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.

Friends of MetroParks of Butler County Monthly Newsletter
December, 2019

FOMPBC Officers

President:
Bill Walker

Vice-President:
Nick Lengyel

Secretary:
Robin James

Treasurer:
Larry Gersbach

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Publicity Chair:
Bill Walker

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Membership Chair:
Nick Lengyel

Events Chair
Carri Mosier

Web Master:
Craig Wiseman

Newsletter Editor:
Bill Walker

No December Board Meeting
Friends of MetroParks of Butler County

Why not enjoy the holidays in the parks?
Letter from the President

Picture, if you will, lush tropical islands, beautiful flowers, colorful birds, sunny beaches, warm breezes, sparkling sea water in 1000 shades of blue, and dozens of different varieties of rum. Now picture returning to freezing Ohio at 1 AM and having to scrape the evidence of winter off the windshield. Any doubt that winter is almost here was drowned out by the sound of chattering teeth.

As I said last month, there are lots of fun activities going on in the parks this month. Don’t let a little chilly weather keep you indoors. Dress in layers and brave the elements.

See you in the parks!

Bill Walker, President FOMPBC

Upcoming Events

Show and Tell on the Farm

Please Note there will not be programs on the 12/22, 12/26, 12/29 or 1/02 due to the holiday.

Middletown Winter Hike Series

Join us outside for a hike at one, two, or all three great Middletown locations this winter! The first Saturday of the month, these hikes will begin at 10 a.m., and range from 1-3 miles. Enjoy a social, family friendly hike, and learn about the outdoor options Middletown has to offer.

Warm up with a cup of hot chocolate or coffee at each hike! Hikes will be led by Bulls Run Nature Sanctuary, MetroParks of Butler County, and the City of Middletown.

Registration is required at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeQ59h2ryj9W7p_VVxN0UGdfewB2QNk_OjPUflxFxNzizR3ew/viewform?usp=sf_link

Contact naturalist@bullsrun.org for more information!

Saturday, December 7, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM
Bull’s Run Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum
3909 Rosedale Road Middletown OH 45042

Come out and enjoy winter on the farm with Show and Tell on the Farm at Chrisholm MetroPark. Topics this month include: Let’s Make Soap, ABC’s of Farm Life, Winter Wreath Fun, Holidays New and Old, and Presents for the Animals.

Fun on the Farm is on Thursdays from 10:00-11:00am and Sunday’s from 2:00-4:00pm
Winter Bird Count

For over 100 years, Audubon has been conducting a Christmas Bird Count throughout the country. It doesn’t matter if you are just learning to bird watch or if you are an accomplished birder, come out for a brisk walk to look for the winter birds! Various MetroParks sites will be included.

**Oxford**

Meet at the Miami University Research Ecology Research Center at 5806 Somerville Rd, Oxford OH 45056 at 7 AM or contact Larry Gersbach at larrygers@aol.com for details.

**Saturday, December 14**, 7:00 AM-12:00 PM
Miami University’s Environmental Research Center on Somerville Road at 7:am

**Hamilton/Fairfield**

This bird count is sponsored by the Cincinnati Bird Club.

Contact Mike Busam at mbusam@gmail.com for details.

**Saturday, December 14**, 7:00 AM-7:00 PM
Contact Mike Busam at mbusam@gmail.com for meeting location

Brunch with Santa

Time to reserve your seat for this fun, family event. Enjoy a yummy brunch buffet, jazz music, visit and take your own picture with Santa, make a holiday craft, and enjoy entertainment by the MADCAP Puppets as they perform The Great Space Caper. Space is limited. Reservations required. Registration closes 12/8/19.

**Sunday, December 15**, 10:30 AM-2:30 PM
Voice of America MetroPark Ronald Reagan Lodge 7850 VOA Park Drive West Chester OH 45069

Let’s Go Hiking! Surviving Winter

Hibernate, migrate, or tolerate - those are the options animals have in order to survive winter. Join in as we discover who is tolerating the winter cold in Harbin Park. Dress for the weather, as we tolerate the cold too!

