

# The Voice of the Turtle



# Friends

of MetroParks of Butler County

## Friends of MetroParks of Butler County Monthly Newsletter

March, 2017

### FOMPBC Officers

**President:**

Chuck Holliday

**Vice-President,**

Bill Walker

**Secretary:**

Vacant

**Treasurer:**

Richard Burgstrom

**Nominating Chair:**

Roger Koch

**Publicity Chair:**

Bill Walker

**Outreach Chair:**

Chuck Holliday

**Finance Chair:**

Richard Burgstrom

**Grants & Fund Raiser Chair**

Kristine Hill

**Membership Chair:**

Nick Lengyel

**Events Chair**

Allison Wagner

**Web Master:**

Craig Wiseman

**Newsletter Editor:**

Bill Walker



## Board of Directors Meeting

### March Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>

At

Butler County Historical Society

327 N 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Hamilton, OH 45011

7:00-9:00 PM

Members and interested parties are welcome to attend

## Letter from the President

According to the last part of the Mission Statement of FOMPBC, we are to encourage and participate in volunteer programs for MetroParks. For 2017 we have selected over 10 MetroParks event in which we plan to participate with sponsorships, event participation, and/or volunteer participation, along with financial donations for other supplies and prizes.

New for our participation this year will be the Kites in MPX on April 8. This event has drawn very large crowds in the past, over 3000 people the last time it was held. Our plans for this event will include setting up the FOMPBC information table and tent, donation of a gift card to be used for volunteer food, and face painting. We also need to commit to more volunteers to help at other MetroParks tables and duties.

Also for 2017 we plan to increase our presence at the Hump Day Concerts. See later description. Of course, we will be at the regular events like the Easter Dog-Gone Bone Hunt, Crazy Cardboard Regatta, Mud Mania, Fun on the Farm, The Howl, Horse Daze and Brilliant Bebb. We need volunteers for all these events. If every member selected just 2 events to lend a hand, we would have more than enough volunteers to make the events a true success and help FOMPBC grow.

Face painters NEEDED

Your Friend,

Chuck Holliday  
President, FOMPBC

## Important dates

### Elk Creek MetroPark Listening Session #1

*Hear the Master Plan for  
Elk Creek MetroPark.*

Central Connections  
3907 Central Ave., Middletown, OH  
Wed., Mar. 8, 6-8 PM  
Public input welcomed, free!

## Hump Day Concerts

It soon will be “toe-tapping” time at Voice of America MetroPark again, as MetroParks has

announced the twelve-week Hump Day Concerts series for the summer of 2017.

FOMPBC plans to be much more involved with the concerts in 2017. We need 4-5 volunteers for each concert for to act as hosts, provide announcements, and provide information to the public about FOMPBC and programs and events in MetroParks of Butler County.

FOMPBC also agrees to provide 4 members at 2 days of band selection. The first selection date is March 7 from 10:00 AM till 2:00 PM. If you are interested in volunteering for any of the events, please contact Bill Walker at [bug\\_jock@yahoo.com](mailto:bug_jock@yahoo.com) by Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## Nominating Committee

Election of Board of Director and Officers: Annual Meeting, April 12, 2017

If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors or would be interested in any of the officer positions, please contact Roger Koch, Chairman of the Nominating Committee.

## Nest Box Monitor Needed

We need 1 nest box monitor at Gilmore MetroPark. If you would be interested in serving this way with MetroParks please contact Zach Marcum at [zmarcum@YourMetroParks.net](mailto:zmarcum@YourMetroParks.net) for more information.

Thanks for your continued support of MetroParks and have a great day.

Sara Schapman  
Volunteer Coordinator

## Volunteer Training

Mark your calendars to attend one of the training dates below. Sara Schapman, our new Volunteer Coordinator, will host the training for our volunteer software, Volgistics. Please RSVP to Sara at [sschapman@YourMetroParks.net](mailto:sschapman@YourMetroParks.net)

