

The Voice of the Turtle



Friends of MetroParks of Butler County

Friends of MetroParks of Butler County Monthly Newsletter May, 2016

FOMPBC Officers

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Chuck Holliday

Vice-President,

Bill Walker

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Roger Koch

Secretary:

Allison Wagner

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



Future BOD Meeting Locations

May 11 Sebald Shelter 11 7 PM

Summer meetings begin at 6 PM, to avoid
Hump Day concert conflicts

June 8 VOA Trophy Rm (community room not available)

July 13 VOA Community Room

Aug 10 VOA Community Room

Members and visitors are welcome to attend board meetings



May, 2016

Mark Your Calendars

April 2016

- Fri 1 Indian Creek Salamander watch
- Sun 3 Chrisholm Open house – FOC
- Tue 12 Chrisholm WCPC Photo Journal
- Sat 16 Dudley Henn Wildflower Hike
- Sat 16 VOA Murder Mystery Theater
- Tue 19 Chrisholm Russell – Intro to Birding
- Fri 22 Chrisholm Barn Tour
- Tue 26 Richter Roundabout Richter Birthday
- Sat 30 Dudley Garlic Mustard Pull
- Sat 30 Davidson Rookery Hike

Announcing



Do you ever order anything from Amazon?

What is AmazonSmile?

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization.

To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device.

You can choose from nearly one million organizations to support. On your first visit to AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), you need to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. We will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation.

Yes, Friends of MetroParks of Butler County is listed as a eligible nonprofit 501(c)(3) public charitable organizations.

How much of my purchase does Amazon donate?

The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. The purchase price is the amount paid for the item minus any rebates and excluding shipping & handling, gift-wrapping fees, taxes, or service charges. From time to time, we may offer special, limited time promotions that increase the donation amount on one or more products or services or provide for additional donations to charitable organizations. Special terms and restrictions may apply. Please see the relevant promotion for complete details.

Please support Friends of MetroParks of Butler County by registering with **AmazonSmile!**

Murder Mystery Dinner*



Chip Stone, Famous Movie Star

Kroger Plus Card

Community Rewards Update:

Your supporters (21 households) who shopped at Cincinnati between 2015-11-01 and 2016-1-31 (Cycle 4, Qtr 3) have contributed to your **\$131.30** total donation.

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 or visit our website at www.krogercommunityrewards.com. Thank you for your continued support of your local Kroger store.

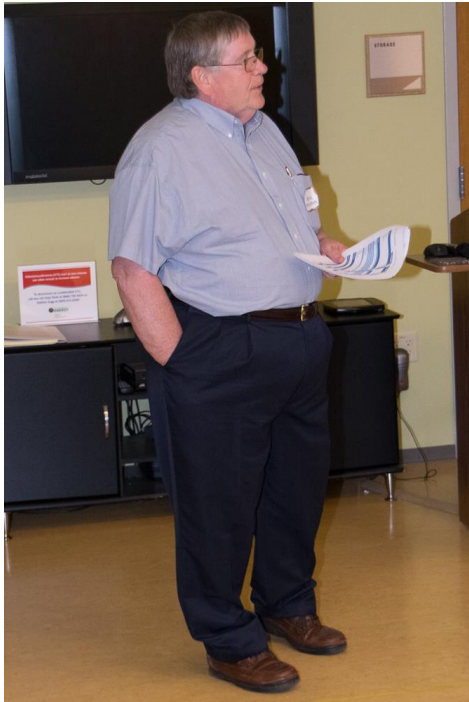
Don't forget to use your newsletter, website, and events to encourage your supporters to link to your organization. The more your supporters shop with us, the more money your organization will earn!

