

# The Voice of the Turtle



# Friends of MetroParks of Butler County

Friends of MetroParks of Butler County Monthly Newsletter

May, 2021

## FOMPBC Officers

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Bill Walker

**Vice-President,**

Nick Lengyel

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Bill Walker

## May Board Meeting Friends of MetroParks of Butler County

Spring has sprung. The governor has declared public face-to-face meetings are once again permitted in outdoor settings. Although we will continue to practice social-distancing we will return to physical, instead of virtual, meetings.

The May BOD meeting will be held at 7pm on Wednesday May 23, in the Timberman Ridge Shelter, 1976 Timberman Road, Hamilton, OH. The Shelter has power and a roof, so we will meet rain or shine. Masks and good sanitary practices are still encouraged.

Stay healthy! See you soon!



## Letter from the President

May Day, May Day! (Not to mention “May the 4<sup>th</sup> be with you” and Cinco de Mayo.) My family just returned from a week in Gatlinburg. We saw lots of wildflowers and wildlife of both the four-legged and two-legged varieties. For the most part the weather cooperated for a change – no tornado warnings and minimal rain. It was wise to dress in layers, since we had temperature swings of up to 40° during the days.

We knew that we were in for a good week of wildlife – a bear visited the parking lot within an hour of our arrival. Luckily, we had paid attention to the “no food left in cars” lecture. We saw two other bears, lot of wild turkeys (that didn’t come in bottles), and a small herd of elk.

Lots of dogwood trees in bloom, along with the tail end of redbud season. For the most part, we were too early for azaleas and rhododendrons or mountain laurel. The woods were full of wildflowers – some familiar, others less so.

MetroParks is beginning to reopen the parks for face-to-face interaction. Hump Day concerts are scheduled to start June 2<sup>nd</sup>. The final schedule of groups has not yet been released at time of writing, but twelve concerts are planned. Instead of the lakeside pavilion, this year’s concerts will be held at the VOA Athletic Fields. Details have not yet been released, but the possibility of painted circles on the lawn for each group was mentioned at the annual meeting last month. FoMPBC has been promised at least two circles for our use. Volunteers are needed to help sell tickets for Split the Pot at this year’s concerts.

It’s a good time to return to the parks. Flowers are in bloom, birds are migrating, people are able to meet without benefit of Zoom.

See you in the parks,  
Bill Walker

## Did you see the Full Pink Moon?

By Amy Pellman

On April 26, 2021 we had the Full Pink Moon. That was the first of two supermoons in 2021. The second supermoon of the year is the Full Flower Moon and will occur on May 26<sup>th</sup>.

Do you know why it’s called the pink supermoon? It’s not because it’s pink. Its homage to one of the first signs of spring, the flowering phlox. The flower moon in May refers to the increased blooming of plants in early May.

Native American’s named full moons to help identify entire months. Colonial American’s adopted those and utilized them. Most are still used today in modern day (Gregorian) calendars.

Do you know what a supermoon is? A supermoon occurs when the moons orbit is closest to Earth while it is full. But that is still 222,064 miles away! This is called the perigee of its elliptical orbit. The farthest point in its orbit around the Earth is called the apogee. The term supermoon was coined by astrologer Richard Noelle in 1979 and refers to the new or full moon that occurs when the moon is closest (in perigee) to Earth.

Supermoons appears larger than a typical full moon due to it being closer to the Earth. Since the supermoon is closer to the Earth it can appear up to 14% larger and 30% brighter. But to the naked eye, its difficult to tell the difference between the size of the moon from one month to the next or one night to the next.



Fun Facts:

Winter supermoons are larger due to the Earth's proximity to the sun. Gravity pulls the moon closer to Earth in the winter months.

Supermoons don't significantly cause higher tides and don't cause natural disasters.

Supermoons will gradually look smaller. Each year, the moon is moving 3.8 centimeters out of the Earth's orbit.



