

The Voice of the Turtle



Friends of MetroParks of Butler County

Friends of MetroParks of Butler County Monthly Newsletter

November, 2020

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Bill Walker

November Board Meeting Friends of MetroParks of Butler County

Because of Wednesday, 11/12, falling on Veterans' Day, and because of continuing Covid indoor meeting restrictions, the November board meeting will be cancelled.

Stay healthy!



Letter from the President

During the past few weeks we have undergone several major frightening events – Halloween, a blue moon (2nd full moon in a month, and this one falling on Halloween!), end of Daylight Saving Time, world-wide pandemic, and a national election. At time of publication we still wait on tenterhooks to hear the final election results. After four years hearing about Russian interference with our elections, we are now told that no amount of voting by illegal aliens (or dead voters) could possibly result in any effect on the results of the election. Guess it just depends on whose ox is getting gored.

Your president, vice president, and spouses have just returned from a visit to the National Historical Triangle (Jamestown, Williamsburg, and Yorktown, VA.) For a welcome change, the weather was sunny, warm, and without meteorological histrionics. After getting used to seeing docents in period costumes wearing face masks, we spent the week learning lots of early American history. Despite restricted access to the parks during the pandemic, all three areas remained largely open to the public. Masks were required everywhere, as was social distancing. Some shops and buildings had posted head count limits, based on square footage. This goes to show that parks can open during the age of epidemic so long as reasonable precautions are taken to protect staff and visitors. There is still plenty of time to visit our parks. See you there.

Bill Walker



Spotted Lantern Fly

On Tuesday, October 27, 2020 the Ohio Department of Agriculture announced that a new invasive insect has been found in the state. The Spotted Lanternfly was found in mid-October in Jefferson County, close to Steubenville, Ohio. The location of the population is about 250 miles from Butler County. While this may seem far away, it is important to be aware of emerging invasives as early identification can be key to slowing spread.



We have seen the impacts of other invasive insects in our area. Perhaps the most talked about is the emerald ash borer which has had a devastating effect on our ash tree populations and has changed the appearance of many wood lots throughout the state. Others you may know include the Asian long horned beetle, a threat to maple trees in particular, or the gypsy moth which can cause defoliation of oaks and other trees. Like these other invasive insects, the spotted lanternfly is a threat to the timber industry and well-balanced forest ecosystems. However, the insect prefers grapes and fruit trees becoming a cause for concern for wineries and fruit producers. Interestingly, the insect is also attracted to a common invasive plant, tree-of-heaven.

Now is a great time to spot the spotted lanternfly as it lays its eggs from October into early winter. Eggs can be found on the trunk and branches of medium to large sized trees and on other surfaces such as stones and structures. Egg masses look similar to a grey mud substance and may take on a cracked or dried out appearance over time. The department of agriculture encourages you to scrape egg masses into a plastic bag, double bag the masses, and trash them if found. Like with any invasive control, be certain of your identification before removal. Any sighting or removal of egg masses should be reported to the Ohio Department of Agriculture at plantpest@agri.ohio.gov or 614-728-6400.



While it is currently unlikely that you will encounter the spotted lanternfly in Butler County, becoming aware of emerging threats in our region is our best protection from such threats. Keep these things in mind as you are out on your hikes in the parks and surrounding areas. Perhaps if you are traveling in eastern or southeastern Ohio for some camping or other outdoor recreation be on the look out for this attractive yet destructive insect. If you ever come across any emerging invasive in our area, consider reporting to the [Great Lakes Early Detection Network](#) (GLEDN). GLEDN is a database for reports and sightings of invasive plants in our region and a powerful tool in slowing the spread of invasive species.

References:

<https://agri.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/oda/divisions/plant-health/news-and-events/10-27-20-slf-jefferson-county>

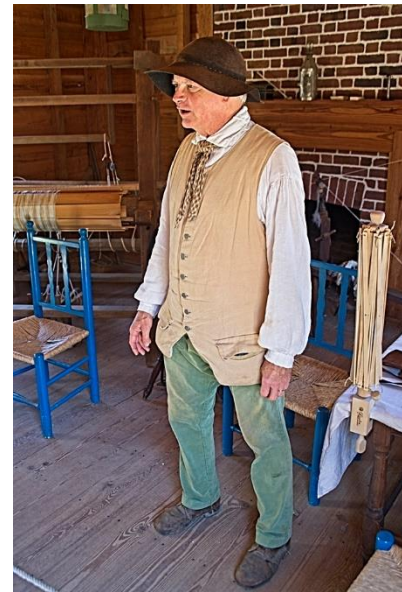
<https://agri.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/oda/divisions/plant-health/invasive-pests/slf>

