Letter from the President

Just back from a family vacation to the Outer Banks of North Carolina. Sunday was a beautiful, sunny day with pleasant temperatures and gentle breezes – a perfect day for a wild horse safari. Bouncing along the sand dunes in the back of a Hummer beyond the end of paved roads is a good way to look for wild horses (or to send one off seeking a chiropractor).

As usual, we managed to schedule a visit at the same time that hurricane Maria was passing by offshore in a huff (and puff). Luckily, no significant storm damage or rains, just gusty winds. Trips to the beach were limited by high surf, rip tides, blowing seafoam, and risk of being sandblasted. (Good thing that the sun wasn’t out or our shadows would have blown loose!) A few showers fell on Tuesday and Wednesday, but not enough to drown you if you looked up.

No December Board Meeting!
Friends of MetroParks of Butler County
See you in January
Wednesday, January 9, 2019
Butler County Historical Society
327 N 2nd Street, Hamilton, OH 45011
7:00-9:00 PM
Letter from the President

It’s a busy time of year. Some of us practiced our martial arts skills at Black Friday sales, while the rest (the smart ones) just typed our fingers to the bone on Cyber Monday. My favorite martial art is Thumb-fu. Just so long as there aren’t too many spaces to type, I shouldn’t risk injury in this busy season. What with Thanksgiving, an anniversary, several birthdays, and Christmas (not to mention Hannukah and Kwanza for our friends who celebrate them) in close succession, this is a hectic (and expensive) season. Try to find some time to escape to the peace and serenity of our parks.

Hope that you and yours have a happy and prosperous season until I next see you in the parks,

Bill Walker, President FOMPBC

Upcoming Events

Show and Tell on the Farm

Come out and enjoy Show and Tell on the Farm at Chrisholm MetroPark. Topics this month include: Presents for the Animals, Ice Harvest, Winter Wreathes, Yokes and Yolks, Holiday’s Old and New, Feathers, Fat and Fur.

Fun on the Farm is on Thursdays from 6:30-7:30pm and Sunday’s from 2:00-4:00pm

No program on Sunday November 23rd due or Sunday December 30th due to the Holiday’s.

Christmas Bird Count

For over 100 years, Audubon has been conducting a Christmas Bird Count throughout the country. It doesn't matter if you are just learning to bird watch or if you are an accomplished birder, come out for a brisk walk to look for the winter birds! Various MetroParks sites will be included.

Saturday, December 15th, 7:00am-12:00pm

Oxford area Meet at the Miami University Research Ecology Research Center at 5806 Somerville Rd, Oxford OH 45056 at 7 AM or contact Larry Gersbach at larrygers@aol.com for details.

Or

Hamilton Fairfield Area Contact Mike Busam at mbusam@gmail.com for details. This bird count is sponsored by the Cincinnati Bird Club

Let’s Go Hiking! Surviving Winter
Join MetroParks of Butler County and the City of Fairfield Parks & Recreation to investigate where the animals have gone. Discover where the animals go during the cold months and how they survive.

This is a FREE program that will take place at Harbin Park Located at 1300 Hunter Road in Fairfield Ohio. Open to all Ages. Meet at Shelter # 6 (not far from the soccer fields).

Registration is requested by calling 513.867.5348

Breakfast with Santa

Reserve your seat for this fun family event. Enjoy a buffet, entertainment by Charlie Cadabra, and a visit with Santa on Sunday, December 16th from 11:00 am to 1:30 pm at Voice of America! Framed photo of your visit with Santa available for a small fee. Space is limited. Reservations required. Registration closes 12/10/2018.

Winter Break Night Hike

Ready to walk off those Christmas Cookies or maybe you want to get a jump on your New Year resolution. A night hike is a great idea for the whole family. Enjoy the sights and sounds of a mid-winter night as you hike through forest and meadow.

Friday, December 28th, 6:30-8:30PM
Meet in the back parking lot at 1810 Hamilton-New London Rd., Hamilton OH 45013

Be on the Lookout for these future events
Let’s Go Hike-Winter Tree ID and Owl Hike

Did You Know

Kroger Community Rewards Update
FOMPBC organization # TM866

Kroger is committed to helping our communities grow and prosper. Year after year, local schools, churches and other nonprofit organizations earn $4 million in Greater Cincinnati, Dayton and Northern Kentucky through their Community Rewards program. FOMPBC is one of the Many wonderful organizations that benefit from this program.

