

# The Voice of the Turtle



# Friends

of MetroParks of Butler County

## Friends of MetroParks of Butler County Monthly Newsletter October, 2015

### FOMPBC Officers

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Chuck Holliday

#### Vice-President,

Bill Walker

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Craig Wiseman

#### Newsletter Editor:

Bill Walker



## The Howl



**October 25, 2015  
1:00 to 4:00 p.m.  
VOA Park**

Dress your furry friends for Haloweenie (sorry, I couldn't resist) and bring them to the Voice of America MetroPark for treats for your pets and fun for all.

## Letter from the President

Hi All,

Upcoming events to get on your calendar:

- |                    |                  |                                  |
|--------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|
| Oct 10             | Fall Tree Hike   | Dudley Woods                     |
|                    | Jacob Hartman    | 10am-12pm                        |
| Oct 17             | The Sweetest Day | Forest Run MetroPark             |
|                    |                  | Wine Tasting 3pm-7pm             |
| Oct 25             | The Howl         | VOA Pet Parade 1pm-4pm           |
| Oct 31             | Trail of Treats  | Forest Run 1pm-4pm               |
| Oct 17, 20, 27, 31 | Salamander Run   | Conservation Connection 11am-3pm |

Good Parks,

Chuck Holliday

## Making a Difference

**October 3**, Gilmore MetroPark, 7950 Gilmore Road, Hamilton OH 45015. Roll up your sleeves, pull on your boots, and join others from the Mill Creek Watershed Council of Communities to help with a the Mill Creek Clean Up at Gilmore Park, 9:00 am to 1 pm. Refreshments, gloves and bags will be provided. Located amidst business and commercial development in southeast Hamilton, this park offers a wetlands and birding habitat designated by the Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources as one of its "Watchable Wildlife" viewing sites. Enjoy making a Great Miami Clean Sweep, Rentschler Forest difference in this Audubon designated "Important Birding Area". MetroPark, 5701 Reigart Rd, Hamilton OH 45011.



**October 17**, 11:00 am -3:00 pm, **Salamander Run**, 4821 Layhigh Rd, Hamilton OH 45013. The wetlands planted last spring are thriving. Join the fun of growing a park- plant native trees, shrubs and seeds. This is the first in a series of planting days (Oct 17, 20, 27, 31, Nov 7) for this Three Valley Conservation Trust Preserve **Habitat Restoration** -Attend one, some or all! Gloves and tools provided, bring a friend. Sturdy footwear required.

**October 24**, 9:00 am- 12:00 pm is the official **Make a Difference Day**-a national day of service! Choose from several activities and locations:  
**Stepping Forward at Timberhill Activity Area of Rentschler Forest MetroPark**, 3976 Hamilton-Middletown Road. Timberhill Restoration Coalition will once again co-host a **Make a Difference Day** that makes a difference with youth camping in Butler County. Volunteers will take down and store tents, help renovate and paint buildings, repair picnic tables and beat back the honeysuckle. Tools, lunch and drinks provided!



**Great Miami Clean Sweep, Rentschler Forest MetroPark, 5701 Reigart Rd, Hamilton OH 45011.** Walk ups welcome- great for families and youth to spruce up and clean up our waterways! Other MetroParks supported locations include the Great Miami River Recreation Trail from Trenton to around Middletown.

If you or your organization are interested in making a difference, call MetroParks at 513-867-5835; email [crammell@yourmetroparks.net](mailto:crammell@yourmetroparks.net). Walk ups will be welcomed, but registering ahead of time ensures enough refreshments and resources for all. Thanks for lending a hand.

**Other October event volunteer opportunities:**

- **Hayrides**, October 10, 17, 24; 11 am- 3 pm, Forest Run MetroPark Timberman Ridge Area- assist with set up, activities and hayrides. Times vary.
- **The Howl**, October 25; various shifts between 11 am and 5pm , Voice of America MetroPark- help with set up, registration , along the treat trail, take down, depending on shift.
- **Trail of Treats**, October 31; 12- 4 pm, Forest Run MetroPark Timberman Ridge Area shifts available, assist with straw maze, hayrides, harvest games and activities.

**Kroger Plus Card Community Rewards Update:  
\$120.81 (Cycle 4, Qtr 1)**

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](mailto:cincinnaticommunityrewards@kroger.com) or visit our website at [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://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**

You do not have to be a member of FOMPBC to participate, nor do you have to select FOMPBC as your donation group. Please register for this program, make your spendable income work to benefit of your choice. You may change your selection of organizations every 6 months

Please enroll, sign up family, friends and neighbors.

