

The Voice of the Turtle



Friends of MetroParks of Butler County

Friends of MetroParks of Butler County Monthly Newsletter

June, 2017

FOMPBC Officers

President:

Bill Walker

Vice-President,

Nick Lengyel

Secretary:

Robin James

Treasurer:

Richard Burgstrom

Nominating Chair:

Roger Koch

Publicity Chair:

Bill Walker

Outreach Chair:

Chuck Holliday

Finance Chair:

Richard Burgstrom

Grants & Fund Raiser Chair

Robin James

Membership Chair:

Nick Lengyel

Events Chair

Allison Wagner

Web Master:

Craig Wiseman

Newsletter Editor:

Bill Walker

June Board Meeting

Friends of MetroParks of Butler County

Voice of America MetroPark

7850 VOA Park Drive, West Chester, Ohio 45069

Wednesday, June 14, 2017, 6:00 – 7:00 pm



**Come for the meeting, stay for the Hump Day
concert**

Letter from the President

Good news, good news! Last month, I reported illness of two board members, Nick Lengyel and Chuck Holliday. I am glad to tell you that both gentlemen are well along the road to recovery and back in the saddle helping Friends meet their goals.

Congratulations to Sargent Cliff James for his promotion to Lieutenant of the MetroPark Rangers. Cliff has been a big help to FoMPBC, and has also agreed to share his wife, Robin, who recently joined the Board of Directors of FoMPBC as Secretary. Robin also serves as Chair of the Grants and Fund-Raiser Committee, and recently announced receipt of another Smith Family Grant to help fund improvements at Chrisholm and Governor Bebb MetroParks. Good work, James family!

We have already enjoyed the first two Hump Day Concerts of the season. The Stagger Lee Band opened the festivities with an audience of almost 400. Although the weather scared away many from enjoying the Saffire Express, they rose to the occasion with a performance that had the audience dancing (and doing cartwheels) in the aisles. Thanks to Sarah and Chelsea for their hard work in making Hump Day possible.

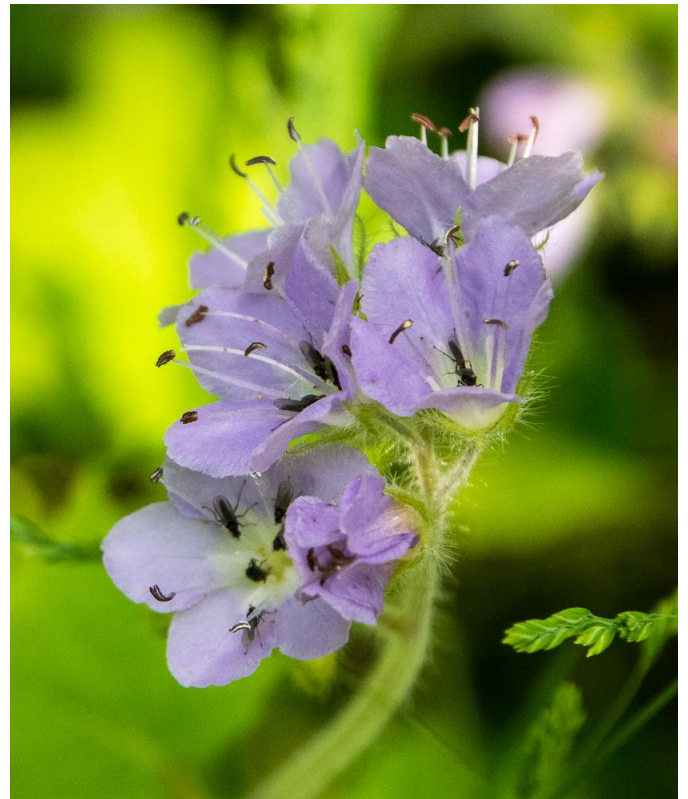
FoMPBC this year has become an official sponsor for the Hump Day concerts. As part of our contribution, we matched funds with MPX to purchase two sets of lights to help illuminate the bands in the VOA lakeside gazebo. The lights were first used during the Saffire Express concert on June 7th. Another part of our sponsorship includes providing raffle prizes for each concert. We have ten more exciting concerts scheduled for Wednesday evenings running through August. Ya'll come out and support the bands now, y'hear?

