

The Voice of the Turtle



Friends of MetroParks of Butler County

Friends of MetroParks of Butler County Monthly Newsletter
May, 2015

FOMPBC Officers

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Chuck Holliday

Vice-President,

Bill Walker

Nominating Chair:

Vacant

Secretary:

Vacant

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Craig Wiseman

Newsletter Editor:

Bill Walker



*Take Mom to a park
for Mother's Day*



**From the Friends of MetroParks of Butler
County**

**Please join us in 2015 to help enjoy and
improve MetroParks.**

Letter from the President

By Chuck Holliday

Hello Friends.

First and foremost I would like to thank Roger Koch for his two years of service as President of Friends of MetroParks of Butler County. Roger has been a tremendous asset from the beginning in forming, driving and guiding the Friends of MetroParks group. His leadership has been invaluable! On the brighter side, Roger is not leaving the group and has assured me that he will continue as an active member of FOMPBC.

Next I welcome Bill Walker as the new Vice President of FOMPBC. Most of the members know Bill and his tremendous work as Editor of the Voice of the Turtle. Although Bill and his lovely wife, Alice, are not originally from this area we are glad that they have settled in our area for their retirement. Bill has widely traveled the world and brings his vast knowledge and expertise to the FOMPBC Board of Directors and Executive Committee. Active in many fields Bill enjoys photography, birds and nature, cooking (even garlic mustard), has never met a pun that he didn't like, (and is extremely patient with me for my articles for the Voice).

Would like to write more, but I promised Bill that would get this done today, and it is dinner time and I have just enough time to eat and leave for the birding at Sebald. Hope to see you all at the BOD meeting next Wednesday evening at Voice of America MetroPark. We need your input.

Fight invasives, plant native for birds and butterflies, GOOD Parks,

Chuck Holliday

President Friends of MetroParks of Butler County

Volunteers Connect

April brought plenty of showers but that did not stop volunteers from connecting to MetroParks. Volunteers Did It!

- BIS students from Miami University continued to support marketing and programming needs at MetroParks, contributing over 20 hours each this semester;
- Orienteering Cincinnati presented a series of Egg hunts for park customers;
- High school students, Alpha Phi Omega, Pigs Aloft, West Chester Photo Club, FOMPBC and MetroParks volunteers came out in force to support kite flying and kite making efforts for over 3000 participants of Kites N MPX;



- Robert Henn and Chuck Holliday led the annually successful Wildflower

Hike at Dudley Woods;



- Master Gardeners and the Village and Farm Garden Club began the hard work of cleaning out flower beds and mulching;
- Dave Russell and Miami Valley Audubon presented a program on Spring Migrants;



- Stepping Forward volunteers raised the tents at Timberhill Activity Area for another season of youth camping;



- Friends of MetroParks of Butler County volunteers also picked the music for Hump Day Concerts, conducted their annual meeting and began planning for another year of support and involvement;
- Timber Hill Restoration Coalition continues to meet monthly to support efforts to improve infrastructure at Timberhill Activity Area;
- The Pioneer Church Committee are deep in planning for the May 17 Annual Salute to Pioneers and Historical Marker Dedication;
- Teen Summit joined Keep Middletown Beautiful and MPX volunteers at the MetroParks Middletown Community Garden as part of Earth Day festival;
- Friends of Chrisholm presented an Earth Shaking Weekend of programs and activities, and continued to plan for a 20th anniversary celebration June 13;
- Eagle Scout candidate Matt Baker finished building an information board for the Great Miami River Recreation Trail (other scouts planted landscape materials and erected bird houses);
- Nest-box and bird-banding volunteers trained and began the important citizen scientist activities
- Welcome Center volunteers at VOA passed out information, Motor Vehicle permits and smiles;
- And last, but certainly not least, individual MetroParks volunteers helped with field trips, answered phones, passed out information and supported program efforts in the office.

May, 2015

Many thanks to all who reached out to support a MetroPark in April. If you would like to volunteer, please note the variety of ways you can connect, and contact the MetroParks office 513-867-5835 or info@yourmetroparks.net for more information.