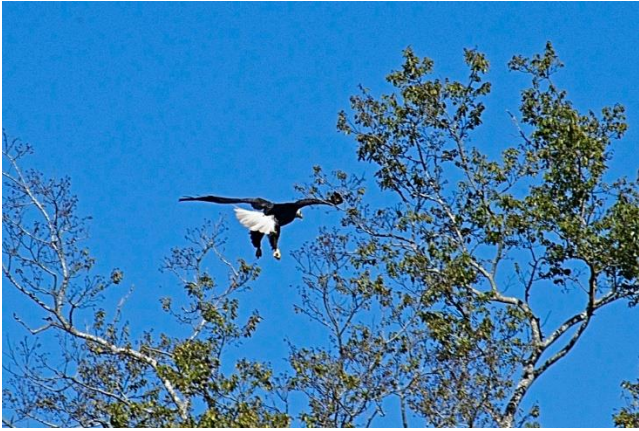
https://agri.ohio.gov/wps/wcm/connect/gov/a55a0990-ef98-4bc3-a771-8e042cb8e20a/OH_SLF_pest_alert.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CONVERT_TO=url&CACHEID=ROOTW-ORXSPACE.Z18_M1HGGIK0N0JO00QO9DDDDM3000-a55a0990-ef98-4bc3-a771-8e042cb8e20a-nhUJ-qs

Parks in the Time of Corona

Here's just a sampling of how Jamestown, Williamsburg, and Yorktown parks are dealing with the pandemic.







Like our Facebook Page for updates on:

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



October Volunteers



Indian Creek Pioneer Church Restoration Committee Service Day 10/3/2020
Indian Creek MetroPark – Pioneer Church Area



Eagle Scout project work 10/3/2020
Indian Creek MetroPark – Pioneer Church Cemetery area



Master Gardeners at the Forest Run MetroPark - Administration Building



Troop 912 Service Day 10/10/2020 Elk Creek MetroPark – Meadow Ridge area



Equestrian Trail Maintenance Stewards 10/9/2020
Elk Creek MetroPark – Sebald Park Area

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

Or email Amy Pellman at apellman@YourMetroParks.net

Did you know?

- The pathway joining the Voice of America Museum with the Voice of America MetroParks – Athletic Complex is complete.
- The Pollinator Powerplace garden at Forest Run MetroPark – Timberman Ridge area is complete!
- Input is being accepted for the Governor Bebb MetroPark Master Plan. Click [here](#) to view the preliminary plan.

November Birthday Corner!

David Traut	11/5	Thomas Broderick	11/15
Lauren Bierer	11/6	Neeraj Ghule	11/16
Michael Case	11/7	James Peters	11/16
Deborah Gross	11/7	Greg Carpenter	11/23
Donna Marquardt	11/7	Joshua French	11/23
Judith Shillinglaw	11/8	Ann Banks	11/24
Luke Krohn	11/11	William Bush	11/24
Stephanie Welling	11/11	William Walker	11/30



"Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in." –
Author Unknown



MetroPark Volunteer Spotlight



Ernie Martin – West Chester Photo Club

How long have you lived or worked in Butler County?

We have lived in Butler County for 44 years.

Tell me a little about your family:

My wife and I have two daughters, both were students in the Lakota school system. One daughter lives in Colorado, received her PHD in molecular biology at Colorado University. Our other daughter studied education at Capital University. She has taught in the Lakota School system, and is now teaching at Fairfield City Schools. Over the past several years my wife and I have enjoyed retirement and entertaining our grandsons.

Do you have any hobbies?

My favorite animal is the magnificent elephant, I have a substantial collection of elephant figurines gathered over the years. Outdoor photography is my passion, photographing wildlife is at the top of the list. I am also a volunteer educator at the Cincinnati Zoo which nicely fits in with my enjoyment of wildlife.

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

I really enjoy being a part of our young grandsons' life, sharing discovery and adventure of growing up. When I am out with my camera (often in MetroParks) enjoying nature and meeting new people along the way. For me, it is hard to not enjoy life with all of the great opportunity to be a part of it, just walking a trail once in a while, observing what nature provides. Look up and down, and all around, it is rather spectacular!

What do you love most about volunteering for MetroParks?

I really enjoy meeting the park visitors, other volunteers and park staff members. Seeing people enjoying themselves, to photograph a happy face, and to share a story, it works for me every time.

Upcoming Service Opportunity

Service day at the Angst Family Barn

When: November 14, 2020 9:00 am - ?

Where: 4050 Trenton Oxford Road Hamilton OH 45011

What: Help clean out the barn at the Angst Family Farm! In order to save and stabilize the barn for future public use, volunteers are needed to help clear out loose hay and spoiled grain. Please bring your own shovel, rake, pitchfork, wheelbarrow masks and gloves. If interested, please contact Karen Stephens at 513-262-6166 or email at karentheot@gmail.com. RSVP is required.