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**

Annual FoMPBC Meeting



Chuck Holliday gives state of the FoMPBC



Roger Koch awards Bill Walker Friend of Year award



Chuck Holliday gives Board of Directors Award to Kathy Creighton of Butler County Historical Society



Jon Granville describes future plans for MPX



Donna Metzler describes history of Fernald Preserve



A rare 4-leafed sessile trillium

Spring Wildflower Walk

On April 16, Dr. Bob Henn, author of *Wildflowers of Ohio*, led a nature walk through Dudley Woods MPX. The spring wildflowers were in bloom, and (for a nice change) the weather lovely. Many of the typical April flowers were found in bloom, and their uses and histories described.



Dr. Henn describes a spring beauty

Listen to the Mockingbird

On April 19, Dr. Dave Russell, of Miami University, demonstrated to birders at Chrisholm MPX how hard it can be to identify migrating bird species when they insist on being heard, but not seen. Using recordings of locals and visitors, he showed how similar the songs of common and exotic birds can sound, and offered tell-tale vocal “tells” that help tell species apart.



Dave Russell teaches songs of local birds to help us differentiate them from neotropical visitors



Probably not neotropical

May, 2016

Critter Corner
Magical Neotropical Migrants
By Lynette Dean



Blackburnian Warbler

It is a magical time of year for those of us who are bird nerds. The spring migrants are arriving daily. They come and then they go – different ones passing through - so quickly is their visit that we barely get to witness their beauty, let alone, capture their name. In the spring, if you are persistent, you may see tiny warblers flitting around with colors of orange, yellow, green and blue. Listening for their songs, you will hear a cacophony of sounds from a variety of birds.

What's going on, that there would be such an influx of birds? Well, just like many humans, many birds like to winter in warmer climates. Then as our weather warms, and the insects start coming out, around 200 species of Neotropical birds leave their Central and South American homes to make their way to North America - to nest and rear their young. These migrants represent many groups of birds, including flycatchers, warblers, tanagers, hawks, orioles, hummingbirds, swallows, swifts, hawks, and falcons.

So what does Neotropical mean? The Neotropical Region is one of the 6 major zoogeographical regions of the world. It extends from Central Mexico south to the southern-most tip of South America. This is the most biologically diverse region on Earth. More species of plants and birds occur here than in any other region.

Birds migrate to take advantage of seasonally abundant food. The types of food that Neotropical migratory birds need, such as flying insects, caterpillars, fruits and nectar, are super-abundant during our spring and summer. This ample supply

of food increases their "breeding success". Birds are able to raise more young on average by migrating than they would if they remained in the tropics.



Northern Parula

How far do they travel? Migrating birds travel distances range from a few hundred miles to over 10,000 miles! The shortest migrations are made by birds that breed in the southern United States and winter in Mexico or the West Indies. Some of the longest migrations are made by shorebirds that nest in the arctic tundra of northernmost Canada and winter as far south as Tierra del Fuego (the southernmost part of South America), a one-way distance of up to 10,000 miles.



Male Scarlet Tanager

Most long-distance migratory songbirds and shorebirds, and some waterfowl, migrate at night when conditions are more favorable (cooler temperatures and calmer air) and predators are few. Others, such as hawks and vultures, travel by day soaring and gliding on rising currents of air. Swallows, swifts, and nighthawks are also migrate by day because they feed on flying insects that are active only by day.

If I have peaked your interest about Neotropical migrant birds consider joining a birding program during the Big Week of Birding in Butler County, April 30 – May 7th. There will be hikes daily and are intended for all birders, from brand-new to advanced.

May, 2016

Photographers Needed by Cristy Trammell

● MetroParks Mojo Running Triathlon, June 19, 7am (3-4 photographers) Voice of America

We have great photos from last year's triathlon that we have been using in marketing efforts – and look forward to photographic support this year as well—rather than using the link, photographers can sign in at the table June 19. We begin set up for the event at 4 am – but the event starts at 7am with a swim in the lake. (Last year 230 participants plus crowd)

● Crazy Cardboard Regatta, July 16, 10 am (10-12 photographers) Voice of America

We look forward to a slide show featuring WCPC member regatta pictures again this year, to play in the Lakeview (cool down) Rm. Also look forward to capturing the excitement of the day as usual (attached is list of suggested photography spots. Set up and registration starts at 8 am, the event starts at 10 am and the races start at 12 pm- pick a shift (1000-2000 visitors)