Hello Garlic Mustard Pull Volunteers,

Thank you for your help managing invasive garlic mustard at William F. & Cora Dudley Woods MetroPark on Saturday! Thanks to your hard work 94 bags of garlic mustard were removed from Dudley Woods and the park looks great! Volunteer support goes a long way toward making Conservation Connection events like the garlic mustard pull possible and MetroParks could not have done it without your help.



Your support is greatly appreciated by MetroParks of Butler County if you are interested in future volunteer events please check MetroParks volunteer service opportunities schedule for upcoming Spring and Summer events, which will be sent soon. Friends of MetroParks members contributed greatly to the organization and success of Saturday's garlic mustard pull and have been a vital source of support for several past events. If you would like to know more please visit the Friends of MetroParks website:

<http://www.fompbc.org/home-1.html>.

Please check out the attached pictures of your volunteer service, also on Facebook! Thank you again for all of your support and MetroParks hopes to see you again soon!

Andrew Burch

MetroParks of Butler County
Park Connections Intern

May, 2015

Stepping Forward: Service Day

May 13th 4:00 to 7:00 PM Voice
of America MetroPark

Help spruce up the park for Spring!
Volunteers are needed for landscape,
painting, gardening, and general cleaning.

Welcome new Friend!

Vanesa Hause has passed along an update
on her baby girl. Ellenor Madelynn
McAuliffe was born on October 25 at
5:02am. She weighed 8lbs and 1oz and was
20 1/2 inches long. She is a very happy
baby, sleeps well and she is very healthy!
Motherhood is wonderful, I am overjoyed
every day! Ellenor laughs and loves to play
with her mom and dad. It's hard to believe
over 6 months have passed since her birth.

I enjoy keeping up with the FOMPBC
through the newsletter. Everyone is doing a
nice job, the newsletter looks great!



“Members Only” Davidson Woods Great Blue Rookery Hike rescheduled

We have rescheduled the “Members Only”
Great Blue Heron Rookery Hike. Please take

advantage of this opportunity to visit this
fabulous site.

WHAT: "Members Only" Davidson
Woods Great Blue Heron Rookery
Hike

WHEN: Saturday, May 16, 2015

TIME: 3:00 pm -7:00 pm

WHERE: Meet to car pool to Davidson
Woods at the Hamilton Meijer parking lot
on Main St on the west side of Hamilton

Please arrive early to register. We will leave
the parking lot by 1:05 pm, parking is very
limited at the preserve so we will need to car
pool to the park. The gates will be locked
behind us after we enter.

WHO: Friends of MetroParks of Butler
County members, spouses, family, special
guests and prospective members

PLEASE PRE-REGISTER FOR THIS
EVENT by replying to email@fompbc.org

Davidson Woods is one of the hidden jewels
of the MetroParks of Butler County system.
Classified as a closed nature preserve this
unique place is only accessible by special
permit and access is very limited for
visitation.

Mature upland forest, beautiful vistas along
Four Mile Creek and swamp-like bottom
land forests make this place so unique.
Spring ephemeral wildflowers are abundant.
Bring waterproof boots; we will get wet feet
as we are headed to a back area of the
preserve to visit one of the area's largest
great blue heron rookeries. Bring binoculars
if you have them as this woods will be full
of migrating song birds. Some trails are easy
walking, but some areas can be very wet and
mucky

Sorry no pets are permitted.

“Members Only” Events 2015

Forest Run Stargazer

Date: August 10, 2015

Time: 8:00 – 10:00 PM

Location: Forest Run MetroPark 1810

New London Road, Hamilton OH 45013

Description: Cincinnati Astronomical Society will scan the night skies!

Dudley Woods Cabin/Campfire

Date: Nov 6, 2015

Time: 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Location: William F. & Cora Dudley Woods
5591 Hankins Rd. Liberty Twp, OH
45044

Description: Visit the Historic Gregory Family cabin and enjoy a warm campfire

HUMP DAY Concerts

Great Fun and entertainment!

