

# PARKWAYS



Photo by Jennifer Buehrer

## WINTER WONDERLAND

Get a completely different perspective on your MetroParks.

See full story on pages 20-27.

'CACHE' IN ON THE NEWEST  
PARK ACTIVITY

SEE PAGES 12 - 13.

GARDENING PROGRAM GROWS  
VEGETABLES, VOLUNTEERS

SEE PAGES 8 - 9.

FIVE RIVERS  
METROPARKS



TM



# REMEMBER TO SAVE THE DATE

Be sure to mark your calendars for these upcoming Five Rivers MetroParks Events!



**December 4**

**LUMINARY WALK**

Aullwood Gardens  
MetroPark



**December 4  
& February 5**

**FIRST FRIDAY**

National City 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Market



**December 6**

**CHRISTMAS ON  
THE FARM**

Carriage Hill MetroPark



**December 11**

**GUIDED BY THE LIGHT  
LUMINARY WALK**

Cox Arboretum MetroPark



**December 12**

**LUMINARY & LANTERN  
TOURS**

Carriage Hill & Germantown  
MetroParks



**February 15**

**VALENTINE'S  
CELEBRATION**

National City 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Market



**February 20 - 21**

**ORCHID SHOW**

Cox Arboretum MetroPark



**February 27**

**BLACK HISTORY  
DAY**

National City 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Market



**March 5 - 6**

**THE ADVENTURE  
SUMMIT**

Wright State University



**March 6**

**MIAMI VALLEY  
GARDENING CONFERENCE**  
Sinclair Community College

For more information about these upcoming events or any of the programs and events offered by MetroParks each month, check the back section of this issue of ParkWays or visit

**WWW.METROPARKS.ORG**

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**ParkWays is  
your guide**  
to all the great activities  
and programs MetroParks  
offers every month.  
Check out the Activity  
Guide beginning on page  
32 and get outside!

#### MetroParks Commissioners



Irvin G. Bieser, Jr.



Alan F. Pippenger



Karen L. Davis

*Five Rivers MetroParks is dedicated to the protection and stewardship of Greater Dayton's natural heritage and to inspiring appreciation and understanding of these treasures through nature-based outdoor recreational and educational opportunities and experiences. This is all made possible through your levy support. Thank you!*





Dear Friends

Whew! A big sigh of relief, gratitude and optimism for the future stemming from your support at the polls on November 3rd. An enormous “Thank You” to the thousands of volunteers and supporters who helped pass Issue 4 and ensure that Five Rivers MetroParks can continue to be an integral part of moving this region forward.

It truly was an inspiration to see the community rally behind everything that Five Rivers MetroParks stands for and wants to accomplish. The numerous speaking engagements, neighborhood walks and phone banks where campaign volunteers gathered to spread the message and encourage awareness and voter turnout were well worth the energy expended. I know I left many public presentations more energized than ever by the positive receptions and audience reinforcement that MetroParks is a valued, trusted partner who positively impacts lives. While this gets reported as a victory for MetroParks, it is more so a victory for this community, so congratulations for the entire Miami Valley also are in order.

Now it is time to put the election behind us and begin this new 10-year period. We will focus on addressing strategic priorities that will build on our success of the past and bring the residents of Montgomery County an even better product. Be assured we will always honor our roots and founding purpose of protecting the irreplaceable natural areas we are responsible for as temporary caretakers. We will deliver innovative ways to connect people to nature through education and recreation programming that develops knowledge, encourages skill building and ultimately encourages an active outdoor lifestyle. We will make sure we maintain the high quality facilities to which you have become accustomed. We will enhance the integration of these facilities and our programming to support this active lifestyle we strive to encourage. We will make sure the MetroParks remain safe places for children to engage in unstructured play in the outdoors, using only their natural curiosity and creativity as tools to form their own special connection with nature. We will help this area realize its potential as “Outdoor Adventure Capital of the Midwest.”

The voters have given us their public trust to honor. That is an enormous responsibility but also an incentive to work hard every day on your behalf and deliver you a return worthy of your investment and faith. You will not regret it! Thank you again, and we wish you the best of holiday seasons.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Charlie Shouche". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.



**#1 HAPPENIN' HABITATS:** Learn about the homes of Ohio's native wildlife at Germantown MetroPark's Nature Center.

**#2 NICE ICE:** Hike over to Patty's Falls in Englewood MetroPark on a cold day and check out the beautiful ice formations.



**#3 WINTER WONDERLAND:** Take a brisk hike through Wesleyan MetroParks 1 1/2 miles of trails or the Wolf Creek recreation trail.

# TOP TEN THINGS TO DO IN YOUR FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS THIS WINTER



**#4 FROSTY FISHING:** Ice fishing is available at Possum Creek MetroPark, but ice conditions are not monitored.

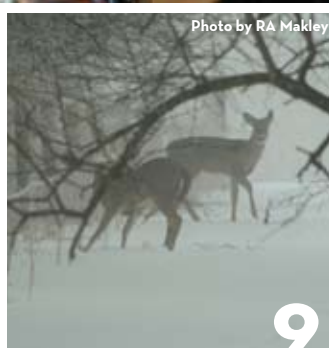
**#5 NOTHING 'DULL' ABOUT IT:** Visit Dull Woods conservation area in Clay Township, located off of U.S. 40 west of Brookville.



