

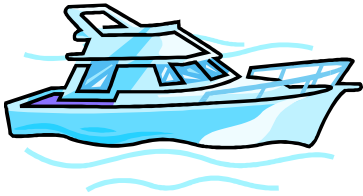
Acorn

Spring 2012 - Volume 18, No. 1

Embarking on a New Voyage

Friends of the Parks has partnered with the Chippewa Lake Sailing Club to sponsor a new scouting venture – an exploring aquatics-oriented SeaScout program. As co-charter organizations, the Friends and Sailing Club are jointly responsible for providing “The Ship” (organization, not physical boat) with a meeting place, professionally-trained adult leaders, and consultants who volunteer their own resources to ensure the program’s success. The Ship will continue to be financially independent from both charter organizations.

The purpose/mission/goal of World SeaScouting is to help boys and girls in the U.S. above eighth grade (ages 14 – 21) in moral and ethical leadership character development, citizenship, civic service, and personal fitness through exposure to a wide variety of interest challenges in natural resources, wildlife conservation, science, engineering technology, naval architecture, seamanship, and sport. The charter organization’s adult ship committee (containing parents) helps the youth run their own democratic organization including design/implementation of their own ship’s code and select activities. Drawing beyond Medina County, new peer relationships will transcend the youths’ local school boundaries.



Lake Watersports taught involved youth to canoe, sail, motorboat, and ski. Monthly outings and bi-weekly activities will continue year-round, including interaction with other “ships,” the U.S. Coast Guard, and ODNR.

The Ship has already acquired several watercraft, but much more is being sought. For information on SeaScouting, visit www.seascout.org, “BSA SeaScout Ship 5510” on Facebook, or contact Skipper Jack Franz at 330.948.3899 or suzonrecess@yahoo.com.

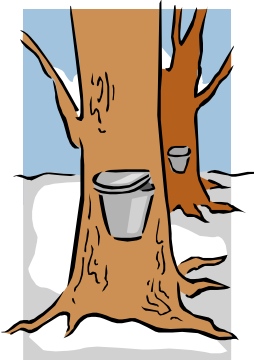


Maple Sugar Tour

**Saturday, March 24
Buffalo Creek Retreat**

Tour times:

9 a.m.
9:45 a.m.
10:30 a.m.
11:15 a.m.
NOON



Join us as we take a wagon tour of the Fulton Family’s Maple Valley Farm sugar woods, owned and operated by five generations of the Fulton Family. See the entire syrup-making process from gathering the sap to boiling and bottling in the sugar house. Tours will begin and end at Buffalo Creek Retreat where you can enjoy complimentary baked goodies and warm refreshments! Space is limited for this FREE event. [Register online between February 1 and March 16.](#)

Tours will be approximately 90 minutes in duration and will be conducted every 45 minutes in groups of 25. When registering, please register for your preferred choice of tour time. Tour times are as follows: 9 a.m., 9:45 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 11:15 a.m., and NOON.

You will need to print your receipt as confirmation of your tour time and to show that all members of your group are registered. You must bring the receipt with you for admission to the event. If any time slots do not meet the minimum requirement of ten people, you may be called and asked to move to another time slot.

NEW THIS YEAR . . . online registration

Welcome New "Friends"

We would like to welcome the following new members to the Friends of the Parks.

Kipper Berry	Judith L. Kallsen
Kay Bolen	William Konas
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Cray	John Kreinheder
Eric & Mary Jo Diekman	Inara Mantenicks
Wayne Dorchak	Mrs. Amy Marshall
Marianne Farrell	Roger & Donna Mittler
Mrs. Denise Fiala	James Ramler
David Green	Mrs. Elfine Robinette
Mrs. Kim de Groh	Kristi Scheck
Sylvia Hines	Mrs. Barb Smith
Don and Karen James	Mrs. Kathy O. Smith-Hundley
Kati James	Richard Staufer
Joe Kabeller	Don & Michelle Yezerksi

Director James Appointed as Chair

It was recently announced that Medina County Park District director Thomas James was elected chair of the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association Park Section for 2012. As chair, he will be responsible for the organization of meetings for the group during the year with the first meeting being held at the association's annual conference in February.

As a part of the duties of the chair, Medina County Park District will be hosting the annual fall section meeting. Park and recreation professionals from around Ohio will be coming to Medina County for educational sessions to be presented by park staff and others. Friends of the Parks will assist in sponsoring this event.

Susan Hambley Nature Center



Winter Hours

The hours for the Susan Hambley Nature Center are reduced to weekends until March 4.

Save Paper and Resources

If you would like to help save paper and reduce postage costs, consider receiving your membership renewal reminders via e-mail. You can also opt out of receiving your *ACORN* newsletter by mail and view it online at www.medinacountyparks.com, click on the **Friends of the Park** tab on the left hand side of the page, then click on **ACORN Newsletter**. To sign up for e-mail renewal notices or to opt out of receiving the *ACORN*, please contact **Shelley** at fotp@medinaco.org.