MetroParks has scheduled the popular Hump Day Concerts back for the 2015 summer. Concerts begin on May 27 and will continue through July 22. Great local artist and groups will bring exciting music to the Voice of America MetroPark for the Wednesday evening performance. GREAT food and beverages are also available to be purchased at the venue.

FOMPBC will again be having our information table set up and will be helping to introduce the bands. FOMPBC members will also be helping to select the entertainment again this year. If you are interested in lending a hand to this event, please contact Chuck Holliday at chuckh@hollidayintheparks.com.

To the Membership

Yes, it is time to renew your annual membership. Our membership years are from April to April each year.

Your annual membership and tax-deductible donations ensures that, together, we will be able to raise money for improvements and increase public awareness of the opportunities for conservation, education and recreation in the parks, and secure for our environment and children for generations to come.

Members receive a 20 % discount on MetroParks programming, and are offered unique 4 member only programs each year. Please continue to support our efforts to make a difference in the parks by considering a donation, and renewing your membership or becoming a member today.

The Friends of MetroParks of Butler County needs your help. We need people like you to serve as ambassadors and advocates for the parks. We need people like you to donate time, energy, and experience in a variety of areas, from fundraising and grant writing to volunteering in a nearby park or serving on the Friends board. To learn more about the Friends of MetroParks of Butler County, visit our website at www.fompbc.org

Thank you, and we look forward to hearing from you!

The Membership Committee



Volunteers Connect!

by Christy Trammell

MetroParks of Butler County would like to remind you about a variety of volunteer opportunities coming up this Spring. Many of the programs and events MetroParks offers would not be possible without volunteer's help, and your support is greatly appreciated! Event details and registration can be found online at <http://yourmetroparks.net/>.

- *Big Week of Birding in Butler County*
Join MetroParks for a variety of avian programming from May 6th to May 9th. Event times and locations vary, please visit MetroParks' website for more details.
- *Stepping Forward: Service Day*
Step forward to help cleanup Voice of America MetroPark on Wednesday, May 13th. Come out after work or school to help MetroParks with a variety of landscape maintenance needs.
- *MetroParks Mojo Running Triathlon*
Join MetroParks on Sunday, June 21st at Voice of America MetroPark for MetroParks first triathlon. Volunteers will engage in a range of tasks to support the event and athletes.
- *Crazy Cardboard Regatta*
Support MetroParks at Voice of America MetroPark on July 18th for a day of

waterlogged fun! There are opportunities to volunteer in registration, as judges, to launch boats, and in a variety of other event supporting roles.

- *Mud Mania*
Come out to Rentshler Forest MetroPark on August 7th and 8th for a weekend of good, not so clean, fun! Volunteer support is needed for a variety of roles especially setup and cleanup.
- *Horse Daze*
Join MetroParks on Saturday, September 12th at Sebald MetroPark for a full day of "horsing around." Many volunteers are needed for registration, information booths, as well as for a variety of children's games and activities.

Thank you again for supporting MetroParks of Butler County! Hope to see you out and enjoying your local Metroparks soon! There is something for everyone- please lend a hand!

To volunteer or for more information please contact
ctrammel@yourmetroparks.net or call 518.867.

Garlic Mustard Pull, May 2

Over 40 volunteers from many groups, helped pull and filled over 94 bags of garlic mustard from Dudley Woods last weekend. Special treat from Bill Walker and his culinary expertise, we even sampled some of our plant. Awesome results, thanks so much!

Special thanks for MetroParks staff for disposing of all the bags!

Thought of the day: Think GOATS!
Seriously, think GOATS!

May, 2015



Critter Corner: Charlie Brown Revisited



The recent Kite Fest at VOA MetroPark was blessed by a beautiful, sunny (albeit still) day. All sorts of birds, bugs, and beasts – both real and mythical – were represented by many colorful and realistic kites. Even thirty-foot-high flying penguins were represented. The picture above shows a rare celebrity appearance by Charlie Brown’s infamous Kite-Eating-Tree. Although the tree declined to be interviewed, Mr. Brown was reported to say, “Good grief!!”

