

The Voice of the Turtle



Friends of MetroParks of Butler County

Friends of MetroParks of Butler County Monthly Newsletter
March, 2016

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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

March, 2016

March BOD meeting:

Board of Directors Meeting for March 9, 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 Fernald

Mark Your Calendars

March 2016

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

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

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 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:

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.

March, 2016

**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**



Announcing

amazon SMILE

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!**

March, 2016

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

March 2016

Stepping Forward: Service Days

When: Saturday, March 12, 2016 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

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

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. Join in this Service Day to prepare Timberhill for the fun of Spring. Help with trail/camping area improvements, assemble tent shelters, landscaping, general indoor facility maintenance, preparation of crafts for upcoming programs.



Flashlight Egg Hunt

When: Friday, March 25, 2016 6:30 PM – 11:00 PM

Where: Forest Run MetroPark, 1810 New London Road, Hamilton OH 45013

What: Flashlight Egg Hunt lets children experience an egg hunt in the dark! Volunteers are needed to help with event set up, event clean up, and monitoring participant safety and activity throughout the event. Extensive set up is required in order to hide all eggs before the event. Volunteers are not required to stay for the entire event.

Dog-Gone Bone Hunt

When: Saturday, March 26, 2016 11:30 AM – 3:30 PM

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

What: Join MetroParks in presenting the Dog-Gone Bone Hunt, the canine version of an egg hunt! Volunteers will be needed for event set up, event clean up, directing pedestrian traffic, event registration, and other tasks as needed. This is a fun event that is ideal for volunteers who enjoy being around animals and interfacing with the public.



Great Miami River Recreation Trail Ambassador Training

When: Sunday, April 3, 2016 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Where: Forest Run MetroPark – Welcome Center, 1976 Timberman Road, Hamilton, OH 45013

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.

March, 2016

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

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.

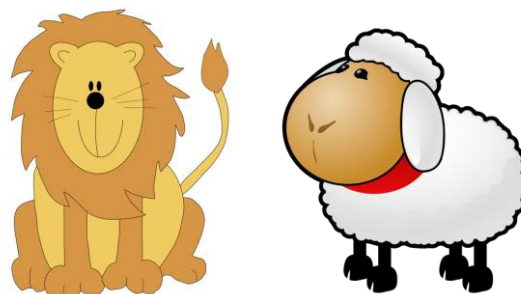
Looking Ahead....

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:

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.

Historical School Programs – Volunteers will be needed beginning in May to help with historical school programs. These programs provide an interpretive experience for students. Staff and volunteers dress in period attire, perform demonstrations, and provide education to students. These programs occur during school hours.

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



Critter Corner

By Bill Walker



Brown Pelicans

The smaller of two native North American pelican species, the brown pelican still has a wing-span over 78". These two adults are in breeding plumage. Although found on Atlantic, Gulf, and Pacific coasts, the eastern and western populations show differences in breeding coloration. The western brown pelicans have red patches on the neck and throat that are missing on their eastern cousins.

These birds are part of a large flock gathered around several Alabama shrimp-processing plants on the Bon Secour River, which empties into Bon Secour Bay (an offshoot of Mobile Bay). Hope springs eternal when it involves the possibility of free shrimp. Can't say that I blame them, since I did my best last week to help consume a significant part of the local shrimp fisher's bounty.

Birds in this area nest on an island separating the Intracoastal Waterway from Mobile Bay. Since the average depth of the bay is only 10', dredging is a constant activity. The dredging spoils were used to build up several islands that help protect the waterway. Luckily, most alligators don't like salt water, since brown pelicans are ground nesters (unlike white pelicans, which like to nest in trees).

Brown pelicans are largely solitary feeders, unlike the white pelicans, which often cooperate to catch fish. Their 50' dives into the water make me glad not to be the targeted fish.



Bottlenose Dolphin

On the way back to dock, we encountered a small pod of bottlenose dolphins who were engaged in tag-team fishing along the edge of the Intracoastal Waterway. After echo-locating a target, the dolphins would change from slow, deep swimming to rapid swimming with the dorsal fin remaining above the water. They reminded me of a flat rock skipping along the top of the water. I suspect that the fish were reminded more of a guided missile hot on their tails.



Common Loon

Another fishing predator spotted during our cruise was the common loon (not to be confused with your editor). Shown here in winter plumage, this diving bird can be identified by its straight, pointed beak, unlike the hooked beak of the double-crested cormorant.

March, 2016

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

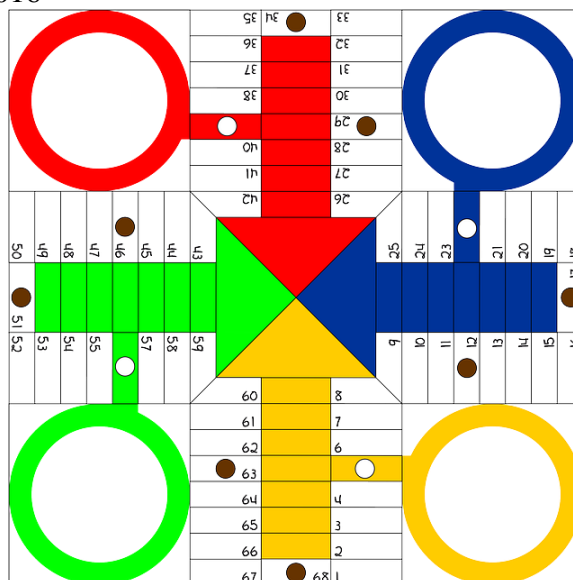
Clear & cleaned empty 48-96 oz juice containers

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

You're invited....



2016 Annual Meeting
Friends of MetroParks of Butler County

Fernald Preserve Visitor's Center

7400 Willey Road, Harrison, OH 45303

Wednesday, April 13, 2016, Doors open at 6 pm

Dinner (6:30 pm) - Business Meeting- Speaker

Dinner catered by Country Barrel Restaurant

\$10/person

Lasagna, salad, rolls, beverages

(Vegetarian offering upon request)

Homemade desserts courtesy of FOMPBC Board

Donna Metzler "*Natural Areas of Fernald: Cold War to the Present*"

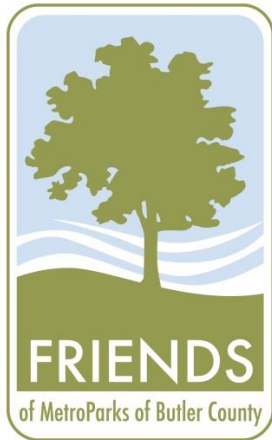
Your official invitation will arrive via email very soon.

Please RSVP by April 8, 2016

Please RSVP to your email and remit payment to P O Box 691, Hamilton OH 45012

(Please consider a donation if you cannot attend)

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) _____