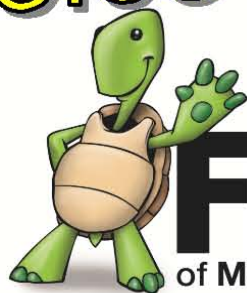


The Voice of the Turtle



Friends

of MetroParks of Butler County

Friends of MetroParks of Butler County Monthly Newsletter
November, 2014

FOMPBC Officers

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Craig Wiseman

Newsletter Editor:

Bill Walker



BRILLIANT BEBB:



ILLUMINATED PIONEER VILLAGE



WHEN:

November 29th & 30th

December 5th & 6th

Time:

5:30 pm –9:30 pm Nightly

Sunday, November 30th closes @ 8:30 pm

WHERE:

Governor Bebb MetroPark

1799 Bebb Park Lane, Okeana, OH 45053

Fall 2014 – Volunteer Service Opportunities

by Christy Trammell

Choose from a variety of service opportunities from a variety of locations:

Helping Hands: Volunteer Service: Many Hands needed!



November 8, 2014 (Saturday) @ 10:00am- Indian Creek Pioneer Church 3000, Indian Creek Road, Oxford, OH 45056 Remove honeysuckle, plant shrubs & bulbs & native species.

Stepping Forward: Service in the Parks

Volunteers needed: As many as possible- Refreshments and tools provided

November 15, 2014 (Saturday) @ 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM Governor Bebb MetroPark, 1979 Bebb Park Lane, Okeana, OH 45053 Help decorate the village for Christmas. Overall Pioneer Village tidying up, gather wood, cleaning cabins, trail work. Shifts available.

December 2, 2014 (Tuesday) @ 3:00 PM – 7:00 PM Voice of America MetroPark, 7850 VOA Park Drive, West Chester, OH 45069 After-school, after work. Preparing for the holiday season by gathering wood, putting up lights, broad maintenance needs, and readying the hills for sledding.

Great Miami: Geo-caching

Volunteers needed: 2

November 15, 2014 @10:00 AM – 12:00 PM Bicentennial Commons – Great Miami

River Recreation Trail, 100 S. Carmody Blvd, Middletown, OH 45044 Assist presenter introducing geocaching and with registration.

Olde West Chester Parade

Volunteers needed: 10-12

November 15, 2014 @ 7 pm

Olde West Chester Christmas Walk Holiday Parade on Saturday, November 15, 2014.

The parade will begin at Union Day School at 8735 Cincinnati-Dayton Road end at the Township Administration Building at the corner of Cincinnati-Dayton and West Chester roads. Come early (6 pm) to ensure a seat on the float. Walk Beside the MetroParks Wagon and hand out info!



Brilliant Bebb

Volunteers needed: many

November 29 & 30 (Saturday & Sunday), December 5 & 6, 2014 (Friday & Saturday) 11/29, 12/5, 12/6 @ 5:30 PM – 9:30 PM, 11/30 @ 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM

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

Help with fires and light the walkways, demonstrations, concessions, historical interpretation, crafts

Breakfast with Santa

Volunteers needed: many

December 7, 2014 (Sunday) @ 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

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

Help with children’s crafts and games, registration

Christmas Bird Count

Volunteers needed: 2-3, but youth groups are also welcome!



December 13, 2014 (Saturday) @ 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Chrisholm MetroPark: Augspuriger House,
2070 Woodsdale Rd, Trenton, OH 45067
Assist with registration and bird count”

Other Opportunities:**Internships, flex-time service hours**

Custom design your service experience- on trails, in the parks and in the office also available. Email

ctrammell@yourmetroparks.net for more details

School Field Trips**Various dates -**

Assist with school programming at the parks
Great for retired teachers or education majors. Orientation & training provided.

Welcome Center

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

Various shifts available per week

Share information and materials with park customers at VOA. Training and shifts available.

Letter from the President

By Roger Koch

Hello Friends: Well as I see it, there is only one month better than October and that is May, but only because May precedes those delightful

summer months. October has the perfect weather, cool in the mornings followed by warm sunny afternoons.