See you in the parks,
Bill Walker, President FOMPBC

Shooting Stars of Indian Creek MetroPark



Although the shooting stars had already shot their wads before the nature walk because of a warmer than usual spring, there were plenty of wild flowers and critters there to be enjoyed. Here are a few examples:





Good News: Kroger Community Rewards

We will be receiving a check for Cycle 5, Qtr 4 from the Kroger Community Rewards program in the amount of **\$136.01**.

FOMPBC organization # 15599

Dear Community Rewards Organization:

Thank you for being a member of the Kroger Community Rewards program. We are 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 our Community Rewards program.

We've got great news to share with you! We've listened to your feedback and are making updates to our Community Rewards process and software. As of April 1, 2017, your supporters will no longer have to re-enroll their Kroger Plus Card to earn dollars for your organization. We believe this will make it easier for your organization and our customers to support you!

More Good News!

FOMPBC has received notification from the **AmazonSmile** program that we will be receiving a check in the amount of \$90.63. Thank you to all the members and friends that have contributed and shopped at smile.Amazon.com, with the same shopping experience as Amazon.com.

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you.



FOMPBC 2017 Calendar of Events

M	D	Time	Event	Location
July	9	12-4 pm	Pioneer for a Day	Gov. Bebb
	15	10am-4pm	Crazy Cardboard Regatta	VOA
Aug	4-5		Mud Mania	Rentschler
	12	12-4 pm	Fun on the Farm	Chrisholm
Sep	16	10am-4 pm	Horse Daze	Sebald
Oct	7		Barn Dance	Chrisholm
Oct	22	10am-4pm	The Howl	VOA
Dec	1 2 3	5-9 5-9 4-8pm	Brilliant Bebb	Gov Bebb

North America’s Bears

By Wyatt Snodgrass, Program Leader Park Connections

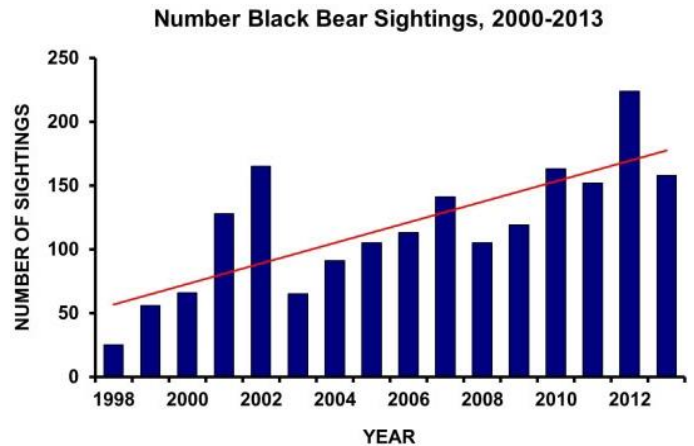
North America is home to three species of bears, Brown bear or grizzly (*Ursus arctos*), polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) and American black bears (*Ursus americanus*). Brown bears are sometimes referred to as Kodiak or grizzly bears depending on their geographic location. The name Grizzly comes from their “grizzled” appearance. These bears are found mainly among inland states and territories within their range. Brown, Kodiak and Grizzly are all are considered to be the one species but since advances in modern genetics, it is suggested that since the brown bears on Kodiak Island, Alaska have had little or no genetic exchange with continental populations they can be considered a subspecies.

Polar bears are the largest species of the three and live in the Arctic habitats of the northern regions of North America, Russia, Norway and Greenland. Here they rely mostly on a carnivorous diet, unlike the other two species of bears that are omnivores and consume mainly plants, berries, nuts, grasses and insects. Through genetic research, biologists have confirmed that polar bears evolved from brown (grizzly) bears around three hundred thousand years

ago. The species is protected by the Marine Mammal Protection Act and is listed as “threatened” according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Populations are declining due to habitat loss as a result of melting sea ice.

