Letter from the President

Just back from a family vacation to the Outer Banks of North Carolina. Sunday was a beautiful, sunny day with pleasant temperatures and gentle breezes—a perfect day for a wild horse safari. Bouncing along the sand dunes in the back of a Hummer beyond the end of paved roads is a good way to look for wild horses (or to send one off seeking a chiropractor).

As usual, we managed to schedule a visit at the same time that hurricane Maria was passing by offshore in a huff (and puff). Luckily, no significant storm damage or rains, just gusty winds. Trips to the beach were limited by high surf, rip tides, blowing seafoam, and risk of being sandblasted. (Good thing that the sun wasn’t out or our shadows would have blown loose!)

A few showers fell on Tuesday and Wednesday, but not enough to drown you if you looked up.

April Board Meeting
Friends of MetroParks of Butler County

Called on account of social distancing.

The annual meeting has been indefinitely postponed pending relaxation of rules limiting gatherings of ten or more individuals.

A ballot will be emailed to members to ratify new terms of members of the board of directors.

Watch this space for further news. Rescheduling of the annual meeting will depend on how long we are confined to quarters.

Stay healthy!
Letter from the President

Seems like only yesterday that we were all footloose and fancy free, going about our business in public. Lots of scheduled events in the parks were on the calendar. Next thing we knew the scope of our schedule became much more restricted. I have seen more of my wife in the past two weeks than in the previous month. She seems nice.

The hardest part of the confinement is trying to come up with variety in meal planning. At least our deep freeze and pantry are starting to clear out items that have been unseen by human eyes for several years. I haven’t found any Twinkies yet, so I can’t offer any insight into their shelf life. We have been able to visit the grocery, so are in no danger of running out of food. Yesterday, I even scored a package of toilet paper. (It’s nice to know that the hoarders will be able to get their s#17 together for years to come.)

Not everything has a downside. It’s nice to be able to lounge around the house all day in pajamas. Come to think of it, that’s one of the many benefits of being retired! We have been walking around the neighborhood and are looking forward to warmer days to let us get out to the parks. The invasive trees are in bloom, to the delight of the newscasters. For some reason, they focus on the beauty of the trees instead of their long-term adverse effects on the environment. I’m sure that Chuck Holliday is looking down disapprovingly from on high.

I’m seeing lots of photos of wildflowers in bloom on Facebook. This would be a good time to go for walks in the parks. The MetroParks are open for their normal operating hours, but playgrounds and indoor activities are closed until further notice. All nature walks and educational programs are also cancelled. Don’t let the lack of formal programs keep you and your immediate, locked-in family trapped indoors. There are plenty of flowers in bloom and critters who are missing the usual visitors. Visit the parks. In the words of Simon and Garfunkel, “the animals will love it if you do”.

See you in the parks, Bill Walker

Get Thee to a Rookerie

Tis spring and the herons and egrets are in their rookeries at Gilmore Pond, 4-Mile Creek, plus one I noticed by the pond south of Ikea.

There was a nature walk scheduled for Gilmore MetroPark on Saturday, March 29. Unfortunately, this was one of the events cancelled. The birds do not feel constrained to obey social distancing. In fact, rookeries are notorious for both crowding and antisocial squabbling. This does not prevent us from observing the nursery from the birding platform. Enter the park from the parking lot off Symmes Road and take the trail to the east (right). The observation deck is on the west side of the pond, with the nests on the opposite (east) side. Be sure to bring binoculars or a spotting scope to better view the pageant. A camera with a long telephoto lens and a good tripod is another way to enjoy the show. Be sure to examine the resulting photos closely. When I looked carefully at some of the pictures after I returned home, I noticed that some of the shots with one or two birds actually also showed up to a dozen nests. It is best to get out looking for the rookeries soon. If we wait too long, the budding leaves will open up and conceal view of the nests.

Enjoy the parks. Maintain correct social distancing. Stay healthy. Happy trails to you until we meet again.
Like our Facebook Page for updates on:
- Upcoming members events & meetings
- Volunteering with MPX
- MPX programming
1. GOVERNOR BEBB METROPARK
   1979 Bebb Park Lane Okemos OH 45053
   Bebb Natural Area
   Dry Fork Campground
   Pioneer Village

2. INDIAN CREEK METROPARK
   2A. Bunker Hill Cemetery
       5351 Relly-Millville Road Oxford OH 45056
   2B. Oxford Road Area
       1899 Oxford-Relly Road (CR 732)
       Oxford OH 45056
   2C. Springfield Road Area
       6500 Springfield Road Oxford OH 45056
   2D. Pioneer Church
       3000 Indian Creek Road Oxford OH 45056

