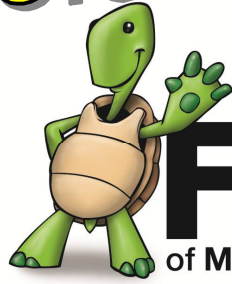


The Voice of the Turtle



Friends of MetroParks of Butler County

Friends of MetroParks of Butler County Monthly Newsletter
April, 2015

FOMPBC Officers

President:

Roger Koch

Vice-President,

Chuck Holliday

Nominating Chair:

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Vacant

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Craig Wiseman

Newsletter Editor:

Bill Walker



*The Board of Directors of
Friends of Butler County of MetroParks
Cordially invite you to join us at our*

Second Annual Meeting

Wednesday, April 8, 2015

*Forest Run MetroPark, Welcome Center
1976 Timberman Rd, Hamilton, OH 45013*

6:00 p.m. Social with Hors d'oeuvre

6:45 p.m. ~ 8:00 p.m. Program

(Dessert to follow)

AGENDA

WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS

Friends President Roger Koch

ELECTIONS TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS

GUEST SPEAKER ~ DAVE WOHR

OHIO CERTIFIED VOLUNTEER NATURALIST PROGRAM

Please R.S.V.P. by April 5th at to Info@fompbc.org

Letter from the President

By Roger Koch

Hello Friends.

We are very fortunate at Friend of MetroParks to have added three new and very talented board members. I'd like to thank each of them for stepping up to assist FoMP with its mission

Amy Cameron, from Middletown, Ohio, joined the FoMP Board in January, 2015. She is currently working for the Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District as a Storm Water Program Coordinator. Previous to that she was a Natural Resources Specialist with Butler County SWCD and a part time employee of MetroParks of Butler County. Amy obtained her Bachelor's Degree from MU and her MS from University of Illinois in Environmental Science. Welcome Amy.

Larry Gersbach has been a member of FoMP since its inception, and has been on the Board of Directors since February. Larry is a Hamilton native, went to Badin High School and received his BS from Xavier and MS from MU in accounting. Larry is a CPA and a Partner with Hart and Gersbach accounting firm, and is a volunteer monitor with Three Valley Trust. His favorite hobby is doing something outdoors with his grandchildren. Thanks for joining the board Larry.

Don Eberwine was also one of the first members of FoMP. Like Larry he joined the board in February. Don is a Butler County native. He was employed at the former D. Russel Lee Vocational School (now Butler Tech) as the Adult Education Director. Following D. Russel he took my old position as Horticulturist at the OSU Extension Butler County. While at OSU he began the Master Gardener Program. He is currently on the board of the Southwest

Regional Water Association, and as a hobby he enjoys preparing taxes. Welcome Don.

As we head full swing into spring, here is a fun thing to do, track Monarch Butterflies as they fly north. We all know the Monarch has been having a hard time lately, their habitat has been under attack from various directions, large agriculture, climate change, development, etc., and as a consequence their numbers are down considerably. By some accounts their numbers are down 50% in the west, and 90% in the eastern US, since 1990.

There are several different websites you can go to get information about the Monarch, but if you go to this website, www.learner.org/jnorth/monarch/, it will allow you to see, via various interactive maps, where other Monarch enthusiasts have spotted the Monarch migrating north, as well as milkweed development, the first Monarch eggs, and the first larva. If you sign up you can be part of this interactive sequence.



Milkweed is the only plant on which the Monarch Butterfly will lay their eggs and their larva use as a food source.

To do our part to encourage the Monarch habitat, Carol and I have purchased some Milkweed seed that we are going to plant in a few weeks, with the hope of starting a

April, 2015

small Milkweed garden. Common Milkweed, *Asclepias syriaca*, is a perennial and likes dry soils in areas where there is little competition, such as road ditches and fence rows.

For those of you who enjoy birding, there is a similar site for watching the Humming Bird migration. You can Google it.