Black bears are the most common species of bear in North America and can be found throughout Canada and in thirty two of the United States, including parts of Ohio.

At one time, black bears were very common across the state of Ohio. The population started to decline



The number of black bear sightings in Ohio by year, 1998-2013 (Ohio Division of Wildlife)

in the 1800’s because of extensive habitat loss due to deforestation, human settlement and unregulated hunting. The species was extirpated from the state by 1850.

Today, due to habitat restoration, a small population of 50 to 100 individual bears have found their way back to Ohio (Figure 1) and the population seems to be increasing.

The best places to find black bears in Ohio is in the forested regions throughout the eastern half of the state. If you are lucky enough to see a bear in the wild, remember that you have no reason to be afraid of it, as long as you are respectful to the animal and keep your distance. Report your sighting to the county wildlife officer or wildlife biologist. You can also call 1-800-WILDLIFE to make your report directly to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

Busy Rookery Season at Gilmore Ponds MPX



Stream Biology Training Class at Indian Creek MPX

Lynn White of Butler County Department of Soil and Water provided training in collecting, identifying and counting water borne invertebrates as a measure of stream health.





Hump Day Concert 1 The Stagger Lee Band



Good news, Indian Creek passed the health test!



The Voice of the Turtle, June, 2017



Hump Day Concert 2
The Saffire Express



Like our Facebook Page for updates on:

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



Redeem your hours for rewards

You can redeem your service hours through our Volunteer Rewards Program. Volunteers who have recorded 20 or more hours are eligible to redeem their hours for rewards. Rewards include boat rentals, shelter rentals, overnight rentals, program passes, and much more. For more details on rewards and how to redeem your hours contact Sara.



Friends of MetroParks of Butler County

The Friends of MetroParks of Butler County is an Ohio non-profit group of private citizens who have come together to:

- Sponsor programs and activities that promote the use of all of MetroParks of Butler County.
- Assist in raising funds, securing donations and applying & obtaining grant monies to further the mission of MetroParks of Butler County.
- Increase public awareness of MetroParks of Butler County (Ohio) facilities and opportunities for conservation, education and recreation.
- Identify and assist in implementing improvements to all of the parks.
- Support volunteerism in the parks.

For more information visit www.fompbc.org

"Volunteer. Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can."
~Arthur Ashe

In This Issue

- Upcoming Opportunities for June and July
- Recurring Opportunities
- Save the Date

Did you know?

Did you know that you can sign up online and view various opportunities to serve within MetroParks?

Visit www.YourMetroParks.net, select "Volunteer", then under "Current Volunteers" click the link. Once you sign in you can view openings to serve by month. Anywhere you see "Help Wanted" you can click to see opportunities.

2017 Service Days

Mark your calendars for the upcoming service days where you can help us prepare our parks for spring, special events, and other things.

July 14 Voice of America

August 26 Elk Creek—Seabald

September 23 Governor Bebb



Voice of America MetroPark
Ronald Reagan Lodge

October 28* - Various
November 18 - Voice of
America

*October 28 is Make a
Difference Day

JUNE

OPPORTUNITIES



When: Sunday, June 18, 2017 7:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Where: Voice of America MetroPark
7850 VOA Park Drive
West Chester OH 45069

Who: Adults, Teens

What: Volunteers are needed packet stuffing prior to the event as well as the day of the event. For more information on volunteer opportunities please visit www.signupgenius.com/go/10c084ca9a823a6fd0-voatriathlon

When: Sunday, June 3, 2017 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Where: Gilmore MetroPark
7950 Gilmore Road
Hamilton OH 45015

Who: Adults, Teens

What: Volunteers are needed to assist with the National Day on the Trails. For more information contact Lynette Dean at ldean@YourMetroParks.net.

JULY

OPPORTUNITIES

When: Saturday, July 15, 2017 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Where: Voice of America MetroPark
7850 VOA Park Drive
West Chester OH 45069

Who: Adults, Teens

What: Volunteers are needed on Friday, July 14th to help prepare for the event as well as the day of. For more information on volunteer opportunities please visit www.form.jotform.us/70934841467161



Hump Day Concerts

When: Wednesdays May 31-August 16 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Where: Voice of America MetroPark
7850 VOA Park Drive
West Chester OH 45069

Who: Adults, Teens

What: Volunteers are needed to help with various tasks during the hump day concerts.