FREE and open to all ages. Meet at the Overlook Shelter. Registration is requested by calling 513.867.5348. Walk-ups are welcome!
Did You Know

Kroger Community Rewards Update
FOMPBC organization # TM866

Kroger is committed to helping our communities grow and prosper. Year after year, local schools, churches and other nonprofit organizations earn $4 million in Greater Cincinnati, Dayton and Northern Kentucky through their Community Rewards program. FOMPBC is one of the Many wonderful organizations that benefit from this program.

How Can YOU Help Us?

In April 2017 Kroger’s updated their Community Rewards process and software. As of April, supporters will no longer have to re-enroll their Kroger Plus Card to earn dollars for your organization. This will make it easier for you to support us! Please take a moment and make sure you are enrolled and supporting FOMPBC.

https://www.kroger.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow

Once you’re enrolled you will earn rewards for FOMPBC every time you shop and use your Plus Card.

Farm Animal Fund

Chrisholm Farmstead MetroPark is almost ready to begin adding livestock to the new pens. Because MPX can only make purchases from pre-approved vendors, this red tape makes it difficult to buy animals from individual farmers. Our status as a 501C3 tax-exempt non-profit group makes it possible to streamline livestock purchases for Chrisholm. We have set aside a special account for such purchases. Please send your tax-free donation to:

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

Please make sure to make a note on the memo line of your check “Chrisholm Animal Fund” to make sure your donation helps populate the new FarmScape.

Christmas Bird Count,
by Stephanie McCabe

“For four calling birds, three French hens, two turtle doves, and a partridge in a pear tree.”

Even in the classic tune, The Twelve Days of Christmas, there has been a long history of counting birds around Christmas time. The National Audubon Society’s Christmas Bird Count began on Christmas Day in 1900 as a way to start a new holiday tradition, rather than the age-old custom of going on a holiday hunt. Today, this citizen science project is used to collect wildlife census data to gain more understanding on bird
populations and trends, which will then be used to
direct conservation measures. Christmas Bird
Count hikes take place between December 14th and
January 5th all throughout the Western Hemisphere,
from the northernmost count that takes place in the
Arctic Bay of Canada, south to the Drake Passage
off the coast of Argentina.

Do you find yourself asking, “How can I get
involved?” I’m so glad you asked. Luckily for
you, you don’t have to travel around the globe to
participate! There are two Christmas Bird Counts
taking place right here in Butler County. All
birding skill levels are welcome.

- **Oxford Area Bird Count:** Saturday,
  December 14th from 7:00 a.m. –
  12:00 p.m. Meet at Miami
  University’s Ecology Research
  Center at 5806 Somerville Road, Oxford,
  OH 45056 at 7:00 a.m. Contact Larry
  Gersbach at larrygers@aol.com for details.

- **Hamilton-Fairfield Area Bird Count:**
  Saturday, December 14th from 7:00 a.m. –
  7:00 p.m. This bird count is sponsored by
  the Cincinnati Bird Club. Contact Mike Busam at
  mbusam@gmail.com for meeting location and
details.

It’s always interesting when visiting foreign
shores to see what kinds of critters are to be
found. This 6” caterpillar was found munching
on frangipani leaves in a Bajan churchyard. I
guess that this is appropriate, since it’s a
frangipani hornworm. This larval state of a
hawk moth is found throughout the Caribbean
basin. Although fond of mimicking poisonous
coral snakes, these are mostly harmless (unless
you count scaring the bejeepers out of bug-o-
phobes). The use of such bright colors to make
predators think the wearer is poisonous, or bad-
tasting, is called “aposematic”. The viceroy
butterfly is another example of this behavior.
Remember the next time you find hornworms
on your frangipani that at least their high
visibility makes it easy to pluck them off.
Like our Facebook Page for updates on:

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

**WHEN**
Sunday, December 15, 2019  
10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
**Brunch** 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
**Jazz band performance**  
11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
**MadCap Puppet Show**  
11:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
**Visit With Santa**  
12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**WHERE**
Voice of America MetroPark  
Ronald Reagan Lodge  
7850 Voice of America Park Drive  
West Chester OH 45069

**PRICE**
Age 7 and Up: $18.50  
Age 3-6: $13.99  
Children Under 3: FREE

**ABOUT**
Blast off into the best time of the year! Santa has arranged for jazz music, a yummy brunch buffet, photos with Santa, holiday crafts and an all new space themed show presented by MadCap Puppets. MadCap is nationally recognized for engaging and original children’s theatre productions. They will present “The Great Space Caper” in which famous space explorer, Buzby, crash lands his spaceship on a strange planet and forms an unlikely friendship with a stranded alien named Galax. Together, they uncover the mysteries of our universe as they search for a new planet that the funny little creature can call home. Reserve now - Seating Limited!

513.867.5835 | YourMetroParks.net  
Motor Vehicle Permit Required. FREE to Butler County Residents. Non-Residents $5/daily or $10/annually.

Rev. 190419 kjb approved
November Volunteers

Service Day at Indian Creek MetroPark Pioneer Church Committee 11/2/19

Service Day at Voice of America MetroPark Athletic Complex 11/2/19

Tree Planting Elk Creek MetroPark Meadow Ridge area Beta Theta Pi 11/13/19

Service Day Forest Run MetroPark Timberline Ridge area Beta Theta Pi 11/13/19

2019 Volunteer Appreciation Celebration
February 6, 2020 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Details to follow!

December Birthday Corner!
- Ronald Aylward 12/1
- Jennifer Vanderhoost 12/2
- Carl Ruble 12/5
- Jeff Lehman 12/7
- Cameron Bryant 12/10
- Naomi Galenza 12/12
- Tonya Holman 12/14
- Telci-Lee Debruler 12/16
- Gary Stokes 12/19
- Braden VanWinkle 12/20
- Zachary Biehl 12/23
- Patrick McDonald 12/23
- Chris Tompkins 12/23
- Silas Birdsell 12/25
- Tracy Palma 12/25
- Alise Cox 12/27
- Larry Gershbach 12/27
- Natalie Horne 12/27
- Mark Troup 12/27
- Pamela Harper 12/31
Yamini Patel – Supervisor of Financial Services

Tell us a little about your background and what brought you to MetroParks?
My name is Yamini Patel and I graduated from University of South Carolina majoring in Accounting and Finance. After moving to Ohio in 2016, I was searching for a part-time position and came across the Accounting Associate AR/AP position at MetroParks of Butler County. After going through the interview process, I was selected and started working at MetroParks on 9/12/16. I was promoted to Manager of Financial Services on 8/18/18 and recently to Supervisor of Financial Services on 8/30/19.

Tell us a little about your family: My family consists of my husband and I. My parents live in South Carolina and my in-laws live here in Ohio. I have two younger brothers in South Carolina, and both have graduated from University of South Carolina.

Do you have any hobbies? My hobbies include running, riding bicycles and listening to music.

What do you like to do for fun or is there a fun fact about yourself you would like to share? During the beautiful spring and summer seasons, I enjoy exploring the world outside of Cincinnati.

What do you love most about working for MetroParks? I love working with all the coworkers at MetroParks because everyone is cooperative and understanding. Everyone works together as a big family to accomplish the end task/goal. Additionally, MetroParks has beautiful parks to cherish with family and friends.
Upcoming Service Opportunities

Decorating for the Murder Mystery Dinner
When: February 14, 2020 time to be determined  
Where: Voice of America MetroPark – Ronald Reagan Lodge  
7850 VOA Park Drive, West Chester OH 45069  
What: Have a knack for decorating? We could use a few hands to help us transform the Lodge into the scene of the crime! If interested contact Amy Pellman at apellman@YourMetroParks.net.

