

The Voice of the Turtle



Friends of MetroParks of Butler County

Friends of MetroParks of Butler County Monthly Newsletter December, 2016

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

December Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, December 14th

At

Butler County Historical Society

327 N 2nd Street, Hamilton, OH 45011

7:00-9:00 PM

Members and interested parties are welcome to attend

December, 2016

OUR MISSION: The mission of the Friends of MetroParks of Butler County is to improve and preserve the parks for future generations, educate and inform the public about the unique qualities of each MetroPark, and to encourage individuals and groups to participate in volunteer programs

Letter from the President

Congratulations to Mr. William C Walker, FOMPBC’s very own “Parkie Award” winner Presented by MetroParks at “An Evening with Our Stars” A Volunteer Celebration”! Bill was awarded this honor for his continuing efforts to Friends group and his excellent efforts as the editor of the *Voice of the Turtle* newsletter that we receive every month.

It is a true honor to call Bill a Friend and a personal friend also. I have known Bill Walker over 10 years and consider him a truly fine gentleman, never without a retort, pun or quip to any comment made his way. Bill is one of the original Board of Directors of the Friends group, serves as Vice President, member of the Nominating Committee, as well as the Editor of the *Voice of the Turtle*.

Bill is an excellent photographer, a true nature lover, enjoys classical music, fluent in several languages, travels extensively with his bride of 45 years, a retired engineer with a Master’s degree from MIT and does also like to travel the bourbon trail.

Once when I ask him if enjoyed taking sunrise photos? He replied “If God had meant for him to see the sunrise, he would have made it later in the morning”

Congratulations to you, Parkie Bill! Well deserved.

Chuck Holliday
President, FOMPBC

Congratulations to:

Rachael Connaughton of Ross Ohio
She was the Brilliant Bebb winner of the drawing for the \$50.00 gift certificate from Koch Christmas Trees.

Friends of MetroParks of Butler County just received another check from the Kroger Community Rewards Program in the amount of **\$123.30**
Kroger Plus Card Community Rewards Program:

Every fiscal quarter Kroger donates one million dollars to local community groups.



If you have any questions, please email cincinnaticommunityrewards@kroger.com or visit our website at www.krogercommunityrewards.com.

Friends of MetroParks of Butler County
Organization Number: **15599**

You do not have to be a member of FOMPBC to participate, nor do you have to select FOMPBC as your donation group. Please register for this program, make your spendable income work to benefit of your choice.

**An Evening
with Our Stars:
A Volunteer Celebration**

Friends of MetroParks of Butler County certainly shined at the volunteer celebration!

Larry Gersbach President’s Award



December, 2016

Bill Walker

Parkie Award



I finally got Bill's last word in! (Wanna bet, Chuck?)

Bud & Carol Souder

Parkie Award



Donna Holliday

Service award

Judy Shillinglaw

Parkie Award



Grab Bag winners

December, 2016
Thanks Nick,



December, 2016



Brilliant Bebb,

December 2, 3 & 4

Friends of MetroParks of Butler County were a *Cabin Sponsor* at this year's event! Grey Cat Tavern



We offered “free samples” of hot apple cider, displayed articles that we purchased for the Governor Bebb Village, had pioneer games for playing and a *very special fund raising opportunity for FOMPBC*. We raffled off the six donated Christmas trees (donated to MPX by Roger Koch), and a \$50.00 gift certificate from Koch Christmas Trees. Also a last minute idea by Allie Wagner, a “Tip Jar” for the free apple cider, brought in a total of \$242.00 for the three opportunities!

December, 2016



Attendance seemed a bit down, a steady rain on Sunday evening didn't help. What a great event for the public to attend and for the great group of volunteers that gave MPX and FOMPBC a hand to put on this unique event.

It was truly amazing to watch both the adults and children sipping on their hot cider and playing with checkers, Jacob's ladder, slate boards and the ball and cup game.

Utilizing the awnings that were purchased by FOMPBC from the Smith Family Trust fund was a great hit. The larger awning housed a tin punch exhibit, Sounded like a Herd of upset woodpeckers.



December, 2016



December, 2016





December Volunteer Opportunities!

Santa's Brunch

When: Sunday Dec 11, 2016, 12:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Where: Voice of America MetroPark, Ronald Regan Lodge, 7850 VOA Park Drive, West Chester, OH 45059

What: Calling Santa's "elves" -assist with set up, serving food, demonstrations, children's activities and games, and take down. Contact ctrammell@yourmetroparks.net or 513-867-5835 (office).