**Don't forget to pay your annual dues!**

**Signs of Spring in the Smokies**





# Like our Facebook Page for updates on:

- Upcoming members events & meetings
- Volunteering with MPX
- MPX programming



# Volunteer News



May 2021

## April Volunteers



Indian Creek Pioneer Church Spring cleanup 4/10/2021



American Heritage Girls troop OH0412 Middletown Community Gardens 4/11/2021



Farm Caretakers at Chrisholm MetroPark - Historic Farmstead 4/12/21



Boys & Girls Club of West Chester at Rentschler Forest – Line Hill Mound area practice fields 4/14/2021



Trail Life troop OH-0414 Trail cleanup at Rentschler Forest MetroPark – Reigart Rd area 4/18/2021



Arrow Adventures, Earth Day Hike, Serve & Yoga Rentschler Forest – Reigart Road area 4/22/2021



Beta Theta Pi Service Day, Four Mile Creek MetroPark – Mill Race Preserve 4/25/2021



Union Day Therapeutic School Service Day, Chrisholm MetroPark – Historic Farmstead 4/29/2021

We L  ve our Volunteers!!

**\*\*Keep sending in your pictures! We love to see them...and share them!\*\***



Red bud tree at Elk Creek MetroPark – Meadow Ridge area. Photo by: Rich & Joelle House



Nesting American Woodcock at Elk Creek MetroPark – Meadow Ridge area. Photo by: Rich & Joelle House

**May Birthday Corner!**

Ruanne Wilks	5/2	Christine Jones	5/20
Josh Coats	5/3	William Jung	5/20
Rhys Richards	5/3	Jodi Sparks	5/20
Robin James	5/5	Claire Willenbrink	5/20
Anna Smith	5/7	Vaishnavi Vengala	5/22
Elizabeth Esber	5/9	Amy Thomsen	5/23
Lianna Benz	5/10	Alexis Loudner	5/26
Alida Askill	5/12	Michael Marquardt	5/28
Jason Keller	5/14	Drake Beimesche	5/29
Cora Beimesche	5/15	Gregory Huber	5/29
Elena Tito	5/18	Sara James	5/31
Dawn Hutson	5/20		



"Volunteering is at the very core of being a human. No one has made it through life without someone else's help." – Heather French Henry

**Don't Forget!**

- Any questions about opportunities or volunteering with MetroParks? Email Amy at [apellman@YourMetroParks.net](mailto:apellman@YourMetroParks.net)
- If you haven't logged your hours, don't forget to send in your hours or timesheet.

**Did You Know?**

- Hump Day Concerts are coming back starting June 2! Watch our website for more details.

**Contact Us**

Give us a call or visit us on the web for more information about service opportunities.

MetroParks Of Butler County  
 2051 Timberman Road  
 Hamilton OH 45013  
 513.867.5835  
[www.YourMetroParks.net](http://www.YourMetroParks.net)

Or email Amy Pellman at [apellman@YourMetroParks.net](mailto:apellman@YourMetroParks.net)

## MetroPark Staff Spotlight



### **Teresa Gordon – Administrative Assistant**

**Tell us a little about your background and what brought you to MetroParks?**

I have worked in the non-profit world for the past 15 years in varying capacities, ranging from Administrative Assistant to Marketing Coordinator. I also freelance as a social media marketing manager and as an actress. I have a weird background!

**Tell us a little about your family:**

I have a wonderful husband of 29 years, Billy, and we have 2 grown boys, Cody, and Austin. Our son Cody and his wife will be having their first child in July so we will officially become grandparents and we could not be more excited! We also have 2 fur babies, Gus (chocolate lab) and Cooper (shih tzu/poodle mix).

**Do you have any hobbies?** I love to hike and volunteering with my church. I also enjoy knitting and crocheting.

**What do you like to do for fun or Is there a fun fact about yourself you would like to share?**

Fun fact, I am a represented actress for Heyman Talent. I have been in a few movies...a Hallmark Christmas film (I have never seen because I do not like Hallmark films LOL), Dark Waters, Point Blank, and a few others that I have worked on as crew or casting. A few print ads for P&G, Furniture Fair, Kroger, and an Orbitz travel commercial. I am also with Murder and Merriment (murder mystery dinner theater).

**What do you love most about working for MetroParks?** I have only been here a few weeks but so far, my favorite has been the people. Everyone has been so welcoming and positive, and I look forward to getting to know everyone better.



## Ongoing Service Opportunities

If you are interested in any of our opportunities, please contact Amy Pellman at [apellman@YourMetroParks.net](mailto:apellman@YourMetroParks.net) or by calling 513-867-5835 x 212 for more information.

### Feeder Fill Monitor

When: Saturday or Sunday; during park hours 8:00 am – dusk

Where: Forest Run MetroPark – Timberman Ridge area, Welcome Center

What: This opportunity is for the birds. Literally! Become a Feeder Fill Monitor and help keep our birds happy and full. Monitors fill up to eight (8) feeders in a central location at the Welcome Center and clean the bird bath on a weekly basis. Volunteers in this position will need to successfully complete a background check prior to starting the position.

