

The Voice of the Turtle



Friends of MetroParks of Butler County

Friends of MetroParks of Butler County Monthly Newsletter
November, 2016

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Board of Directors Meeting

November Board of Directors Meeting

Join us as we combine our monthly BOD meeting with MetroParks of Butler County's "An Evening with Our Stars" A Volunteer Celebration



An Evening with Our Stars: A Volunteer Celebration

Thursday, November 10, 2016

6:30-8:30 PM

Hors D'oeuvres Door Prizes

Voice of America MetroPark

Ronald Reagan Lodge

7850 VOA Park Dr.

West Chester, OH 45069

RSVP: Sburkhart@yourmetroparks.net

All members are welcome to attend!

November, 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

Is it really November, it is going to be 80 degrees this week? Is Turkey Day only three weeks away? What about Christmas better get my “wish list” ready?

2017 FOMPBC “Wish List”

- The best of health to each and every FOMPBC member and family. Never take your health for granted, it can change in a split-second. Enjoy a walk in the parks, attend any of the great events, and be thankful for the beauty of the natural world around us. We are truly blessed with what we have been given.
- Good Fortune to FOMPBC. We operate on a very slim budget, membership dues are a staple of our income. Invite someone to join our group. We always need to expand our membership base. We do receive generous donations from time to time, with most of those needed to cover our operating expenses. We have received several grants this year, but grant monies are always earmarked for specific expenditures. Kroger Community Rewards continue to be a regular source of income for us.
- Good Friends for FOMPBC. You can't have enough volunteers in an organization like ours, but then again I can't say enough good things about those that have stepped forward to volunteer for FOMPBC at the MPX events. Sometimes just knowing that there are those that can always be counted on, make FOMPBC a better organization. Next year step forward and volunteer for at least one event. Try it, you will like it.
- Good Directions to FOMPBC. We always need good members for the Board of Directors. If being a BOD member is not for you, maybe you know someone who wants

the opportunity to serve their community. Please point them our way. We need to fill the Secretary position, enough said.

Friends of MetroParks of Butler County is a great organization, we need to set lofty goals for ourselves and for the organization and continue to step forward and continue to grow. Budget request are due at the December BOD Meeting.

Chuck Holliday
President, FOMPBC

“Members Only”

Village and Farm Garden Club, Nov 1

The Friends of MetroParks of Butler County were invited to join the Village and Farm Garden Club on Nov 1 for one of the FOMPBC “Members Only” events to learn about making ornaments from natural materials. Village and Farm Garden Club generously agreed to open their weekly "workshop" to host members of FOMPBC with an opportunity to join the efforts and learn how to craft unique ornaments from natural materials.

Village and Farm Garden Club have landscaped and tended the garden beds at Gov. Bebb Pioneer Village for more than 50 years. They are comprised of passionate and experienced gardeners and Master Gardeners. Traditionally they decorated the village and trees each winter with greens and ornaments from natural materials for pioneer Christmas programs. For Brilliant Bebb, they continue the tradition of decorating the weekend following Thanksgiving, and began the tradition of offering their long admired decorations for sale.



Thank you to the Village and Farm Garden Club for hosting this event! The group meets every Tuesday

November, 2016

from 1:00-5:00 pm from September through November at the Shandon Community House, 3730 Millville Shandon Road to create their gorgeous ornaments.

(Needed for decorations: Milkweed pods! If you have collected milkweed seeds for the monarchs this fall and still have the empty pods please save them. If you know where there are uncollected milkweed pods, please let me know. Chuck)



Thousands of wet feet plugs have been planted in the newly developed vernal pools over the past two years. During 2015 and 2016 volunteers helped plant over 11,600 trees at Salamander Run.



Salamander Run Hike, October 8, 2016

Thank you to Eric Hollins for leading this guided trek over the varied terrain and habitat at Salamander Run, managed and currently owned by Three Valley Conservation Trust. We greatly enjoyed this beautiful fall day hike while learning of the restoration efforts, wildlife and native species to be found at this soon to be Butler County MetroPark. Restoration efforts have included the development on several vernal pools for amphibians, many acres of invasive plant removal and control, acres of native prairie plantings and over 11,000 seedling trees planted. During our visit during the Biggest Week of Birding in Butler County last May over 80 species of birds were identified on our morning hike.

The Howl

October 23, 1-4 pm, Voice of America Park

One of my favorite events the year! Well over 100 man's best friends line up and paraded their stuff around the Voice of America MetroPark. Accompanied by their human leash holders, the costumed hounds search the many pet loving vendors looking for extra treats and goody bags to take home. Volunteers from FOMPBC passed out over 10 pounds of dog bones and FOMPBC contributed three \$15.00 gift certificates for the prize packages.

Thanks to the Friends volunteers who helped make this a huge success: Sue Tutas (Ianto), Donna Holliday, Carri Mosier, and Craig Wiseman.

November, 2016



Photos contributed by Donna Marquardt



Friends of Chrisholm Annual Meeting

Friends of Chrisholm held their annual meeting October 22nd. Denise Quinn, VP and plant manager of Coors Miller Brewing at Trenton, OH, was the keynote speaker, describing steps the plant takes to be a good neighbor and make quality beer.



November, 2016

Presentations were made to the Smith Family trust by Friends of Chrisholm and by Friends of MetroParks of Butler County in honor of their generous contributions to help educate the public about the history of Butler County via the parks.