● Mud Mania (2 photographers) Aug 5&6, 11 am Rentschler Forest MetroPark

Who can resist some not so clean, good fun? We are offering two days of it- and welcome photos that catch the enjoyment. Helping with a photo-spot that folks can receive assistance taking pictures of themselves with their cell phones is a great service. (1500 visitors last year)

● Fun on the Farm (1 -2 photographers) Aug 20 Chrisholm Historic Farmstead

Not a big event- but farm animals and hayrides on a pretty farm setting- would be nice to capture the day (250 visitors)

● Horse Daze (4-5 photographers)

In addition to capturing the event, Community program partners and event co-sponsors from the Butler County Horseman's Council will have a photo booth and printer station to take free photos of folks sitting on a horse. This is a true labor of love and service to the attendees. They could use assistance at the booth helping with the printing of pictures, spelling the photographer, helping keep

photos straight and handing out prints to (very excited) recipients. (I won't ask you to hold the reins ;-). We were a bit overwhelmed with 3000 visitors to the park last year and definitely can use help. In the past year this group has shared slide show of event photos with other horseman's groups in hopes of inspiring this event statewide!

I have attached flyers for these events that give the times and locations. Shifts are variable and flexible. Thanks so much for sharing with the club. Please let Zach Marcum <zmarcum@yourmetroparks.net> know if anyone can assist with any of these family friendly events.

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

May 2016 Bird Banding

When: Throughout April and May; set up begins before sunrise and lasts 2-4 hours

Where: Gilmore MetroPark, Bilstein Boulevard Entrance, Hamilton, OH 45015

What: Bird banding is a method of collecting data on migrating birds. Bird banding at Gilmore MetroParks is led by an experienced bird bander. This is a great way to learn about birds, sharpen your birding skills, and contribute to science and research.

Stepping Forward: Service Day

When: Saturday, May 14, 2016

10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Where: Sebald MetroPark, 5580 Elk Creek Road, Middletown, OH 45042

What: Stepping Forward: Service Days allow for volunteers to do a number of activities at various parks throughout the year. Service Days are held to keep parks clean, improve habitat, complete projects, and prepare for events. MetroParks is partnering with the Butler County Chapter of the Ohio Horseman's Council to improve trail conditions at Sebald MetroPark. Volunteers will meet at picnic shelter #11. Volunteers will primarily be removing invasive species along the trails and removing trash and debris.

May, 2016

Stepping Forward: Service Day

When: Saturday, May 21, 2016

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Where: Miami Woods, 450 New London Road, Hamilton, OH 45013

What: Stepping Forward: Service Days allow for volunteers to do a number of activities at various parks throughout the year. Service Days are held to keep parks clean, improve habitat, complete projects, and prepare for events. MetroParks is partnering with the Hamilton Parks Conservancy to improve trail conditions at Miami Woods. Join MetroParks and the Parks Conservancy in a Service Day to make trail improvements. Volunteers will primarily be removing invasive species along the trails.



Great Miami River Recreation Trail Ambassador Training

When: Saturday, June 4, 2016

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Where: MidPointe Library – Middletown, 125 South Broad Street, Middletown, OH 45044

What: Learn about becoming a Trail Ambassador along the section of the Great Miami River Recreation Trail that stretches from Trenton to Middletown. 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.

Ongoing Volunteer Opportunities

Administrative Support

When: Flexible

Where: Multiple Locations

What: Volunteers are needed to help with administrative tasks including document filing, copying program flyers, database management, document preparation, and other general office tasks. Volunteers can help out on a recurrent basis or just once if desired!

Program/Event Support

When: Program Dependent

Where: Multiple Locations

What: Park Connections staff can always use an extra hand with programs and events. Do you see something on our program calendar that interests you? You can get involved by inquiring about volunteer opportunities for that event. Contact zmarcum@yourmetroparks.net for more information on volunteer opportunities for a particular program or event.