How Can YOU Help Us?

In April 2017 Kroger’s updated their Community Rewards process and software. As of April, supporters will no longer have to re-enroll their Kroger Plus Card to earn dollars for your organization. This will make it easier for you to support us! Please take a moment and make sure you are enrolled and supporting FOMPBC. https://www.kroger.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow

Once you’re enrolled you will earn rewards for FOMPBC every time you shop and use your Plus Card.
Amazon Smile
What is Amazon Smile?
Amazon Smile is a simple and automatic way for you and your family to support FOMPBC every time you shop from Amazon, at no cost to you. Instead of shopping at Amazon.com you go to https://smile.amazon.com. You will find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to FOMPBC.

National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count in Butler County
By Shawnee Banks

Red-tailed hawk at one of our MetroPark locations

It’s time to break out the winter clothes, so grab your coats and join us for the 119th National Audubon Society’s Christmas Bird Count! The first Christmas bird count was established in the 1900’s on Christmas Day by Frank M. Chapman in response to concerns about declining bird populations (AS, 2018). Since, the data compiled from all participants have painted a picture of how bird populations have changed overtime (AS, 2018). Because of its importance, the bird count has been a unique tool that conservationists utilize to determine the health and status of bird populations in North America (AS, 2018).

So how does the Audubon Society accurately gather their data? From Citizen scientists just like you! The Audubon Society sets up counting points across North America through experienced volunteers. These counting points cover an area that is 15-miles wide in diameter. The count volunteers will of our MetroParks locations record all the birds they see and hear for one day and submit their findings to the National Audubon Society.

Want to be involved in the local bird count? It is easy! We have two bird counts in Butler County on December 15th. The counts will start at 7:00 a.m. and last all day. Please, contact Larry Gersbach for the Oxford area bird count at larrygers@aol.com and Mike Busam for the Hamilton-Fairfield bird count at mbusam@gmail.com. You can also register for these events here: http://reservations.yourmetroparks.net/internal/programs/1663/.

Female Cardinal in the Winter

Not an experienced birder? That’s okay! For every bird count, there will be an experienced birder there to assist you in what you see and hear. Just dress warm, bring some binoculars, and have fun!

References:
(AS) “History of the Christmas Bird Count.” National Audubon Society, 2018,
Photo Walks – Seasons in the Park
Governor Bebb MetroPark
Like our Facebook Page for updates on:
- Upcoming members events & meetings
- Volunteering with MPX
- MPX programming
Service days in November

Scout Pack 945-taking down platform tents at Rentschler Forest-Timberhill Area 11/1/18

Scout Pack 945-taking down nets at the Voice of America Athletic Complex 11/10/18

Contact Us
Give us a call or visit us on the web for more information about service opportunities.

MetroParks Of Butler County
2051 Timberman Road
Hamilton OH 45013
513.867.5835
www.YourMetroParks.net

Or email Amy Pelham at apellman@YourMetroParks.net

December Birthday Corner!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ronald Aylward</td>
<td>12/1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suzanne Eversole</td>
<td>12/2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jennifer Vanderhorst</td>
<td>12/3</td>
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<td>Cristina Wier</td>
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<td>Valerie Langston</td>
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<td>Naomi Galarza</td>
<td>12/10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Toney Holman</td>
<td>12/11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tedi-Lea Debruler</td>
<td>12/12</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Catherine Eisenschmidt 12/17
Gary Stokes 12/19
Braden VanWinkle 12/20
Zachary Beltz 12/23
Patrick McDonald 12/23
Chris Tompkins 12/23
Brody Armstrong 12/25
Tracy Palma 12/25
Larry Gersbach 12/27
Natalie Home 12/27
Mark Troup 12/27

We Love our Volunteers!!
Volunteer Spotlight

Carri Mosier- Friends of MetroParks of Butler County Board Member

How long have you lived or worked in Butler County? I’m a lifelong Butler County resident and some of my favorite childhood memories are family trips to Rentschler Forest.

Tell me a little about your family: My family consists of my amazing husband and my four-legged and furry kids. We have 3 rescued cats: Chessie, Riley, and Polly and 2 dogs: Molly and, our newest family member, 6-month-old Crosley. Crosley loves the parks as much as I do and is usually with me these days when I visit the parks.

