

# The Voice of the Turtle



## Friends of MetroParks of Butler County

Friends of MetroParks of Butler County Monthly Newsletter  
December, 2015

### FOMPBC Officers

**President:**

Chuck Holliday

**Vice-President,**

Bill Walker

**Nominating Chair:**

Roger Koch

**Secretary:**

Amy Cameron

**Treasurer:**

Richard Burgstrom

**Publicity Chair:**

Bill Walker

**Outreach Chair:**

Chuck Holliday

**Finance Chair:**

Richard Burgstrom

**Membership Chair:**

Abby Ison

**Web Master:**

Craig Wiseman

**Newsletter Editor:**

Bill Walker



# BRILLIANT BEBB:



## ILLUMINATED PIONEER VILLAGE



**WHEN:**

December 4th, 5th, & 6th

## Letter from the President: "HAPPY HOLLIDAYS to ALL"

It is so hard to believe that 2015 is almost over! It seems that the holiday season comes and goes way too fast! Is the world really spinning faster? All I know is that it has been a wonder year in the parks for our Friends group!

Looking back at 2015, it is amazing to account for all the events that we participated: Winter tree hike, Maple Sugaring, Biggest Week In Birding, Great Garlic Mustard Pull, Davidson Woods, Hump Day Concerts, MOJO triathlon, Crazy Cardboard Regatta, Mud Mania, Star Gazing, Middletown & Trenton Nites Out, Horse Daze, The Howl, Sweetest Day, Dudley Woods Cabin /Campfire, last but not least Brilliant Bebb!

Thank You, members of the Friends of MetroParks of Butler County for your financial support and volunteer hours! Thank You, to the Board of Directors and officers for your continued support and hard work in guiding our organization! Thank You, to MetroParks staff and employees for always having our back! And one final Special Thank You, to Cris Trammell, where would either organization be without her!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Merry Christmas, God Bless.

Chuck Holliday, President FOMPBC

### December BOD meeting:

Board of Directors Meeting for December 9, 2015, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm held at Butler County Historical Society, 327 N. Second Street, Hamilton, OH. This will be a regular BOD meeting focus on financial projections for 2016.

BOD members and committee chairs remember to submit your draft budget for committees you serve on to Richard

Burgstrom [raburgstrom@yahoo.com](mailto:raburgstrom@yahoo.com) by Nov 30.

Holiday treats and coffee for the meeting!  
Board of Directors Meetings for 2016

- January 13 BCHS
- February 10 BCHS
- March 9 BCHS
- April 13 Annual Meeting TBD

### Visit FOMPBC at "Brilliant Bebb"

Look for our table in the Tavern  
**December 4, 5, 6 6 PM to 9 PM**

### 2015 FOMPBC Ornament



Other similar styles (bell or wreath) are available with your choice of either the turtle logo or Friends logo. Ornaments may be purchased for the nominal cost of \$5.00 each. One hundred percent of the proceeds will be returned to FOMPBC.



Desktop ornaments (Red, Silver or multi-color ) are also available for \$6.00 each. Your choice of logo.

## Members Only” Event



### Dudley Woods Cabin/Campfire

WE HAD A GREAT TIME!

A SPECIAL THANKS to Lara Askill, Kathy Edelen (Husband & sons) and Lynette Dean for presenting a GREAT program! We learned some very interesting recycling tips from the pioneers, explored our senses on a night hike and then enjoyed some campfire treats. A great evening to be a Friend!

Two night event, on Saturday evening MetroParks offer this program to the public. Attendance was over 50 people for the public event!



### Thanks for Giving, A Night of Volunteer Appreciation







**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](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**

**New Reservable Facilities**

By: Tara Love



The 17-acre Chrisholm Historical Farmstead is more than just a beautiful historical farmstead, it is the perfect location for your family gatherings, birthday parties or beautiful wedding. The location has the Augspurger House which can reserved for your upcoming gatherings and will hold approximately 50-60 people. The historic nature of the building will provide a beautiful setting for any gathering and is equipped with a small kitchen, one indoor restroom (outdoor restrooms are nearby) and includes tables and chairs. Right outside of the building is a newly opened Rosemont Barn. The Rosemont Barn is now reservable for groups of approximately 100 people and includes your tables and chairs. The facility has beautiful rustic qualities with old Edison style string lights hanging from the ceiling. Although there are no restrooms inside the barn there are very clean composite toilets located right across the grass field outside. Both locations allow customers to bring their own food to the facility and even have the option to purchase alcoholic beverages from MetroParks beforehand.