Thursday, March 2, 9:00-11:00 AM  
Voice of America MetroPark

Saturday, March 4, 9:00-11:00 AM  
Chrisholm MetroPark

**FOMPBC 2017 Calendar of Events**

Mo	D	Time	Event	Location
Apr	1	1-4 pm	Easter Deggone Bone Hunt	Timberhill
	8	12-5 pm	Kites in MPX	VOA
	9		Eggstravaganza	VOA
	14		Flashlight Egg Hunt	Forest Run
	29 – 5/6		Big Week of Birding	Various MetroParks
May	13	2 – 4pm	Shooting Stars	Indian Creek
	21		Pioneer Salute	Indian Creek
July	9	12-4 pm	Pioneer for a Day	Gov. Bebb
	15	10am-4pm	Crazy Cardboard Regatta	VOA
Aug	4-5		Mud Mania	Rentschler
	12	12-4 pm	Fun on the Farm	Chrisholm
Sep	16	10am-4 pm	Horse Daze	Sebald
Oct	7		Barn Dance	Chrisholm
	21		Run Forest Run	Forest Run
Oct	22	10am- 4pm	The Howl	VOA
Dec	1 2 3	5-9 5-9 4-8 pm	Brilliant Bebb	Gov Bebb

**Ongoing Service Opportunities**

**Feeder Fill/Feeder Watch!**

When: Flexible Winter Months

Where: Forest Run Welcome Center 1976

Timberman Rd. Hamilton OH 45013

Who: Families, Adults

What: Stop by and fill the bird feeders once a week.

View wildlife from the wildlife viewing area at the

Welcome Center and record your observations!

Training available. Contact Joe Dumyahn

jdumyahn@YourMetroParks.net

**Trail Ambassadors – Great Miami River Trail**

When: Flexible

Where: Great Miami River Trail – Trenton to Middletown Section

What: Trail Ambassadors monitor the trail at least 4 hours a month on their bicycle. Trail Ambassadors report maintenance and safety concerns to MetroParks staff, assist trail users when necessary, provide information to trail users, and perform light trail maintenance.

**Group Service Projects**

When: Flexible

Where: Flexible

What: MetroParks always has various projects for groups to complete! If you have a youth group, church group, student group, or business group that is interested in scheduling a private service day, contact Sara Schapman at [sschapman@YourMetroParks.net](mailto:sschapman@YourMetroParks.net) for more information.

**Program Event & Preparation Support**

When: Flexible

Where: Multiple Locations

What: Park Connections staff presents multiple education, recreation, and conservation programs and events throughout the year. Volunteers are needed to help with preparing for MetroParks events and programs. Volunteers may create crafts, prepare signage, organize materials and supplies, clean materials and supplies, and other general tasks and volunteer for the program itself.

**Welcome Center - Voice of America MetroPark**

When: Flexible

Where: Voice of America MetroPark, Ronald Reagan Lodge, 7850 VOA Park Dr., West Chester OH 45069

What: Volunteers are needed at the Welcome Center at Voice of America MetroPark. Welcome park customer/owners with a smile, provide information about programs and the parks. Training provided. Contact Claudia Whitacre [cwhitacre@YourMetroParks.net](mailto:cwhitacre@YourMetroParks.net)

## Save the Date

Friends of MetroParks Butler County will be having its 2017 annual meeting on Wednesday, April 12, 6 pm, at the Greater Dayton Boy Scout Camp, “Woodland Trails Scout Reservation”, about 1 mile north of Camden off State Route 127. Please plan on attending. The program will be very interesting and worthwhile. The dinner is being catered a local cater, Holly’s Homestyle Eats and Treats, who is well known in the area for her delicious meals. The desserts are being provided, and made fresh, by the members of the Friends of MetroParks Board of Directors.

To make a reservation please see the annual meeting invitation in this issue of the Voice. Or call 513.593.2735

## Nighttime Sounds in the Winter Woods: Owls of Ohio

By: Wyatt E. Snodgrass, Program Leader, Park Connections



As the end of winter approaches, a remarkable sound emerges from the woods after sunset. February is a great month to hear the extraordinary calls of owls due to their early nesting habits. North America is home to nineteen species of owls, twelve of which have been recorded here in Ohio. The most common species in the state are the

Eastern Screech-Owl, Barred Owl, and the Great Horned Owl. These three are widespread breeders in Ohio. The Long-Eared, Short-Eared and Northern Saw-Whet Owls are regular migrants and frequently visit Ohio during winter months.

