

The Voice of the Turtle



Friends of MetroParks of Butler County

Friends of MetroParks of Butler County Monthly Newsletter

September, 2017

FOMPBC Officers

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Bill Walker

Vice-President,

Nick Lengyel

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Robin James

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Newsletter Editor:

Bill Walker

September Board Meeting Friends of MetroParks of Butler County

Wednesday, September 13th

At

Butler County Historical Society

327 N 2nd Street, Hamilton, OH 45011

7:00-9:00 PM

Members and interested parties are
welcome to attend



HORSEDAZE

Letter from the President

How many of you viewed the solar eclipse last month? My wife, Alice, and I travelled to Clarksville, TN, to enter the zone of totality (sounds like an episode of Twilight Zone, doesn't it?). The sky was clear, and nothing (except for equipment issues with my tripod) standing in the way of a good view of the eclipse. Unfortunately, Alice had prior commitments the next day that required us to return home after the event, along with about a million of our closest friends. What should have been a 5-hour drive turned into a 12-hour parking lot. I was reminded of Mark Twain's trip down the Alps by glacier. Oh well, there's always 2024 to look forward to!

Hump Day Concerts are done for the year, each more enjoyable than the last. Labor Day is past and school back in session. It's not yet officially autumn, but nights are starting to be what my old granny used to refer to as "good sleeping weather". Sounds like a good time to visit the parks.

Don't let the threat of cooler weather scare you (yet). There are plenty of fun activities scheduled for September in our parks. Bring your inner cowboy ("cowperson" may be more politically correct, but doesn't trip as lightly off the tongue) to Horse Daze. Volunteer for a service day at Governor Bebb MetroPark. Choose which events to attend during the Great Outdoor Weekend.

See you in the parks,
Bill Walker, President FOMPBC

Coming in September



HORSEDAZE

Hold your Horses!!

HORSEDAZE is right around the corner and we want you to join the fun. Lasso up the family and ride on over to enjoy horse rides, tractor drawn hayrides, horse photo opportunities, demonstrations, games & activates September 16th from 10am-4pm

at Elk Creek (formerly, Sebald) MetroPark. This free event is brought to you by the MetroParks of Butler County and the Butler County Chapter of Ohio Horseman's Council Inc.

This year Friends will be offering easy to apply and removable temporary tattoos for free to all attendees. Friends will also have an informational booth. To Volunteer for this event please contact Carri.Mosier@Gmail.com

September 16th
Elk Creek Park-5580 Elk Creek Road,
Middletown OH 45402



September is a Great time in Ohio to get Outdoors!!! So get out and explore our wonderful parks for **Great Outdoor Weekend September 23rd and September 24th**. Help give back during the Stepping forward service day, do a little exploring during tracks, Scats and Signs, or try your hand at treasure hunting with Geocaching. Or head to one of the 10 MetroParks and enjoy some family fun and recreation, you're sure to have a great weekend!!!

Stepping Forward Service Day – September 23rd

Is a great opportunity for individuals, families and groups to make a difference in our parks. Help Maintain the historic Pioneer village and Governor Bebb MetroPark by Cleaning the outdoor village area and performing trail maintenance.

Tracks, Scats and signs-September 24th

Explore the woods, meadow, ponds and creeks looking for evidence of critters. You can bring a Magnifying glass, track field guide and a journal if you have them. Weather won't stop us unless there is lightning. September 23rd 10am-12pm

Meet at the back Parking lot 1810 Hamilton-New London Rd, Hamilton Oh 45013

Geocaching

Who doesn't love searching for Hidden treasures?
Geocaching- where technology meets outdoor recreation. This is an introductory program to learn how to enjoy this fun activity in MetroParks.
September 24th 10:00am-12pm Bicentennial Commons: AK Pavilion, Middletown, OH

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. 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 Smile.Amazon.com and select FOMPBC. 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.



Sebald Picnic Area

Park Spotlight

"I Haven't Been everywhere, but it's on my List"

Susan Sontag

Elk Creek Metro Park

Elk Creek Metro Park became the largest Park within the Park System in November 16, 2016. On this date the Land know as Meadow Ridge Area of Elk Creek MetroPark was combined with the Sebald Park area.