**#6 HOLIDAY HERO:** Get all your holiday gift and party supplies fresh and local from the National City 2nd Street Market.



**#9 CHILLY CREATURES:** Not all animals hibernate or migrate when the temperatures drop. What winter-loving animals can you spot?



**#7 POLE POSITION:** Got snow? Grab your skis and head out to Eastwood MetroPark for cross-country skiing.



**#8 FROZEN FOREST:** Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark's Swamp Forest allows visitors to experience a rare river-bank habitat.



**#10 SLED AHEAD:** Carriage Hill MetroPark's sledding hill is in the pasture next to the visitor's center.



## **VOLUNTEER CAMEO:** **Maudie Lawson**

### **VOLUNTEER OF 35 YEARS RETIRES ... SORTA**

***Maudie Lawson's work is part of Carriage Hill MetroPark's past, present and future.***

After volunteering for 35 years at Carriage Hill MetroPark, Maudie Lawson has just about seen it all. But it's the little things she says she'll miss the most now that she's "retired." "I watched kids come in the store and watched them grow up and bring in their kids to the store," she says wistfully. "They were my friends."

Lawson says her daughter was the one who started her on a path as a "career volunteer" at the 1880s farm. In 1974, her daughter asked her if she could think of anything "old-fashioned" to sell in the park's store. Lawson decided to make a few sun bonnets – and has been selling them in the country store ever since. "I probably tore apart 30-some bonnets before I found one I liked," Lawson says. She was soon recruited to run the retail front that has been a favorite spot for



visitors. "I grew up in a country store in Kentucky, so I knew what a country store ought to be."

The country store started as a venue in which local craft groups used the park to sell the goods they made. It has grown since the 1970s, but one of the most popular items still available is the penny candy. "I used to stop at the local farmer's market and bought candy that I put in jars for 3 cents a piece," Lawson says. "That's how it got started."

Lawson followed the gradual changes of the country store that started in a garage next to the summer kitchen, to the former log house and finally in the new visitor's center where it exists presently. "The air conditioning and heat were wonderful," Lawson reminisces. "I do miss the character of those old buildings, but it was nice not to have to carry wood to burn."

Over the years, volunteering at the park has given Lawson many memories – both good and bad. "I remember when the old barn burned down (in 1987)," she says. "It was like a

funeral wake. Some people would hug me and cry, like we lost a loved one." But through these experiences, she says, the devotion others had to Carriage Hill shined. "John Calendar made a donation box and children would bring all their pennies. I never rolled so many pennies! They raised almost \$7,000. You can't believe how much people just love the farm. The loyalty the volunteers have – it's amazing." Local Amish families gathered to raise a new barn and kept to the 1880s style.

Today, even though she has formally retired, Lawson can still be seen helping out around Carriage Hill MetroPark. "Not many people can get up every day and enjoy going to work," Lawson laughs. "I loved coming to Carriage Hill every day. I loved what I did, and I want the store to flourish and grow."



### **COUNTRY STORE EXPANDS INTO THE NATIONAL CITY 2ND STREET MARKET**

The Carriage Hill MetroPark country store has another location: The store got new digs in the National City 2nd Street Market and has lots of vintage wares for sale, including the original storefront's famous penny candy, as well as old-fashioned children's toys and books. "We wanted to bring the country store to the Market to promote Carriage Hill's great facility," says 2nd Street Market Program Coordinator Peggy Collins. "Plus, it makes a great supplement to the historic charm of the Market building, which will celebrate its 100th birthday in 2010!"





## CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK AMENITIES

Carriage Hill MetroPark was established in 1968 in order to interpret both the natural and cultural history of the Miami Valley. Comprised of more than 900 acres, it provides the public with many experiences. Carriage Hill offers scenic woodlands, prairies, a lake and pond.

### Opportunities include:

#### NATURE TRAILS

The park has more than 7 1/2 miles of wooded trails for walking, hiking and cross-country skiing.

#### PICNIC AREAS

The Cedar Lake shelter and Red Wing shelter are available on a first-come, first served basis. In addition, there are many picnic sites available for spontaneous get-togethers.

#### FISHING

Fish without a license and free-of-charge from the banks of both Cedar Lake and North Woods Pond. There is a catch and release program on all sizes of bass.

#### HORSEBACK RIDING

Horse back riding enthusiasts can enjoy over 6 miles of trails at the recently upgraded and refurbished Carriage Hill MetroPark Riding Center. Weekend trail rides are offered Sat. from 10 AM to 5 PM and Sun. beginning at noon through 5 PM. Pony Rides are also available for youngsters. For information and reservations call the Riding Center at (937) 274-3120.