HUMP DAY CONCERT SERIES

WHEN Every Wednesday
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
May 31st - August 16th

WHERE Voice of America MetroPark
Gazebo on the Lake
7850 VOA Park Drive
West Chester, OH 45069

PRICE FREE TO THE PUBLIC

REGISTER YourMetroParks.net
Registration Not Required

FEATURING

- Free music
- Midweek relaxation
- Food & adult beverages for purchase
- Lake activities
- Bike & boat rentals
- Family yard games
- Playground for the kids

 **LTC Health.**


MetroParks
of Butler County, OH


COX MEDIA
GROUP

JOURNAL-NEWS



513.867.5835 | YourMetroParks.net

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





HUMP DAY CONCERT SERIES

MAY 31

Stagger Lee Band

JUNE 7

Saffire Express

JUNE 14

Ty Cooper

JUNE 21

The Belairs

JUNE 28

Jamison Road

JULY 5

Ooh La La

JULY 12

The Sunburners

JULY 19

Kelsey Mira

JULY 26

Hickory Robot

AUGUST 2

The McCartney Project

AUGUST 9

Square Thirteen

AUGUST 16

Parrots of the Caribbean

metroparks



mojo
Running
Triathlon

WHEN:

June 18th, 2017 at 7:00 AM

WHERE:

Voice of America MetroPark

7850 VOA Park Drive, West Chester, OH 45069

WHO:

Open to triathletes of all experience levels with Sprint, Olympic, & Relay options

**Tri a MetroPark....Live Life in
))) Forward Motion**

~3rd Annual~

Cost:

- Sprint: \$70
- Olympic: \$80
- Sprint Relay: \$115
- Olympic Relay: \$130

Race:

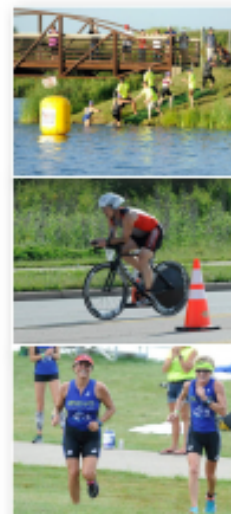
Swim in VOA lake, run along park trails, and bike on streets of West Chester!

Registration:

<https://www.racemine.com/Mojo-Running/events/2017/MetroParks-Mojo-Running-Triathlon>

Registration closes on June 14th, 2017

Register before May 1st to receive \$5 off on any registration!



MetroParks
of Butler County, OH

CREEKING IN THE PARKS

10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

JUNE 2017 DATES AND LOCATIONS

Thursday, June 8

Rentschler Forest MetroPark
Reigart Road Activity Area
5701 Reigart Road
Hamilton, OH 45011

Thursday, June 15

Forest Run MetroPark
Wildlife Preserve Area
1810 New London Road
Hamilton, OH 45013

Thursday, June 22

Four Mile Creek MetroPark
Antenen Nature Preserve Area
2385 Treiber Road
Hamilton, OH 45011

Thursday, June 29 Pond Study

Forest Run MetroPark
Timberman Ridge
1976 Timberman Road
Hamilton, OH 45013



JULY 2017 DATES AND LOCATIONS

Thursday, July 6

Indian Creek MetroPark
1899 Oxford Reilly Road
Oxford, OH 45056

Thursday, July 13

Elk Creek MetroPark
Sebald Activity Area
5580 Elk Creek Road
Middletown, OH 45042

Thursday, July 20

Governor Bebb MetroPark
1979 Bebb Park Lane
Okeana, OH 45053



**ALL AGES
WELCOME**

FREE, FAMILY FUN!

FOOTWEAR REQUIRED
No flip flops, please.