Ongoing Service Opportunities

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. Contact Amy Pellman apellman@YourMetroParks.net for more information.

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. If interested contact Amy Pellman at apellman@YourMetroParks.net.

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 for more information. To comply with the current regulations surrounding groups, the maximum allowed attendees is 9. A complete listing of the requirements can be shared upon request.

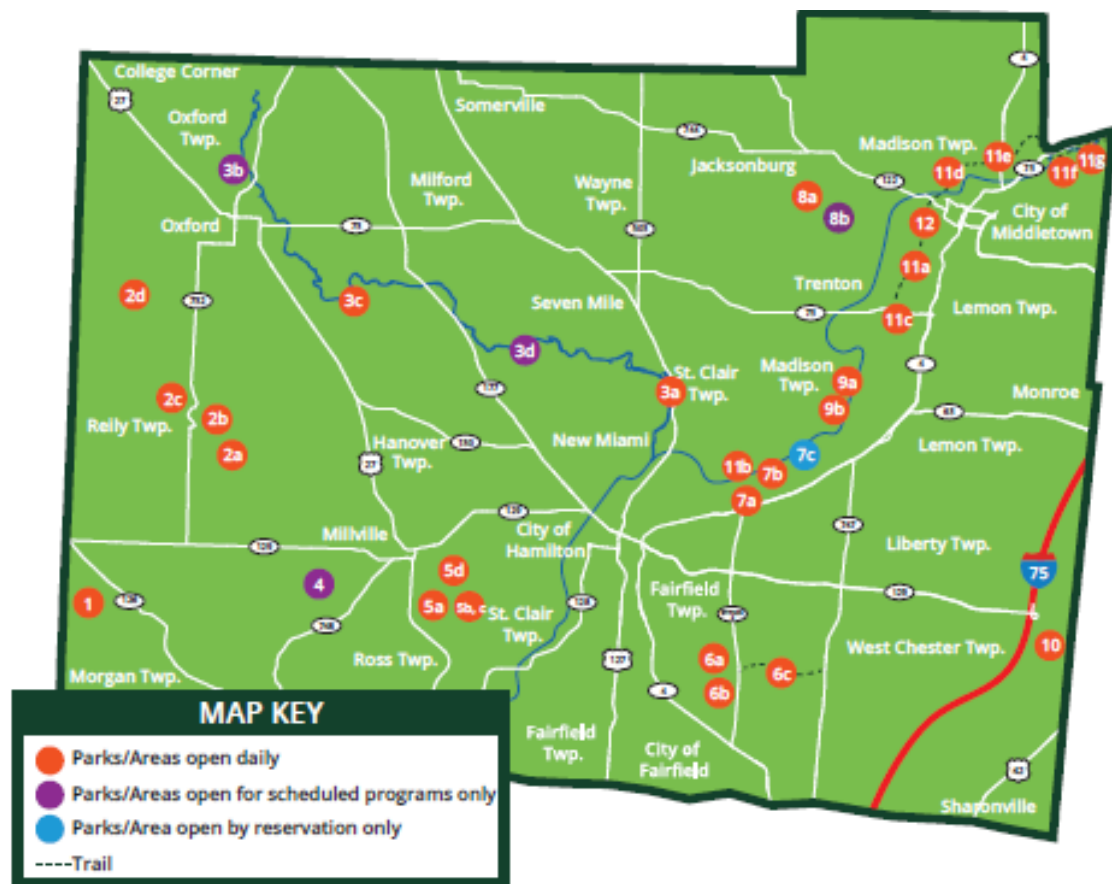
Photography Opportunity

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. If interested, please contact Amy Pellman at apellman@YourMetroParks.net.

Friends of Chrisholm Founder's Garden Donations

2020 marks the 25th anniversary of the founding of Friends of Chrisholm. Recently, two of the original founders and key contributors to its success over their years of service, Carl Jantzen and Doris L. Page passed away. The families of both Carl and Doris have designated the Friends of Chrisholm as a charitable organization for in memory donations. The board of the Friends of Chrisholm, partnering with MetroParks of Butler County, would like to use the proceeds from those donations toward funding a Pollinator Garden at the Chrisholm site in honor of all its original Founders. Planning efforts are underway. If you would like to make a donation to the Friends of Chrisholm to honor Carl, Doris, and its Founders and help make this installation a great addition to the Chrisholm MetroPark, you may donate on line at www.chrisholmhistoricfarmstead.org or send your donation to:

Friends of Chrisholm
P.O. Box 234
Trenton, OH 45067



- 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"> • Invitations to Member-only events • Opportunity to apply for funding to support MetroParks programs and projects • Attend Annual Meeting and have a voice in Friends activities and direction
Who Are We?	<p><i>Private citizens who have come together to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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

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) _____