Murder Mystery Dinner
When: February 15, 2020  
Event runs: 5:30 pm – 9:30 pm  
Shifts available: 3:00 pm – 5:30 pm; 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm; 8:00 pm – 10:00 pm  
Where: Voice of America MetroPark – Ronald Reagan Lodge  
7850 VOA Park Drive, West Chester OH 45069  
What: Who did it? Come help with registration, bussing tables and everything else and find out if interested contact Amy Pellman at apellman@YourMetroParks.net.

Ongoing Service Opportunities

Trail Maintenance Steward
When: Flexible  
Where: Assigned hiking trails within MetroParks  
What: Trail Ambassador Stewards hike marked trails in assigned MetroPark at least 4 hours a month. Volunteers report any maintenance and safety concerns to MetroParks staff and pick up any trash. Contact Amy Pellman apellman@YourMetroParks.net for more information.

Group Service Projects
When: Flexible  
Where: Flexible  
What: MetroParks always has various 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. Please allow 3-6 months for planning.

Program/Event & Preparation Support
When: Flexible  
Where: Multiple Locations  
What: Park Connections staff presents multiple education, recreation, and conservation programs and events throughout the year. Volunteers are needed to help with preparing for MetroParks events and programs. Volunteers may create crafts, prepare signage, organize materials and supplies, clean materials and supplies, and other general tasks, as well as, volunteer for the program itself. Contact Amy Pellman apellman@YourMetroParks.net.

Administrative Office Support
When: Flexible  
Where: Forest Run MetroPark-Administrative Office  
2051 Timberman Road Hamilton OH 45013  
What: Comfortable with spreadsheets and data entry? We are looking for a volunteer to help with entering information into our Motor Vehicle Permit database. If interested, please contact Amy Pellman 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. If interested, please contact Amy Pellman apellman@YourMetroParks.net

Long-term Survey Project **NEW OPPORTUNITY**
When: flexible
Where: Rentschler Forest MetroPark, Elk Creek MetroPark, Forest Run MetroPark - Wildlife Preserve Area
What: We are looking for volunteers to count passengers in vehicles coming into the three park areas listed above. Timing can be flexible in 1-2 hour increments. We will provide equipment and training. If interested contact Amy Pellman at apellman@YourMetroParks.net.

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?
- Volunteer hours are reported to the MetroParks Board of Park Commissioners EVERY month? Please be sure to log your hours or email them to Amy for entry!
- Visit www.YourMetroParks.net, select “Support Us”, then “Volunteering. Scroll down to the Volunteer Policy. On page 8 is the list of all the rewards! Don’t know how many hours you have? Just let me know!

“It’s easy to make a buck. It’s a lot tougher to make a difference.” ~ Tom Brokaw
Show and Tell on the Farm

**WHEN**
- Sundays: 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- Thursdays: 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

**WHERE**
Chrisholm MetroPark
Chrisholm Historic Farmstead
2070 Woodsdale Road
Trenton, OH 45067

**PRICE**
FREE programs for all ages
No Registration Necessary

**ABOUT**
Come on over to Chrisholm Historic Farmstead for Show and Tell on the Farm. Each day will feature different themes with special guest stars — some furry & some feathery — crafts, and games! Come for any amount of time. Designed to delight kids and kids at heart.

**November**
- November 3: Plain & Simple Life, the Amish-Mennonite Way
- November 7: Reading the Weather
- November 10: ABC’s of Farm Life
- November 14: Turkey Talk
- November 17: Cornucopia
- November 21: Pilgrim Adventures
- November 24: Thanksgiving Feast for the Animals
- December 5: Let’s Make Soap
- December 8: ABC’s of Farm Life
- December 12: Winter Wreath Fun
- December 15: Holidays New & Old
- December 19: Presents for the Animals

*There will be no Show & Tell on the Farm program on November 28, December 1, 22, 26 & 29.*
Join MetroParks of Butler County and the City of Fairfield for some exciting programming at Fairfield Parks!

