**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.

Hatteras and Ocracoke Islands were under mandatory evacuation orders for non-residents from Monday until 1pm Thursday, when the bridge from the north reopened.

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**Friends of MetroParks of Butler County Monthly Newsletter**

**February, 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FOMPBC Officers</th>
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<tr>
<td>President:</td>
<td>Bill Walker</td>
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<td>Vice-President,</td>
<td>Nick Lengyel</td>
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<td>Secretary:</td>
<td>Robin James</td>
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<td>Treasurer:</td>
<td>Richard Burgstrom</td>
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<td>Nominating Chair:</td>
<td>Roger Koch</td>
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<td>Publicity Chair:</td>
<td>Bill Walker</td>
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<td>Outreach Chair:</td>
<td>Chuck Holliday</td>
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<td>Nick Lengyel</td>
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<td>Events Chair</td>
<td>Carri Mosier</td>
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<tr>
<td>Web Master:</td>
<td>Craig Wiseman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Newsletter Editor:</td>
<td>Bill Walker</td>
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**February Board Meeting and BBQ Potluck**

Friends of MetroParks of Butler County

Wednesday, February 14, 2018

At

Robin’s house
6607 Eagle Creek Drive
Liberty Township 45011
(right off Princeton Road)
6:00-9:00 PM

Members and interested parties are welcome to attend. Bring a dish to share.

RSVP to Robin James
robinjean.james@gmail.com
Letter from the President

Groundhog Day has passed. Valentine’s Day and President’s Day are approaching. Seems that time passes faster every year. Perhaps it’s because I’m growing older, but I prefer to think it’s Punxsutawney Phil’s fault. As you can see from the Upcoming Events section, there are lots of fun activities available to enjoy in MetroParks, even in the dead of winter.

See you in the parks,
Bill Walker, President FOMPBC

Upcoming Events

Show and Tell on the Farm

February is a time to fall in love with Show and Tell on the Farm at Chrisholm MetroPark. Topics this month include: Love is on the farm, Composite chums, Farmer turned president, Little Red Hen to name a few.

Winter Olympic Camp

Calling Olympic Hopefuls age 6-9

It might be cold outside, but campers can join other campers in going for the GOLD. MetroParks Winter Olympic Campers will play games and join in other Olympic themed activities. Camp will be at Voice of America(VOA) from 9am-4pm. On February 19th.

Owl at the Moon Hike

February will not have a full moon this is sometimes referred to as a Black Moon. Don’t let the Black Mood get you down instead come join MetroPark on an Owl Prowl. February 24th from 6:30-8:30pm at Governor Bebb MetroPark

Murder Mystery Dinner

Come out to Voice of America for a night of mystery and dinner. Included with your ticket is a three course meal and unlimited soda, tea and coffee. Adult beverages will be available for purchase. The Murder Mystery Co. will be there putting on a spectacular show that you get to join in and be part of the adventure in solving the mystery. The show will begin at 6:00pm and will last 3-4 hours, please arrive 30 minutes early. Come dressed
in costume to make for a more interesting evening. All shows are rated PG-13.

Below is the theme for the final show:
February 10, 2018 - Dance with Death, 1950's Prom

Friends of MetroParks of Butler County
FOMPBC 2017 Calendar of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feb</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>6:00-9:00pm</th>
<th>Murder Mystery Dinner</th>
<th>VOA</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>19</td>
<td>9am-4pm</td>
<td>Winter Olympic Camp</td>
<td>VOA</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>24</td>
<td>6:30-8:30pm</td>
<td>Owl at the Moon Hike</td>
<td>Governor Bebb</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Be on the Look out for these future events
Spring Amphibians with Jeff Davis, Flashlight egg hunt, Dog-Gone Bone Hunt, Spring Fever Camp and Kites N MPX.

Did You Know
Kroger Community Rewards Update
FOMPBC organization # 5599

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.

Amazon Smile
What is Amazon Smile?
Amazon Smile is a simple and automatic way for you and your family to support FOMPBC every time you shop from Amazon, at no cost to you. Instead of shopping at Amazon.com you go to https://smile.amazon.com. You will find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to FOMPBC.

