

The Voice of the Turtle



Friends of MetroParks of Butler County

Friends of MetroParks of Butler County Monthly Newsletter April, 2016

FOMPBC Officers

President:

Chuck Holliday

Vice-President,

Bill Walker

Nominating Chair:

Roger Koch

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Richard Burgstrom

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Bill Walker

Outreach Chair:

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Finance Chair:

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Abby Ison

Web Master:

Craig Wiseman

Newsletter Editor:

Bill Walker



BOD Annual Meeting 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
Cost \$10.00

Please RSVP by April 3, 2016



April, 2016

Letter from the President

Most of those that know me know that April is my kind of month. I can't wait to get out into the parks and explore Mother Nature's Bounty. What an exciting month we have ahead of us, mark your calendar for Good Times Ahead!

First on the agenda is the Board of Directors Annual Meeting on April 13th. This year we have a great event lined up for your enjoyment: To be held at Fernald Preserve Visitor's Center, Lasagna dinner for \$10 (meat and vegetarian available), election of our new BOD members, election of officers, and a great speaker on the history of Fernald. If you come early, stop by the viewing platform just after the entrance, we will have a spotting set up to view the waterfowl on the lake.

Next on the agenda of April events is the Robert Henn Wildflower Walk at Dudley Woods on April 16. Dudley Woods is blessed with a wide variety of spring ephemerals and there is no better authority on Ohio's wildflowers than Robert Henn, he actually wrote the book.

For the bird lovers of the bunch, mark Tuesday evening April 19, 7-9 PM at Chrisholm MetroPark: Augspurger House on your calendar. Dr Dave Russell will give the 411 on what to look & listen for as spring migration gets under way. The Biggest Week in Birding in Butler County kicks in on April 30th, a week of birding adventures all across Butler County.

Not all fun and games the month ends at Dudley Woods with a "Garlic Mustard Pull". Garlic mustard is an invasive plant that tries to take over out woodlands. We need your help, and all of the volunteers you can bring to fight this awful plant.

Get out and enjoy our MetroParks!
Chuck Holliday
President, FOMPBC



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

A Special Thank You

A special Thank You, for your support and efforts in passing the tax levy for our parks. We appreciate your help and support.

Also, a special thanks to the levy committee and the many volunteers that helped make passing the levy a success.

From the people, flora & fauna of Butler County!

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

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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*



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:
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 (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**

April, 2016

Dog Gone Easter Bone Hunt

The event was a howling success! Over 80 dogs went out hunting for treats at the Timberhill Activity Area.

Thank you to Sue Tutas and Donna Holliday for passing out the puppy treats for FOMPBC



April, 2016

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

April 2016

Stepping Forward: Service Days

When: Saturday, April 2, 2016 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

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

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 MetroParks to prepare VOA for another busy season of athletic competitions. Help hang nets for soccer goals and clean up the athletic field area.

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.



Historical Interpreter Training

When: Monday, April 11, 10:00am-2:00pm and Tuesday, April 12, 10:00am-2:00pm

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

What: Learn about becoming a volunteer for historical school programs at Governor Bebb MetroPark Historical Interpreter volunteers will help to prepare and present historical programs to scheduled school groups, primarily during weekdays. Volunteers can expect to dress in pioneer era attire (provided), perform demonstrations, and provide education to school groups. Training provided for historical interpretation.

Governor Bebb Village Preparation

When: Monday, April 11, 10:00am-2:00pm and Tuesday, April 12, 10:00am-2:00pm

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

What: Help prepare the historic pioneer village at Governor Bebb MetroPark for the busy school field trip season! Volunteers will be helping programming staff to clean the interior of the cabins.

Stepping Forward: Service Day

When: Saturday, April 16, 9:00am-12:00pm

Where: Indian Creek MetroPark 1899 Oxford-Reily Road, Oxford, OH 45056

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. Help in habitat improvement at Indian Creek MetroPark by removing invasive species with hand tools along the waterfront and drives.

Wildflower Hike with Robert Henn

When: Saturday, April 16, 10:00am-12:00pm

Where: William F. and Cora Dudley Woods Park, 5591 Hankins Road, Liberty Township, OH 45044

What: Robert Henn, an author and local naturalist, will be leading a hike to view, identify, and learn about wildflowers. 1-2 volunteers knowledgeable on wildflowers will be needed to lead and educate groups along the hike as participation is so high for this program. Volunteers will also be needed to join in the hike to ensure participant safety while on the trail.