Do you have any hobbies? I love to travel and have visited 45 of the 50 states. I’m always planning trips and have several planned and ready to go. I also love to read, and one of my favorite authors is Nevada Barr because her main character is a park ranger and the books take place in national parks.

What do you like to do for fun or is there a fun fact about yourself you would like to share? I was fortunate to spend an entire summer in Yellowstone National Park. It will always be one of my favorite places, and I have some great stories to tell!

What do you love most about volunteering for MetroParks? Wow, there are so many things I love about volunteering: the wonderful people I have met, getting to spend time in our amazing parks, and the memories I have made with my family. Volunteering is a family affair, and it has been a great way to spend time together making memories while making a difference in our community.
Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

**Feeder Fill**
When: Flexible-Year Round
Where: Forest Run Welcome Center & (Bothwell)  
1976 Timberman Road, Hamilton OH 45013
What: Families & Adults who volunteer will fill bird feeders at the bird viewing area located at the Welcome Center in the Timberman Ridge Area of Forest Run MetroPark. Filling feeders takes approximately 30 minutes and should be done 1 or 2 days each week between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. By filling feeders and maintaining the feeder area, MetroParks is able to provide an excellent location for viewing birds. If interested, contact Joe Dumyahn at jdumyahn@YourMetroParks.net to schedule training.

**Nest Box Monitor**
When: March – August 2019
Where: Monitoring sites throughout MetroParks
Register: by March 1, 2019. Email Joe Dumyahn at jdumyahn@YourMetroParks.net
What: Learn about becoming a volunteer Nest Box Monitor with MetroParks! Volunteers are needed to monitor nest boxes every 3-4 days from the beginning of March through the end of August. Monitors will record data to be submitted to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Monitoring sites are available in several parks. Nest Box Monitoring is a great way to learn about nesting birds and enjoy the outdoors.

Ongoing Service Opportunities

**Welcome Center – Middletown River Center  **NEW OPPORTUNITY**
When: Tentatively M/W/Saturday
Where: Middletown River Center 120 South Carmody Blvd., Middletown OH 45044
What: Volunteers are needed at the Welcome Center of the Middletown River Center. Duties include welcoming park customer/owners with a smile and providing information about programs and the parks. Training provided. Contact Sara Schapman sschapman@YourMetroParks.net.

**Trail Ambassadors – Great Miami River Trail**
When: Flexible
Where: Great Miami River 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. Contact Amy Pellman apellman@YourMetroParks.net for more information.
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 Amy Pellman apellman@YourMetroParks.net for more information.

Program/Event & Preparation 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, as well as, volunteer for the program itself. Contact Amy Pellman apellman@YourMetroParks.net.

Welcome Center - Voice of America MetroPark
When: Weekends
Where: Voice of America MetroPark
Ronald Reagan Lodge, 7850 VOA Park Drive, West Chester OH 45069
What: Volunteers are needed at the Welcome Center of Voice of America MetroPark. Duties include welcoming park customer/owners with a smile and providing information about programs and the parks. Training provided. Contact Sara Schapman sschapman@YourMetroParks.net.

“Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect this nation's compassion, unselfish caring, patience, and just plain loving one another.” — Erma Bombeck
Join MetroParks of Butler County and the City of Fairfield for some exciting programming at Fairfield Parks!

**LET’S GO HIKING SERIES**
Free & Open to the Public
10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
2019 Locations to be determined

10/20/18 Fall Blooms
  Harbin Park
11/17/18 Habitat Hike
  Huffman Park
12/15/18 Surviving Winter
  Harbin Park
1/19/19 Winter Tree ID
2/16/19 Tracks, Scats & Signs
3/16/19 Eastern Bluebirds
4/20/19 Spring Wildflowers
5/18/19 Spring Birding Hike
6/15/19 Creaking
7/20/19 Summer Wildflowers
8/17/19 Invasive Species
9/21/19 Autumn Birding Hike
10/19/19 Fall Wildflowers
11/16/19 Animal Homes
12/21/19 Surviving Winter