Feeder Fill – Feeder Watch! **NEW!**

When: Flexible- throughout late fall and winter

Where: Forest Run Welcome Center, 1976 Timberman Rd. Hamilton OH 45013

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

Ongoing Opportunities:

Trail Ambassadors – Great Miami River Recreation Trail

When: Flexible

Where: Great Miami River Recreation 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. Join the next training!

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.

Program & Event 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! Contact programs@yourmetroparks.net

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.

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 info@yourmetroparks.net or call (513) 867-5835 for more information.

December, 2016

“Members Only” 2017

State of the Parks,

Sunday, January 29, 1:00-4:00 PM

Visitor Center, Timberman Ridge MetroPark
1976 Timberman Rd, Hamilton, OH

Want to know what is coming to MetroParks in 2017; this is the place to be.

Light refreshments will be served

Shooting Stars of Indian Creek MetroPark

Saturday, May 13, 2:00-4:00 PM

Indian Creek MetroPark,
6500 Springfield Road, Reily, OH 45056

Bring your cameras and your field guides as we visit this awesome MetroPark in search of several unique spring ephemerals: Shooting Stars, Wild Hyacinth and Nodding Trillium. Trails can be slick and steep, please wear suitable footwear and clothing.

Visit the Creighton Farmstead

Summer 2017

Murder Mysteries Return to VOA

This holiday season give a gift that will chase away the winter doldrums for gift recipients.

Returning to MetroParks in 2016-2017 are three spectacular murder mystery shows, presented by WhoDunIt? Performers, where entertaining and engaging actors will create a memorable winter's evening for guests. Guests can either be a spectator for the evening or join in and be a part of the adventure by assisting in solving the mystery of the night. If getting into “character” appeals to guests, they can even come dressed in costume to make their experience more interesting. Costumes; however, are not required.

Individual reservations are available for \$35 each and can be made online at

www.YourMetroParks.net. Remember that Friends of MetroParks members qualify for a 20% discount. Under Calendar of Events. Reservations are currently being accepted for all three nights which will be held at the Ronald Reagan Lodge located at Voice of America MetroPark, 7850 VOA Park Drive, West Chester, OH 45069 for December, January and February.

Meals for each evening will vary and are being provided by MetroParks in house catering. All dinners include tasty appetizers, a full buffet with something for everyone's taste buds and yummy dessert selections. Unlimited soda, tea and coffee will also be included. Adult beverages will be available for purchase. The show will begin at 6:00pm and will last about 2 hours, please arrive 30 minutes early. All shows are rated PG-13.

The themes vary for each performance and are listed below:

December 10th - Santa's Slay...Oops Sleigh

Santa and Mrs. Claus are having a party. But someone is about to get a really big lump of coal for being bad and killing Santa! Can Barry Mitzvah, the elf, and Santa's daughter, Ann Arctic, discover WHODUNIT?

January 21st - Lights, Camera, Murder

Gloria Swanson is coming back to the silver screen. But someone wants to send her to that big screening room in the sky instead! Could it be the spurned lover, the jealous stand-in, or does someone have a dark secret? No more "close ups" for Miss Sawnsong! WHODUNIT?

February 10th - Deadly Game of Love

Preparations are under way for the taping of “You Said What?” and everyone associated with the show is excited. Huge Jassel, the game show host is about to make his appearance. He is sure the show and everyone associated with it are his to play and use. Blackmail, affairs, and random firings are all a part of the game behind the scenes. When on the air he is the host with the most. Jerk... Pig... and slime are just a few of the words that have been used to describe him. Oh, add one more.... dead!

Project Spark

You may or not be aware that MetroParks and lots of other community partners, cities, townships and stakeholders have been working on a very cool initiative called PROJECT SPARK.

Simply put PROJECT SPARK is a bold initiative to promote Butler County as a “top choice” for visitors, businesses and students as well as a great place to call home.

December, 2016

Hello,

I hope that you had a great Thanksgiving holiday.

I'd like to ask two quick and easy tasks that will only take a moment of your time:

1) Please take a couple of minutes to complete a very short survey regarding the Butler County Project Spark branding initiative here:

www.ButlerCountySpark.com

2) Please forward this email to your friends, colleagues, family and anyone you know who has an interest or stake in Butler County (it can even be people who live or work outside Butler County but may do business here or visit here)

The data that we gather from this short survey will assist efforts to shape an authentic, powerful story that will build a strong brand for Butler County.

