

The Voice of the Turtle



Friends

of MetroParks of Butler County

Friends of MetroParks of Butler County Monthly Newsletter
January, 2016

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Bill Walker

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Make your salamander pre-reservation now!



Jan. 29-Apr. 1,

8:30-10:00 PM

Indian Creek Mayer Shelter

6500 Springfield Rd., Oxford, OH 45056

January, 2016

Salamander Adventures Return



In the spring, on a warm, wet evening salamanders at Indian Creek begin to move. It happens sometime between the last week of January and the end of March. Sign up for this unique opportunity. Watch migrating salamanders and learn more about this species. Pre-registration required. You will be contacted by email regarding the exact date and time

Sun, Mon., Tue., Wed., Thu., Fri., Sat. Jan. 29-Apr. 1, 8:30-10:00 PM Indian Creek Mayer Shelter 6500 Springfield Rd., Oxford, OH 45056

Group discounts are available for 8 or more people at \$60 per ticket - please call 513-867-5835 to book a party.

There is a multi show discount also available if you book a second show (\$10 off).

Murder Mystery Dinner* note:

All members of FOMPBC receive a 20% discount on tickets. Please call to make your reservations and identify yourself as a Friends member.

Brilliant Bebb



Murder Mystery Dinner*



Come join us 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 are the themes for each show:

February 13, 2016 - Till Death do us Part

March 12, 2016 - Murder at the Masquerade

April 16, 2016 - Of Sound, Mind & Dead Body



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**Kroger Plus Card
Community Rewards Update:**

Your supporters (17 households) who shopped at Cincinnati between 2015-08-01 and 2015-10-31 (Cycle 4, Qtr 2) have contributed to your **\$126.58** total donation. Your organization will be receiving a Kroger check in this amount within 30 days from 2015-11-24

Every fiscal quarter Kroger donates one million dollars to local community groups.



Dear Friends of Metro Parks of Butler County,

The Kroger Family of Stores is committed to bringing hope and help to local communities. We do this through a variety of activities, including charitable giving, sponsorships and the unique Community Rewards Program of Kroger. We are also committed to carefully protecting our customers' personal information. In order to meet their expectation of privacy, we have adopted a simple policy to never share a customer's personal information. Our privacy policy applies to Community Rewards participation as well. As your neighborhood food retailer, we deeply value our ability to support local organizations like yours.

If you have any questions, please email cincinnaticommunityrewards@kroger.com or visit our website at www.krogercommunityrewards.com. Thank you for your continued support of your local Kroger store.

Don't forget to use your newsletter, website, and events to encourage your supporters to link to your organization. The more your supporters shop with us, the more money your organization will earn!

*Thank you,
Community Rewards Staff*

Thank You to all of the FOMPBC family and friends who have contributed to this program.

Organization Name: **Friends of MetroParks of Butler County** Organization Number: **15599**

**The Who's-Asleep-Score:
Hibernation and Torpor**
By Kathy Edelen, program leader



*"Everywhere, creatures
Are falling asleep..."
Dr. Seuss, The Sleep Book*

How do animals make it through an Ohio winter? Do they hibernate? Woodchucks (AKA groundhogs or whistle pigs) do! Woodchucks are one of the few animals in Ohio that go into true hibernation. They can drop their body temperature from a normal 99 degrees to 37 degrees in hibernation! Compare that to humans. We go into mild hypothermia at a loss of a mere 3 degrees and lose consciousness at 82 degrees. Quite different from woodchucks.

What about bears? Do they hibernate? There is some debate on this issue. Bears only drop their body temperature by a few degrees, so most experts do not consider bears true hibernators. Whatever you want to call it, what they do is truly amazing - they can go for more than 100 days without eating, drinking or making waste!

Bats? Bats go into a shorter version of hibernation called torpor. While they do drop their body temperature and sleep through much of the winter, they will wake up and forage for food and water on days that are warm enough for bugs to fly.

So what's the difference between hibernation and torpor? Torpor is driven by the availability of food and ambient temperature. Hibernation is associated

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with hormone changes due to the changing of daylight hours.

*“And now, adding things up,
we are way beyond billions!
Our Who’s-Asleep-Score
is now up in the Zillions!
Ninety-nine zillion,
Nine trillion and two
Creatures are sleeping!
So...
How about you?”
Dr. Seuss The Sleep Book*

Grab a coat and go explore what bizarre things nature has in store for you today! Maybe you will see a Dr. Seuss story too!

For more information on animals and their winter habits, visit OhioDNR.gov & nwf.org.

MetroParks of Butler County Park Connections team receives two AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE from the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association

By Lynette Dean, Program Manager

It has been a wonderful year for the Park Connections team. We have increased the number of people reached and increased revenue in 2015. Several new and innovative programs/events have been offered. Two of them, Salamander Adventure and MetroParks Mojo Running Triathlon and Training Program received an Ohio Parks and Recreation Association (OPRA) Award of Excellence. Salamander Adventure placed 2nd in the category of Programs: Environmental & Interpretive. The triathlon event placed 1st in the category of Programs: Sports. Because of its first place finish, the triathlon event will be competing with 13 other first place award winners for the Governor’s Award.