During the winter, owls communicate while breeding and choosing their nest sites. The largest of the commonly heard owls in Ohio is the Great Horned Owl. They are the first to mate and typically are already sitting on eggs in the months of January and February. They are known to use old hawk or crow nests to achieve this. The Eastern Screech-Owl and Barred Owl are smaller in size and usually use cavities in trees to lay their eggs.



Owls possess many unique characteristics allowing them to be top predators in the dark. Exceptional hearing allows them to pinpoint the location of sounds. Specialized feathers that greatly reduce the noise that is made during flight allows them to ambush their prey. They have excellent vision due to large eyes which enables them to navigate very well at night. Owls can turn their head up to 270 degrees, giving the ability to look directly behind them without moving their body. Their fully feathered feet are adapted for cold weather condition and have powerful talons used for hunting prey.

## MetroParks Educational Programs Materials Wish List:



As you sort your recyclables on trash night, please consider donating some of the following items to us that might otherwise end up in Rumpke. Please take any donations to:

VOA Welcome Center , VOA Park Drive, West Chester; when open, generally 9am- 4:30 pm

Forest Run Engel House (Administrative Building), 2051 Timberman Rd., Hamilton ; 9am- 4:30 pm week days.

Recyclable/ re-purposed materials:

- Craft sticks- any sized
- Gently used athletic equipment
- Gently used board games
- Gently used Legos
- Any length of 2x4 boards
- Fabric scraps

Other things you may have laying around:

- Pencils
- Pens
- Paper cups
- Paper plates
- Rubber bands
- Clothespins
- Ziplock baggies
- Craft materials: glitter, stickers, pipe cleaners, feathers, beads, etc.
- Paper for crafts: tissue paper, construction paper, foam paper, cardstock paper, etc.



# Like our Facebook Page for updates on:

- Upcoming members events & meetings
- Volunteering with MPX
- MPX programming



# Butler County's Early Spring Amphibians

*With Jeff Davis, Herpetologist,  
Ohio Division of Wildlife*



**Where:** Salamander Run Preserve  
4821 Layhigh Road  
Hamilton, Ohio 45013

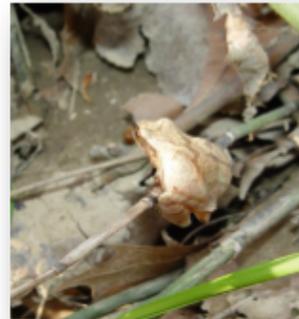
**When:** Sunday, March 12, 2017  
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

**What:** Hike to explore early  
spring amphibians



**ALL AGES ARE  
WELCOME**

**FREE**



Registration requested

Go to:  
[YourMetroParks.net](http://YourMetroParks.net)

Or call 513-867-5835



*Inclement weather date:  
Sunday, March 19, 1 - 3 pm  
Pre-registered  
participants will be  
notified by email/phone  
if hike has been canceled.*

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

# Dog-Gone Easter Bone Hunt



## When:

Saturday, April 1, 2017  
12:00 pm — 4:00 pm

## Where:

Rentschler Forest MetroPark  
Timberhill Area  
3976 Hamilton-Middletown Rd  
Hamilton, Ohio 45011



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

## ALL DOG SIZES WELCOME

1:00 pm Egg Hunt for dogs  
UNDER 30 pounds

2:00 pm Egg Hunt for dogs  
OVER 30 pounds

## Fee:

\$4/dog by March 22

\$5/dog after March 22

## Register at:

513-867-5813 or

[www.YourMetroParks.net](http://www.YourMetroParks.net)

Treats & prizes hidden in  
well-defined areas

Obstacle course for dogs

Visit dog-friendly vendors &  
concessions

Make new friends from the  
rescue center

Special golden egg prizes

Photo opportunity with the  
Easter Bunny



# April

## OPPORTUNITIES

### Dog Gone Bone Hunt

When: Saturday, April 1, 2017 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Where: Rentschler Forest MetroPark  
Timberhill Area  
3976 Hamilton-Middletown Road  
Hamilton OH 45011

Who: Adults, Teens

What: Volunteers are needed for set up, filling eggs for dogs, event registration, safety, and much more.



### Kites 'N MPX

When: Saturday, April 8, 2017 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Where: Voice of America MetroPark  
7820 VOA Drive  
West Chester OH 45069

Who: Adults, Teens

What: Volunteers are needed for set up, event registration, safety, and much more.



