead and began the woods-walk on the Buckeye Trail. Heavy rains in Columbus had not touched this area, so there was little threat from mosquitoes or humidity. The waterfalls at Cedar Falls and Ash Cave were mere trickles. On the way up, we paused at the historic fire tower. Lots of people and dogs were out on the trail enjoying the beautiful, sunny day. Bob Merkle had brought his clippers and performed trail maintenance in addition to sweeping the hike. Another couple joined our group at Ash Cave, where we stood on “Sermon Rock” and observed a wedding in progress. Back at the trailhead, some of the group went down to Cedar Falls. Because the bridge down to the falls is out, we had to scramble over some boulders and shimmy between some narrow places. The steps out are very steep, we noted, at the end of a tiring hike. We finished the day with dinner at Olde Dutch Restaurant near Logan. 🌻🌻



Hocking Hills: Cedar Falls

### Roscoe Village – Canal Towpath

July 27, 2013

Carol Beal, leader; Jim Dearnell, sweep

Nineteen hikers braved the weather, grey and rainy, to hike the Coshocton County hills. They forged through the rugged terrain over several fallen trees, up the hills, through some mud and mist, all the while being accosted by hundreds of mosquitoes. They caught a glimpse of the horse-drawn Monticello III as it made its way along the canal below the wooded hillside. Once out of the forest, we found a beautiful, verdant golf course, which we traversed along the northern-most tree line, up the hills to the clubhouse. One could only think of “The Sound of Music” on those hillsides with a bird's-eye view of the surrounding hills in the distance.

After a brief rest, we continued down the hillside to Lake Park towpath, where we were entertained by the antics of youth diving onto and then off a huge inflated ‘blimp.’ The hikers continued on to the Warehouse Steak n' Stein, where we met two more hikers for dinner. We enjoyed large of ice water, tall glasses of beer and delicious food, which was well worth the wait encountered. I hear the martinis weren't bad either! As we munched and drank and laughed and conversed, the sun had found its way through the clouds to present us with a beautiful day in Roscoe Village.

Afterward, we went down the brick walkways, in the sun, admiring the storefronts and ‘painted ladies,’ back to our vehicles, home and comfort. It was indeed a lovely day. 🌻🌻

### Downtown Columbus – Sr. Hike

July 20, 2013

John Troutman, leader; Whaja Troutman, sweep

Heat, humidity and rain were all in the forecast. Accordingly, a storm came through and rained heavily, but luckily it stopped about 20 minutes before the hike. Four brave souls showed up, and we walked the bike path along the river and listened to the music coming from the Jazz and Ribs fest going on on the north bank of the Scioto River. The rain cooled down the temperature enough that we decided to extend the hike to four miles. Afterward, we met three other members at the Spaghetti Warehouse for a nice dinner. 🌻🌻

## The Ohio State University

July 13, 2013

Cathy Young, leader; Monique Mills, sweep

A group of 17 met at the Lennox Town Center and hiked over to the Chadwick Arboretum to walk through the hostas, unique trees and the labyrinth. Then, we stopped by the front of Ohio Stadium on the way to Thompson Library, where we looked out over the city in all directions from the 11th floor. Next was the small geological museum at Orton Hall and then on to the Ohio Union, where many pictures were taken with the metal sculpture of Brutus. Our last stop was Mirror Lake, where we fed the ducks. We finished up the five-mile hike back at the Lennox Town Center, where we ate dinner at Champps. Two more hikers joined us for dinner, having missed the hike due to a traffic jam on the way. 🌻🌻

## Wooster Memorial Park

June 22, 2013

Ruth Brown, leader; Bob Brown, sweep

A group of 19 hikers met on a hot, summer day for an enjoyable hike in Wooster Memorial “Spangler” Park, just west of Wooster, Ohio. The five-mile hike included several of the park’s many trails, including Spangler, Saddleback, Outer, Sassafras and Education Trails. The hikers passed through pristine woodlands with varied terrain, featuring hills of short duration, scenic overlooks, broad meadows and the Rathborn Run. Following the hike, the group gathered at the Bob Evans restaurant in Wooster for dinner and fellowship. 🌻🌻

## Whetstone Park of Roses and Prairie – Sr. Hike

June 15, 2013

Connie Sheridan, leader; Elaine Buhrlage, sweep

Thirteen hikers gathered for the June senior hike. We had a leisurely stroll through all areas of the roses, admiring blooms and color combinations. We enjoyed looking at the herb garden and other side gardens and observing the wedding celebrations that were underway. As we walked to the Prairie, we crossed the bridge over Adena Brook and had a contest to identify a flowering tree growing on the bank. Dorothy Garwood correctly identified the Northern Catalpa and won a modest monetary award. The Prairie had very little blooming there, but we heard the song of many redwing blackbirds. The group dined at Tee-Jaye’s.



