

The Voice of the Turtle



Friends of MetroParks of Butler County

Friends of MetroParks of Butler County Monthly Newsletter

January, 2020

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Nick Lengyel

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Bill Walker

January Board Meeting Friends of MetroParks of Butler County

7 PM, January 8

River Center

100 S Carmody Blvd, Middletown, OH 45044



Why not enjoy the holidays in the parks?

Letter from the President

After waiting all last year for the arrival of the holiday season, when it finally arrived it blew past with hardly a trace. Maybe the 60ish mph winds had something to do with that. Somehow holidays falling in the middle of the week just mess with my head. I can't imagine that either Christmas or New Year's weeks were productive in the workplace. Just another good thing about being a retiree. I'm unproductive all year long.

There are lots of fun activities going on in the parks this month. Don't let a little chilly weather keep you indoors. Dress in layers and brave the elements. See you in the parks!

Bill Walker, President FOMPBC

Upcoming Events

Show and Tell on the Farm



Come out and enjoy winter on the farm with Show and Tell on the Farm at Chrisholm MetroPark. Topics this month include: ABC's of Farm Life, Whose Mitten is This, Bird Beak Buffet, Migrate, Hibernate, Tolerate, Whose Tracks are These?, Pioneer Ice Farmers, and Farming by the Moon and Stars.

Fun on the Farm is on Thursdays from 10:00-11:00am and Sunday's from 2:00-4:00pm

Please Note there will not be program on 1/02 due to the holiday.

Let's Go Hiking Series



Tree identification is not too hard with leaves present, but how can we tell the difference between species in the winter? Join us at Huffman Park to learn how.

Saturday, January 18, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM
Huffman Park, 2100 John Gray Road, Fairfield, OH 45014.

Night Hikes



Not all hikes take place in daylight, especially in the short days of winter. Join us for the Full Moon Hike Series and the Owl Prowl Night Hike Series.

Full Moon Hike Series: the Wolf Moon
Forest Run MetroPark Wildlife Preserve

Friday, January 10, 6:30 – 8:00 pm
Register on-line by 1/9/20.

Owl Prowl Night Hikes:

Governor Bebb MetroPark
Saturday, January 18, 6:00 – 7:30 pm
Register on-line by 1/17/20.

Indian Creek MetroPark Springfield Road Area
Saturday, January 25, 6:00 – 7:30 pm
Register on-line by 1/24/20.

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.

Farm Animal Fund

Chrisholm Farmstead MetroPark is almost ready to begin adding livestock to the new pens. Because MPX can only make purchases from pre-approved vendors, this red tape makes it difficult to buy animals from individual farmers. Our status as a 501C3 tax-exempt non-profit group makes it possible to streamline livestock purchases for Chrisholm. We have set aside a special account for such purchases. Please send your tax-free donation to: Friends of MetroParks of Butler County
PO Box 691, Hamilton, OH 45012

Please make sure to make a note on the memo line of your check "Chrisholm Animal Fund" to make sure your donation helps populate the new FarmScape.

Antifreeze the Natural Way

Lara Askill, Ag Ed Farm Manager

It's that time of year to bundle up in warm clothes when venturing outside. Have you ever wondered how animals survive this bitter cold? For a warm-blooded species, humans aren't nearly as adapted to the cold weather as other animals. We've all heard about the thick fur on polar bears and the substantial layer of blubber on seals. But what about some of our smaller species that call Ohio their home, for at least part of the year?

A few species, such as bats and monarch butterflies migrate when daylight hours shorten, and temperatures drop. The Eastern Chipmunk burrows underground to hibernate until warmer weather arrives in spring.

The star of the group could be the Wood Frog (*Rana sylvatica*). This amazing amphibian can survive extreme freezing temperatures of only 6° F. They may give “Queen Elsa” a run for her money. Wood frogs cope by producing cryoprotectants. These substances prevent ice crystals from forming inside their cells because the body’s freezing point is lowered. An animal’s body and cells are composed primarily of water. There is a delicate balance between the fluids outside and inside of cells. This is disrupted when ice forms and causes lethal damage to tissues.

When a cryoprotectant dissolves in water it forms strong bonds with the water molecules. This stops the water molecules from bonding with other water molecules to form ice.

Besides cryoprotectants, the wood frog also has evolved ice-nucleating agents which encourage ice formation. What? Seems counter-intuitive, but if produced in the correct place, it ensures that ice will only form between the cells and not inside them.