By the way, Chuck Holliday and I took in the Salamander Migration Program at Upper Indian Creek MetroPark several weeks ago. It was well attended and very interesting. Kelsey Sturgill and Bonnie Seegmuweller led our group through the woods at dusk to the vernal ponds. After turning over a few soggy leaf mounds and decaying logs, our group located a several Eastern Red-Back Salamanders and numerous Spotted Salamanders. It was fun for all.

Don't forget April 8 is the Friends of MetroParks annual meeting. The location is Forest Run MetroPark, Timberman Ridge Welcome Center, on Timberman Road, Hamilton, 45013. If you receive the Voice, then you should receive an email invitation to the annual meeting. Hope to see you there.

Thank goodness for spring.

Roger Koch

Invasive plant alert: Lesser Celandine

How to recognize lesser celandine

Lesser celandine has eight petals, and resembles a short-stemmed buttercup growing from a dense mat of leaves. It is an early bloomer, starting in mid-March. By June the leaves have disappeared for the year. Celandine belongs to the buttercup family (Ranunculaceae).

Lesser celandine has been introduced to gardens in the United States several times. The plant is found across Europe and Asia. It thrives in wetlands, and is uncommon on higher, drier sites.

Lesser celandine April 11, 2006



How lesser celandine affects surroundings

Lesser celandine is an exotic spring ephemeral and a vigorous growing groundcover that forms large, dense patches or mats on the forest floor, displacing and preventing native plants from co-occurring. Because lesser celandine emerges well in advance of the native species, it can establish and overtake areas rapidly.

The window of opportunity for controlling lesser celandine is very short, due to its short life cycle. It can be managed with persistence over time using methods that are site appropriate. While manual methods are possible for some (small) infestations, the use of systemic herbicide kills the entire plant from tip to root and minimizes soil disturbance

Locally acres of this invasive can soon be seen crossing the Great Miami River at the Liberty/Fairfield Wayne /Madison Bridge.



Tree & Shrub Sale

One question that I frequently asked is “where can I buy native trees and shrubs?” My answer this time of year is always the same, Butler Soil & Water Conservation District’s Tree & Shrub Sale. On their list this year are redbud, linden, sassafras, and American Elm trees, and spicebush, nannyberry and hazelnut shrubs. Costs vary according to species, sold in packets of 3-5 saplings for \$7-\$8. Best place to buy trees and shrubs for planting in your yard!

Butler Soil & Water Conservation District’s

Order Deadline: March 31, 2015
Pick-up Dates: April 16-17

Go to www.Butlerswcd.org for more information and order form.

Thank you for your support!

Chuck Holliday
Vice President, FoMPBC

chuckH@hollidayintheparks.com
513-305-6223



Maple Syrup Nite at Pioneer Farm

On March 12, 2015, FoMPBC board member, Ed Creighton, and park ranger Shawn led a group of Friends for a tour of the farm house at the Pioneer Farm and the Sugar Shack at Heuston Woods State Park. The evening included a walk through the sugar bush to learn how sap is collected. Next, we visited the sugar shack to find out about the syrup process. A sweet time was had by all.



Ranger Shawn explains sap tapping



The sugar shack at Heuston Woods

“Members Only” Events 2015

Davidson Woods Rookery Visit

Date: April 25, 2015

Time: 1:00 – 4:00 PM

Location: Meet at Meijer Parking lot to carpool to the event.

Description: Over one hundred Great Blue Herons use this unique area for colony

April, 2015

nesting and raising their young. Only scheduled opportunity to visit this “Closed” MetroParks Nature Preserve this year.

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 schedule 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.

**TUESDAY, April 14- *Spring has Sprung!*
Let's have some Fun, Dave Russell,
Department of Biology, Miami University**



A wave of neo-tropical migrants, headed north from the American tropics, has been descending upon the tri-state area for the past three weeks in ever increasing numbers indicating that spring must be here. They are the vanguard of more than 200 neo-tropical migrant species flooding into North America. Although your eyes may not deceive you the multitude of different calls and songs surrounding you are bewildering. Come spend the evening with Dave and Jill Russell as they help you improve your birding skills just-in-time for your first spring birding trip.