## Clear Creek Metro Park

June 8, 2013

Diana Poole, leader; Jim Dearnell, sweep

Eighteen hikers followed the Cemetery Ridge Trail up the 700-foot ridge in a series of switchbacks. At the top of the hill, we followed the winding trail through a forest of oak, beech, black birch, tulip poplar and maple trees. We then passed through several ridge-top meadows. The Cemetery Ridge Trail then connects with the Hemlock and Fern Trails at the Western end. Some of the hikers then followed the Hemlock Trail through a couple of very steep climbs that passed through hemlock ravines and rose to the ridge top over rocky terrain with sandstone outcroppings. The remainder of the hikers followed one of two of the Fern trails through hardwood forest, with hemlocks and native pines along a steep ridge overlooking Clear Creek Valley – all arriving back at the Creekside Meadows starting point, five miles total. We all returned to Lancaster to dine at Todd’s Mountain View Restaurant. 🌻🌻

## Griggs Dam & Scioto River

May 25, 2013

Bob Merkle, leader; Connie Sheridan, sweep

About 18 hikers met at the Columbus Recreation Frisbee Golf Course Range on Riverside Drive. Some golfers were sailing their Frisbees around, so we had some observing to do while waiting for our group to assemble. The weather was warm, skies clear and sunny, making a great day for our hike north along the river, a level route. We hiked up to the outflow of Griggs Dam, where we paused for a view and rest. Then we continued on along the river, passing people feeding the ducks and the boat docks, not yet in the river. We passed the Fishinger boat launch, passing under the Fishinger Road Bridge. Thence we left the paving for a stretch of gravel-dirt path and back to the paving – the

road now being one way in the direction we were going. All along, we had good views of the river, there being very little boat traffic. We continued on the paved road until its end at Lane Road, then retraced our steps back to the cars at the Frisbee site for an even six miles. We then drove to Kingsdale Shopping Center, where we dined at the MCL Cafeteria in a private room, bringing a fitting climax to a good afternoon of hiking and fresh air. 🌻🌻

## **Sharon Woods Metro Park – Sr. Hike**

May 18, 2013

Gerlinde Lott, leader; Kathy Lince, sweep

On our first Senior Hike this year, twelve hikers gathered for the 2.5-mile stretch. We hiked along the prairie part of the park on the Spring Creek Trail, and then continued through the wooded area on the Edward S. Thomas trail. We were able to see lots of wild geraniums in bloom. There also were many people enjoying picnics and fishing. We ended the day with a good dinner at O'Charley's. 🌻🌻

## **Pickerington Ponds Metro Park**

May 11, 2013

Betty Bradley, leader; Kathy Lince, sweep

Fifteen hikers completed this trail. In 2008, Kathy Lince and I had hiked it when it was a new trail. It's now a very busy bicycle trail, and there are many nice areas for viewing and pictures. We enjoyed watching a mother goose training her goslings to handle the river currents; she seemed to have the situation under control. We hiked over George's Creek, but George Meade was not there to stand in for a picture. We hiked past Gender Road, Brice Road and turned around at Powell Creek. There are some nice rest stops along the trail, where we savored lemon drops and other candies. We moved right along, hoping to get back before it rained, since the clouds seemed to be lurking and there were not many rain-friendly areas on this trail. However, we were fine and then went to O'Charley's to eat and relax. Kathy was not able to hike this trail with us, but she had pre-hiked it. 🌻🌻

## **Social Reports ...**

### **Corn Roast at Infirmary Mound Park**

August 24, 2013

Carol Beal, coordinator

Bob Merkle, leader; Connie Sheridan, sweep

A good hike, great food and even better friends sharing in fun and laughter – what more could one ask for on a beautiful Saturday in August? Some of us chattered away

on the screened in porch enjoying the breezes, while others went hiking with Bob Merkle in the lead.

Bob led 20 hikers around the grounds of Infirmary Mound Park, south of Granville. We passed around Mirror Lake, which featured one fisherman, and then on to several sections of prairie, where we enjoyed a variety of tall grasses and the brilliant purple of ironweed and gold of goldenrod. There were a few horse riders out, too. We saw the old barn and the “mound,” which seems to be shrinking in size. We finished by walking through the wooded ravine area and across the creek. Fortunately, we were back right on time to feast on the treats of the day.