Bryant Riley presents award to Darlene Mahaney and Richard Sollmann of Smith Family Trust



Judy Schillinglaw presents Gardener of the Year award to Ilonia Ormsby



November, 2016

Harvest Days

The sun shone bright on Timberman Ridge MetroPark on Saturday, October 29th, as hayrides and autumn games were the order of the day.



November, 2016



November, 2016

Brilliant Bebb,

December 2, 3 & 4

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



We will offer “free samples” of hot apple cider, display articles that we purchased for the Governor Bebb Village, have pioneer games for playing and a **very special fund raising opportunity for FOMPBC.**

We will need 4-5 volunteers to help at all times at the tavern. Two hour shifts will be available each day, and volunteer passes will be issued to those that volunteer.

Hours for the event will be Friday and Saturday evening from 5:00-9:00 PM and Sunday from 4:00-8:00 PM.



Reminder to membership:

FOMPBC members receive a 20% discount when paying regular admission of \$10 per carload.



“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.

November, 2016

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!

Opportunities November 2016

Volunteer Appreciation- Night with Our Stars (You)!

When: Thursday, November 10, 2016 6:30 PM–8:30 PM

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

What: Have you ever volunteered for MetroParks? Come on out. Enjoy good music, food, friends, and great door prizes. This is the MetroParks night to celebrate you! Bring a friend. RSVP Please phone or send an email and let Sarah know you are coming: sburkhart@yourmetroparks.net or 513-867-5835 (office)

Trail Ambassador: Trail Ride

When: Saturday, November 12, 2016 10:00AM – 12:00 PM

Where: Bicentennial Commons, Carmody Boulevard and Central Ave, Middletown, OH

What: Come ride with us! Join trail ambassadors in monitoring the Great Miami River Recreation Trail and learn more about becoming a MetroParks of Butler County trail ambassador. 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. Contact ctrammell@yourmetroparks.net or 513-867-5835 (office).



November, 2016

Stepping Forward: Service Day

When: Saturday, November 19, 2016 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Where: Voice of America MetroPark, 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 the winter months. Help take down the soccer nets and clean up the athletic field area. Contact ctrammell@yourmetroparks.net or 513-867-5835 (office).

Brilliant Bebb: Illuminated Pioneer Village

When: Friday, Saturday & Sunday Dec 2-4, 2016 various shifts 3:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Where: Governor Bebb Metro Park. Pioneer Village, 1979 Bebb Park Lane, Okeana OH 45053

What: Contribute to the splendor of the Governor Bebb MetroPark Pioneer Village, decked out in Holliday lights. Add to the old fashioned celebration -assist with lighting fires and luminaries, demonstrations, children's activities and games, prep and take down. Many hands needed. Contact ctrammell@yourmetroparks.net or 513-867-5835 (office).

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

If any of these future opportunities sound interesting to you, please email Cris Trammell at ctrammell@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. 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



Pilgrims and Turkey Talk



WHEN: Saturday, November 12, 2016
10:00am-11:00am

WHERE: Chrisholm MetroPark
Chrisholm Historic Farmstead
2070 Woodsdale Road
Trenton, OH 45067

Visit with an 1600's pilgrim who will share the story of the First Thanksgiving Feast, through fun, interactive activities.

FREE



Registration requested.
Walk ups welcome.

513-867-5835

www.YourMetroParks.net



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513.867.5835

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

BRILLIANT BEBB:



ILLUMINATED PIONEER VILLAGE



WHEN:

December 2nd, 3rd, & 4th, 2016

TIME:

5:00 pm – 9:00 pm Friday & Saturday

4:00 pm – 8:00 pm Sunday

WHERE:

Governor Bebb MetroPark

1979 Bebb Park Lane, Okeana, OH 45053

*Holiday Light
Display*

*Arts & Craft
Vendors*

COST:

\$10/ car or van

FEATURING:

- Father Christmas
- Musicians
- Demonstrations
- Family Photo Op
- Food & Drinks
- Decorated Pioneer Village



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WINTER ORIENTEERING



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.

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

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.

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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

Join the Timber Hill Restoration Coalition and MetroParks of Butler County on their 10th annual:

Make a Difference Day

Rentschler Forest MetroPark, Timberhill Activity Area

3976 Hamilton Middletown Road, Hamilton OH 45011

Saturday, October 22, 2016, 9:00 AM- 12:00 PM

The Timber Hill Restoration Coalition and MetroParks of Butler County need **your** help in improving, maintaining, and preserving this one-of-a kind youth camping facility for the youth of Butler County and surrounding communities.

- Take down and store tents for the winter
- Renovate and Paint the buildings
- Trail work- beat back the honeysuckle and smooth the way
- General camp cleanup and infrastructure improvements
- Volunteers of all ages are welcome. Youth under the age of 14 must be accompanied by an adult. Parental consent form required for under the age 18.



Timberhill is located on Route 4 just north of Hamilton between Bypass 4 and Liberty Fairfield Road.

- Enjoy company of others making a difference. Lunch and drinks will be provided.
- Gloves and tools are available. Details and directions to Timberhill will be emailed to you.
- Wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather.

REGISTER NOW!

To register: please email the following information to Zach Marcum at zmarcum@yourmetroparks.net or phone (513) 867-5835

Registration Deadline: Monday, October 17 (walk-ins will be welcomed)

Name: _____ **Organization:** _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____ **Phone:** _____

Number of Adults: _____ **Number of Youth:** _____ **Youth Ages:** _____

www.yourmetroparks.net
513.867.5835
www.timberhill.org



**Timber Hill
Restoration
Coalition**



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) _____