Dave Russell teaches introductory and advanced ornithology courses at Miami University. Dave is a certified bird bander and trainer. Through the Avian Research and Education Institute (AREI) whose mission is “to protect and conserve avian populations through research, education, and advocacy” many area residents and students have learned about birds and the thrill of bird banding by visiting the AREI bird

April, 2015

banding station at Hueston Woods State Park. Bird banding is a powerful tool with which to teach conservation lessons and become an advocate for the birds. AREI is sponsored and supported by Audubon Miami Valley. Dave and his wife Jill have a continuing project banding Boreal Owls in the Fairbanks Alaska area that has been ongoing for the past five years. **(Tuesday, April 14, 7:00 – 8:30 P.M., Forest Run Metro Park, 1976 Timberman Road, Hamilton, OH)**

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.fompsc.org

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

The Membership Committee

Bald eagle aerie located in Butler County



An active Butler County eagle nest has been located on Great Miami River near New Miami, Ohio. The search for this nest began as far back as 2009, when 2 adult and 2 juvenile birds were seen feeding together at a nearby gravel pit in late September of that year. Juvenile eagles are fed and taught to feed themselves by their parents well into late winter after they are hatched in the spring. Eagles, both adult and immature, had been routinely seen in the area for several years. Six juvenile eagles had been spotted and reported in the winter of 2014 nearby on Sevenmile Creek. They could be easily viewed from the New Miami High School parking lot until their roost tree was blown down during high winds.

According to ODNR this nest had never been reported to them. This could be the most ideal and best location for a viewing spot of a nest in Ohio, according to an ODNR official. The nest is on private property, and is not approachable by the public, viewing is from the opposite side of the river. Binoculars and spotting scopes are beneficial for viewing. Caution this is on a

very busy road, located near the old Armco Coke plant on Augspurgen Rd.

Other known bald eagle nests in the area are located near Ross, at Hueston Woods State Park and on the Great Miami River north of Middletown near the Butler/ Warren County line.

Try this location and/or these coordinates for viewing: 4117 Augspurgen Rd, Hamilton, OH 45011 39.436055, -84.522020



Volunteers Connect!

by Christy Trammell

- **Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt**

- Volunteers Needed: 4-6
- Date & Time: April 3, 2015 @ 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM
- Location: Forest Run MetroPark (1976 Timberman Road, Hamilton, OH 45013)
- Description: Come early to hide eggs. Help with registration, setup, and egg hunt for this exciting nighttime program! (Bring a flashlight).

- **Stepping Forward: Service Day**

- Volunteers Needed: Many
- Date & Time: April 4, 2015 @ 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM
- Location: Rentschler Forest MetroPark, Timberhill (3976 Hamilton-Middletown Road, Hamilton, OH 45011)

- Description: Getting the youth camping area ready for another season of camping, trail/camping area improvements, honeysuckle removal and broad landscaping needs, and raise the tents! Dress for the weather. Tools and snacks provided.
- **Kites N MPX**
 - Volunteers Needed: Many
 - Date & Time: April 11, 2015 @ 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM
 - Location: Voice of America MetroPark (7850 VOA Park Dr., West Chester OH 45069)
 - Description: Help with registration, kite construction and parachute activities during the exciting “big kite” fly-in program.
- **Earth Day – Oxford & Hamilton**
 - Volunteers Needed: 2 each location
 - Date & Time: April 22 (Hamilton @12:00 PM- Gov’t Services Bldg, Main St. Hamilton) ; April 25 (Uptown Oxford @ 10:00 AM)
 - Description: share MetroParks with the Community- help pass out info
- **Earth Shaking Weekend**
 - Volunteers Needed: 2 each day
 - Date & Time: April 25th and 26th, 2015 @ 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM
 - Location: Chrisholm MetroPark (2070 Woodsdale Rd, Trenton OH 45067)
 - Description: Celebration of Charles Richter, Lectures about geology: fracking and soils. Help with setup/take down and registration.
- **Walk on the Wild Side WOWS Hike**
 - Volunteers Needed: 1 or 2
 - Date & Time: April 28th @ 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
 - Location: Indian Creek MetroPark (6500 Springfield Rd., Oxford OH 45056)

April, 2015

- Description: Assist with hike – share your expertise and love of nature

April brings the green – and multiple opportunities to assist MetroParks with conservation, education and recreation. There is something for everyone- please lend a hand!

