

The Voice of the Turtle



Friends of MetroParks of Butler County

Friends of MetroParks of Butler County Monthly Newsletter
February, 2016

FOMPBC Officers

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Bill Walker

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Bill Walker



Make your salamander pre-reservation now!



Jan. 29-Apr. 1,

8:30-10:00 PM

Indian Creek Mayer Shelter

6500 Springfield Rd., Oxford, OH 45056

February, 2016

Letter from the President: *Sunday Drive*

What a great way to end the month of January! Golf weather in winter, I'll take it. After church last Sunday, Linda and I headed out on one of my great enjoyments, the Sunday Drive, with no particular place to go. We started out in Trenton and headed west, taking any back road that I could find, heading in the general direction of Millville. About the time we got into the north side of Millville, I remember that I had not been to Indian Creek Church in a while. So off we headed.

MetroParks had replaced the old worn roof on Indian Creek Church with a new metal roof late last fall. If you remember, last summer we asked for donations to help repair the soffits at the church. The total cost of the soffit repair was \$7000. FOMPBC receive \$4650 in private donation to help pay the cost of the soffit repair, the remaining balance of the repair was covered by another group and a grant from a locally utility. We appreciate and thank all those donors that gave freely to this fund. The contractor did an excellent job on the repair, and the Indian Creek Church should be well covered for many years to come.



Our next stop in western Butler County was, of course, Governor Bebb Preserve to get some measurements for a historically correct covering for the forge. Hundreds of students tour Governor Bebb every spring to learn and explore about life in the early 1800's in our pioneer village. Another need for the village is an awning or shelter to cover visitors for the candle making demonstration during bad weather. We did receive a \$2000 grant from a

local foundation to support our work in the village and hopefully we will be able correct these two problems and replace many of the artifacts that are on loan to the village.



We kept heading south and ended up in Harrison for dinner, I ate too much. Headed back to eastern Butler County with a full belly and an empty gas tank we stopped at Krogers to use my gas points, I filled up the tank for \$0.579 a gallon. Please remember to sign up for the Kroger Community Rewards Program.

What a great day!

I know that you care about our parks; if you didn't care you would not have read this post. Thanks you for caring!

Chuck Holliday, President FOMPBC

February BOD meeting:

Board of Directors Meeting for February 10, 2016, 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.

Board of Directors Meetings for 2016

- March 9 BCHS
- April 13 Annual Meeting TBD

Mark Your Calendars

Feb 2016

- Tue 9 VOA WCPC Photo Journal
- Sat 13 VOA Murder Mystery Theater
- Sat 27 Gov Bebb Owl Hoot

March 2016

- Sat 12 VOA Murder Mystery Theater
- Sat 12 Sebald Woodcock Wooing
- Sun 20 VOA Extravaganza
- Fri 25 Forest Run Flashlight Egg Hunt
- Sat 26 Timberhill Dog-Gone Bone Hunt

April 2016

- Fri 1 Indian Creek End Salamander watch
- Sun 3 Chrisholm Open house – FOC
- Sat 9 VOA Kites N MPX
- 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

Mystery of the Winter Woods

On January 30, the monthly Walk on the Wild Side was enjoyed by dozens of area residents. It was hard to tell that it was late January, since the temperature was in the 60s. Although I hate to complain, a little permafrost would have made my walking shoes easier to clean after the walk.



Chuck Holliday, President of Friends of MetroParks of Butler County, describes how best to identify trees in the winter



Jacob Hartman, local Master Gardener, leads the Mystery of the Winter Woods Walk

Salamander Adventures Return



In the spring, on a warm, wet evening salamanders at Indian Creek begin to move. It happens sometime between the last week of January and the end of March. Sign up for this unique opportunity. Watch



Matt Stenger, from Taking Root 2020, explains Cincinnati's tree legacy

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migrating salamanders and learn more about this species. Pre-registration required. You will be contacted by email regarding the exact date and time

Sun, Mon., Tue., Wed., Thu., Fri., Sat. Jan. 29-Apr. 1, 8:30-10:00 PM Indian Creek Mayer Shelter 6500 Springfield Rd., Oxford, OH 45056

Murder Mystery Dinner*



Come join us for a night of mystery and dinner. Included with your ticket is a three course meal and unlimited soda, tea and coffee. Adult beverages will be available for purchase. The Murder Mystery Co. will be there putting on a spectacular show that you get to join in and be part of the adventure in solving the mystery. The show will begin at 6:00pm and will last 3-4 hours, please arrive 30 minutes early. Come dressed in costume to make for a more interesting evening. All shows are rated PG-13.

Below are the themes for each show:
February 13, 2016 - Till Death do us Part
March 12, 2016 - Murder at the Masquerade
April 16, 2016 - Of Sound, Mind & Dead Body

Group discounts are available for 8 or more people at \$60 per ticket - please call 513-867-5835 to book a party.