#### HISTORIC FEATURES

Carriage Hill was originally settled in 1830 by the Daniel Arnold family. Come visit a recreated 1880s farm that depicts life on a conservative family farm of the period. Daily demonstrations and tours are provided. Buildings include a blacksmith shop, woodshop, historic house, and bank barn. Historic breeds of farm animals also bring the past to life. Stop by the gallery in the Visitor's Center for rotating photographic and art displays. In addition to this, the Visitor Center also has exhibits highlighting lifestyles of a century ago, a Children's Interactive Center, and the Country Store Gift Shop.

#### CARRIAGE HILL COUNTRY STORE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

Changes are happening in the Country Store at Carriage Hill MetroPark. A second location has opened at the National City 2nd Street Market, and we are looking for volunteers. Those who are interested should contact Patrick Dwyer at (937) 278-2609, ext. 125 or pdwyer@metroparks.org.



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### MAYFAIR COMMITTEE MEMBERS SOUGHT

Master gardeners and plant lovers who enjoy working with people are invited to serve on the committee that runs the annual MayFair Plant Sale at Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark. Preparations will begin on a low level this winter, culminating in the excitement of the three-day sale in early May. The MayFair Plant Sale is a major fundraiser for the Wegerzyn Gardens Foundation. For further information, contact Ed Lehman at [elehman@metroparks.org](mailto:elehman@metroparks.org) or (937) 277-6545, ext. 1604.

### MAKE FRIENDS AND SALES AT THE COX ARBORETUM GARDEN STORE

Assist visitors while working in beautiful and serene surroundings at Cox Arboretum MetroPark. Volunteers will welcome customers, answer questions about the Arboretum and merchandise, and complete sales transactions at the Garden Store. Shifts are available throughout the week and on the weekends. For more information, contact Janet Metter at (937) 434-9005, ext. 1309, or [janet.metter@metroparks.org](mailto:janet.metter@metroparks.org).

## GARDENING PROGRAM OFFERS KNOWLEDGE, SEEKS VOLUNTEERISM



Possum Creek MetroPark is growing more than just plants for its “Your Best Vegetable” gardening series. The park is hoping to grow its volunteer base through this course.

Sessions include composting and soils, planning, planting, pests and preserving the harvest. A lecture and hands-on activity will be part of each class, and participants will share pertinent gardening tips during the final session. The course also will include a field trip and work days. “This practical gardening series will give people the skills and confidence they need to become more self-sufficient through food production,” says Vickie Benson, Your Best Vegetable course supervisor. “Growing your own food not only helps save time and money through less frequent trips to the grocery store, it will encourage people to be healthier by incorporating more vegetables into their diets.”

After acquiring these new gardening skills, participants are requested to complete 25 hours of volunteer service to Five Rivers MetroParks. “We hope they will choose to stick around Possum Creek and help us out on

the farm,” Benson says. Possum Creek farm volunteers are needed on a seasonal basis to help cultivate crops for a variety of programs from planting to harvesting to canning.

The total fee for the series is \$20, which covers costs for a manual, handouts and activity materials per session. “We want the participants to attend all the sessions not pick and choose which sessions they want to attend,” Benson says. “The service learning series attendees need to sign up and interviews need to be conducted before the courses begin in early March. This is not a Master Gardening series; this series is for people who want to hone their garden skills or for beginners who want to start home gardening.” 🌿

For more information or to sign up for an interview, call **Kevin Kepler** at (937) **277-4154** or e-mail [kevin.kepler@metroparks.org](mailto:kevin.kepler@metroparks.org)



## USING YOUR NEW SKILLS

Once you have gained new gardening skills through the Your Best Vegetable Gardening series, here are a few ways you can put those skills to work.

### COMMUNITY GARDENS

Approximately 130 free garden plots are available near the Possum Creek MetroPark farm. Plot reservations must be made in person at the farm starting the first Monday in April. There also is a 6.5 acre parcel of land behind Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark, which is nurtured by more than 100 city residents who grow vegetables, herbs and flowers each year in 28 foot-by-28 foot plots, May through October. Information is available each March for the upcoming season, call (937) 277-6545.



## GROW WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS

Since 1986, the GWYN program has helped urban residents in Montgomery County develop and maintain community gardens and green projects, transforming vacant lots into productive open spaces. Community gardeners cultivate vegetable gardens, care for community-managed parks and beautify their neighborhoods with flowers and trees. The gardens are owned, managed and maintained by neighborhood residents, and provide many benefits: reduced crime rates, improved mental and physical health, and a greater sense of community. The program is always looking for people to join existing gardens or start new ones. If you would like to get involved in your neighborhood, contact the Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark volunteer coordinator at (937) 276-7053. You can help GWYN grow, too! We always have needs for individuals and groups to support the gardens, events and programs. There are lots of different ways you could help. If you are interested in volunteering with GWYN, call GWYN at (937) 276-7053. 



## YOUR BEST VEGETABLE GARDENING SERIES

### COMPOSTING AND SOILS

**MARCH 2, 2010, 6PM - 9PM**

*Possum Creek Education Center Classroom*

Learn the steps to creating and improving your garden's soil.

### PLANNING YOUR GARDEN

**MARCH 9, 2010, 6PM - 9PM**

*Possum Creek Education Center Classroom*

Learn the necessary steps to get the best and most produce from your garden.