When the hikers returned, we all gathered in the air-conditioned hall and ate until we couldn't hold another bite. Besides hot dogs and corn on the cob, there were many tasty dishes and a separate table filled only with desserts. Thanks to all for bringing such yummy food.

John Troutman then held the popular raffle drawing. Those with lucky numbers had their choice of beautiful center pieces filled with hydrangeas, large pots of fall mums, hiking sticks donated by Bob Merkle, watermelon, corn, home grown tomatoes donated by John Tennenhill and freshly picked blackberries donated by Diana Poole. Anyone who wanted or needed bread products took their choice from a huge variety of items brought to us by Tom Oleander.

There was a great turnout this year; we nearly filled the place save one table used for Betty Bradley's photo books. The goal next year is to fill that table too! Thanks all for supporting your club in such an enjoyable way. Those who didn't make it were missed. 🌻🌻



Corn Roast: Infirmary Mound Park



## Spring Getaway at Greenbo Lake State Resort Park

April 19-21, 2013

Jeanne Barbee, coordinator

Our first time here, and 50 people attended! All members made their own reservations, and many carpooled down if they could. Early arrivals on Friday enjoyed the food in the Lodge restaurant. A meeting room was available the whole time for sharing our snacks, coffee, pop, games and puzzles. The big flat-screen TV in the lodge Great Room also was useful. In the early evening, we went for a two-mile hike down the lodge road, for wildlife viewing and to see the old iron furnace and country schoolhouse. Connie Sheridan led the hike, and Jeanne Barbee swept.



After a continental breakfast on Saturday morning, we gathered for a group picture by the great room fireplace. Then, carrying our packed lunches, we set off for the day. Those staying in the lodge investigated the nature walk, visited the quilt show in the second meeting room, or simply enjoyed relaxing at the lodge.

Dick Barbee led 36 people on a nine-mile hike Saturday afternoon, while Connie Sheridan swept. We car-pooled to the boat dock and began the Michael Tygart Loop Trail from there. The first rest stop was an old Boy Scout camp. Then, we traversed many hills and dales, wading through little streams in plastic overshoes that Dick had obtained from a vet supply store since rains recently had filled up the creeks. Lunch was delayed until we found a spot with enough logs for seats. When we came to a service road that led to the campgrounds, John Troutman took 13 hikers on this downhill route, which cut a mile off the hike for them. Those left made it to the Blackberry Shelter for the next rest spot, before finishing the loop trail down past the cemetery and back to the cars at the boat dock. All thought the hills were a little steeper and longer than necessary — but still very pretty.

The lodge restaurant had a Saturday Seafood Buffet that was also well attended by town folks. Our Vespers

Services were held later in the meeting room with Natalie, Monique, Connie, Gisela, Barb Graham and Pat Shade taking parts and with Jim Dearnell playing the guitar for our hymn singing. Later, John Mitchell and Pat Shade led an enjoyable sing-along with Jim's accompaniment. Puzzle people kept working on the jigsaw puzzle until it was finished. Several different games were played: Scrabble, card games, etc., with lots of snacking, fun and laughter.

After Sunday breakfast, Connie Sheridan led and Gisela French swept for a three-mile hike, beginning at the nature trail next to the lodge and walking along the lake quite a ways. Again, it was beautiful, and many pictures were taken. Returning to the lodge, all were encouraged to stop and see the murals on the Portsmouth floodwall on the way home, as one is a mural of Jesse Stuart for whom this lodge is named. He was a local author who taught school in this area. Thanks for all who came and made it a great turnout with lots of fun!

### Hiking Tidbits ...

#### Glimpses of the club's earlier days; Bob Merkle tells some fond stories

*Bob Merkle has been a member of COHC since 1958 and has hiked more than 4,500 miles with the club. Bob earned the high mileage award in 2011 and 2012, and his wife, Dorothy, won the award in 1960. Bob also earned the volunteer award in 2000, and he and Dorothy won it together in 1975. A member of the Buckeye Trail Association, Bob was given a special award in 2006 in appreciation for extraordinary contributions he's made to the growth of the COHC.*