There is a multi show discount also available if you book a second show (\$10 off).

Murder Mystery Dinner* note:

All members of FOMPBC receive a 20% discount on tickets. Please call to make your reservations and identify yourself as a Friends member.

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 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**

February, 2016

Salamanders Are Super By Lynette Dean, Program Manager



5-Spotted Salamander

The late February snow still lay on the ground. The air was moist and had just a touch of warmth. Fog began rise from the cold patches as the sun set in the western sky. I sat on the back of the car and scooted into my muck boots and adjusted the headlamp on my head. Maybe tonight?



Red-Backed Salamander

My partner and I crunched along on the trail to the edge of the vernal pool. Or more precisely – where the vernal pool would be in a few weeks. At the present time it was a snow-covered ice patch – probably not too much going on tonight.

We investigated anyway. Sometimes there were a few early ones. Maybe a Jefferson's? As carefully as we could we stepped and slid down to the vernal pool area. Turning over logs, one at a time, we scanned for movement. Tipping up leaf litter and carefully replacing it where it had been.

It was early spring and nearly time for these critters to wake up from their hibernation and make their way to their breeding area under cover of darkness. We were looking for amphibians that don't make a sound, quieter than a mouse they are.



Spring Peeper

A few weeks later, on a wet, warm spring night, the salamanders awoke and began to make their way to the pond. MetroParks invited enthusiastic participants to experience the salamander's behavior and habitat by wading into the muddy vernal pools, carefully turning over leaves and logs, searching out salamanders. They held wiggling salamanders while a chorus of spring peepers serenaded them. Educators emphasized the importance of respecting these unique breeding habits.

Have you ever held a salamander? If you do, you will find that salamanders are one of the most amazing of creatures. And we are lucky enough at MetroParks of Butler County to have Indian Creek to invite people to, so that they can understand and appreciate this natural resource.

If you are interested in learning more about salamanders, please sign up to attend Salamander Adventure this spring and you too may find that salamanders are super!

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Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities February 2016

Murder Mystery Dinner

When: Saturday, February 13, 2016 5:00 PM – 10:00 PM

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

What: MetroParks will be presenting a PG-13 rated Murder Mystery Dinner Series in which participants will receive a three-course meal, drinks, and enjoy a murder mystery show. MetroParks is seeking 4-5 adult volunteers to help with event set up and clean up and to serve food and beverages throughout the evening. This is a fun volunteer opportunity that gives volunteers the chance to enjoy some thrilling entertainment while volunteering!

Winter Adventure Camp

When: Monday, February 15, 2016 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM and/or 12:00 PM – 3:30 PM

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

What: Winter Adventure Camp will give children, ages 6-12, an opportunity for some adventurous fun on President's Day. Participants will be sledding, making old fashioned ice cream, and playing Quidditch! Volunteers will be needed to assist program staff with facilitating the fun activities of the day as well as event set up and clean up, registration and monitoring children for safety throughout the event.



Conservation Connection: Nest Box Monitor Training

When: Sunday, February 21, 2016 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Where: Chrisholm MetroPark, 2070 Woodsdale Rd, Trenton OH 45067

What: MetroParks Nest Box Monitors record bird activity at nest boxes and perform maintenance and repairs on nest boxes as needed. Attend this training and receive all the materials needed to be a nest box monitor. This is a great volunteer opportunity for the whole family and is fun for all ages! Feel free to bring a snack to share with other volunteers at the training.

Owl Hoot

When: Saturday, February 27, 2016 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

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

What: Assist MetroParks programming staff with Owl Hoot! Owl Hoot is an educational program focused on nocturnal forest animals. One volunteer is needed to assist with program registration and to monitor participant safety during night hike by following behind program participants.

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 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

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system. Tasks might include painting, mulching, trail maintenance, equipment maintenance, etc.



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.

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:

- **Stepping Forward: Service Days** – 2016 Service Days begin on Saturday, March 12 2016. Service Days occur at several different park and offer varying activities throughout the year.
- **Easter-Themed Programs** – MetroParks offers numerous Easter-Themed program including Eggstravaganza, Flashlight Egg Hunt, and Dog-Gone Bone Hunt. Volunteers will be needed for these events. Look for these events in the March Volunteer Opportunities and on the Volgistics calendar.
- **Great Miami River Recreational (Bike) Trail Ambassador** – MetroParks is in the development stage of creating a (Bike 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 for more information.



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New Bridge at Bebb Park

By Roger Koch

I have to admit that taking hikes is much more pleasant on a sunny May or October afternoon. None-the-less, Carol and I decided to take a hike on a January Sunday afternoon when there was no sun, the wind was blowing and the temperature was well below the freezing point of water.