Mammals, on the other hand, can’t let their bodies freeze. Thankfully, they have adaptations to survive even when their heart and breathing systems practically shut down. Scientists aren’t exactly sure how the Arctic Ground Squirrel can survive body temperatures to 26° F. These animals cleanse their bodies of all ice-nucleators though.

Why are we so interested in these adaptations? Currently around 114,000 people in the US are on a waiting list for a lifesaving organ transplant. On average, 20 people die every day from the lack of available organs. This number can be significantly decreased if we could freeze organs indefinitely instead of just chilling them for a few hours. Understanding the processes could help scientists develop new techniques to freeze human organs for longer storage prior to transportation and therefore save more lives.

Stay warm out there.



Wood Frog *Rana sylvatica*

Critter Corner



Another guest critter from my recent Caribbean cruise. This is the Saint Lucian anole, a cousin of the familiar lizard often seen in the American southeast. The distinguishing feature of this species is the dorsal stripe and chevrons. Like its Florida cousin, male anoles have a flag beneath the chin which is used to flirt with the ladies during courtship. Anoles may be brown in drier areas or green in moist areas, with females often being duller in color. Bellies may be white to yellow, and the ring around the eye white, green, or blue. Thus far, the Saint Lucian anole is holding its own against two invasive species of anole. The invaders are presently limited to the area around the island capitol.

Like our Facebook Page for updates on:

- Upcoming members events & meetings
- Volunteering with MPX
- MPX programming



PROJECT WILD & AQUATIC WILD WORKSHOP



Project WILD & Aquatic WILD Workshop

WHEN

Saturday, February 29, 2020
9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

WHERE

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

PRICE

\$10.00/Participant
YourMetroParks.net
Registration Required by 2/21/2020

ABOUT

Project WILD & Aquatic WILD are interdisciplinary conversation and environmental education programs emphasizing wildlife. These programs are designed for K-12 formal and non-formal educators of all disciplines, and this workshop is tailored for Grades 1-5.

Connecting students to nature, scientific inquiry, bringing nature in the classroom, and giving students exploratory outdoor learning opportunities are focal points of Project WILD.

K-12 curriculum and activity guides for Project WILD and Aquatic WILD are supplied free of charge by the ODNR Division of Wildlife.



513.867.5835 | YourMetroParks.net

Motor Vehicle Permit Required. FREE to Butler County Residents. Non-Residents \$5/daily or \$10/annually.



SMM/bav 191121 approved

Murder Mystery Valentines Dinner



Midnight at the Masquerade

WHEN Saturday February 15, 2020
6:00-9:00 Show Time
Doors open 5:30 to mingle with the characters

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

PRICE \$45.00/person
Groups of 8 or more \$41.99/person

DINNER 3-course dinner catered by City BBQ
Beef Brisket, Pulled Chicken, Pesto Veggies, Green Bean Classic, Smashed Potatoes w/gravy, Dinner Rolls, Premium Salad, Peach Cobbler, Triple Chocolate Cake

Light Appetizers, Full Cash Bar Available, Non Alcoholic beverages available

ABOUT

Attend the Billionaires' Club Annual Masquerade Ball and help get this soiree back on track by helping solve the crime.

Evening Wear, Ball gowns, Venetian masks, suits, and tuxes are what to wear to this class night of masks and murder!

Get ready for a glamorous evening of mystery, intrigue, and murder.

Pre-registration required

513.867.5835 | YourMetroParks.net

Motor Vehicle Permit Required. FREE to Butler County Residents. Non-Residents \$5/daily or \$10/annually.



cmw/sjb 190124 approved

JANUARY EVENTS



MetroParks
of Butler County, OH

JANUARY 2020

NEW YEAR'S DAY ORIENTEERING

Rentschler Forest MetroPark
Timberhill Area
Wed., January 1, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
\$10 for OCIN Members;
\$15 for Non-Members
Pay at the Event

SHOW & TELL ON THE FARM ABC'S OF FARM LIFE

Chisholm MetroPark
Historic Farmstead
Sun., January 5, 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
FREE

SHOW & TELL ON THE FARM WHOSE MITTEN IS THIS?