Winter Tree ID
Nature lovers joined Shawnee Banks, Jodi Farrell, Chuck Holliday, and Bill Walker at the Timberman Ridge Welcome center on January 20th to learn how to identify trees in the winter. Attendees learned how to use MADBuck (maple, ash, dogwood, and buckeye) to remember which trees have opposite branching. Other helpful characteristics include thorn types, bark appearance, presence of fruits or nuts, and tree shape. The weather cooperated with a brisk, sunny winter day. This just goes to show that all seasons of the year are good times to visit the MetroParks.
Animals in Winter

Last month, Lara Askill contributed an informative article about animals in winter, including the groundhog. Since then, Punxsutawney Phil has seen his shadow on February 2nd, predicting six more weeks of winter. This has triggered massive protests across the country complaining about this outcome. Readers are advised to re-read Lara’s article to reassure themselves that Phil really can’t predict the weather. Besides, with all those TV lights, how could the poor critter avoid seeing his shadow? All you Snowflakes out there should relax in the knowledge that you will have lots of company for the next six weeks.

February Volunteer Opportunities

Woodcock Wooing-February 10, 2018 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Murder Mystery Dinner-February 10, 2018 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Voice of America MetroPark, Ronald Reagan Lodge

‘Owl at the Black Moon-February 24, 2018 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Governor Bebb MetroPark, Howe Shelter

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

Garden Explorer Camps-April 28, 2018 & September 15, 2018 12:00 p.m – 2:00 p.m

Chrisholm MetroPark

Looking for 3-6 volunteers ages 12-14 to assist with preparation of camp materials; camp setup day of; registration. Will work with children and animals.

Easter Dog Gone Bone Hunt-March 25, 2018 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Rentschler Forest MetroPark, Reigart Road Area

Looking for 8-10 volunteers ages 12 and up to work with people and dogs! Prior to the event, need assistance filling the eggs with treats. Setup and cleanup help needed day of the event as well as help with hiding the eggs, registration, prize table and the Easter Bunny!

Flashlight Egg Hunt- 8:30 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

March 23, 2018 Forest Run MetroPark, Wildlife Preserve

March 30, 2018 Elk Creek MetroPark, Sebald area

Looking for 10-12 volunteers ages 14 and up. Will work with children. Able to work in the dark on uneven ground. Please bring your own flashlight or headlamp. Prior to the event, assistance is needed counting and filling the eggs. Setup and cleanup help needed the day of the event as well as help hiding eggs, filling eggs, registration, collection of eggs at end of hunt.
Ongoing Service Opportunities

**Feeder Fill**

When: Flexible-Year Round
Where: Forest Run Welcome Center
1976 Timberman Road Hamilton OH 45013
Who: Families, Adults
What: A volunteer will fill bird feeders at the bird viewing area located at the Welcome Center in the Timberman Ridge Area of Forest Run MetroPark. Filling feeders takes approximately 30 minutes and should be done on 1 or 2 days each week between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. By filling feeders and maintaining the feeder area, MetroParks is able to provide an excellent location for viewing birds. If interested, contact Zach Marcum at zmarcum@YourMetroParks.net to schedule training.

**Nest Box Monitor Training**

When: Saturday, February 17, 2018
Where: Chrisholm MetroPark, Historic Farmstead Augspurger House
2070 Woodsdale Road, Trenton OH 45067
Register: by February 14, 2018

Email Zach Marcum at zmarcum@YourMetroParks.net

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 collect volunteer hours to be redeemed for rewards!

**Trail Ambassadors – Great Miami River Trail**

When: Flexible
Where: Great Miami River Trail – Trenton to Middletown Section
What: Trail Ambassadors monitor the trail at least 4 hours a month on their bicycle. Trail Ambassadors report maintenance and safety concerns to MetroParks staff, assist trail users when necessary, provide information to trail users, and perform light trail maintenance.