No we didn't see any specular or unusual birds, very few ground critters were noticeable, and any plant identification had to be accomplished by bark, twigs, or dead tissue visual analysis. Besides the wind blowing the only noise we heard was from two very tall White Pine. One was dead and had fallen against the live one. It looked like they were doing the "tree dance" and in the process creating this strange sound.



Here is what we did see though. We were hiking the Governor Bebb Serenity Trail and discovered that the new foot bridge east of the Covered Bridge and Pioneer Village was completed. It is very nice and a great improvement over the old one. The frame is made from two very strong steel I beams. The platform is nice and wide, probably 5 or 6 feet, and has abundantly sturdy handrails that go from end to end on both sides of the new bridge.

It is a great improvement. Thanks to all who made the new bridge possible.

Volunteers Needed at VOA Welcome Center

Volunteers at the VOA Welcome Center play an important role in the day to day operation of the facility. Scheduling is flexible and will be coordinated with the facility manager. Welcome Center volunteers assist the Welcome Center staff through various activities including but not limited to:

- Greet park and lodge visitors
- Answer questions about VOA and all MetroParks
- Give directions to park facilities
- Distribute Motor Vehicle Passes according to MetroParks policy
- Route comments or complaints to appropriate staff
- Answer phone and route calls and messages to appropriate staff
- Complete log of Welcome Center activity
- Report volunteer hours
- Make suggestions on how to improve Welcome Center and park
- Assist MetroParks staff with projects
- Follow all park rules and report violations of park rules

Volunteers will especially be needed to help at the Welcome Center during the Spring and Summer. This is a great volunteer opportunity for those looking to gain experience working the parks or those who enjoy working directly with the public. If interested, please respond to this email.

Thank you!

Zach Marcum
Program Coordinator



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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

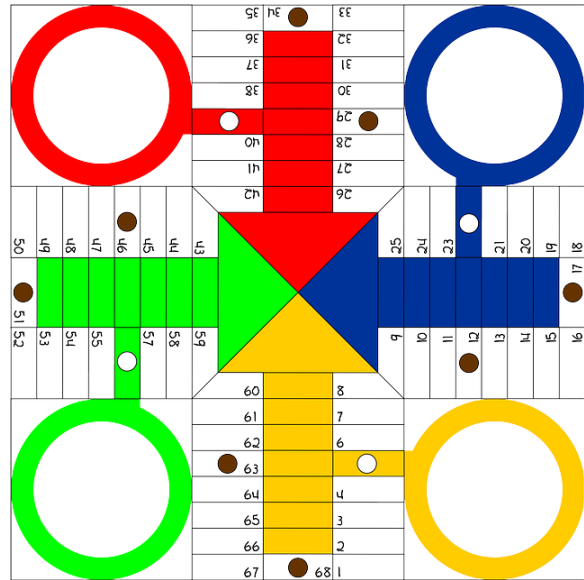
Clear & cleaned empty 48-96 oz juice containers

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



OF BUTLER COUNTY
NOW THAT'S FAMILY FUN!

2016 JOB FAIR

3RD ANNUAL JOB FAIR

WHEN:

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2016

TIME:

2:00 P.M.-7:00P.M.

WHERE:

**Voice of America MetroPark
Trophy Room/Ronald Reagan Lodge
7850 VOA Park Drive, West Chester, OH 45011**

The MetroParks Job Fair offers information about seasonal, part-time and intern job positions throughout MetroParks.

Please bring multiple copies of your resume and be prepared to complete applications.

- **Be prepared and allow time to speak to hiring managers in these departments**
- **Please register by calling Amy Pellman at 513-867-5835 ext. 212. Registration is not required but strongly recommended.**

POSSIBLE OPEN POSITIONS:

- **BARTENDER/HOST**
- **PARK CARETAKER**
- **RENTAL ASSOCIATES**
- **FACILITY ATTENDANTS**
- **PARK LAW
ENFORCEMENT OFFICER**
- **PUBLIC SAFETY ASST**
- **PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER**
- **PROGRAM LEADER**



OF BUTLER COUNTY
NOW THAT'S FAMILY FUN!

2051 Timberman Road

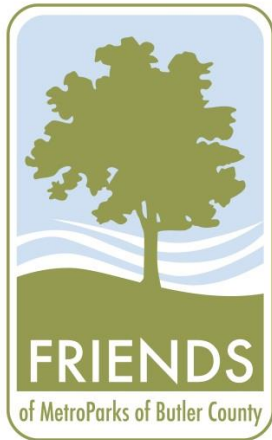
Hamilton, Ohio 45013

Phone: 513.867.5835

Fax: 513.867.5954

www.YourMetroParks.net

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) _____