2012 Lightning Bug Run Scheduled for May 12



It was a dark and stormy night. The steady, all day rain had slowed to a gentle mist. Hundreds of invisible night creatures tested their vocal chords, creating a cacophony of sound as they prepared for their nighttime serenade. Fog emerged silently from the ground, gently spreading across the trail and wrapping itself around each plant in the marsh and each tree in the woods. The muted glow of hundreds of luminaries disappeared into the distance.

Luminaries? Yes, luminaries. Hundreds of them marking a 3.1-mile course inside Buckeye Woods Park. The warm light from the glow sticks tucked inside their milk jug homes beckoned to the runners and walkers who were gathering in anticipation of the start of the first annual Lightning Bug Run last May 13. The air was filled with sounds of laughter, nervous chatter, and greetings between friends and neighbors.

The idea for a night race was spawned by Bob Daniels who had ran and biked at Buckeye Woods Park many times. He felt a nighttime event would provide a unique way to experience nature. Hundreds of others felt the same as the word spread about the race. The cap limit of 400 was reached three weeks prior to the race start date. "Marvelous," "awesome," "wonderful," "mysterious," and "scary" was how attendees described their experiences.

There was never a question whether to present the race/walk again in 2012. The registration limit has been raised to 500. Lightning Bug Run information can be found at lightningbugrun.wordpress.com/ or by visiting the Medina County Park District website, medinacountyparks.com. The 2012 race/walk is scheduled for May 12 with a 9:20 p.m. start time.

The Lightning Bug Run is co-sponsored by the non-profit Run for the Trails, Inc., the Medina County Park District and Friends of the Parks. Profits from the event are specifically earmarked for extensions of existing trails in Medina County and in Seville. Run for the Trails, Inc. also hosts the Run for the Trails 5K, an annual Labor Day race/walk held in Seville.

If running around in the woods in the dark sounds like fun, I suggest registering early as nearly 50 people have already pre-registered. There will be no race day registration, so jump online now and sign up.

Hope to see you May 12,

Bob Daniels and Dennis Gordon
Co-race directors
lightningbugrun@gmail.com

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Questions or suggestions for articles can be submitted by calling 330-722-9364; 330-225-7100, Ext. 9364; 330-336-6657, Ext. 9364

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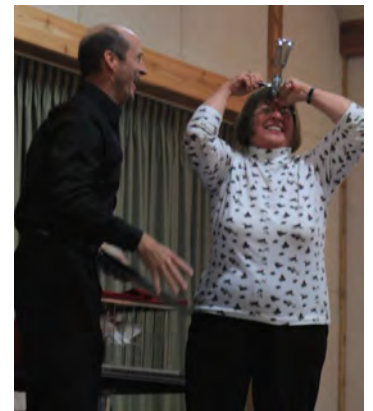
Volunteer Appreciation Night

We had a beautiful, warm evening in November for our Volunteer Appreciation Night. Magician Tom Plunkard from Detroit, Michigan kept us wondering, "How'd he do that?" He was entertaining for all ages and knew how to make us all laugh out loud. The meeting of new friends and old acquaintances was a welcome delight as we all feasted on fall treats. "Helping Hands" awards were given by Wolf Creek staff members. Staff members chose a person(s) who personally helped them sometime throughout the year by adding to the enjoyment or by lessening the burden of the job in some way. The 2011 recipients were: Jan DeNardi, Charlie Ferrell, Dave Hannah, Pieri Levandofsky, George Parmelee, Ryan and Colleen Schemich, and Elise Simons. We congratulated our first park volunteer to donate 1000+ hours of volunteer service. Earning a 1000+ Volunteer Club Backpack was Joe DeNardi. The evening ended with the announcement of 2011 Volunteers of the Year Kathy Willeford and John Kaminski. Thanks to each and every one of you who helps us daily within the park district. These truly are "Your Parks."



2011 Volunteers of the Year

Congratulations to
*Kathy Willeford and
John Kaminski*



*Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like
wrapping a present and not giving it.*

~William Arthur Ward~

Make Your Shelter Reservations for Summer and Fall Now



As a benefit of being a Friends of the Parks member, you receive shelter discounts. Are you planning a graduation party, reunion or family outing? If so, be sure to reserve your shelter today.

Visit www.medinacountyparks.com to view photos as well as shelter information. Please call the park office at 330-722-9364 to make reservations.

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The park district's newsletter, *The Leaflet*, is published in the *Medina County Gazette* on the first Saturday and second Tuesday each month. In addition, *The Leaflet* is published in *The Post* on the second weekend each month.

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