### Nest Box Monitor

When: March – August

Where: Forest Run MetroPark

Register: by March 31, 2020.

What: Learn about becoming a volunteer Nest Box Monitor with MetroParks! Volunteers are needed to monitor nest boxes every 3-4 days from the beginning of March through the end of August. Monitors will record data to be submitted to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Monitoring sites are available in several parks. Nest Box Monitoring is a great way to learn about nesting birds and enjoy the outdoors.

### Trail Maintenance Steward

When: Flexible; during park hours 8:00 am - dusk

Where: Assigned hiking trails within MetroParks

What: Trail Ambassador Stewards hike marked trails in an assigned MetroPark at least 4 hours a month. Stewards report any maintenance and safety concerns to MetroParks staff and pick up any trash.

### Campground Host

When: Mid-April through mid-October

Where: Governor Bebb MetroPark – Dry Fork Campground

What: Like to camp and help others? We are looking for some friendly faces who like to camp and have their own equipment to setup camp at the Dry Fork Campground-on us! The Campground host will greet other campers, answer questions, and periodically check the restroom facilities. In return, camping fees would be waived. Training and background check required.

### Long-term Survey Project

When: flexible

Where: Governor Bebb MetroPark, Voice of America MetroPark, Forest Run MetroPark & Rentschler Forest MetroPark

What: We are looking for volunteers to assist staff by collecting data. Counting passengers in vehicles will help us see how many people visit the parks. This information will help guide us where we need to focus our efforts. Timing can be flexible in 1-2 hour increments. We will provide equipment and training.

### Group Service Projects

When: Flexible

Where: Various

What: MetroParks always has a variety of projects for groups to complete! If you have a youth group, church group, student group, or business group that is interested in scheduling a private service day, contact Amy Pellman [apellman@YourMetroParks.net](mailto:apellman@YourMetroParks.net) for more information.

### Photography Opportunity

Are you an amateur/professional/hobbyist photographer? Do you like to take pictures of people, places and special events? We are looking for high resolution photos with a dpi of 300 or more.



2051 Timberman Road, Hamilton, OH 45013  
 513-867-5835, fax 513-867-5954  
[www.yourmetroparks.net](http://www.yourmetroparks.net)

## Monthly Volunteer Time Sheet

(Please Print or Type)

Group/Individual Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

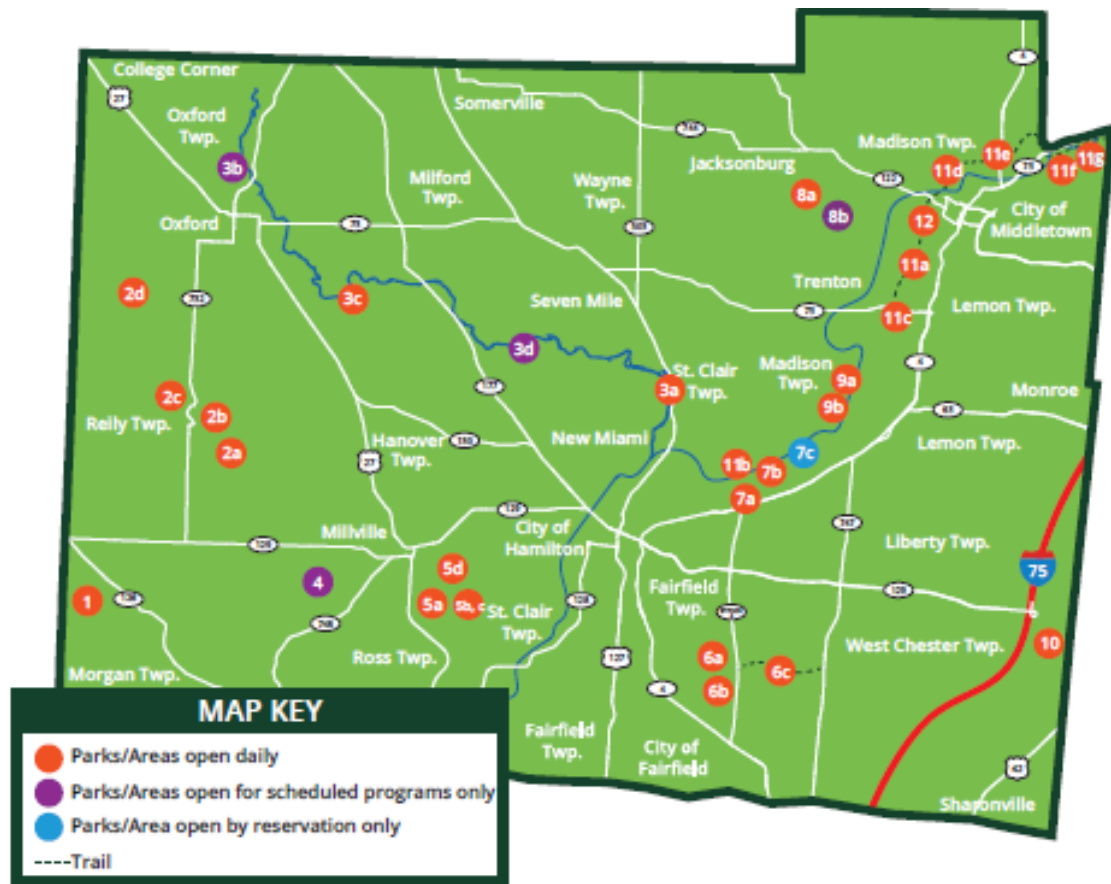
Month and Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Date	Location of Project or Event	Description of Work Being Performed	Time Worked
Total:			