## The Sweetest Day at MetroParks

Butler County, Ohio—(September 15, 2015)

MetroParks of Butler County & Friends of MetroParks of Butler County are hosting a unique Sweetest Day wine tasting at the Timberman Ridge Welcome Center, just outside of Hamilton.

On Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, come enjoy a special Sweetest Day date with your sweetie from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. There will be a variety of wines to sample, along with hors d'oeuvres, & live music from local talent. Every participant will receive a special MetroParks wine glass to sample four different wines & can then enjoy two glasses of their favorite selection.



At 3:30 p.m. & again at 5:00 p.m., Dr. Jack Keegan of Miami University will present a lesson on the art of wine tasting. His educational lesson will discuss the wines available & can help even the most novice become a wine connoisseur.

While you're there, take a scenic & cozy hayride up along the ridge overlooking much of Butler County. The beautiful Timberman Ridge Area of the Forest Run MetroPark is a special place known to few.



“MetroParks is excited to showcase one of our newest parks through this unique wine tasting event on Sweetest Day this year,” said Allie Wagner, Special Events Coordinator. “We are especially grateful to the Friends of MetroParks of Butler County, for their co-sponsorship & assistance in helping create this inaugural event.”

Admission to the event is \$28/couple prior to October 3<sup>rd</sup> & increases to \$32/couple after October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Register online at [www.YourMetroParks.net](http://www.YourMetroParks.net); deadline to register is October 15<sup>th</sup> at midnight. Motor Vehicle Permits are required. They are FREE to Butler County residents. Non-Residents Motor Vehicle are \$5/day and \$10/annually. Portions of registration proceeds benefit the Friends of MetroParks of Butler County.

For more information call MetroParks at 513-867-5835.

**SAVE THE DATE** for more family fun volunteer service days and programs:

- **Harvest Fun Hayrides**  
Saturday afternoons in October
- **Mill Creek Clean Up** October 3, Gilmore Ponds, 9am- 1pm
- **Great Miami Clean Sweep** October 24, 9 am- 12 pm, Rentschler Forest MetroParks & the Great Miami River Recreation Trail (Trenton and Middletown)

- **Salamander Run Restoration Project** October 17, 20, 27, 31 and /or Nov. 7, 11 am – 3 pm each day
- **Sweetest Day** October 17, 3- 7 pm, Forest Run Welcome Center
- **Make a Difference Day** October 24, 9 am- 12 pm, Rentschler Forest MetroParks Timberhill Activity Area
- **The Howl** 1 pm- 4 pm Oct 25 Voice of America MetroPark
- **Trail of Treats** October 31, 1-4 PM, Forest Run MetroPark Timberman Ridge

Please sign up online (volunteer page of MetroParks website) or contact Cristy [cstrammell@yourmetroparks.net](mailto:cstrammell@yourmetroparks.net) to volunteer or to find out more about these family friendly programs and volunteer opportunities.

## Critter Corner By Roger Koch

You never know what you are going to see on a Sunday afternoon hike.

Several weeks ago I was hiking our little north 40 (it is way under 40 acres – but it is ours) and encountered a very unusual insect larvae, one that I had never seen before. It was near the top of an 8 foot fir tree (I have several fir on my place) and after close examination, I noticed it was doing a considerable amount of damage. This active and brightly colored guy measuring 2-3 inches long was resting under a lateral branch about 18 inches from the top and chomping away on needles. He wasn't interested in the branch itself except to rest on, but every needle in his way was consumed, and the frass he was leaving made me blush. His frass was quite large in relationship to his body and the branches and needles below were full of his droppings.

Hickory horned devil is the common name of the larvae, and the adult is a Regal Moth, or Royal Walnut Moth, *Citheronia regalis*. “Walnut” because they are commonly found on walnut trees and occasionally on hickory, permission and Sweet Gum. They can be found on a variety of other tree species when their favorite hosts are not available.

The larvae are quite large and can reach 4-5 inches before pupating in mid to late summer. The adult moth can have a wing span of 4-6 inches and they only live for about a week. During this time they never eat, and only search for a mate. The female lays eggs on host tree leaves before she dies.

I've never taken a Sunday hike when I didn't find something interesting.