Chisholm MetroPark
Historic Farmstead
Thurs., January 9, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
FREE

FULL MOON HIKE SERIES THE WOLF MOON

Forest Run MetroPark
Wildlife Preserve
Fri., January 10, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Registration Required by 1/9/2020
FREE

NATURE DETECTIVES RIVER CENTER SERIES

Bicentennial Commons
River Center
Sat., January 11, 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Registration Required by 1/10/2020
FREE

SHOW & TELL ON THE FARM BIRD BEAK BUFFET

Chisholm MetroPark
Historic Farmstead
Sun., January 12, 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
FREE

SHOW & TELL ON THE FARM MIGRATE, HIBERNATE, TOLERATE

Chisholm MetroPark
Historic Farmstead
Thurs., January 16, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
FREE

LET'S GO HIKING SERIES WINTER TREE ID

Huffman Park
2100 John Gray Road, Fairfield 45014
Sat., January 18, 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Pre-register by calling 513.867.5348
FREE

OWL PROWL NIGHT HIKE

Governor Bebb MetroPark
Sat., January 18, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Registration Required by 1/17/2020
FREE

SHOW & TELL ON THE FARM WHOSE TRACKS ARE THESE?

Chisholm MetroPark
Historic Farmstead
Thurs., January 23, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
FREE

OWL PROWL NIGHT HIKE

Indian Creek MetroPark
Springfield Road Area
Sat., January 25, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Registration Required by 1/24/2020
FREE

SHOW & TELL ON THE FARM PIONEER ICE FARMERS

Chisholm MetroPark
Historic Farmstead
Sun., January 26, 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
FREE

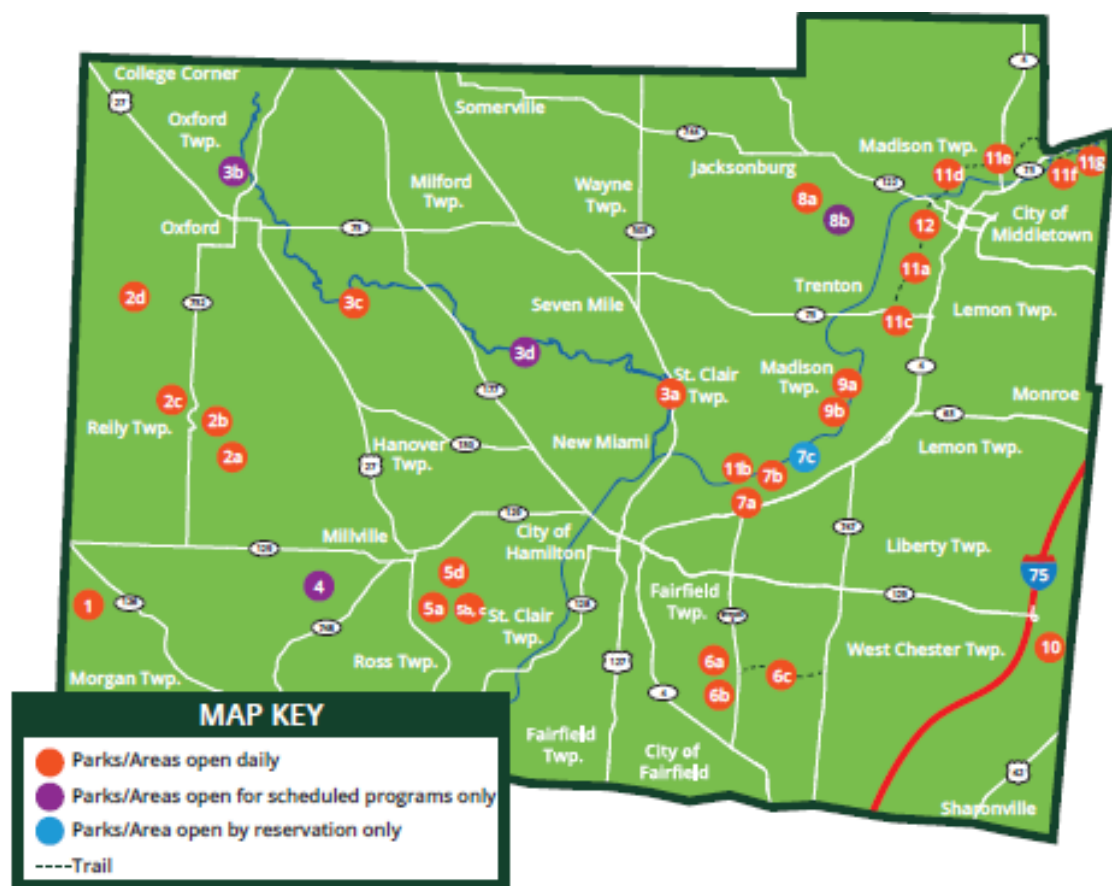
SHOW & TELL ON THE FARM FARMING BY THE MOON AND STARS