**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.

**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 and volunteer for the program itself. Contact Amy Pellman apellman@YourMetroParks.net

**Welcome Center - Voice of America MetroPark**

When: Weekends
Where: Voice of America MetroPark
Ronald Reagan Lodge, 7850 VOA Park Drive, West Chester OH 45069
What: Volunteers are needed at the Welcome Center at Voice of America MetroPark. Welcome park customer/owners with a smile, provide information about programs and the parks. Training provided. Contact Claudia Whitacre cwhitacre@YourMetroParks.net

"Volunteers DO NOT necessarily have the time; They have the Heart."

Elizabeth Andrew
Egg-citing March Programs

Old man winter is moving out, and spring is just around the corner!

It’s hard to believe we have already jumped into February. Our staff already has their eyes set on March and April when the programs pick up! We have two very popular events back by demand for 2018 coming up in late March. The Dog Gone Bone Hunt and the Flashlight Egg Hunt.

Make sure you “bark” your calendars for our Dog Gone Bone Hunt on March 25th, 2018 from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. This event goes to the dogs, where they get the chance to sniff out plastic eggs filled with yummy treats! Along with the egg hunt, there will be an obstacle course, socializing, and dog friendly vendors to visit. Last year’s attendance brought in roughly 250 people and dogs!

Another program to get “egg-cited” about is our Flashlight Egg Hunt! It’s not often we get to hunt for Easter eggs, especially at night time. With a flashlight as their guide, children and families will search designated trails and areas for eggs. Due to the event filling up last year, we have opened a second day for the Flashlight Egg Hunt. On March 23rd, 2018 from 8:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. participants hunt for eggs at Forest Run MetroPark - Wildlife Preserve Area. On March 30th, 2018 from 8:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. participants hunt for eggs at Elk Creek MetroPark – Sebald Park Area.

We hope to see many new and familiar faces at our upcoming programs in March!
Like our Facebook Page for updates on:
- Upcoming members events & meetings
- Volunteering with MPX
- MPX programming
Murder Mystery Dinner Series

**WHEN**
Saturday, December 9, 2017
Friday, January 5, 2018
Saturday, February 10, 2018
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

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

**PRICE**
$35.00/person
$30/person for groups of 8 or more
$10 off/person for your second show
Registration required by 5 days prior to the event

**ABOUT**
Get your costumes and come to the Ronald Reagan Lodge for a fabulous meal and a killer evening of improv comedy fun!

- December 9 – The Most Wonderful Crime of the Year
- January 5 – Murder at the Masquerade
- February 10 – Dance with Death

1950’s Prom

Please arrive 30 minutes early.

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

Warbler Refresher Workshop
Tuesday, April 17, 2018
7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Chriholm MetroPark
Historic Farmstead

Big Week of Birding Dates
Saturday, April 28, 2018
7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
Gilmore MetroPark
Gilmore Road Area

Saturday, April 28, 2018
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Indian Creek MetroPark
Springfield Road Area

Sunday, April 29, 2018
7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
Chriholm MetroPark
Woodsdale Regional Park

Sunday, April 29, 2018
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Salamander Run Preserve

Monday, April 30, 2018
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Forest Run MetroPark
Wildlife Preserve Area

Tuesday, May 1, 2018
7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
Hueson Woods State Park
Bird Banding Station

Tuesday, May 1, 2018
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Elk Creek MetroPark
Meadow Ridge Area

Wednesday, May 2, 2018
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Four Mile Creek MetroPark
Davidson Woods Area
Pre-registration Required

Thursday, May 3, 2018
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Four Mile Creek MetroPark
Sycamore Bluffs Area

Friday, May 4, 2018
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Governor Bebb MetroPark

Saturday, May 5, 2018
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Great Miami River Trail
50 Oxford Road
Parking Area

About
It’s the time of year when over 200 species of birds migrate through the area. The 5th annual Big Week of Birding in Butler County is a celebration for anyone with an interest in birds. Hikes are guided by experts and binoculars will be available to those who need them. Birding hikes will take place at 11 locations around Butler County over the course of the week-long series. The programs, held by MetroParks of Butler County in partnership with Audubon Miami Valley, are FREE and most do not require pre-registration.