### PLANTING YOUR GARDEN

**MARCH 19, 2010, 6PM - 9PM**

*Possum Creek Education Center Classroom*

Learn when to plant and how to get the most out of your garden.

### PESTS

**MARCH 23, 2010, 6PM - 9PM**

*Possum Creek Education Center Classroom*

Learn what pests in the garden pose a problem, which are beneficial and how to distinguish between the two. Learn proper methods of eliminating bad bugs.

### PRESERVING YOUR HARVEST

**MARCH 30, 2010, 6PM - 9PM**

*Possum Creek Education Center Classroom*

Learn the proper equipment and methods to preserve your produce.

### GARDEN TIPS & PROJECTS

**APRIL 6, 2010, 6PM - 9PM**

*Possum Creek Education Center Classroom*

Participants will share their best garden tips and complete projects from previous sessions.

## 15TH MIAMI VALLEY GARDENING CONFERENCE

**SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 7:30AM - 4:30PM**

**SINCLAIR COMMUNITY COLLEGE, 444 WEST THIRD ST., DAYTON**

Keynote speaker Roger Swain, of PBS "Victory Garden," presents two talks, "Planting Villages: How Gardens Make Good Neighbors" and "Returning Fruit to the American Yard." We'll have six additional garden experts, beginning and advanced tracks and two hands-on presentations. Lunch, breaks, and parking are included in the \$50 registration fee.

Registration is required and due February 19. Please call **(937) 277-6545** for information or register online.

**WWW.METROPARKS.ORG/CONFERENCE**





# LEARNING TO GO: EDUCATION KITS

## DROP-BY ACTIVITY

Educators, parents and youth leaders who want to learn more about what the education kits are and how they can be used to enhance children's learning experiences should attend one (or more) of the Drop-By programs at the Germantown MetroPark Nature Center, 6910 Boomershine Road, in which an education kit will be on display. Children also are invited to test drive the kits during these programs that are free and open to the public. "Educators can get a sense of what these kits are, what they've got in them and what they can do," explains Five Rivers MetroParks Resource Interpreter Doug Horvath. "Everyone can sample what these kits have to offer. It will be fun!"

### MAMMALS KIT DISPLAY AND DROP-BY ACTIVITY

Sun, Jan 17, 1:00 pm- 3:00 pm

### OHIO FOSSILS KIT DISPLAY AND DROP-BY ACTIVITY

Sun, Jan 31, 1:00 pm- 3:00 pm

### BIRDS KIT DISPLAY AND DROP BY ACTIVITY

Sun, Feb 14, 1:00 pm- 3:00 pm

### INSECTS KIT DISPLAY AND DROP BY ACTIVITY

Sun, Feb 28, 1:00 pm- 3:00 pm

It has always been a mission of Five Rivers MetroParks to instill an appreciation for nature in children. Now teaching them about their relationship with wildlife makes a new, progressive step.

It's not always easy for teachers or parents of homeschooled children to arrange a field trip; that's why Five Rivers MetroParks offers a number of education kits that local educators can use with their students. These kits provide teaching tools to explore history, nature and conservation subjects through hands-on experiments and activities.

Education kits are loaned free-of-charge. A \$25 deposit is required and it is refunded when the kits are returned in good condition. To date, there are eight education kits: Birds, Aquatics, Mammals, Forestry, Insects, Ohio Fossils, Soil & Composting, and Life in the 1880s. Each kit is available to borrow from a local MetroPark and is chock full of activities, equipment, a list of supplies needed (where applicable) and a resource list.

"We pride ourselves in offering an extremely wide variety of high-quality, low-cost programming for students as well as an array of field trips, but we understand that we just don't have the resources to accommodate every child and every school's needs," says MetroParks Education Director Bob Butts. "These kits allow parents or teachers

to take advantage of everything the parks have to offer, but on a more flexible schedule."

"Many discussions took place between MetroParks education staff and our homeschool advisory committee," explains Five Rivers MetroParks Naturalist Doug Horvath. "We wanted to expand our programming for the non-traditional educational community. Homeschoolers and Boy and Girl Scouts were among those groups that expressed interest in an educational experience outside the walls of a traditional classroom."

Feedback from those meetings indicated that these "non-traditional" educators needed access to equipment and resources they couldn't afford on their own or through their respective groups.







So the MetroParks' education staff developed several topics from which kits could be developed to enhance users' activity-based learning experiences. "These kits had lots of hands-on materials – pelts, resource books, molds – and we assembled these kits so groups of various sizes could use them effectively," Horvath says.

Kits are assembled based on grade level and topic. Facilitators need to provide certain items, such as plaster for the molds, but each interpreter reviews the kit's materials with the educator or program facilitator to allow him or her to use the kit effectively and freely. Education kits are generally loaned for a two-week period and designed for up to 20 children with sharing of equipment. "We have several back-up kits just in case," Horvath says. "We don't want educators and program facilitators to be unable to go forward with their programming because something happened to one of the kits. We don't want any child's learning experience to suffer."