Roger Koch



October, 2015

## Horse Daze 2015



October, 2015



**“Here’s Looking at You Kid”  
By Lara Askill, Program Coordinator**

Have you ever walked through the woods and felt “eyes” upon you? Maybe it was the Eastern-eyed Click Beetle, *Alaus oculatus*? This beautiful grey, black and white beetle has two large false eye spots, making it



easier to recognize than some of the other 800 species of click beetles that are found in North America. These huge fake eyespots are an adaptation to scare would be predators away. Their true eyes are much smaller and located at base of the two saw-toothed antennae.

It is obvious why this insect is called “eyed” but why “click”? To confuse the matter, they are also called snapping beetles, skipjacks and spring beetles. When an Eyed Click Beetle is threatened it will bend its head and prothorax backward and then straighten out quickly with a snapping motion. This force causes a clicking noise and physically launches the beetle four times its body length into the air.



If the false eyes and clicking doesn't scare predators away, the next action might do the trick. When the beetle lands on its back, it may click again to right itself and fly away or it may tuck in its antennae and six legs and play 'possum'. Several predators will not eat their prey unless it is alive and moving. Playing dead can have its advantages at times. So, maybe it should be called the Eyed Click 'Possum' Beetle?

This nearly 2 inch long beetle goes through complete metamorphosis: egg, larva, pupa and adult. In the larva stage (2 to 5 years) it is called a wire worm and lives in the soil or dead wood. Some wireworms are pests because they eat roots of cereal crops, corn, potatoes and turf grasses. However, the Eyed Click Beetle larvae is a carnivore and eats other wood-boring insects and flies. The adults eat flower nectar and leaf sap; if they eat at all. Have fun finding the Eyed Click Beetle in our MetroParks of Butler County sites and remember ... we are being always being "watched". Lara Askill

Antidotal information:

*This little critter dropped into the program manager's hair while she was eating her salad one day, at Rentschler MetroPark. The author of this article identified what it was and then used it in a program. Maybe there is a moral to the story for insects in and around the educator office – beware where you land – you won't get squished but you may be taken on unexpected travels!*

## "Members Only" Events 2015

### 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



### Sebald Park Expansion – Elk Creek MetroPark

Butler County, Ohio—(09/23/15)

A Middletown area golf course is slated to become part of a new public park that will be known as Elk Creek MetroPark. The property will provide opportunities for thousands of Butler County residents to run, walk, picnic, ride horses and play in the future. Additionally, the site has the potential to serve as an economic catalyst for future sports tourism events such as regional cross country meets, triathlons, equestrian events and more. MetroParks announced plans today to expand Sebald Park through the acquisition of Weatherwax Golf Course through a purchase from the Trust for Public Land (TPL). TPL secured an option to purchase 456 acres of the golf course from Weatherwax Holdings, LLC which is owned by Bowling Auctioneers.

In a recent statement, Myron Bowling,

President and founder of Myron Bowling Auctioneers, a Ross Township based commercial and industrial auction company, announced his intent to sell the property. Mr. Bowling had acquired the land in 2014 from the City of Middletown. When approaching Trust for Public Land (TPL), a national non-profit organization, Bowling expressed a desire that the site be maintained as open space and an asset to the community. He stated, "I made a decision to sell the property and after reviewing my options I felt the best option was the combined commitment of MetroParks to keeping the property publicly accessible and The Trust for Public Land's ability to facilitate a transaction in the public interest. This decision will help create one of the largest county parks that will be a valuable asset to the community that everyone can enjoy." However, due to restrictions placed on the use of the property by the grant funds used to acquire it and safety considerations golf will no longer be possible there once the present golf lease expires and park ownership begins.

Trust for Public Land (TPL) has a mission of creating parks and protecting land for people ensuring healthy, livable communities for generations to come. TPL, whom MetroParks had worked with in the past, made MetroParks aware that land, adjacent to Sebald Park, was on the market. MetroParks owns and operates Sebald Park, in Madison Township and shares over a mile of common boundary to the Bowling property. "It was, therefore, logical for MetroParks to pursue, in the public interest, the expansion of Sebald Park through the acquisition of the property in order to ensure continued public enjoyment and access", said Greg Amend, President of MetroParks' Board of Park Commissioners. "Funding to pay for the acquisition of the land and its conversion to a natural area public park open to all will be available at almost no

local cost through a combination of donated value, labor, state and federal funds", he noted. The significance of the purchase is "Not what won't happen there, but what will happen there in the future that makes this change in the use of the property important to the residents of Butler County", said Jonathan Granville, MetroParks Executive Director. Granville commented that, "The creation Elk Creek MetroPark, through the expansion of Sebald Park, will open over 800 acres of picturesque acreage to thousands of county residents for daily public use as they walk, run, picnic, play and enjoy free access to the site."