3. FOUR MILE CREEK METROPARK
   3A. Antenen Preserve
       2385 Treiber Road Hamilton OH 45011
   3B. Mill Race Area
       5911 Morning Sun Road Oxford OH 45056
   3C. Sycamore Bluffs Area
       3742 Lanes Mills Road Hamilton OH 45011
   3D. Davidson Woods Area
       1200 Hugie Road Hamilton OH 45013

4. SALAMANDER RUN PRESERVE
   4821 Leyhigh Road Hamilton OH 45013

5. Forest Run MetroPark
   5A. Engle House – Little Dry Run
       Administrative Office
       2051 Timberman Road Hamilton OH 45013
   5B. Welcome Center
       1976 Timberman Road Hamilton OH 45013
   5C. Timberman Ridge
       1976 Timberman Road Hamilton OH 45013
   5D. Wildlife Preserve Area
       1810 New London Road Hamilton OH 45013

6. GILMORE METROPARK
   6A. Gilmore Road Area
       7950 Gilmore Road Hamilton OH 45015
   6B. Bilstein Boulevard Area
       8500 Bilstein Boulevard Hamilton OH 45015
   6C. Porter Union Trail Area

7. RENTSCHLER FOREST METROPARK
   7A. Riegert Road Area
       5701 Riegert Road Fairfield Township OH 45011
   7B. Line Hill Mound Area
       3620 Hamilton-Middletown Road Fairfield Township OH 45011
   7C. Timberhill Area
       3976 Hamilton-Middletown Road Fairfield Township OH 45011

8. Elk Creek MetroPark
   8A. Seabold Park Area
       5580 Elk Creek Road Middletown OH 45042
   8B. Meadow Ridge Area
       5101 Circle Parkway Middletown OH 45042

9. Chrisholm MetroPark
   9A. Chrisholm Historic Farmstead
       2070 Wooddale Road Trenton OH 45067
   9B. Wooddale Regional Park
       1917 Wooddale Road Trenton OH 45067

10. Voice of America MetroPark
    7850 VOA Park Drive West Chester OH 45069
    Athletic Complex
    Ronald Reagan Lodge
    Natural Areas & Chill Hill Sledding Hill
    Wiggly Field Dog Park
    Wheelhouse Outdoor Area

11. Great Miami River Trail
    11A. North Section
        50 Oxford State Road Middletown OH 45044
    11B. South Section
        5701 Riegert Road Fairfield Township OH 45011
    11C. Parking Areas
        50 Oxford State Road, Middletown OH 45044
        26 North Carmody Boulevard, Middletown OH 45044
        2399 North Carmody Boulevard, Middletown OH 45042
        3801 North Verity Parkway, Middletown OH 45042
        4401 North Verity Parkway, Middletown OH 45042

12. Bicentennial Commons
    Carmody Boulevard at Central Avenue
## Friends of MetroParks of Butler County

**Our Mission**
To improve and preserve the parks for future generations, to educate and inform the public about the unique qualities of each MetroPark, and to encourage individuals and groups to participate in volunteer programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member Benefits</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Invitations to Member-only events</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Opportunity to apply for funding to support MetroParks programs and projects</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Attend Annual Meeting and have a voice in Friends activities and direction</td>
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**Who Are We?**
Private citizens who have come together to:
- Sponsor programs & activities, promoting the use of MetroParks for conservation, education and recreation
- Encourage volunteerism toward support of MetroParks of Butler County
- Identify and implement improvements to the park
- Assist in raising funds, securing donations, and obtaining grants monies to further MetroParks’ mission

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**Yes, I/We want to be a member of Friends of MetroParks of Butler County!**

*Detach the form below and Mail it with your check to the address below*

**Become a Friend!**
Simply fill in this form, detach and mail it with your check. Made payable to:

*Friends of MetroParks of Butler County*
*PO Box 691*
*Hamilton, OH 45012*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pick an Annual Membership</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>□ Individual - $10</td>
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<tr>
<td>□ Family - $15</td>
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<tr>
<td>□ Group/Business -$100</td>
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<tr>
<td>□ Donation - $ ___________</td>
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</tbody>
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| Name(s)/Contact ____________________________ Date ________ |
| Name(s)/Contact ____________________________ Date ________ |
| Group or Business Name ______________________ |
| Address ____________________________________ |
| City __________________________ State ______ Zip ______ |
| Home/Business Phone _______________ Cell Phone __________________ |
| Email (required to receive newsletter) __________________ |

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