Motor Vehicle Permit required at MetroPark locations. Free to Butler Co. residents, Non-residents: \$5/Daily; \$10/Annually

LEARN TO ROW 2017



Voice of America MetroPark
7850 VOA Park Drive
West Chester OH 45069

Saturday, July 1
Saturday, July 29
Saturday, August 26

Register for these classes at
www.YourMetroParks.net
or call 513.867.5835



Great Miami Crew Boathouse
330 North B Street
Hamilton OH 45013

Saturday, June 3*
Saturday, August 19
Sunday, September 10

Register for these classes at
www.GreatMiamiRowing.com
or call 513.892.4672

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
\$10 per person, per class



*National Learn to Row Day, FREE program
Motor Vehicle Permit Required. FREE to Butler County Residents. Non-Residents \$5/daily or \$10/annually.

fit one full page to window

DAY CAMPS

SUMMER 2017



Investigate Park Professions

Friday, June 9, Ages 12-17

Chrisholm MetroPark

Discover the inner workings of the parks & recreation world. Participate in team building, meet a park public safety officer, care for the park program animals, work with the conservation staff, design a park, and create marketing.

Outdoor Adventure

Monday & Tuesday June 12 & 13, Ages 6-12

Rentschler Forest MetroPark

Explore the outdoors while learning survival skills like shelter building, fire starting, and wayfinding.

Paddle Camp

Thursday, July 6, Ages 12-17

Voice of America MetroPark

Spend a day on the water exploring canoeing, kayaking, paddle boarding, and more!

Water Camp

Monday & Tuesday July 24 & 25, Ages 6-12

Voice of America MetroPark

Slip, slide, splash & swim as you spend your time at the VOA lake. You'll participate in everything water-related including swimming, boating, fishing, and science.

Cost

1-day camps:

\$20/Butler County resident

\$25/non-resident

2-day camps:

\$40/Butler County resident

\$50/non-resident

All camps run from
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



Pre-registration is required!

Visit our website at

www.YourMetroParks.net

or call 513.867.5835

Locations

Chrisholm MetroPark

2070 Woodsdale Road

Trenton OH 45067

Rentschler Forest MetroPark

5701 Reigart Road

Fairfield Twp. OH 45011

Voice of America MetroPark

7850 VOA Park Drive

West Chester OH 45069



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



CRAZY CARDBOARD REGATTA

- WHEN** Saturday, July 15, 2017
11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- WHERE** Voice of America MetroPark
7850 VOA Park Drive
West Chester OH 45069
- PRICE** FREE for spectators
- REGISTER** YourMetroParks.net
Boat, Vendor, & Sponsorship forms
under General Information

FEATURING

- Cardboard Boat Races
- Kids Activities & Games
- Music, Food & Drinks
- Demonstrations & MORE!
- Vendors

The Fast & The Floundering

Boats built for speed or for show...the fastest boats move on

Soggy Bottom Battle

The last boat floating wins in this "crash derby" style competition

Awards for speed, creativity, & presentation in each category

Benefiting *The Water Restoration Fund* at The Community Foundation



West Chester
Hospital



513.867.5835 | YourMetroParks.net

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





MUD MANIA

WHEN

August 4th & 5th, 2017
11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. both days

WHERE

Rentschler Forest MetroPark
Reigart Road Area
5701 Reigart Road
Hamilton OH 45011

PRICE / REGISTER

Register online or day-of the event:
Ages 6 & up/\$5.00
Under 5 years old/FREE
\$50/6-player volleyball team

FEATURING

- Mud Volleyball Tournaments
- Slimy Obstacle Course
- Muddy Pools
- Little Mudders' Area
- Food Vendors, and MORE!

PLEASE NOTE: Come prepared to get wet & dirty. ALL participants must wear shoes (no flip-flops).



513.867.5835 | YourMetroParks.net

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





HORSEDAZE

WHEN Saturday, September 16, 2017
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

WHERE Elk Creek MetroPark
5580 Elk Creek Road
Middletown OH 45402

PRICE FREE Event

REGISTER YourMetroParks.net

FEATURING

- Horse Rides
- Hayrides
- Horse Photo Ops
- Demonstrations
- Games & Activities
- Food & Drinks available for purchase



Butler County
Chapter of



513.867.5835 | YourMetroParks.net

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



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) _____