Elk Creek MetroPark, will be MetroParks single largest park. When joined the combined area has the potential to serve as an economic catalyst for Butler County by providing enough space in a single location to more than double the mileage on existing horse trails, feed the county's sports tourism market through regional cross country events, future equestrian events and more.

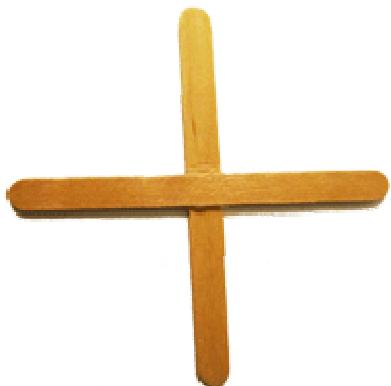
After MetroParks takes ownership of the property and after planned natural habitat restoration is complete, Master Planning sessions will occur through a well announced public process to determine what the detailed usage plans will be on the newly combined Elk Creek MetroPark.

## 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

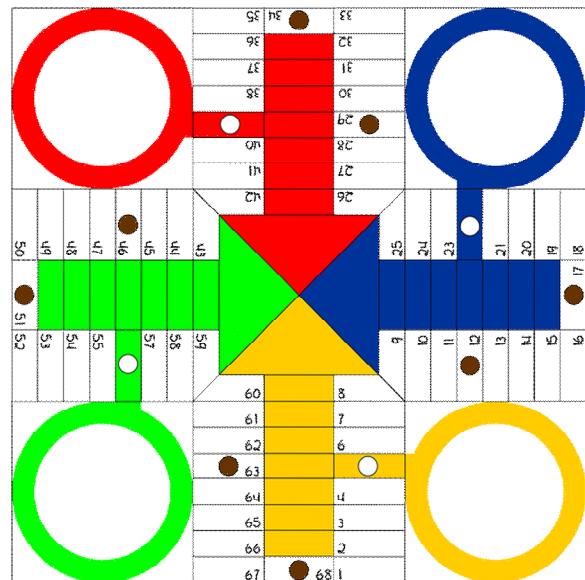
Clear & cleaned empty 48-96 oz juice containers

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

# Trail of Treats

**WHEN:**

**Saturday, October 31, 2015  
1 pm - 4 pm**

**WHERE:**

**Forest Run MetroPark  
Timberman Ridge Area  
1976 Timberman Road, Hamilton, Ohio**



OF BUTLER COUNTY  
[www.YourMetroParks.net](http://www.YourMetroParks.net)  
513.867.5835

**FEATURING • Treats will be hidden throughout the park • Follow your map to find the hidden treats • Food and Drink • Straw maze • Hayrides • Shelled corn play area • Decorative photo op areas • Many harvest games and activities**

**ALL AGES  
WELCOME**

**Cost:**

**\$5.00/ Trick-or-Treater  
\* Adult chaperone required**



**Come in costume  
and earn a special  
prize!**



**Register on our website at  
[www.yourmetroparks.net](http://www.yourmetroparks.net)  
or by phone 513.867.5835**



OF BUTLER COUNTY

# Special Events & Programs



Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup>  
Sebald (11 AM – 4 PM)



Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup>  
VOA Park (1 PM – 4 PM)



Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup>  
Forest Run (1 PM – 4 PM)



December 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, & 6<sup>th</sup>  
Gov Bebb (6 PM – 9 PM)



Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>  
VOA (12:30 PM – 3 PM)



Saturdays  
October 10, 17 or 24  
Forest Run MetroPark  
(12, 1 or 2 PM)  
*By Reservation Only*



Now that's  
Family FUN!

More information is available at [www.YourMetroParks.net](http://www.YourMetroParks.net) or at 513.867.5835

Motor Vehicle Permit required at MetroPark locations. Free to Butler Co. residents, Non Residents: \$5/Daily; \$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"><li>• Invitations to Member-only events</li><li>• Opportunity to apply for funding to support MetroParks programs and projects</li><li>• Attend Annual Meeting and have a voice in Friends activities and direction</li></ul>  |
| Who Are We?     | <p><i>Private citizens who have come together to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sponsor programs &amp; activities, promoting the use of MetroParks for conservation, education and recreation</li><li>• Encourage volunteerism toward support of MetroParks of Butler County</li><li>• Identify and implement improvements to the park</li><li>• Assist in raising funds, securing donations, and obtaining grants monies to further MetroParks' mission</li></ul> |

***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) \_\_\_\_\_