Located at 1976 Timberman Ridge is a newly owned Welcome Center that has been opened to reservations for small groups and meetings. There is the beautiful Great Room which will accommodate no more than 50 people and includes comfortable seating throughout and a kitchen area. The Conference Room there is located in the front foyer and may be reserved for small meetings and includes a beautiful conference table and chairs. The setting is surrounded by fields and hills and offer a tranquil beautiful surrounding for your upcoming meeting.

To reserve either facility you can contact MetroParks of Butler County Visitor Services at 513-867-5835 during their normal business hours (Monday-Friday 8:30 am to 5:00 pm).

**Winter Adventure Camps**  
by Lynette Dean

Are you looking for a fun place for the kids or grandkids to spend part of Martin Luther King Day and President's Day? Winter Adventure Camps are the perfect fun for children on January 18, 2016 and February 15, 2016.

“We are planning indoor and outdoor activities which are interactive, recreational and educational,” says Lara Askill, Program Coordinator. “They’re geared for children ages 6 – 12 years old,” she added.

Children may be making volcanoes or playing quidditch. If you don't know what quidditch is, just ask a Harry Potter fan! Everyone will be spending plenty of time outdoors so please dress appropriately.

**January 18 camp highlights:**

- \*space shuttle flights
- \*volcanos
- \*glow in dark constellations

**February 15 camp highlights:**

- \*old fashioned ice cream
- \*quidditch
- \*sledding

Two sessions are being offer on both days: 10:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. and is just \$5.00 per child per session to participate. Camps take place at the Ronald Reagan Lodge at Voice of America MetroPark located at 7850 VOA Park Drive, West Chester, OH 45069. Visit [www.yourmetroparks.net](http://www.yourmetroparks.net) to register and reserve your spot today!



**Celebrate Winter: Feeding the Birds**  
By Bonny Seegmueller & Lynette Dean

Feeding birds has become a very popular and colorful way to enjoy wildlife in the winter. By taking a few minutes now to create a plan, you can ensure yourself of a winter of enjoyment!

Bird feeding can be expensive. Decide how much you want to spend. It's better to put out a limited amount of feed each day than to suddenly cut off the food supply. Birds



become dependent on you once you start feeding, so you are making a commitment.

Provide foods that the birds will eat. Much of the “wild birdseed” mixture sold contains seeds that birds will not eat or that attract less desirable birds. Although it is inexpensive, it may not be a good value. Black oily sunflower seed is a favorite of cardinals, finches, chickadees, titmice and nut hatches. Cracked corn is enjoyed by sparrows, doves, juncos, cardinals and blue jays. Suet attracts woodpeckers, nuthatches and chickadees. By selecting which seeds you put out, you determine what birds will visit your feeder. Feeding should begin the first part of November and continue to the first part of April.



Once your birds have found your winter feeder, you can begin watching and recording your sightings. Project Feeder Watch <http://feederwatch.org/> and the Great Backyard Bird Count <http://gbbc.birdcount.org/> in February are great ways to get involved in the larger birding community. You can also learn more about birds by taking part in a winter bird count. Local Christmas Bird Counts takes place on December 19<sup>th</sup>. Audubon Miami Valley counts birds in areas around Oxford, including two of Four Mile Creek MetroParks normally closed to the public. Those are Mill Race and Davidson Woods. Contact Larry Gersbach at [larrygers@aol.com](mailto:larrygers@aol.com) if you are interested in participating. The Cincinnati Birder's Club

counts in the Hamilton Fairfield area, including Gilmore and Rentschler Forest MetroPark. Contact Mike Busam at [mbusam@gmail.com](mailto:mbusam@gmail.com) for information on that bird count.

### **Brilliant Bebb: Illuminated Pioneer Village**

MetroParks of Butler County's' pioneer village will be illuminated for a third holiday season with “Brilliant Bebb: Illuminated Pioneer Village” at the Governor Bebb MetroPark located at 1970 Bebb Park Lane, Okeana, OH 45053.

The event will be held, one weekend only, on December 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm nightly. The entire village will be adorned with numerous trees, thousands of lights, and lots of holiday spirit.

You won't want to miss this special weekend and the opportunity to create a new family tradition this holiday season!

You will find many beautiful places for your holiday family photo and the children will enjoy making traditional pioneer crafts. Throughout the various cabins you will find demonstrations including open hearth cooking (with tasty apple pie samples), forge demonstrations in the Dry Fork Forge, and musical performances by local entertainers.

Each night the musical performances will feature a Traditional Appalachian band who will entertain the guests with stories, dances, & more.

In addition to the unique and entertaining demonstrations, MetroParks will also welcome numerous arts & craft vendors to the pioneer village. Handmade crafts will be available for purchase, including holiday ornaments made by the Village and Farm Garden Club.