Each kit has an assigned interpreter who is responsible for maintaining the contents, including using facilitator feedback to improve the kits. "I'm in charge of the Ohio Fossils kit, and we've gotten very positive reviews," Horvath says. "This kit has a number of activities that describe what limestone is, how fossils are formed, how plate tectonics work – even a way for kids to look at modern oceans and allows them to speculate what fossils of modern marine animals might look like."

Besides simply making educational resources available, one of the goals in creating the education kit is to encourage users to return to the parks independently and develop their newly formed skills. "I've seen a lot of groups check this (fossils) kit out and do the activities and then come out to a guided or self-guided field trip looking for fossils. Other groups that can't make it to the trips can check out the kit and then go look at other publically accessible sites where they can use this information," Horvath explains.

Besides the recent addition of the Mammals kit, other improvements have been made to the education

kits. Now, rather than tracking down one person, the kits can be checked out at various centers. Not every naturalist has a central office at a facility, so to accommodate those facilitators who don't have a lot of time to check out a kit, several kits are stored at a few locations.

With rave reviews from facilitators and children alike, the educational kits are here to stay with continuous plans on improving the system. "I've had so many comments that these kits are wonderful educational resources," Horvath says. "Participants can have a more enriched experience each time they visit a MetroPark because they have studied an animal or habitat or culture. The kits really help enhance future park visits." 🌿

**It has always been a mission of Five Rivers MetroParks to instill an APPRECIATION FOR NATURE in children...**



# 'CACHE' IN

## ON THE LATEST PARK AMENITY



You don't need an eye patch or a peg leg to hunt for buried treasure.

Geocaching, the latest amenity

to be unveiled in Five Rivers MetroParks, puts a modern spin on the fabled treasure hunt. Geocaching is a world-wide game of hide-and-seek in which a person attempts to find a hidden prize using a global positioning system (GPS) unit, which is an electronic device that can determine your approximate location (within around 6 - 20 feet) anywhere on the planet. Coordinates are normally given in latitude and longitude. You can use the device to navigate from your current location to another location. Some devices have their own maps, built-in electronic compasses and voice navigation, depending on the complexity of the device, according to Groundspeak Inc., parent organization that hosts mother site [geocaching.com](http://geocaching.com).

"Geocaching began in May 2000, when the U.S. government turned off 'Selective Availability,' which limited the accuracy of GPS signals for civilians," says Jen Sonstelie, spokesperson for Groundspeak Inc. "Within 24 hours, Dave Ulmer, a resident of Beavercreek, Ore., placed the first geocache, then called a 'GPS Stash,' and posted its coordinates online. Within three days, two people used their own GPS receivers to find the container and shared their experiences online. In the years since, geocaching has grown quickly. There are currently over 900,000 geocaches hidden worldwide."

While the premise seems quite simple, locating the prize, or "geocache," can be a challenging and enjoyable way to explore your MetroParks. "Hiking in the parks is a lot of fun, but geocaching adds an element of excitement to traditional park uses," explains Brent Anslinger, outdoor recreation manager. "It's a way to get outside, get active and use the MetroParks in a brand new way."

To get started, first you'll need a GPS unit. Like most technological devices, unit sizes, capabilities and prices vary greatly.



Consumer Reports magazine rated several units, but the bottom line is if you want to get the most out of your money, knowing what features you need and which brands are reliable will help you make a good investment on a GPS unit. "Not all units will give you the same display," warns Chris Coffman from the RadioShack at Kettering Towne Center, a GPS unit retailer. "You'll need a unit that displays the latitude and longitude, and not all units have that setting. Some of the most popular brands that people use for turn-by-turn direction in their vehicles do not have this capability, so make sure whatever unit you select has this feature."





meant to be taken and hidden in a new location. These “Groundspeak Trackables” can be traced via special code so the owner can watch his or her cache travel around the world. Permits are required to leave a cache in the MetroParks. To ensure safety of park-goers, caches may not be placed farther than 15 feet from an official hiking trail.

“Five Rivers MetroParks is excited to host geocaches,” Anslinger says. “Conservation is the founding principle of Five Rivers MetroParks with a goal to connect people to nature through education and recreation. Geocaches play a valuable role in motivating and inspiring people to get active and take a hike in their MetroParks while experiencing this family-friendly activity. There are about 77 caches placed throughout the MetroParks, so get out and geocache!” 🍂

## ON THE WEB

For details, visit [WWW.METROPARKS.ORG/GEOCACHE](http://WWW.METROPARKS.ORG/GEOCACHE) or just mouse over the “Get Outside” tab, roll down to “Things to See and Do,” then “View by Topic” and click on “Geocaching.”

Learn more about geocaching and how to get involved at [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com).

“Every GPS unit receives signals broadcast from GPS satellites,” Sonstelie explains. “A receiver needs to read signals from at least three satellites at a time to calculate its general location. The more satellite signals the receiver reads, the more accurate the position it reports to you.” Log on to [geocaching.com](http://geocaching.com) for tips on buying a unit.