Program Preparation Support

When: Flexible

Where: Multiple Locations

What: Park Connections staff presents multiple education, recreation, and conservation programs 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.

General Maintenance Support

When: Flexible

Where: Multiple Locations

What: Help MetroParks by lending a hand in general maintenance alongside the Operations Department staff at various locations throughout the MetroParks system. Tasks might include painting, mulching, trail maintenance, equipment maintenance, etc.

May, 2016

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.

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.

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 volunteer services for more information.

Other Ideas?

If you have skills or interests that you would like to translate into volunteer service for MetroParks, but don't see that option listed, contact us! MetroParks is always looking for new and innovative ways to get volunteers involved in the parks.

PLEASE NOTE: All ongoing volunteer opportunities must be scheduled directly with volunteer services. If you are interested in any of the above ongoing volunteer opportunities, please contact zmarcum@yourmetroparks.net or call (513) 867-5835 for more information.

Looking Ahead....

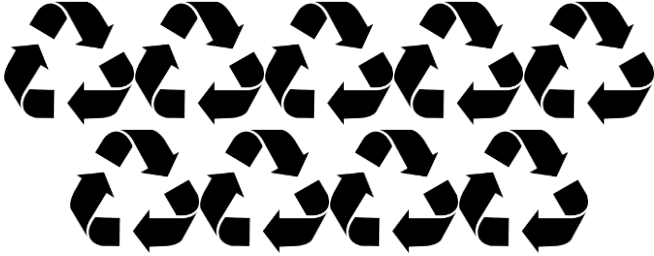
MetroParks asks that you begin thinking about any interest you may have in future volunteer opportunities. Some volunteer opportunities to be looking forward to include:

Summer Adventure Camps – MetroParks will hold Adventure Camps in June, July, and August. This is a great opportunity for those who enjoy working with children.

Salamander Run Restoration Project – MetroParks and the Three Valley Conservation Trust will be continuing restoration work at Salamander Run. Look for planting dates in June.

If any of these future opportunities sound interesting to you, please email Zach Marcum at zmarcum@yourmetroparks.net for more information.

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.

Recyclable/ re-purposed materials:

- Craft sticks- any sized
- Clean & empty 2 liter bottles
- Clean & empty large coffee containers
- Clean & empty large cottage cheese containers
- Clean & empty large yogurt containers
- Clean & empty paper egg cartons
- 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.



EVERY WEDNESDAY 7:00 PM

JUNE



JULY



AUGUST



RAINOUTS: Scheduled concerts may be cancelled in the event of rain. For more information, please check MetroParks of Butler County FaceBook page after 4pm on the day of the concert.



**EVERY WEDNESDAY
JUNE- AUGUST 2016**

**Voice of America MetroPark
Gazebo on the Lake
Behind the Ronald Reagan Lodge
7850 VOA Park Drive
West Chester, Ohio 45069**

FEATURING:

- **FREE MUSIC**
- **FOOD & ADULT BEVERAGES**
- **LAKE ACTIVITIES**
- **BIKE & BOAT RENTALS**
- **MID WEEK RELAXATION**
- **PLAYGROUND FOR THE KIDS**



NOW THAT'S FAMILY FUN!

www.YourMetroParks.net
513.867.5835



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

2016 BIG WEEK OF BIRDING IN BUTLER COUNTY



MARK
YOUR
CALENDARS

3rd annual Big Week will include new locations

Sat. April 30 to Sat. May 7, 2016

Sat. April 30, 3 - 5 p.m.

4-Mile Creek Davidson Woods

Sun. May 1, 7 - 9 a.m.