### Eggstravaganza

When: Sunday, April 9, 2017 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Where: Voice of America MetroPark  
7820 VOA Drive  
West Chester OH 45069

Who: Adults, Teens

What: Volunteers are needed for set up, event registration, assisting with the egg hunt and much more.



# Kites 'N MPX



## WHEN:

Saturday, April 8th, 2017

## TIME:

12:00 PM – 5:00 PM

## WHERE:

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



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

**FREE Family  
Friendly Event**

**Gigantic  
Kite Flying  
Demonstrations**

### FEATURING:

- Kite Ballet
- Learn-to-fly Field
- Kite Sales
- Kite Making
- Vendors
- Food & Drinks



**Co-Sponsored  
by:**



  
**MetroParks**  
of Butler County, OH



# Stream Biology

Saturday, May 20 9 am—12 noon

Indian Creek MetroPark  
1899 Oxford Reily Rd, Reily, Ohio



Are you interested in the health of our local streams? If so, join Butler Soil and Water Conservation District and MetroParks of Butler County to learn about the biology of streams. After a brief background on streams, water quality, and the stream creatures, we will enter the creek to conduct a stream sample. This biological sample will help us to assess the health of the water. Interested attendees can become samplers for the Butler County Stream Team, a local water quality citizen science group.

**Please wear closed toe footwear that can get wet.** Please be aware this entire class will be held outdoors rain or shine. There are no shelters in this portion of the park.

**This class is geared for teens and adults.** Anyone under the age of 14 is welcome to attend one of the many free, family friendly, creek walk programs held throughout the summer. Please see [www.yourmetroparks.net](http://www.yourmetroparks.net) for more details on locations and dates.



**Pre-Registration is required by May 18.** To register, please contact Butler SWCD at 513-887-3720 or email your name to [ButlerSWCD@ButlerCountyOhio.org](mailto:ButlerSWCD@ButlerCountyOhio.org).



### Did you know?

You can redeem your service hours through our Volunteer Rewards Program. Contact Sara with questions on how to redeem your rewards.

### 2017 Service Days

Mark your calendars for the upcoming service days where you can help us prepare our parks for spring, special events, and other things.

April 1 Rentschler Forest

April 22 Indian Creek

April 22 Elk Creek—Seabald

July 14 Voice of America

August 26 Elk Creek—Seabald

September 23 Governor Bebb

October 28\* - Various

November 18 - Voice of America

\*October 28 is Make a Difference Day

# March

## OPPORTUNITIES

### Service Day

**When:** Saturday, March 11, 2017 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

**Where:** Rentschler Forest MetroPark  
Timber Hill Area  
3976 Hamilton-Middletown Road  
Hamilton OH 45011

**Who:** Adults, Teens

**What:** Volunteers will help prepare Timberhill for the fun of spring. Assemble tent shelters, perform trail maintenance, and general indoor facility maintenance.

### Amphibians Hike

**When:** Sunday, March 12, 2017 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

**Where:** Salamander Run Preserve  
4821 Layhigh Road  
Hamilton OH 45013

**Who:** Adults, Teens

**What:** Volunteers will represent MetroParks in a professional and friendly manner by supporting staff and other volunteers in various ways such as set up program activity areas, welcome guests, crowd control, assist with safety, and assist staff with any set up and clean up.

**You're invited....**



**2017 Annual Meeting  
Friends of MetroParks of Butler County**

**Woodland Trails Scout Reservation**

265 Gaspers Somers Road, Camden, Ohio 45311

Wednesday, April 12, 2017, 6:00 – 8:30 pm

Dinner (6:30) - Business Meeting - Program

*Dinner by Holly's Homestyle Eats & Treats, \$15/person, \$5 under 12  
Ham & Herbed Chicken Breast Dinner, with homemade desserts*

Speaker:

**Mike Henderson**, "Woodland Trails, It's History and Ecology"

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Please make your check payable to:

*Friends of MetroParks of Butler County, PO Box 641, Hamilton, OH 45012*

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**# Attending:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Amount Enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Pay at the Door** \_\_\_\_\_

Or e-mail your RSVP to [kochtrees@gmail.com](mailto:kochtrees@gmail.com) (state name, # attending)

# 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s)/Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Group or Business Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home/Business Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email (required to receive newsletter) \_\_\_\_\_