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

HUMP

DAY CONCERT SERIES

WHEN:

EVERY WEDNESDAY, MAY 27TH - JULY 22ND, 2015

TIME:

CONCERTS BEGIN AT 7 P.M.

WHERE:

Voice of America MetroPark ~Gazebo

7850 VOA Park Drive, West Chester, OH 45069

FEATURING • FREE MUSIC • FOOD & BEVERAGES (ADULT TOO!) • LAKE ACTIVITIES • PLAYGROUND FOR THE KIDDOS • BIKE & BOAT RENTALS • CORN HOLE GAMES • MID-WEEK RELAXATION



PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE:

May 27

Thunder Boy ~ Classic Rock

June 3

The Sweet Beats ~ Beetle Tribute Show

June 10

Garrie D. Woolery & Backstage Pass ~Rock

June 17

The SunBurners ~ Tropical Rock

June 24

Lisa Biales Band ~ Blues

July 1

Hickory Robot ~ Bluegrass

July 8+

Rabbit Hash Strings Band ~ Appalachian

July 15

Jump & Jive Show Band ~ Big Band

July 22

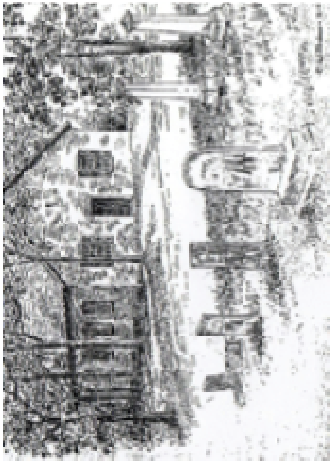
Garcia & Scott ~ Americana



metroparks

OF BUTLER COUNTY
www.YourMetroParks.net
513.867.5835

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



Come help dedicate this area's newest

Ohio Historic Marker!

2:30 p.m. Sunday, May 17

-free-

The annual Salute to the *Pioneers* will feature:

<p>Brief program in the historic church (built in 1829)</p> 	<p>Unveiling of an Ohio Historic Marker</p> 	<p>Old-time music in a scenic setting</p> 	<p>Refreshments, including homemade pies baked by the women of Reily Presbyterian Church</p> 
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Indian Creek Church and Burial Ground | 3000 Indian Creek Road in Reily Twp.
For more information go to www.YourMetroParks.net or call MetroParks at 867-5835.

The Birds of Gilmore Friday May 8

9 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Gilmore MetroPark
7950 Gilmore Rd. Hamilton, OH 45015

The migrants and waterfowl love this park. Join us for this morning hike along the trails. Reservations requested. Walk ups welcome. **FREE.**

Friday Finale Friday May 8

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Meet at Voice of America MetroPark
7850 VOA Park Dr. West Chester OH 45069

We will travel to birding sites on the east side of Butler County tonight, revisiting sites from earlier in the week and may be finding some new ones.

Birding by Bike Saturday, May 9

6:30p.m. - 9 p.m.
Great Miami River
Recreation Trail:
Parking Lot #1
50 Oxford State Rd.
Middletown, OH 45044 (near Trenton)

Let's look for bald eagles, shore birds and migratory songbirds as we bike along the Great Miami River. Total distance will be 18.2 miles. Bring your bike, binoculars and bug spray. Reservations required. **FREE.**



Other Birding Activities Spring 2015

Bird Banding at Gilmore MetroPark

Saturdays & Sundays: April 11- May 31, 2015

(Time)

Gilmore MetroPark: Natural Area

Enter at the Bâstein Blvd. Hamilton, OH (formerly known as Berk Blvd.)

Come out bright and early to learn more about Bird Banding with this volunteer led program.