Chrisholm MetroPark Wooddale

Mon. May 2, 7:30 - 9:30 a.m. Dudley Woods

Mon. May 2, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Indian Creek MetroPark

Tue. May 3, 7:30 - 9:30 a.m. Hueston Woods State Park banding station

Tue. May 3, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Forest Run MetroPark

Wed. May 4, 7:30 - 9:30 a.m. Rentschler Forest MetroPark

Wed. May 4, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Riverside Natural Area (Hamilton)

Thu. May 5, 7:30 - 9:30 a.m. Salamander Run

Thu. May 5, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. 4-Mile Creek MetroPark Antenen

Fri. May 6, 7:30 - 9:30 a.m. Gov. Bebb MetroPark

Fri. May 6, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Fernald

Sat. May 7, 7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Finale at Voice of America & Gimore MetroParks

Bonus: Tue. April 19, 7 - 9 p.m.

Dr. Dave Russell presents

How to Know those Spring Migrant Birds

Chrisholm MetroPark



ALL AGES
WELCOME

COST: FREE



Photo by
Allan
Claybon

- **Details on MetroParks website**
- **All birding abilities welcome**
- **Pre-Registration suggested**



Photo by
Nick Dumont

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

metroparks
mojo
Running
Triathlon

WHEN:

June 19th, 2016 at 7:00 AM

WHERE:

Voice of America MetroPark

7850 VOA Park Drive, West Chester, OH 45069

WHO:

Open to triathletes of all experience levels with Sprint, Olympic, & Relay options

Tri a MetroPark....Live Life in
Forward Motion

~2nd Annual~

Cost:

- Sprint: \$65
- Olympic: \$75
- Sprint Relay: \$110
- Olympic Relay: \$125

Race:

Swim in VOA lake, run along park trails, and bike on streets of West Chester!

Registration:

<http://timingspot.racemine.com/Mojo-Running/Events/2016/MetroParks-Mojo-Running-Triathlon>

Registration closes on June 15th, 2016

Register before May 1st to receive **\$5 off** on any registration!



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513.867.5835



WHEN:

**Saturday, August 20, 2016
12:00 pm - 4:00 pm**

WHERE:

**Chrisholm MetroPark
Chrisholm Historic Farmstead
2070 Woodsdale Road
Trenton, OH 45067**

Enjoy a day of fun on the farm! Visit the historic Amish-Mennonite home. Enjoy demonstrators and shop at local farm-friendly vendors.

Motor Vehicle Permits will be available at the event.

ALL AGES WELCOME

FEE: \$5.00 PER VEHICLE

ENTRANCE FEE COVERS:

- **Farm games & crafts**
- **Egg hunt**
- **Hayrides**
- **Animals**
- **Open hearth cooking**
- **Garden exploration**
- **Farm equipment**



Friends of Chrisholm

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kjb160427

HORSE DAZE



WHEN:

Saturday, September 17, 2016

10 am– 4 pm {Join us rain or shine}

WHERE:

Sebald Park

5580 Elk Creek Road, Middletown, OH 45042

Lasso up some FUN!

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

FREE Family Friendly Event

FEATURING:

**Horse Rides
Tractor Drawn Hayrides
Horse Photo Opportunity
Demonstrations
Games & Activities
Food & Drinks**

Co-Sponsored By:



The Butler County Chapter of



mud mania



WHEN:

Friday, August 5, 2016

Saturday, August 6, 2016

TIME:

11:00 AM-3:00 PM both days

WHERE:

Rentschler Forest MetroPark

Reigart Road Area

5701 Reigart Road, Hamilton, OH 45011

The messiest family FUN around!

FEATURING • Mud Volleyball • Slimy Obstacle Course • Muddy Pools • Food Vendors • Little Mudders Area

A FAMILY FUN EVENT!

Come prepared to get wet & dirty!

REGISTER ONLINE OR AT THE EVENT

FREE/Under 5

\$2/ages 6-15

\$5/16 & over

Please Note:

All participants must wear shoes.



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NOW THAT'S FAMILY FUN!

www.YourMetroParks.net

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"> • 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 - \$100
- Donation - \$ _____

Name(s)/Contact _____ Date _____

Group or Business Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home/Business Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email (required to receive newsletter) _____