To volunteer or for more information please contact

ctrammel@yourmetroparks.net or call 518.867.



Kites-N-MPX

The weather is finally breaking and new season is on the horizon. In celebration, MetroParks of Butler County is preparing for a beautiful spring highflying day! Voice of America MetroPark, located at 7850 VOA Park Dr. West Chester OH 45069, will be soaring with colorful & crazy kites from the P.I.G.S. Aloft kite club. This special program will be held on Saturday, April 11th from 12-5 pm near the VOA Museum. The sky will be filled with kites of all shapes and sizes... There will be simple kite and fancy kites, animal kites and figure kites, little kites and HUGE kites! Throughout the day, families can enjoy beautiful kite performances, stunt kite demonstrations, and on site kite making. Families can even fly their own kite in the family fly zone... feel free to bring your own or purchase one on site. Just take part in the joy of kite flying! MetroParks is able to accomplish an event such as this thanks to collaborations,

program partners and sponsors. Please help MetroParks thank these contributors by acknowledging and supporting their good works! Stop by City Barbeque at Voice of America Shopping Center the week before the event to pick up your FREE MetroParks/City Barbeque logo kite that you can fly in a specially designated area during the event. A special promotion will be offered by City Barbeque when park customer/owners return with their kite in hand to dine at the restaurant the same day of the event. While enjoying Kites-N-MPX, take a minute thank and tour the National Voice of America Museum of Broadcasting. This special day would not be possible without their support and they have graciously opened their doors to welcome park visitors. MetroParks would also like to thank the hard work of the P.I.G.S. Aloft kite club. They are committed to sharing their love of kites and welcome avid kite enthusiasts or beginner kite flyers to take part in their monthly kite fly. Don't forget to cheer for them as they demonstrate their love and control of the kites they are flying for the enjoyment of the community. For more information in getting involved with P.I.G.S. Aloft Kite Club, contact Debbie at jdvonbokern@fuse.net. The special program is a FREE family friendly activity and food and drinks will be available for purchase from MetroParks Concessions. A Motor Vehicle Permit will be required to enter the event; non-resident permits will be available for purchase (\$5 day pass/\$10 annual pass) and FREE 2015-2016 resident permits will be distributed at the ticket booth, along with waivers to fly a kite. Please use the Cox Rd. entrance to enter & exit the special program. Should "Mother Nature" choose not to cooperate and deliver heavy rain or if the risk of lightning is present the event would unfortunately need to be cancelled to keep park customer/owners safe. While the 2015 event

would not be rescheduled, the Pigs Aloft group would still have a kite fly on the following day, Sunday, weather permitting. It may not contain all of the same elements of FUN but it would be an entertaining event to watch. If you are interested in volunteering or participating as a vendor, information can be found on MetroParks of Butler County website

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. Established to compliment the work of state and local communities, MetroParks, a separate political subdivision of The State of Ohio, is organized to provide parks and recreation services to the citizens of Butler County. MetroParks is governed by a three member Board of volunteers, appointed by The County Probate Court, The Board of Park Commissioners. The Mission of MetroParks is to provide a superior park system that maximizes the community's quality of life through conservation, education and recreation. For more information regarding MetroParks visit our website at www.YourMetroParks.net.

More info: www.YourMetroParks.net



Critter Corner: Deep in the Heart of Texas



When Ohio winter gets to be too much, there's nothing like a trip to the Hill Country of Texas. While there, your editor spied a bird not common to Butler County, a scissor-tailed flycatcher. This beauty breeds from eastern Colorado and Nebraska south to Texas and western Louisiana. Like a kingbird in a morning coat, the flycatcher makes it a point to harass hawks, crows, buzzards, and other large birds invading his air space. His long split tail makes for highly aerobic courtship flights and helps him catch his dinner of flying insects.