Once you have your GPS unit, visit [geocaching.com](http://geocaching.com) to download coordinates of a geocache. Then head out to the parks and find your prize. Most geocaches contain a log book that contains information about the owner of the cache and notes from other visitors. Items hidden in a geocache vary. Some items are



## OUTDOOR CERTIFICATION TRAINING

Five Rivers MetroParks Outdoor Recreation Department strives to connect and grow with the outdoor community to create a more vibrant, active enthusiast base. Beyond basic skill development programs and special events, the recreation department believes increasing the competency and skills of enthusiasts in the Dayton region will provide a stronger outdoor culture and provide these passionate individuals with the tools they need to attract and educate new outdoor adventurers.

In 2010, Five Rivers MetroParks will bring professional certification training to the Dayton region to support local outdoor enthusiasts in increasing their skill base, train locals for outdoor careers and continue to make Dayton the Outdoor Adventure Capital of the Midwest. Check ParkWays and METROPARKS.ORG for details.



## WILDERNESS FIRST RESPONDER

**MARCH 20 - 28, 2010**

**Cost: \$525**

This certification is the ideal medical training for outdoor educators, guides, SAR team members and others who work or play in remote areas. The curriculum is comprehensive and practical, and includes essential principles and skills required to deal with medical problems in the backcountry. This course teaches what to do with a medical emergency when calling 9-1-1 isn't an option. Five Rivers

MetroParks offers this nationally recognized certification, which is good for three years, through Wilderness Medical Associates.

## BACKCOUNTRY LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

**APRIL 2010**

**Cost: \$150**

Five Rivers MetroParks Backcountry Leadership Development Program will consist of multiple evening classroom sessions and a multi-day field experience. Applicants accepted into the program will learn the fundamentals of backcountry leadership through a progression of topics ranging from group dynamics, expedition behavior and program design and site management. Upon completion of this course, selected individuals may apprentice as volunteer trip leaders for Five Rivers MetroParks. Applications are due by March 1, 2010.

## SWIFTWATER RESCUE

**APRIL 23 - 25**

Friday at 224 N. St. Clair St.; Saturday and Sunday at Paint Creek State Park

**Cost: \$50**

A workshop that is aimed at trip leaders, safety personnel and anyone desiring opportunities to develop their rescue skills for canoeing and kayaking in moving water. Class will focus on recognition and avoidance of common river hazards, execution of self-rescue techniques and rescue methods for paddlers in distress.



## AMERICAN CANOE ASSOCIATION'S INSTRUCTORS COURSE FOR KAYAKING

**MAY 7 - 9, 2010**

Eastwood MetroPark

**Cost: \$50**

An ACA certification is meant to give participants a good foundation in the skill and knowledge needed to instruct paddling a kayak on flat water. This is a great opportunity to gain some more skills to introduce friends to kayaking or teaching at Summit Camp in a safe and enjoyable manner, emphasizing safety, enjoyment and skill acquisition for entry-level individuals.

## AMERICAN CANOE ASSOCIATION'S INSTRUCTORS COURSE FOR CANOEING

**MAY 7 - 9, 2010**

Eastwood MetroPark

**Cost: \$50**

An ACA certification is meant to give participants a good foundation in the skill and knowledge needed to instruct paddling a tandem canoe on flat water. This is a great opportunity to gain some more skills to introduce friends to canoeing teaching at Summit Camp in a safe and enjoyable manner, emphasizing safety, enjoyment and skill acquisition for entry-level individuals.

## LEAGUE CYCLING INSTRUCTOR SEMINAR

**MAY 14 - 16, 2010**

224 N. St. Clair St., Classroom at Five Rivers Outdoor Recreation

**Cost: \$225**

Becoming League Cycling Instructor (LCI) certified to teach BikeEd is a great way to bring the joy of cycling to your community. Certified instructors can teach BikeEd classes to children and adults. If you are an experienced cyclist and would like to teach others, consider taking the next step toward certification. A SMART Cycling or Road I course is a prerequisite for a certification seminar. 🍌



# GET OUT AND LIVE... ONE STEP AT A TIME

## **Outdoor Recreation's progressive programs acclimate new users to fun activities.**

Have you always wanted to try a new outdoor activity such as kayaking or backpacking but didn't know where to start? Are you an outdoor enthusiast looking to increase your skill level or branch out to a different sport? The Five Rivers MetroParks Outdoor Recreation Department offers skill development programs for all abilities and ages in paddling and backcountry programs as well as courses to help participants develop proficiencies for mountain biking, fly fishing, cycling and more.

This guide will help you chart a course to learn a new outdoor activity safely and effectively, or some of the more advanced classes will help you fine-tune skills you already have. "We want people to enjoy the outdoors and our job here at the outdoor recreation department is to remove barriers that might prevent people from doing so," says Outdoor Recreation Assistant Manager Andy Williamson. "These progressive programs make outdoor activities less intimidating and give participants the confidence they need to get out and live."

## **TRY IT**

The "Try It" series allows curious adventurers the opportunity to jump into a kayak, hop on a bike or load up a backpack at no cost and little commitment, providing a chance to test the proverbial (or literal for paddle sports) waters with minimal investment.