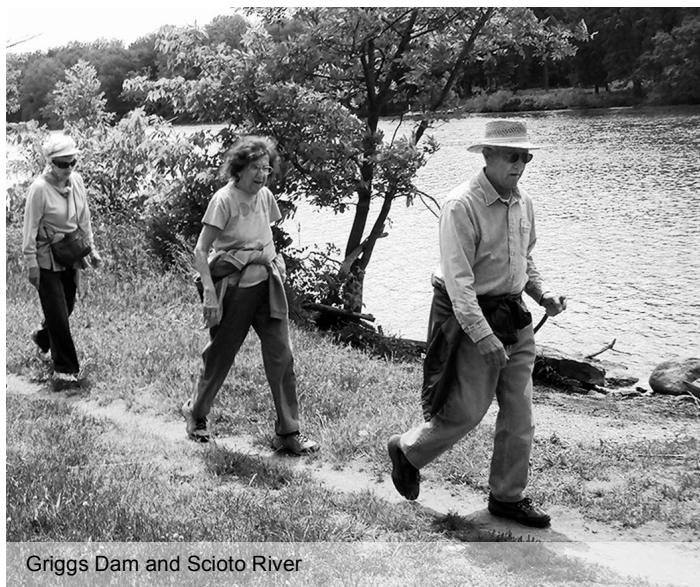
*For its 76<sup>th</sup> annual spring banquet in April, Bob talked about his early days in the club. Here are a few excerpts from that talk:*

**GROWING UP:** I was born in Elkview, West Va., where we had no water or electricity. We listened to a battery radio, carried water from a neighbor's well and had gas lights. We later moved to Charleston, a big city with all the conveniences. After about a year, when I was about seven years old, we moved to Pennsylvania, to a small town with a school for grades 1-12 in one building. There, we learned to enjoy hunting, fishing and camping out.

**COHC EARLY DAYS:** We would meet at the YMCA downtown, and sometimes had a school bus to take us to the hike. On the return trip, we'd stop for church supper. Sometimes we'd have banquets in the YMCA dining room or at the Great Southern Hotel. Janet Clover Lafferty (who

just passed away) would get us reservations at the Faculty Club, the Clintonville Women's Club, or an OSU dormitory dining room.

We went on weekend hikes at many, many different church camps – dormitory style buildings with bunks, the men stayed in one wing, and the women stayed at the other end. One such camp was Camp Oty'Okwa near Conkle's Hollow.



A number of years ago, we used to go to a Camp Agape, east of Johnstown, for weekend campouts. We stayed in small individual cabins, maybe two or three hikers to a cabin. In wintertime, wood burning stoves were fired up to heat the cabin. One Saturday evening after a day's hiking, we were all gathered for dinner down in a larger building. Suddenly some one looked out and shouted a cabin was on fire. It burned down, and I believe Bob Ward was the sole occupant; he lost all his clothes and belongings.

**MEMORABLE HIKES:** One winter we stayed in the Lions Club shack near Jacobs Ladder. It was bitter cold, and the wind coming through the cracks in wall kept us up all night as we kept the fire going. We left early the next morning.

We held an Anniversary Hike on the lookout behind the Boys Industrial School across from Jacob's Ladder on

nearly the same day every year. We took the bus out along an old dirt road behind the school to a picnic spot. We'd go down through Riven Rock, across the valley and up to the top of the Jacob's Ladder lookout and then back for a picnic supper.

One year I led a hike and train ride out of Nelsonville. After the train ride, we returned to Lancaster to park near fairgrounds and most climbed the sharp hill to a lookout. The rest made a charcoal fire and had a picnic supper.

Another great weekend outing was arranged by John Tannehill near Troy at the Studebaker farm. Mr. Studebaker, a relative of the automaker, had gathered and reconstructed on his place in a nice setting about four or five old log cabins, some two-story, all modernized with electric and running water. We stayed in these comfortable quarters and John did the cooking for the gang, plus taking us on trips to hike. We visited waterfalls in the area and a large building on site to see the owner's Studebaker auto collection of six or eight cars.

**MEMORABLE PEOPLE:** Charles Goslin from Lancaster was a writer and hiker who sometimes led us. I have his book, "Cross Roads & Fence Corners," describing some of his walks.

Doc Batchelor worked at OSU. He and some students had built a log cabin on east of Hoover Reservoir. Several summers, we'd go out to the cabin and have boating outings where we'd paddle the war canoe, take out the sailboat or run the motorboat and then enjoy a corn roast.

There are always characters among the hikers that stand out. One such person was Will Peake. Will was a great storyteller, great hike leader and led us on some great hikes over the years. Kelly Wells, another great hike leader and credited with exploring and leading us on a number of new and interesting places here in Ohio.

Irv Wagner, a friend of Jay Hamill's led us on one hike over in Perry County where he grew up, except that the leader got lost from the main group. The group ended up standing by a farmhouse. With the assistance of the family there, Irv was reunited with the group.



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