Snacks and warm drinks will also be available for purchase.

The event costs \$10/car or van and \$20/bus (15+ people).

A Motor Vehicle Permit **will not** be required to enter the event; however non-resident permits will be available for purchase and FREE 2015-2016 resident permits will be distributed upon request in the village Tavern.

If you are interested in being a sponsor, volunteering or participating as a vendor, information can be found on MetroParks of Butler County website

[www.yourmetroparks.net](http://www.yourmetroparks.net), at VOA MetroPark at 7850 VOA Park Dr., West Chester OH 45069, or the MetroParks administration building at 2051 Timberman Rd., Hamilton, Ohio 45013. For more information call MetroParks at 513-867-5835.

**Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities**  
**Brilliant Bebb: Illuminated Pioneer Village**

When: December 4, 5, 6 (Fri, Sat, Sun)  
5:30PM – 9:00PM

Where: Governor Bebb MetroPark, 1979 Bebb Park Lane, Okeana, OH 45053

What: The Pioneer Village will be decorated with thousands of mini lights and luminaries. Each cabin will be beautifully decorated for Christmas. Volunteers will be needed for craft stations, assisting with demonstrations, greeters, and other tasks as needed.



**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.

**Looking Ahead....**

While December leaves us with less outdoor activities and therefore less volunteer opportunities, MetroParks asks that you begin thinking about any interest you may have in future volunteer opportunities. Three volunteer opportunities to be looking forward to include:

**Holiday Adventure Camps** – assisting with the adventure camps on 1/18/16 and 2/15/16

**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](mailto:zmarcum@yourmetroparks.net) for more information



### Critter Corner

By Bill Walker

The cecropia moth (*Hyalophora cecropia*) is the largest North American moth. Female moths can have a wingspan of up to six inches. Caterpillars are most often found on maple trees, but birch and cherry trees are also fair game.



A member of the giant silk moth family, adult moths are lacking mouth parts and digestive systems. This limits their available activities somewhat. (As in, “I can’t eat anything, so I guess I’ll go find a date.”) Luckily, the female’s pheromones can be detected by the male moths up to a mile away. Prospective mates will travel up to six miles in search of love.



Caterpillars can grow to from 4 to 4.5 inches in length. In late autumn, they spin a cocoon and over-winter in trees or wooden structures. Adults emerge after the first two warm weeks of the summer to start a new cycle of life.

Adults can be divided easily by gender. Males have larger, feathery antennae (the better to smell you with, my dear). The females (shown above) have smaller antennae and more rounded abdomens.

Next summer don’t be afraid to turn over a new leaf – you might just find the next Critter Corner star.

### Cool Yule, ya’ll!



**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

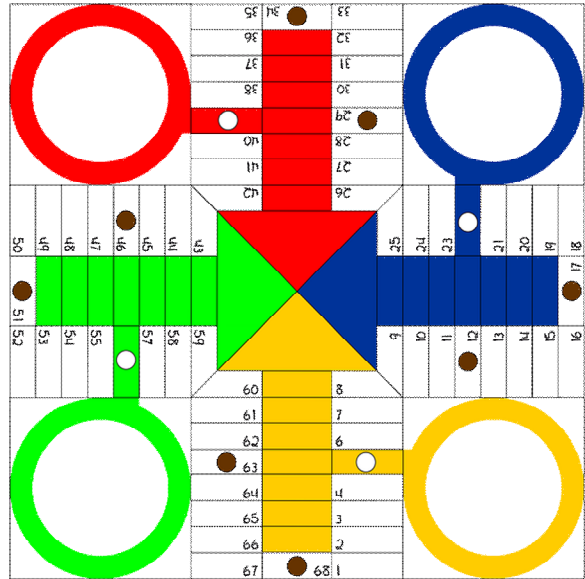
Clear & cleaned empty 48-96 oz juice containers

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

# BRILLIANT BEBB:



ILLUMINATED PIONEER VILLAGE



## WHEN:

December 4th, 5th, & 6th

## TIME:

6:00 pm – 9:00 pm Nightly

## WHERE:

Governor Bebb MetroPark  
1979 Bebb Park Lane, Okeana, OH 45053

*Now that's Family FUN!*

*Holiday Light  
Display*

*Arts & Craft  
Vendors*

## *COST:*

*\$10/ car or van*

*\$20/ bus (15+ people)*

## *FEATURING:*

- Father Christmas*
- Musicians*
- Demonstrations*
- Family Photo Op*
- Food & Drinks*
- Decorated Pioneer  
Village*



**metro****parks**

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



# 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) \_\_\_\_\_