**No prerequisite.**

## **INTRO PROGRAMS**

After you take a "Try It" course and decide you are ready for more, you can come to an Intro program after work or school and experience an educational and engaging classroom program designed to get you ready for the field. All you need is a pen and paper and an open mind willing to soak in all the new outdoor knowledge and safety skills.

**No prerequisite.**

## **BASICS PROGRAMS**

Once you know what to wear and what equipment you will work with, you will be ready for the field. Basic programs take the knowledge you learned in the Intro course and apply it in the field, giving each participant a hands-on opportunity to step outside his or her comfort zone.

**Prerequisite: Intro**

## **OUTDOOR TRIPS**

Just taking a class isn't enough to become a competent outdoor enthusiast; you must take the knowledge and skills you have acquired so far and practice them in the field. Our trips offer multiple travel opportunities that cater to different skill levels and abilities. The trips provide a safe environment for more inexperienced individuals to test their gear. These trips also allow seasoned veterans to explore a new location with professionals who are knowledgeable about the activity and the area.

**Prerequisite: Basics**

## **ELECTIVES**

The MetroParks Outdoor Recreation Progression covers numerous topics and provides well-rounded exposure to all the skills necessary to you started on your new outdoor adventure. But some adventurers may want to create their own customized experience and expand their knowledge and skills in certain areas, such as cooking, wilderness medicine, survival, whitewater kayaking and more. Throughout the year, we offer many elective programs for you to become a well-rounded outdoor enthusiast.

**No prerequisite.** 🍌

*Note that some of the more advanced courses require participants attend lower-level progressive programs or demonstrate competence before being admitted into that program.*

*Call the recreation department at (937) 277-4374 for details.*



## **OUTDOOR RECREATION TRIPS**

Once you have gained the skills and experience through the MetroParks Outdoor Recreation programs and practiced those skills locally, join the staff and other enthusiasts on a trip to an outdoor destination. Most trips have prerequisites to register, so be sure to visit the programming schedule on [METROPARKS.ORG](http://METROPARKS.ORG) for details, or call (937) 277-4374.

## **2010 RECREATION TRIPS**

### **RAY'S MOUNTAIN BIKE PARK**

January 9 and February 20

### **DOLLY SODS BACKPACKING**

April 29 - May 3

### **LAKE VESUVIUS BACKPACKING**

May 22 - 23

### **BROWN COUNTY, IND., MOUNTAIN BIKE**

July 24 - 25

### **KAYAK TOURING**

August 5 - 9

# KEEPING WARM & CLOSING THE LOOP

## ENGLEWOOD METROPARK'S FURNACE USES RECYCLED OIL

If one person's trash is another person's treasure, then the parks employees at Englewood MetroPark have stuck gold – black gold.

The workshop and offices at Englewood are heated using recycled oil. Dave Spitler, assistant park manager, wanted a better way to heat these buildings other than using a wood-burning stove. "The biggest cost factor there was man hours," Spitler explained. "I had to have my staff members out there cutting and splitting wood."

Spitler found a solution to Englewood's heating problem, and intrinsically, an economical and ecological solution for the rest of the MetroParks. The Clean Burn furnace is able to process used motor oil into a fuel for heat. To recycle used oil, processors and refiners remove water, insolubles, dirt, heavy metals, nitrogen, chlorine, and oxygenated compounds from oil drained from automobiles or other machines. The resulting product—called "rerefined" oil—must meet the same stringent refining, compounding, and performance standards as virgin oil for use in automotive, heavy-duty diesel, and other

internal combustion engines, and hydraulic fluids and gear oils. Mike Swartzentruber, a sales representative from Clean Burn, explains that in the unit at Englewood, used oil is pulled from storage tanks and then pushed through a filter and pre-heated. Then the oil is injected into a furnace and burned at 1,800 degrees. "The high temperatures create low emissions. That's how Clean Burn got its name,"



**Two hundred million gallons of used oil are improperly disposed each year.**

- 🍂 **Recycling just 2 gallons of used oil can generate enough electricity to run the average household for almost 24 hours.**
- 🍂 **It takes 42 gallons of crude oil, but only 1 gallon of used oil, to produce 2.5 quarts of new, high-quality lubricating oil.**

*Source: Environmental Protection Agency*



Swartzentruber explains. "The unit produces less than 1 percent of allowable emissions by the (Environmental Protection Agency's) standards."

Before, any park that had a service vehicle needed to hire a contractor to haul away used oil, a substance that requires proper disposal. Now the furnace serves two money-saving functions: It saves labor hours by recycling used oil for heat in lieu of cutting timber, and it allows all MetroParks vehicles a place to dispose used oil. "I started this program and sent recycle barrels to all MetroParks facilities to collect their used oil," Spitler says. "It saves



each park money since we don't have to pay anyone to properly dispose the oil. We just take the barrels the other parks fill with used oil and replace it with an empty one and just make one trip."