**PRE-SMARTIES & SMARTIES**
Programming for City of Fairfield Registered Preschool Students Only

11/3/18 Amazing Animals
2/5/19 Calling All Farm Hands
4/9/19 Animal Games

**NATURE PROGRAMS**
Free & Open to the Public
2019 Locations to be determined

11/3/18 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.
  Autumn Leaves
  Huffman Park
1/26/19 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
  Owl Hike
3/24/19 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.
  Fossils
4/6/19 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.
  Spring Babies
6/1/19 9:00 – 10:30 p.m.
  Night Hike
7/2/19 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
  Water Conservation
9/7/19 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.
  Amazing Animals
10/6/19 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.
  Nature Craft

Registration is requested for the Let’s Go Hiking Series and Nature Programming. Call 513.867.5348 to save your spot!
SHOW AND TELL ON THE FARM

Show and Tell on the Farm

**WHEN**
- Sundays 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- Thursdays 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

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

**PRICE**
- FREE programs for all ages
- No Registration Necessary

**ABOUT**
Come on over to Chrisholm Historic Farmstead for Show and Tell on the Farm. Each day will feature different themes with special guest stars — some furry & some feathery — crafts, and games! Come for any amount of time. Designed to delight kids and kids at heart.

**November 1**
- The Three-Sisters Garden

**November 4**
- ABC's of Farm Life

**November 8**
- Turkey Talk

**November 11**
- Pumpkin Smash

**November 15**
- Pilgrims

**November 18**
- Machines that Help Us

**November 29**
- Thanksgiving Feast for the Animals

**December 2**
- Scavenger Hunt

**December 6**
- Presents for the Farm Animals

**December 9**
- Ice Harvest

**December 13**
- Winter Wreaths

**December 16**
- Yokes and Yolks

**December 20**
- Holidays New & Old on the Farm

**December 27**
- Fat, Feather, and Fur on the Farm

*There will be no Show & Tell on the Farm program on November 22 & 25 and December 23 & 30. Happy Holidays!

513.867.5835 | YourMetroParks.net
Motor Vehicle Permit Required. FREE to Butler County Residents. Non-Residents $5/daily or $10/annually.
Breakfast with Santa

**WHEN**
Sunday, December 16, 2018
11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Santa arrives - 11:30 a.m.
Magic show - 12:30 p.m.
Children’s Craft Shop - 11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

**WHERE**
Voice of America MetroPark
Ronald Reagan Lodge
7850 Voice of America Park Drive
West Chester OH 45069

**PRICE**
Age 8+: $14.95
Age 3-7: $12.95
Children Under 3: FREE
$5.00 for photos with Santa

**ABOUT**
“Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn’t before! What if Christmas, he thought, doesn’t come from a store. What if Christmas... perhaps...means a little bit more?”

It’s the most wonderful time of year to have Breakfast with Santa! Enjoy a breakfast buffet, a visit with Santa Claus, Christmas crafts, and a Grinch themed holiday magic show with Charlie Cadabra!

REGISTRATION: Pre-registration required by 12/10/18

513.867.5835 | YourMetroParks.net
Motor Vehicle Permit Required. FREE to Butler County Residents. Non-Residents $5/daily or $10/annually.
Murder Mystery Dinner

**WHEN**
Saturday, February 9, 2019
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

**WHERE**
Voice of America MetroPark
Ronald Reagan Lodge
7850 Voice of America Park Drive,
West Chester OH 45069

**PRICE**
$35 per person or $30 per person for groups of 6 or more
Pre-registration is required

**ABOUT**
Join us from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. for an evening of fun and mystery! Cocktails, appetizers, dinner, dessert, and a great mystery show are included in this killer evening! Please, arrive 30 minutes early to mingle with the improv comedy cast.

MetroParks
of Butler County, OH

513.867.5835 | YourMetroParks.net
Motor Vehicle Permit Required. FREE to Butler County Residents. Non-Residents $5/daily or $10/annually.

SS/6j 180705 approved
Friends of MetroParks of Butler County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Our Mission</th>
<th>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</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Member Benefits | • 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? | Private citizens who have come together to:  
• 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 _______
Name(s)/Contact ________________________________ Date _______
Group or Business Name______________________________
Address __________________________________________
City __________________________ State ______ Zip _______
Home/Business Phone ___________________________ Cell Phone _______________________
Email (required to receive newsletter) ________________________________