This Beautiful park provides views of the Wooded Hills and rolling meadow forming the walls of the creek valley while the open lawn areas of the park serve as recreation space. The park has 10 covered Picnic shelters and multiple play grounds for Children in addition to hiking trails that are routed throughout the woods and along Elk Creek.

Location

5580 Elk Creek Road
Middletown OH 45042

Available recreation

Birding & Wildlife
Geocaching
Horseback Riding
Play Areas
Fishing
Hiking Trails
Picnicking
Walk/Run/Bike Trails

Facilities & Amenities

- Grills
- Outdoor Shelter (Non-reservable)
- Outdoor Shelter (Reservable)
- Playground
- Port-o-lets/latrines

Friends of MetroParks of Butler County

FOMPBC 2017 Calendar of Events

Sep	16 23-24	10am-4 pm	Horse Daze Great Outdoor Weekend	Elk Creek Multiple locations
Oct	7		Barn Dance	Chrisholm
Oct	22	10am- 4pm	The Howl	VOA
Dec	1 2 3	5-9 5-9 4-8 pm	Brilliant Bebb Brilliant Bebb	Gov Bebb Gov Bebb

Thanks to Donna Holliday and Carri Mosier for manning the ticket sales.

Thanks to Bill Walker for contributing 12 beautiful framed nature photographs that were also given as prizes for the concerts.



We Scooped the COOPS!

Friends of MetroParks of Butler County has purchased 2 15 hen Chicken Coops for Chrisholm MetroParks new Farmscape. These coops were purchased by funds received from a grant of \$500.00 from the Kohls AIA program and the remaining \$299.98 came from the Split the Pot proceeds from this year’s Hump Day Concert Series.

Member’s Only

Many thanks to Ed and Kathy Creighton for hosting a tour of the Lewis/Sample Farmstead on August 20. What an amazing place! The tour included two early 19th century barns and a beautifully restored home filled to the brim with antiques. Also some great food afterwards topped off with homemade ice cream. Great job, Nick Lengyel for organizing this event.



“Split the Pot”

The Hump Day Concerts at VOA were quite successful this summer! Great musicians, good weather, good food, and great attendance mark the concert series as a great success. The Friends group took a more active role in helping with the concerts in 2017, thanks to Robin James and Nick Lengyel for opening introductions. Acting on advice from a regular attendee to the concerts FOMPBC decided to raffle “Split the Pot” tickets for each concert. Another very successful and profitable undertaking for Friends of MetroParks of Butler County.

Our share of the pot totaled over \$644.00. All proceeds from the “Split the Pot” will be used to benefit MetroParks of Butler County. (See next article.)

Thanks to Ed Creighton for donating his winning ticket proceeds back to FOMPBC, and thanks to Alice Walker for regifting her 6’-tall stuffed animal (donated by Robin James) to a deserving young lady in the audience.

The Voice of the Turtle, September, 2017





Mud Mania

What's more fun than playing in the mud? Every year the hill at Rentschler Forest MetroPark is transformed into one of the area's largest waterslides, and the normally-dry swale into a mud-filled obstacle course.





Fun on the Farm

Humans and farm animals alike had a good time at Christholm MetroPark for Fun on the Farm.



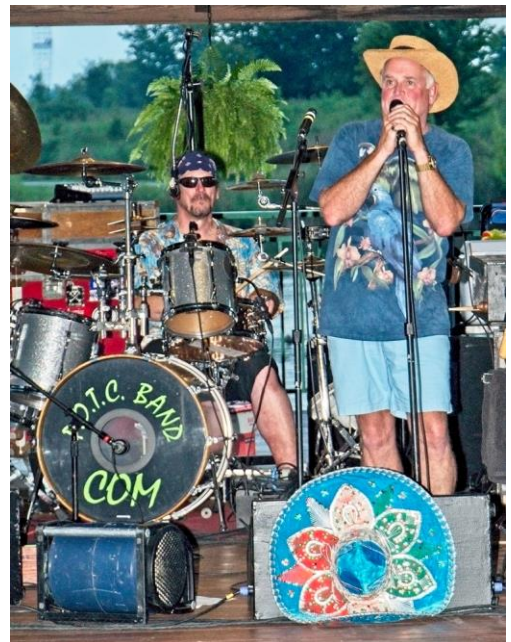


**Hump Day Concert 11
Square Thirteen Band**





**Hump Day Concert 12
Parrots of the Caribbean**



Like our Facebook Page for updates on:

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





SEPTEMBER EVENTS



SEPTEMBER 2017

FARM ANIMAL SHOW & TELL

Chrisholm MetroPark
- Historic Farmstead
Sun., September 3, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
FREE

FARM ANIMAL SHOW & TELL

Chrisholm MetroPark
- Historic Farmstead
Thurs., September 7, 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
FREE

LEARN TO ROW

Great Miami Rowing Center
Sun., September 10, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
\$10/person

FARM ANIMAL SHOW & TELL

Chrisholm MetroPark
- Historic Farmstead
Sun., September 10, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
FREE

FARM ANIMAL SHOW & TELL

Chrisholm MetroPark
- Historic Farmstead
Thurs., September 14, 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
FREE

HORSE DAZE

Elk Creek MetroPark - Sebald Park
Sat., September 16, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
FREE

FARM ANIMAL SHOW & TELL

Chrisholm MetroPark
- Historic Farmstead
Sun., September 17, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
FREE

FARM ANIMAL SHOW & TELL

Chrisholm MetroPark
- Historic Farmstead
Thurs., September 21, 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
FREE

GREAT OUTDOOR WEEKEND - TRACKS, SCATS & SIGNS

Forest Run MetroPark
- Wildlife Preserve
Sat., September 23, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
FREE

GREAT OUTDOOR WEEKEND - SERVICE DAY

Governor Bebb MetroPark
Sat., September 23, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
FREE

GREAT OUTDOOR WEEKEND - GEOCACHING

Great Miami River Trail
- Bicentennial Commons
Sun., September 24, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
FREE

GREAT OUTDOOR WEEKEND - ON THE FARM

Governor Bebb MetroPark
Sun., September 24, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
FREE

FARM ANIMAL SHOW & TELL

Chrisholm MetroPark
- Historic Farmstead
Thurs., September 28, 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
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 513.867.5835

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

Stepping Forward Service Days 2017

A great opportunity for
groups, individuals, or
families!

Location	Date/Time	Activities
Rentschler Forest MetroPark Timberhill Area	Saturday, March 11 th 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Prepare Timberhill for the fun of spring. Assemble tent shelters, perform trail maintenance and general indoor facility maintenance.
Voice of America MetroPark	Saturday, April 1 st 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Prepare VOA for another busy season of athletic competitions. Help hang nets for soccer goals and clean up the athletic field area.
Indian Creek MetroPark	Saturday, April 22 nd 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Help in habitat improvement at Indian Creek MetroPark by removing invasive species with hand tools along the waterfront and drives.
Elk Creek MetroPark Sebald	Saturday, April 22 nd 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Perform trail maintenance in preparation for horse trail opening.
Voice of America MetroPark	Friday, July 14 th 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Help prepare VOA for the Crazy Cardboard Regatta. Raise the flags and fences, set up tents, clean up the park, and general event set up.
Elk Creek MetroPark Sebald	Saturday, August 26 th 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Prepare Sebald Park for Horse Daze. Perform trail maintenance, honeysuckle removal, and park clean up.
Governor Bebb MetroPark	Saturday, September 23 rd 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Help maintain the historic pioneer village and Governor Bebb MetroPark by cleaning up the outdoor village area and performing trail maintenance.
Rentschler Forest MetroPark Timberhill Area	Saturday, October 28 th 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Prepare the Timberhill Activity Area for winter. Help take down tent shelters, perform park clean up, trail maintenance, and general maintenance tasks.
Rentschler Forest MetroPark	Saturday, October 28 th 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Participate in the Great Miami Clean Sweep by picking up trash in and around the waterways that run through Rentschler Forest MetroPark and feed into the Great Miami River.
Voice of America MetroPark	Saturday, October 28 th 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Perform trail maintenance, invasive species removal, landscaping.
Forest Run MetroPark	Saturday, October 28 th 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Perform trail maintenance, invasive species removal, landscaping.
Voice of America MetroPark	Saturday, November 18 th 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Prepare the VOA athletic fields for the winter season by helping to take down and store soccer goals and perform athletic complex clean up.