Spring Migrants Lecture Miami Valley Audubon & Dr. Dave Russell

Tuesday April 14, 2015

7:00 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Forest Run MetroPark Welcome Center 1976 Timberman Rd.
Hamilton OH 45013

Brush up on your spring migrants to get ready for the Big Week of Birding in Butler County so Miami Valley Audubon and MetroParks have invited Dave Russell, professor at Miami University and avid birder, to get the 411 on migrant bird identification



metroparks
OF BUTLER COUNTY

Big Week of Birding in Butler County



MAY 2 - MAY 9, 2015

Bird Banding at Gilmore MetroPark Saturdays May 2, 2015

8 a.m.

Gilmore MetroPark: Natural Area
Enter at the Bâstein Blvd. Hamilton, OH (formerly known as Berk Blvd.)

Begin your Big Week by getting up close and personal with migrants. Come out bright and early to learn more about Bird Banding with this volunteer led program.

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www.YourMetroParks.net

513-867-5835

Schedule of Events

Sunrise at Woodsdale

Sunday, May 3, 2015

7 a.m. – 9 a.m.

Christholm MetroPark: Woodsdale Regional Park
1917 Woodsdale Road Trenton, OH 45067

Greet the dawn along the Great Miami River. Woodsdale has both woods and water to enjoy while you look for birds. Reservations requested. Walk ups welcome. **FREE**

Morning at Rentschler

Monday 4, 2015

9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Rentschler Forest MetroPark

5701 Reigart Road, Fairfield Twp. OH 45011

The forest, creeks and open spaces as well as the Great Miami River make for superior birding. Meet at the bike trail entrance near the soccer fields.

Indian Creek Winged Wonders

Monday, May 4, 2015

6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Indian Creek MetroPark: Mayer Shelter

6500 Springfield Rd. Oxford, OH 45056

Indian Creek is a beautiful park to hike any time of year, but when the spring migrants arrive it is absolutely spectacular. Reservations requested. Walk ups welcome. **FREE**



Forest Run Feathered Friends

Tuesday May 5, 2015

9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Forest Run MetroPark: Wildlife Preserve Area
1810 New London Rd. Hamilton, OH 45013

With forests, meadows, streams and ponds this MetroPark has an abundance of birds. In fact, last year's Big Week yielded more species here than any other MetroPark. Reservations requested. Walk ups welcome. **FREE**

Birding at Sebald

Tuesday May 5, 2015

6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Sebald MetroPark: Shelter II

5580 Elk Creek Rd. Middletown, OH 45042

Sebald sits along the banks of Elk Creek and has plentiful meadows bordered by forest. The results – a great place to bird. If you have a horse, bring it. The Butler County Chapter of the Ohio Horsemen's Council will be birding by horseback. No horse? No worried! Guides will walk along the meadow and creek. Reservations requested. Walk ups welcome. **FREE**

Bebb's Birds

Wednesday May 6, 2015

9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Governor Bebb MetroPark: Near the Howe Shelter
1979 Bebb Park Lane, Okeana OH 45053

Known for a variety of species, including the Redheaded Woodpecker, Bebb is a great place to bird. Meet in the lower parking lot near Dry Fork Creek. Reservations requested. Walk ups welcome. **FREE**



Evening at Dudley Woods

Wednesday May 6, 2015

6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Wm. F. & Cara Dudley Woods
5591 Hankins Rd. Liberty Twp., OH 45044

The evening is a great time to look for birds. Meet at the shelter. Reservations requested. Walk ups welcome. **FREE**

Banding with Dave Russell

Thursday May 7, 2015

Time?

Hueston Woods Biological station

Addr?

Join Miami University professor David Russell to discover the great diversity of species. Banding has been done there since 2004.

Birding Secret Places!

Thursday May 7, 2015

6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Meet at Voice of America MetroPark

7850 VOA Park Dr. West Chester OH 45069

Voice of America is listed with Audubon Society as an Important Birding Area. We will investigate VOA and other birding sites on the east side of Butler County. Reservations requested. Walk ups welcome. **FREE**

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 - \$15
- Donation - \$ _____

Name(s)/Contact _____ Date _____

Group or Business Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home/Business Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email (required to receive newsletter) _____