But one thing October has that May does not is the wonderful color show that the trees put on. And this year has been one of the best. I've been especially awe-struck with the Red Maples (*Acer rubrum*) this fall. They put on a spectacular show and are easy to pick out because they have the deepest red color of any tree in the landscape. Most years, my favorite tree, the Sour Gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*) has a deep red color that matches the Red maples, but this year most sour gums, albeit there are few in the landscape, didn't get past bright orange on the color spectrum. Now that October is gone I can't wait until May arrives.

A few weeks ago my wife, Carol, and I visited the Timberman Ridge Area of Forest Run MetroParks and then a week later on October 11, I attended the Grand Opening event at Timberman Ridge. If you are a hiker, do yourself a favor and hike some of the trails at Timberman Ridge. Foremost the park is easy to access, it's close to Hamilton, yet remains rural. Parking is abundant, and the trail head(s) is right off the main parking area. But the trails themselves are wonderful due to the wildlife (we spotted a flock of 12 turkeys), a large variety of plant material (abundant Milkweed), and the great vistas. The

first thing you notice are the views to the west, you can see for miles.

The Grand Opening for Timberman Ridge was well attended by the community. Many MetroPark staff were in attendance. Jon Grandville, Executive Dir., Jason Shamblin, Deputy Dir., Joe Morrison, Park Manager and Cynamon Trokhan, Board of Park Commissioners were present among others. Judge Randy Rogers gave a very nice talk about the Fitton Family, and his family's connection to the park property on Timberman Road

On Saturday, October 25, The Friends of Chrisholm, held their annual meeting at Chrisholm MetroPark and Jon Granville was awarded the Exceptional Friend Award. Congratulations Jon.

The Friends of Chrisholm are gearing up to celebrate their 20th anniversary in 2015 as a support group within MetroParks. They plan special programs and events throughout the year as well as a special program at the Annual Friends and Family Reunion on Saturday, June 13. Mark the date - all are welcome.

Friends of MetroParks has been without a secretary position since early June but recently that position has been filled by Chris Osborne. Chris is a Reily Township native, lives in Ross Township, graduated from Miami U., and works for the Oxford Police Department. He and his

wife Michelle have one daughter. When Chris has free time he is usually occupied by his hobby, Native American History of SW Ohio or, he is fishing at his favorite spot, Norris Lake, Tn. Thank you Chris for taking on this essential role.

Friends of MetroParks received notice on September 25, 2014 that our application for 501 (c) (3), tax exempt status from federal income tax has been approved by the IRS. This is great news for our organization and opens up a new chapter on how we can conduct business. Contributions made to us are now tax deductible under IRS Code. I want to thank Cristy Trammell, MetroParks Supervisor - Special Events and Volunteers, for her assistance on the application process. She was diligent in her pursuit of this prestigious recognition for FoMP.

Quick note - there is a honeysuckle removal day at Pioneer Church and Burial Ground MetroPark on Indian Creek Road, Oxford, Saturday, November 8.

If you get a chance please view our website, www.fompbc.org.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving. It is a great time to visit with your Friends.

Roger Koch, President

Timberman Ridge Grand Opening By Bill Walker

On October 11 the grand opening of the new Timberman Ridge section of Forest Run MetroPark was greeted by beautiful weather. This was a welcome change after the called on account of possible rain hayride the previous month. The turn out for the opening was rewarded by hayrides through the scenic parkland. This new area offers a variety of landscapes, from ponds and wetlands, to woodlands, meadows, and scenic vistas from the ridge for which the park is named.



Hayride Limousine



Pies in Training



Cutting the Ribbon



Miss Lara Narrates the Hayride



Jon Grandville Welcomes Guests



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Cynamon Trokhan, MPX Board President



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The View from the Ridge



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The Viewers from the Ridge



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Josh Mandel & Family Sign In

Horse Daze, or Never Say "Neigh"

Only one short week after the Timberman Ridge opening, the weather greeting the annual Horse Daze was cold, cloudy, windy, and threatening rain. Despite the discouraging weather, over 1200 attended the event and a good time was had by all. More than 150 volunteers helped make the event successful. In addition to horseback and haywagon rides, there was face painting, hobby horse making, tree planting, hobby horse races and obstacle races.



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