Chisholm MetroPark
Historic Farmstead
Thurs., January 30, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
FREE

bav 191115 approved

The mission of the MetroParks of Butler County is to provide a superior park system that maximizes the community's quality of life through conservation, education, and recreation. For more information visit us at www.YourMetroParks.net or call 513.867.5835

Motor Vehicle Permit Required. FREE to Butler County Residents. Non-Residents \$5/daily or \$10/annually.



1. GOVERNOR BEBB METROPARK

1979 Bebb Park Lane Okeana OH 45053
Bebb Natural Area
Dry Fork Campground
Pioneer Village

2. INDIAN CREEK METROPARK

2A. Bunker Hill Cemetery
 5351 Reilly-Millville Road Oxford OH 45056
2b. Oxford Road Area
 1899 Oxford-Reilly Road (SR 732)
 Oxford OH 45056
2C. Springfield Road Area
 6500 Springfield Road Oxford OH 45056
2D. Pioneer Church
 3000 Indian Creek Road Oxford OH 45056

3. FOUR MILE CREEK METROPARK

3A. Antenen Preserve
 2385 Treiber Road Hamilton OH 45011
3B. Mill Race Area
 5911 Morning Sun Road Oxford OH 45056
3C. Sycamore Bluffs Area
 3742 Lanec Mills Road Hamilton OH 45011
3D. Davidson Woods Area
 1200 Hogue Road Hamilton OH 45013

4. SALAMANDER RUN PRESERVE

4821 Layhigh Road Hamilton OH 45013

5. Forest Run MetroPark

5A. Engle House - Little Dry Run - Administrative Office
 2051 Timberman Road Hamilton OH 45013
5B. Welcome Center
 1976 Timberman Road Hamilton OH 45013
5C. Timberman Ridge
 1976 Timberman Road Hamilton OH 45013
5D. Wildlife Preserve Area
 1810 New London Road Hamilton OH 45013

6. GILMORE METROPARK

6A. Gilmore Road Area
 7950 Gilmore Road Hamilton OH 45015
6B. Bilstein Boulevard Area
 8500 Bilstein Boulevard Hamilton OH 45015
6C. Port Union Trail Area

7. RENTSCHLER FOREST METROPARK

7A. Riegart Road Area
 5701 Riegart Road Fairfield Township OH 45011
7B. Line Hill Mound Area
 3620 Hamilton-Middletown Road Fairfield Township OH 45011
7C. Timberhill Area
 3976 Hamilton-Middletown Road Fairfield Township OH 45011

8. Elk Creek MetroPark

8A. Sebald Park Area
 5580 Elk Creek Road Middletown OH 45042
8B. Meadow Ridge Area
 5101 Circle Parkway Middletown OH 45042

9. Chisholm MetroPark

9A. Chisholm Historic Farmstead
 2070 Wooddale Road Trenton OH 45067
9B. Wooddale Regional Park
 1917 Wooddale Road Trenton OH 45067

10. Voice of America MetroPark

7850 VOA Park Drive West Chester OH 45069
Athletic Complex
Ronald Reagan Lodge
Natural Areas & Chill Hill Sledding Hill
Wiggly Field Dog Park
Wheelhouse Outdoor Area

11. Great Miami River Trail

11A. North Section
 50 Oxford State Road Middletown OH 45044
11B. South Section
 5701 Riegart Road Fairfield Township OH 45011
11C. Parking Areas
 50 Oxford State Road, Middletown OH 45044
 26 North Carmody Boulevard,
 Middletown OH 45044
 2399 North Carmody Boulevard,
 Middletown OH 45042
 3801 North Verity Parkway,
 Middletown OH 45042
 4401 North Verity Parkway,
 Middletown OH 45042

12. Bicentennial Commons

Carmody Boulevard at Central Avenue

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 _____

Name(s)/Contact _____ Date _____

Group or Business Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home/Business Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email (required to receive newsletter) _____