Provided:
Snacks
Water
Tools



Rain or Shine
Dress properly for
weather & working conditions

 Make A
Difference Day

October 28th is Make a
Difference Day. Service
opportunities will be provided
throughout MetroParks of
Butler County on this day.

Thanks for making a
difference!


MetroParks
of Butler County, OH

For more information on park locations please visit
www.YourMetroParks.net/Parks

To sign up to serve, contact Sara Schapman at
sschapman@YourMetroParks.net or call 513.867.5835



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



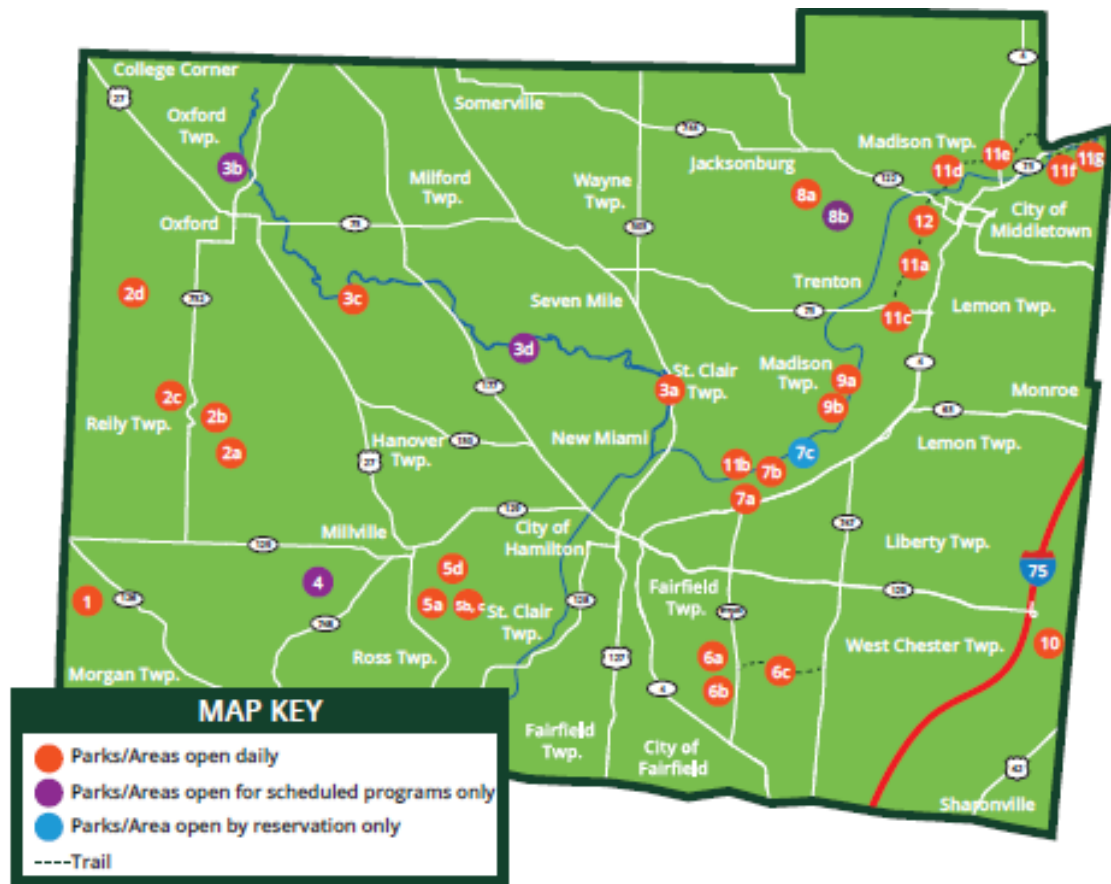
Butler County
Chapter of



513.867.5835 | YourMetroParks.net

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





- 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

Establishment of pollinator plantings can be difficult and requires the Three Ps.