See map on reverse side for address.

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

LSD/Rav 180110 approved
**ADVENTURE AWAITS!**

**WINTER WIZARDRY CAMP**
Calling all "muggles"! Join us on a day off from school for a little bit of wizardry fun. Allow the Hat to sort you and create your very own wand. Campers will have fun with science, geocaching, crafting, and recreation with a magical twist.

**Ages:** 6-9  
**Date:** January 15, 2018  
**Time:** 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Voice of America MetroPark  
Ronald Reagan Lodge  
**Cost:** $40/Butler County Resident. $50/Non-Resident

**WINTER OLYMPICS CAMP**
Campers will take part in their very own MetroParks Olympics! They will play games and do activities related to the theme of the camp.

**Ages:** 6-9  
**Date:** February 19, 2018  
**Time:** 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Voice of America MetroPark  
Ronald Reagan Lodge  
**Cost:** $40/Butler County Resident. $50/Non-Resident

**SPRING FEVER CAMP**
Campers who are itching to get outdoors will enjoy this 2-day camp with outdoor activities, crafts, and games to shake off the winter blues!

**Ages:** 6-9  
**Date:** April 2 & 3, 2018  
**Time:** 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Rentschler Forest MetroPark  
Reigart Road Area  
**Cost:** $70/Butler County Resident. $85/Non-Resident

**GARDEN EXPLORERS CAMP**
Calling preschoolers plus adult chaperones to join us outside and get your hands dirty. Let's dig, plant and sow the seeds of wonder. Perfect way to explore our natural world through interactive gardening activities on the farm. This camp is co-sponsored by the OSU Extension and MetroParks of Butler County.

**Ages:** 3-5  
**Date:** April 28, 2018  
**Time:** 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Chrisholm MetroPark Historic Farmstead  
**Cost:** $10/Butler County Resident. $15/Non-Resident

Registration is required and open now at www.YourMetroParks.net/experiences/adventure-camps

513.867.5835 | YourMetroParks.net  
Motor Vehicle Permit Required. FREE to Butler County Residents. Non-Residents $5/daily or $10/annually.
JUNIOR MASTER GARDENERS CAMP
Perfect way to get outside and encourage kids to grow it, try it and like it! Let’s dig, plant and sow the seeds of wonder. We will explore our natural world through interactive gardening activities on the farm. This camp is co-sponsored by the OSU Extension and MetroParks of Butler County.

**Ages:** 6-12  
**Date:** April 28, 2018  
**Time:** 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Chrisholm MetroPark Historic Farmstead  
**Cost:** $10/Butler County Resident. $15/Non-Resident

BARNYARD PALOOZA CAMP
Campers will spend some time out at the farm learning about the fun animals that call Chrisholm home. Games and other related activities will keep campers busy during this 2-day camp!

**Ages:** 6 - 9  
**Date:** June 25 & 26, 2018  
**Time:** 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Chrisholm MetroPark Historic Farmstead  
**Cost:** $70/Butler County Resident. $85/Non-Resident

PADDLING CAMP
Come Spend the day on the water! Campers will have the opportunity to experience the popular water recreations activities: kayaking, paddle boarding, and canoeing.

**Ages:** 10-12  
**Date:** July 24, 2018  
**Time:** 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Voice of America MetroPark  
**Cost:** $40/Butler County Resident. $50/Non-Resident

OUTBACK CAMP
Campers will experience outdoor games and activities to enjoy what is left of summer at this 2-day camp.

**Ages:** 6 - 9  
**Date:** July 30 & 31, 2018  
**Time:** 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Elk Creek MetroPark Meadow Ridge Area  
**Cost:** $70/Butler County Resident. $85/Non-Resident

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**Ages:** 3-5  
**Date:** September 15, 2018  
**Time:** 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Chrisholm MetroPark Historic Farmstead  
**Cost:** $10/Butler County Resident. $15/Non-Resident

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513.867.5835 | YourMetroParks.net
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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
- 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

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) __________________________