FOMPBC April Calendar of Events

Date	Time	Event	Location
Apr 8	7-9 pm	FOMPBC Annual Meeting	Forest Run MetroPark Welcome Center
Apr 14	7-9 pm	Migrant Birds with Dave Russell and Audubon Miami Valley	Forest Run MetroPark Welcome Center
Apr 18	10-noon	Wildflower Walk with Robert Henn	Dudley Woods
Apr 25	1-3 pm	Members Only Event	Davidson Woods Rookery Hike

We are the friends of the Metroparks of Butler County a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the future of our Butler County parks. In coordination with other civic-minded organizations we serve to promote, maintain and improve the public's experience and usage of our park system while maintaining its natural beauty.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What exactly do you do?

- A1. We sponsor programs and activities to promote the use of all of the parks across MetroParks
- A2. We assist in raising funds and applying for grants to support the mission of the parks
- A2. We help identify and assist in implementing improvements across all of the parks

Q. Are there any actual benefits to becoming a member?

- A1. "Members Only" events such as hikes in park areas not open to the general public
- A2. Monthly email newsletter
- A3. Opportunity to apply for funding to support MetroParks projects in which you have an interest

Q. Why would I want to get involved?

- A1. Improve and preserve the parks for you, your family and future generations
- A2. Help educate and inform the public about each individual park's uniqueness, showcasing the diversity of the parks
- A3. Encourage and participate in volunteer programs that promote conservation, education and recreation

Q. How do I volunteer? Join?

- A. Fill out the application form and pay the appropriate membership fee.

Q. How can I find out more?

- A. Contact us at: info@fompbc.org

Kites 'N MPX



WHEN:

Saturday, April 11th, 2015
12 PM – 5 PM

WHERE:

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

FEATURING:

- Kite Ballet • Learn to Fly Field • Kite Sales
- Kid's Kite Making • Vendors
- Food & Drinks

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

**Free Family
Friendly Program**

**Gigantic
Kite Flying
Demonstrations**

Co-Sponsored by:

metroparks

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www.YourMetroParks.net
513.867.5835



WILDFLOWER HIKE WITH ROBERT HENN



When:
Saturday April 18, 2015
Time:
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Location:
Wm. F. & Cory Dudley Woods
5591 Hankins Rd.
Liberty Township, OH 45044



Join Robert Henn author of "Wildflowers of Ohio" and local naturalist Chuck Holliday as they look for spring wildflowers. This is a great hike for all who love wildflowers - whether you are a beginner, expert or somewhere in between. This hike is also a great opportunity to see first-hand how a forest can come back to life with wildflowers after the removal of invasive species.

FOR ALL AGES

FREE

Robert Henn has spent years appreciating Ohio nature. His book "Wildflowers of Ohio" features 300 of his own photographs.



Dress for the weather.
No registration needed.

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www.YourMetroParks.net

513.867.5835

Motor Vehicle Permit required at MetroPark locations. Free to Butler Co. residents, Non Residents: 5/Daily; \$10/annually

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



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.



OF BUTLER COUNTY

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**

CONSERVATION CONNECTION

{ Garlic Mustard Pull }



WHEN:

Saturday, May 2, 2015
10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

WHERE:

William F. & Cora
Dudley Woods MetroPark
5591 Hankins Rd, Liberty Township OH

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

PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES:

**Help Conserve your
MetroParks through
removal of invasive
garlic mustard.**

**Protect native species
and preserve species
diversity.**

REGISTRATION:

**www.YourMetroParks.net
Walk-ins welcome!**



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513.867.5835

15317 kjb approved

CONSERVATION CONNECTION

{ Earth Day 2015 }



WHERE:

MetroParks Community Garden
800 Lafayette Ave. Middletown, OH. 45044

WHEN:

Saturday, April 18, 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

REGISTRATION:

Pre-registered volunteers will be provided with Lunch and an Earth Day T-shirt in appreciation for your efforts.

Many Volunteers are needed & Walk-ins welcome!



- **Clean up the park**
- **Pick up litter**
- **Edge plant beds**
- **Bag and remove debris**
- **Mulch beds**
- **Stake out garden beds**
- **Construct garden feature(s)**



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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"> • 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) _____