Thank you for your time and participation with this project.

Sincerely,

Michael McNamara



Michael McNamara, Development Administrator
Executive Director - Butler County Port Authority

President - Butler County Land Bank
Butler County Department of Development
130 High Street, 6th Floor
Hamilton, Ohio 45011
Work: (513) 785-5109
Mobile: (513) 378-2716

What's involved?

Project Spark is about fueling Butler County's growth with a highly coordinated approach to: enhancing the experiences the county offers; the brand it projects; and how everyone in the county, including MetroParks, becomes a part of telling that story through communications and marketing, regionally, nationally and beyond.

Why now?

In the past decade, Butler County has seen substantial growth, job creation and positive momentum. But few outside the county's borders know the breadth of what Butler County offers. The decision was made that now is the time to act to change that. The location of the county, its natural amenities, business growth and learning hubs can be powerful attractors – but only if all involved present the many advantages in an authentic, unified way.

Who's Involved?

The Butler County Commissioners, Butler County Port Authority and Butler County Visitors Bureau all collaborated to launch this initiative.

What is needed from you?

Your insights! Your ideas! Both of these are needed for this effort to succeed. You've helped create the Butler County of today. Those working on PROJECT SPARK hope that you'll participate in shaping the Butler County of tomorrow by sharing your views.

Please take a minute to do so today by taking a moment to read the following email and find a link to take a very brief survey.

Thanks in advance for participating!

From: Desmond Maaytah

<MaaytahDJ@butlercountyohio.org>

Date: November 28, 2016 at 9:17:07 AM EST

To: Desmond Maaytah

<MaaytahDJ@butlercountyohio.org>

Subject: Fwd: Please take a moment to help Project Spark

See email below for short survey...

>>> Michael McNamara 11/28/2016 8:35 AM >>>

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



WINTER ORIENTEERING



Sat., Dec. 10, 2016
Start times 11 AM - 1 PM

Sebald Park
5580 Elk Creek Rd.
Middletown, OH 45042

Sat., Dec. 17, 2016
Start times 11 AM - 1 PM

Forest Run MetroPark
Welcome Center
1976 Timberman Rd
Hamilton OH 45011

Sat. Dec. 31, 2016
7PM - 12 AM
Advanced New Year's
Orienteering
Rentschler Forest MetroPark-
Timberhill Activity Area
3976 Hamilton-Middletown Rd.
Hamilton, OH 45011
Advanced orienteering
experience required.

Sun. Jan. 1, 2017
Start times 11 AM - 1 PM

New Year's Day Orienteering
Rentschler Forest MetroPark-
Timberhill Activity Area
3976 Hamilton-Middletown Rd.
Hamilton, OH 45011

Find your way through checkpoints using a detailed map. Think of it as a hike with a treasure hunt thrown in or a cross-country race, with the challenge of finding the fastest route between checkpoints.

Every time is a different, exciting adventure in nature.

metroparks
OF BUTLER COUNTY
NOW THAT'S FAMILY FUN!
www.YourMetroParks.net
513.867.5835


**Orienteering
Cincinnati**
<http://ocin.org>

ALL ABILITIES WELCOME

Instruction for beginners

Courses of various length
and difficulty



Join Orienteering Cincinnati, Inc.
to learn this fun sport.

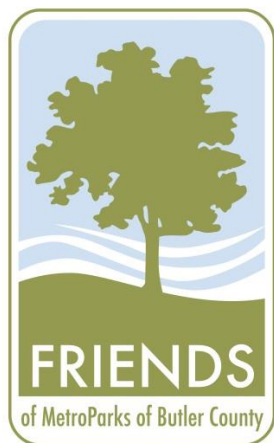
- \$7 for OCIN members
- \$10 for non-members
- \$2 discount if you have your own SI timing card
- Free for TROL (Tri-State Regional Orienteering League) Season Pass holders.

Orienteering Cincinnati Inc. (OCIN)

OCIN is a not for profit 501(c)3 organization dedicated to providing orienteering programs for education and recreation throughout the greater Cincinnati area. OCIN collaborates with MetroParks of Butler County to bring orienteering activities to various MetroPark locations across the county.

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) _____