**LET'S GO HIKING SERIES**
Free & Open to the Public
10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
2019 Locations to be determined

- 10/20/18 Fall Blooms
  - Harbin Park
- 11/17/18 Habitat Hike
  - Huffman Park
- 12/15/18 Surviving Winter
  - Harbin Park
- 1/19/19 Winter Tree ID
- 2/16/19 Tracks, Scats & Signs
- 3/16/19 Eastern Bluebirds
- 4/20/19 Spring Wildflowers
- 5/18/19 Spring Birding Hike
- 6/15/19 Creeking
- 7/20/19 Summer Wildflowers
- 8/17/19 Invasive Species
- 9/21/19 Autumn Birding Hike
- 10/19/19 Fall Wildflowers
- 11/16/19 Animal Homes
- 12/21/19 Surviving Winter

**PRE-SMARTIES & SMARTIES**
Programming for City of Fairfield Registered Preschool Students Only

- 11/13/18 Amazing Animals
- 2/5/19 Calling All Farm Hands
- 4/9/19 Animal Games

**NATURE PROGRAMS**
Free & Open to the Public
2019 Locations to be determined

- 11/3/18 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.
  - Autumn Leaves
  - Huffman Park
- 1/25/19 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
  - Owl Hike
- 3/24/19 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.
  - Fossils
- 4/6/19 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.
  - Spring Babies
- 6/1/19 9:00 – 10:30 p.m.
  - Night Hike
- 7/2/19 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
  - Water Conservation
- 9/7/19 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.
  - Amazing Animals
- 10/6/19 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.
  - Nature Craft

Registration is requested for the Let’s Go Hiking Series and Nature Programming. Call 513.867.5348 to save your spot!
DECEMBER EVENTS

DECEMBER 2019

SHOW & TELL ON THE FARM
LET'S MAKE SOAP
Chisholm MetroPark
Historic Farmstead
Thurs., December 5, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
FREE

SHOW & TELL ON THE FARM
ABC'S OF FARM LIFE
Chisholm MetroPark
Historic Farmstead
Sun., December 8, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
FREE

SHOW & TELL ON THE FARM
WINTER WREATH FUN
Chisholm MetroPark
Historic Farmstead
Thurs., December 12, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
FREE

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT
AUDUBON MIAMI VALLEY
Meet at Miami University
Ecology Research Center
to visit various park locations together
Sat., December 15, 7:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
For more information, Contact
Larry Gerzabek @ larryger@aol.com
FREE

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT
CINCINNATI BIRD CLUB
Various Locations
Sat., December 15, Dawn until Dusk
For more information, Contact
Mike Busen @ mbusen@gmail.com
FREE

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA
Voice of America MetroPark
Ronald Reagan Lodge
Sun., December 15, 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Registration required by 12/8/2019
Ages 8 & up - $18.50
Ages 3-6 - $13.99
Under 3 - FREE

SHOW & TELL ON THE FARM
HOLIDAYS NEW & OLD
Chisholm MetroPark
Historic Farmstead
Sun., December 15, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
FREE

SHOW & TELL ON THE FARM
PRESENTS FOR THE ANIMALS
Chisholm MetroPark
Historic Farmstead
Thurs., December 19, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
FREE

LET'S GO HIKING SERIES
SURVIVING WINTER
Harbin Park
1300 Hunter Road, Fairfield 45014
Sat., December 21, 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Pre-register by calling 513.867.5348
FREE

The mission of the MetroParks of Butler County is to provide a superior park system that maximizes the community's quality of life through conservation, education, and recreation. For more information visit us at www.YourMetroParks.net or call 513.867.3632

Motor Vehicle Permit Required. FREE to Butler County Residents. Non-Residents $5/daily or $10/annually.
Friends of MetroParks of Butler County

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Our Mission</th>
<th>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</th>
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</table>
| **Member Benefits** | • 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?** | 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 |

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*

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**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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| □ 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) ____________________________