Throughout the state, 130 programs and projects were nominated, a 10% increase from last year. In all, 24 different agencies have been recognized with 1st, 2nd or 3rd place awards. “These award winners represent the best of the best in parks and recreation in Ohio,” said OPRA Executive Director Woody Woodward. “These programs and projects are

changing the lives of people around the state and building better communities in Ohio. The 1st Place winners include state parks, cities and large and small park districts. Our members are offering amazing programs and great facilities in communities of all types around Ohio. That diversity is a strength of our association and helps to ensure that citizens all over the state receive the benefits of parks and recreation.”

The awards were judged by a panel of parks and recreation professionals from around Ohio. The OPRA Annual Awards of Excellence will be presented at a banquet hosted by the association on February 2, 2016 at the Kalahari Convention Center in Sandusky in conjunction with the 2016 OPRA Conference & Trade Show. One 1st place award winner will be presented with the 2015 Governor’s Award for Parks and Recreation, a “best-in-show” award which includes a \$500 contribution to the parks and recreation foundation of the winner.

MetroParks of Butler County Levy to be on March 15, 2016 ballot

Levy Purpose

The Board of Park Commissioners identified the necessity to ask voters to approve a 6 year , 0.05 mill renewal of an existing tax and an increase of two-tenths (0.02) mill to keep parks open, clean and safe in the future. The levy is not permanent and will expire in 6 years unless voters renew the funding.

Use of Public Investment

The funds would be used for the following purposes:

- Maintain, operate and improve existing parks and natural areas through:
 - Trail maintenance, development and the creation of trail corridors linking existing trails
 - Replace and/or install new play equipment
 - Provide restrooms, parking, shelters, footbridges, forests, wetlands, playing fields, etc. across the county
- Save and Protect Butler County’s open space, clean water and wildlife so that future

generations can enjoy, as they are enjoyed today

- Preserve land to protect drinking water sources by preserving natural green space recharge areas for local aquifers and through educational programs
- Improve water quality of rivers, lakes, and streams by conserving upland areas along the Great Miami River, Indian Creek and Four Mile Creek
- Protect forest, for improving air quality
- Preserve wildlife habitat by managing park areas for wildlife protection and diversity
- Acquire land from willing sellers only and improving lands for future parks
 - Land is almost always acquired through donations or grants
- Provide Educational Programs such as Nature Education, Conservation Education, Historic Interpretation, Wildlife Education and more
- Provide recreational programs such hiking, walking, jogging, fishing, boating and camping
- Promote parks and park programs
 - Leverage locally raised funds by matching them with State, Federal & Private dollars Funds facilitate partnerships, collaborations & sponsorships for capital projects
 - In 2014 over \$7.5 million dollars in grants, donations, sponsorships and partnerships were leveraged
 - In 2015 an estimated \$2.7 million dollars to date

Additional Facts

State funding that MetroParks had received in the past was cut by 50%.

Operational and maintenance costs have increased due to increased park visitation.

Without an increase in funding MetroParks would need to close parks or reduce park maintenance.

The cost of the levy for a \$100,000 home is less than \$25.00 per year. (\$ 24.50 total) (\$15.31 renewal of 0.05 mill + \$9.19 additional for 0.02 mill). This is less than 7 cents per day *per \$100,000 taxed value.

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities January – February 2016

Winter Adventure Camp

When: Monday, January 18, 2016 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM and/or 12:00 PM – 3:30 PM

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

What: Winter Adventure Camp will give children, ages 6-12, an opportunity for some adventurous fun on Martin Luther King Day. Participants will be learning about space and volcanoes through games and interactive activities. Volunteers will be needed to assist with event set up and clean up, event registration, crafts, games, activities, and monitoring children for safety throughout the event.

Winter Adventure Camp

When: Monday, February 15, 2016 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM and/or 12:00 PM – 3:30 PM

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

What: Winter Adventure Camp will give children, ages 6-12, an opportunity for some adventurous fun on President's Day. Participants will be sledding, making old fashioned ice cream, and playing Quidditch! Volunteers will be needed to assist program staff with facilitating the fun activities of the day as well as event set up and clean up, registration and monitoring children for safety throughout the event.

Murder Mystery Dinner

When: Saturday, February 13, 2016 5:00 PM – 10:00 PM

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

What: MetroParks will be presenting a PG-13 rated Murder Mystery Dinner Series in which participants will receive a three-course meal, drinks, and enjoy a murder mystery show. MetroParks is seeking 4-5 adult volunteers to help with event set up and clean up and to serve food and beverages throughout the evening. This is a fun volunteer opportunity that gives volunteers the chance to enjoy some thrilling entertainment while volunteering!