Planning: It is very important to plan ahead. Pollinator plantings require lots of thought on species and site selection, site preparation, planting, and maintenance.

Patience: Native plants are best for pollinators, and most are not quick to establish and flower. It is important to be patient while native plants slowly emerge and set their deep roots to pull moisture and for the toughest growing conditions.

Persistence: Weed control is one of the most challenging and important parts of establishing a successful planting. Be persistent with weed control, monitoring, and care of your pollinator planting.

Project Size: Pollinator plantings can range in size from a couple hundred square feet to a couple hundred acres. It is obvious that smaller projects will likely receive more care per unit of area, but the establishment steps are basically the same. Smaller projects (typically < 1 acre) are more conducive to more intense establishment methods, such as solarization, planting plugs, hand-pulling weeds, etc.

Find us on 

Or <http://www.ophi.info/>

For more information:

marci_lininger@fws.gov



Monarch caterpillar

Planting milkweed for Monarchs is vital!

Milkweed is the sole host plant for Monarch butterflies. This particular plant is lacking on the landscape and has had a direct effect on Monarch populations.

Please join us in our effort to replenish this essential plant in Ohio by collecting common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) pods in your area.



Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*)



Ohio Pollinator
Habitat Initiative

Annual Milkweed Pod Collection

September 1st through October 30th

Contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District
for more information.



Milkweed Seed Pod Collection



Local Collection Point:

Butler Soil & Water

Conservation District

1802 Princeton Rd, Hamilton, OH

513-887-3720

www.ButlerSWCD.org



Pollinator Planting; source: US Fish & Wildlife Service

Pollinator Species are experiencing population declines across the United States. In particular, the monarch butterfly has drastically declined here in Ohio and in the wintering grounds of Mexico. In response to this decline the Ohio Division of Wildlife and other partners have created the Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative (OPHI) to educate the public and help create beneficial habitat to pollinators such as the monarch butterfly. OPHI formed after the 2014 petition to list the monarch as federally endangered or threatened. The group's primary focus is to find opportunities and other partners to assist in the efforts to create habitat.

Collecting Seed Pods

- To collect the seed pods from a milkweed plant it is best to pick them when they are dry, gray, or brown in color. If the center seam pops with gentle pressure, they can be picked.
- It is best to collect pods into paper bags or paper grocery sacks.
- Avoid using plastic bags because they attract moisture. Store seeds in a cool, dry area until you can deliver to the closest pod collection area.
- Please mark in the paper bag:
 - County seeds were collect in
 - Date and time
 - If other than common milkweed species; which species of milkweed seed was collected.
- Harvesting pods from milkweed plants does not have any effect on the population of milkweed in established areas.
- All milkweed pods collected during this time will be processed by OPHI partners and all of the seed collected will be used to establish new plantings and create additional habitat for the Monarch Butterfly throughout Ohio.
- It is recommended that you wear disposable gloves when picking and handling pods.

Questions or for more information on pollinators contact your Butler SWCD office at 513-887-3720 or OPHI at (614) 416-8993.

To help foster the creation of habitat for the monarch butterfly, OPHI in cooperation with Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Districts is organizing a **Statewide Milkweed Pod Collection** this year starting **September 1st and ending October 30th**.

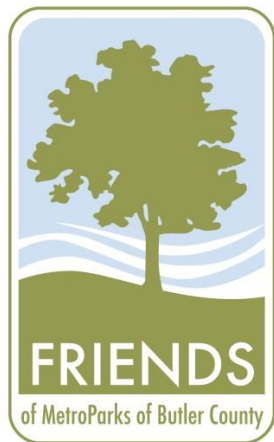
Milkweed is essential to the survival of Monarch Butterflies in Ohio and Ohio is a priority area for Monarchs. The monarch butterflies that hatch here in the summer migrate to Mexico for the winter and are responsible for starting the life cycle all over again in the spring. During September and October everyone is encouraged to collect milkweed pods from established plants and drop them off at the nearest pod collection station.

In Butler County, please take your seed pods to Butler Soil and Water Conservation District, 1802 Princeton Road, Hamilton, OH 45011. Office hours are from 8 am—4:30 pm, Monday through Friday.



Monarch caterpillar foraging on milkweed

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) _____