April, 2016

Middletown Earth Day Festival

When: Saturday, April 23, 8:00am-12:00pm

Where: 1 Donham Plaza, Middletown, OH 45042

What: Join MetroParks and Keep Middletown Beautiful for the Middletown Earth Day Festival! Volunteers will meet at 1 Donham Plaza in downtown Middletown at 8:00am. Volunteers will sign in and be assigned to a designated clean-up area in Middletown. Volunteers should complete a Volunteer Release Form prior to the event at <http://www.keepmiddletownbeautiful.com/earthday/release.pdf>

If you would like to volunteer at a MetroParks site, please designate on the above Volunteer Release Form. MetroParks sites will be the Middletown Community Gardens and the Great Miami River Recreation Trail.

Stepping Forward: Service Day

When: Monday, April 25, 3:00pm-5:00pm

Where: Indian Creek MetroPark – Pioneer Church and Burial Ground, 3000 Indian Creek Road, Reily Township, OH 45056

What: Help support the Indian Creek Church and Pioneer Burial Ground Committee. The unique 99-acre area, which is a part of Indian Creek MetroPark, contains a historical pioneer church and burial ground. Volunteers will be removing honeysuckle and performing general park maintenance.

Stepping Forward: Service Day/Garlic Mustard Pull

When: Saturday, April 30, 10:00am-1:00pm

Where: William F. and Cora Dudley Woods Park, 5591 Hankins Road, Liberty Township, OH 45044

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 and be a part of the Garlic Mustard Pull! Volunteers will be removing an invasive species known as garlic mustard.

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.



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

April, 2016

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:

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.

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

Critter Corner

By Sharon Pawlowski

Here's an update on the birds at the Gilmore wetlands. It appears a few of the GBH nests have been blown down. Today there were only 11 nests present. All 11 were occupied. Eight of the nests had birds sitting in the nests as opposed to just standing in the nests. Hopefully some more birds will come in and build some new nests. The Great Egrets haven't arrived yet, they should be here in about a month. There were a lot of Tree Swallows flying over the water and some have claimed the nest boxes.

There was a good number of waterfowl present also. There were about 30 Northern Shovelers, 20 Gadwall, 4 Woodducks, 6 Blue-winged Teal, 1 Green-winged Teal, 2 Coots, 2 Pied-billed Grebe, Mallards, and Canada Geese.

April, 2016



Wood Ducks



Blue Heron Rookery at Gilmore Ponds



Green Wing Teal



Blue Wing Teal



Northern Shoveler

April, 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

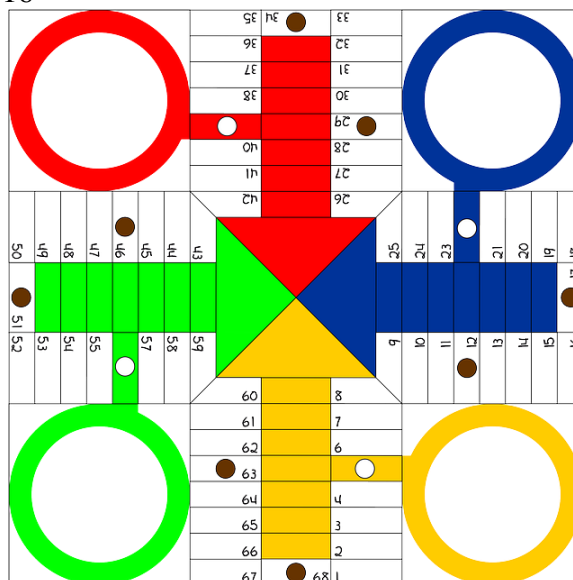
Clear & cleaned empty 48-96 oz juice containers

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 3, 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)

WILDFLOWER HIKE WITH ROBERT HENN



When:

Saturday April 16, 2016

Time:

10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Location:

**Wm. F. & Cora 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.

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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OF BUTLER COUNTY
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

160229 (kib) approved

CONSERVATION CONNECTION

{ Garlic Mustard Pull }



WHEN:

**Saturday, April 30
10:00 AM to 1:00 PM**

WHERE:

**William F. & Cora
Dudley Woods Park
5591 Hankins Rd, Liberty Township 45044**

PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES:

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

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

Refreshments Provided

REGISTRATION:

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



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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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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) _____