Ongoing Volunteer Opportunities

Administrative Support

When: Flexible

Where: Various Locations

What: Volunteers are needed to help with administrative tasks including document filing, copying program flyers, database management, document preparation, and other general office tasks. Volunteers can help out on a recurrent basis or just once if desired!

Program Preparation Support

When: Flexible

Where: Various Locations

What: Park Connections staff presents multiple education, recreation, and conservation programs 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.

General Maintenance Support

When: Flexible

Where: Various Locations

What: Help MetroParks by lending a hand in general maintenance alongside the Operations Department staff at various locations throughout the MetroParks system. Tasks might include painting, mulching, trail maintenance, equipment maintenance, etc.

Welcome Center - Forest Run MetroPark

When: Flexible

Where: Forest Run MetroPark Welcome Center, 1976 Timberman Road, Hamilton OH 45013

What: Volunteers are needed at the Welcome Center at Forest Run MetroPark. The Welcome Center provides a quiet interior space for visitors. Volunteers will help host guests, collect bird data, and help stock bird feeders. Training provided.

Welcome Center – Voice of America MetroPark

When: Flexible

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 customers with a smile, provide

information about programs and the parks. Training provided.

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 volunteer services for more information.

Other Ideas?

If you have skills or interests that you would like to translate into volunteer service for MetroParks, but don't see that option listed, contact us! MetroParks is always looking for new and innovative ways to get volunteers involved in the parks.

Nest Box Monitoring Training – Over 100 nest boxes to be watched! Date TBD

Great Miami River Recreational Trail

Ambassador – MetroParks is in the development stage of creating a Trail Ambassador program for the Great Miami River Recreational Trail

If any of these future opportunities sound interesting to you, please email Zach Marcum at zmarcum@yourmetroparks.net for more information



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MetroParks Educational Programs Materials wish list:

Recyclable/re-purposed materials

Empty 35 mm film canister

Craft sticks- any sized



Craft materials: glitter, stickers, pipe cleaners, feathers, beads, etc

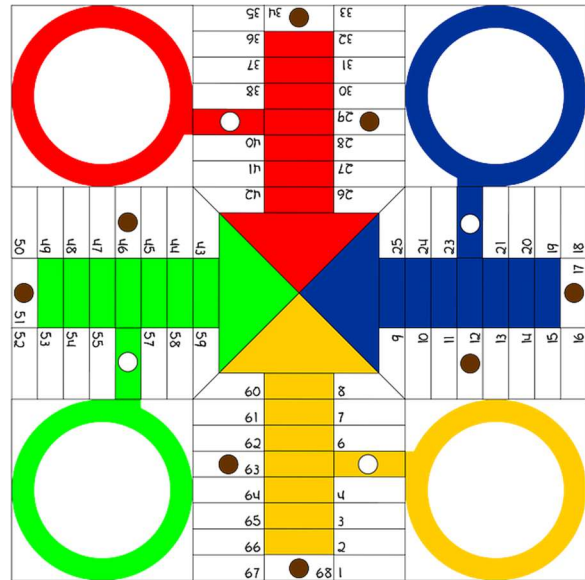
Clear & cleaned empty 48-96 oz juice containers

Clean & empty large coffee containers

Clean & empty large cottage cheese containers

Clean & empty large yogurt containers

Gently used athletic equipment



Gently used board games

Gently used Legos

Any length of 2x4 boards

Fabric scraps

Paper for crafts: tissue paper, construction paper, foam paper, cardstock paper, etc.

Other things you may have laying around:

Pencils in good shape

Pens in good shape

Paper cups

Paper plates

Rubber bands

Bandanas

Clothespins



OF BUTLER COUNTY
NOW THAT'S FAMILY FUN!

2016 JOB FAIR

3RD ANNUAL JOB FAIR

WHEN:

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2016

TIME:

2:00 P.M.-7:00P.M.

WHERE:

**Voice of America MetroPark
Trophy Room/Ronald Reagan Lodge
7850 VOA Park Drive, West Chester, OH 45011**

The MetroParks Job Fair offers information about seasonal, part-time and intern job positions throughout MetroParks.

Please bring multiple copies of your resume and be prepared to complete applications.

- **Be prepared and allow time to speak to hiring managers in these departments**
- **Please register by calling Amy Pellman at 513-867-5835 ext. 212. Registration is not required but strongly recommended.**

POSSIBLE OPEN POSITIONS:

- **BARTENDER/HOST**
- **PARK CARETAKER**
- **RENTAL ASSOCIATES**
- **FACILITY ATTENDANTS**
- **PARK LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER**
- **PUBLIC SAFETY ASST**
- **PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER**
- **PROGRAM LEADER**



OF BUTLER COUNTY
NOW THAT'S FAMILY FUN!

2051 Timberman Road

Hamilton, Ohio 45013

Phone: 513.867.5835

Fax: 513.867.5954

www.YourMetroParks.net

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 _____
 Group or Business Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Home/Business Phone _____ Cell Phone _____
 Email (required to receive newsletter) _____