Please sign below and turn in your form at the end of each month to a supervising staff member or the Administrative Office.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I recognize there are certain risks of injury as a result of my (or my child's) participation in this volunteer activity. I agree to assume the full risk of any injuries, damages, or loss which I (or my child may) sustain as a result of participating in any and all of the activities connected with or associated with this program, or products provided, including allergic reactions to foods consumed. I agree to waive and relinquish all claims I may have, as a result of my (or my child's) participation in this program, against MetroParks of Butler County and their agents, employees, and volunteers and against any co-sponsors of the program. I understand that neither MetroParks of Butler County, its staff, nor its volunteers assume responsibility for accident or injury to participants during this activity. MetroParks of Butler County Staff photographers may document the programs and events. MetroParks of Butler County reserves the right to use photographs of participants taken for the purposes of advertising and promoting its programs. I agree to these conditions.



**1. GOVERNOR BEBB METROPARK**

1979 Bebb Park Lane Okeana OH 45053  
**Bebb Natural Area**  
 Dry Fork Campground  
 Pioneer Village

**2. INDIAN CREEK METROPARK**

**2A. Bunker Hill Cemetery**  
 5351 Reily-Millville Road Oxford OH 45056  
**2b. Oxford Road Area**  
 1899 Oxford-Reily Road (SR 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 Lane: Mills Road Hamilton OH 45011  
**3D. Davidson Woods Area**  
 1200 HogUe Road Hamilton OH 45013

**4. SALAMANDER RUN PRESERVE**

4821 Layhigh 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. Port Union Trail Area**

**7. RENTSCHLER FOREST METROPARK**

**7A. Riegart Road Area**  
 5701 Riegart 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. Sebald 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 Woodsdale Road Trenton OH 45067  
**9B. Woodsdale Regional Park**  
 1917 Woodsdale 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**

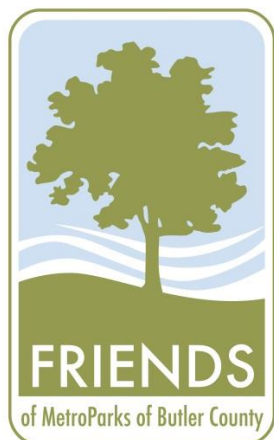
**11. Great Miami River Trail**

**11A. North Section**  
 50 Oxford State Road Middletown OH 45044  
**11B. South Section**  
 5701 Riegart 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
Member Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invitations to Member-only events</li> <li>• Opportunity to apply for funding to support MetroParks programs and projects</li> <li>• Attend Annual Meeting and have a voice in Friends activities and direction</li> </ul>
Who Are We?	<p><i>Private citizens who have come together to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sponsor programs &amp; activities, promoting the use of MetroParks for conservation, education and recreation</li> <li>• Encourage volunteerism toward support of MetroParks of Butler County</li> <li>• Identify and implement improvements to the park</li> <li>• Assist in raising funds, securing donations, and obtaining grants monies to further MetroParks' mission</li> </ul>

***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*

## Pick an Annual Membership

- Individual - \$10
- Family - \$15
- Group/Business - \$100
- Donation - \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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) \_\_\_\_\_