Neighboring businesses and residents also have been getting in on the Earth-friendly action. Spitler says local mechanics, companies with fleet vehicles and do-it-yourself-ers have donated their used oil to the program. This not only reduces disposal costs for the donating entity, it reduces the chance of those chemicals being improperly dumped and polluting the groundwater. According to the EPA, extensive laboratory testing and field studies conclude that rerefined oil is equivalent to virgin oil—it passes all prescribed tests and, in some situations, even outperforms virgin oil.

The process does create some waste – an ash by-product approved for landfill disposal; however, ash takes up little volume and does not pose risk of leeching like oil and other liquid chemicals do. The EPA lauds oil recycling an effective means of

reducing overall pollutants. Any vehicle maintenance facilities, automobile owners, and other machinery maintenance operations that use oil also can use rerefined oil. In some cases, fleet maintenance facilities that use large volumes of oil arrange to reuse the same oil that they send to be rerefined—a true closed recycling loop. 🍃



## MASTER RECYCLER

**FEBRUARY 18 – MARCH 18**

**6PM – 8:30PM THURSDAY EVENINGS**

**Fee: \$10;** covers materials

*Recycling Resource Center at the Montgomery County Solid Waste District, 2550 Sandridge Drive*

Learn to reduce, reuse and recycle in this five-week course sponsored by the Montgomery County Solid Waste District and Five Rivers MetroParks. Master Recycler candidates must complete the course and provide 25 hours of volunteer time to the Montgomery County Solid Waste District or Five River MetroParks. Potential applicants should contact Kevin Kepler at 275-PARK to obtain an application and schedule an interview.





# CONSERVATION'S YEAR IN REVIEW



This past year has been a busy season for the conservation department at Five Rivers MetroParks. Director of Conservation Dave Nolin tells us all about the departmental happenings for 2009:

## **METROPARKS PURCHASES RICE FARM IN MIAMI TOWNSHIP**

In 2009, MetroParks purchased 104 acres in Miami Township owned by Chris and Jackie Rice. This farm is adjacent to existing MetroParks land known as the Medlar Conservation Area. (A conservation area is a land base owned by MetroParks that does not yet have public facilities.) The Medlar Conservation Area contains some of the last remaining open

space in a rapidly developing portion of Montgomery County. Medlar has mature woods, wetlands, planted prairies and a scenic vista. It is connected to other public land owned by Miami Township and Miamisburg.

The purchase and protection of this beautiful farm was made possible by the generosity and conservation ethic of Dr. Gwen Rice. Rice donated a conservation easement on the farm to MetroParks. This easement permanently prevented development on the land and only permitted use as a park or farm. Rice was one of the first people in the region to do this. When she passed away, the ownership passed to her son, Chris, and his wife, Jackie, who

shared her conservation values. The fact that the land already had an easement on it reduced its market value and allowed MetroParks to buy the entire property for considerably less. In addition, 75 percent of the purchase price is being paid by the Clean Ohio Fund, a land protection fund approved by Ohio voters in 2008.





## METROPARKS PARTNERS WITH MIAMI TOWNSHIP TO PROTECT RARE GRASSLAND BIRDS

Miami Township purchased acreage along the Miami River in 1992 to protect open space and the underlying aquifer. In recent years, the township has converted much of the former farmland to a large hayfield. Hay production kept the land open and provided some revenue to the township to help them manage the farm. This past spring, MetroParks conservation staff discovered that the new hayfield had attracted and become home to

a large nesting population of rare grassland birds including bobolinks, dickcissels, Henslow's sparrows, meadowlarks and others. Timing was everything; if the hay was cut before July 15, these grassland birds' nests would have been destroyed. But if the township delayed cutting the hay until after July 15, the young fledglings could leave their nests successfully without significantly affecting the nutritional quality of the hay. Fortunately for these birds, Miami Township and their hay farmer agreed to delay the hay harvest to protect these birds. Thanks Miami Township!

## PROTECTING THE PRAIRIES

This past year has been great for prairies, and thanks to the efforts of the conservation staff, Cox Arboretum MetroPark staff, JFNew and many volunteers, more are on the way.

In November 2008, the conservation department met with the Cox Arboretum staff and asked if they would be willing to grow a few plants for the Ohio Prairie Seed Nursery located at Germantown MetroPark. Our own greenhouse was not yet re-constructed; it was taken apart to make way for the new Park Services/Conservation Building. The conservation staff provided the Arboretum staff cold-stratified seed in late January. Once the seed germinated, the Arboretum staff organized the transplanting of the seedlings with volunteers and other staff whenever available. More than 15,000 beautiful plants were grown, far more than the original needs of the Seed Nursery. So we found additional homes for these plants at Cox Arboretum's Conservation Corner, Wolf Creek Bikeway (Pete's Station), Medlar Conservation Corner, Huffman Mountain Bike Facility, Woodman Fen, Grant Nature Center (Centerville Washington Township Park District), Tipp City schools' land lab and of course the Seed Nursery at Germantown.

Plantings were also installed using our Truax Seed Drill and hand broadcasting of seed at various locations including Shiloh Woods Conservation Area, Conservation Corner Cox Arboretum, Huffman Prairie Wright-Pat Air Force Base and Medlar Conservation Area. 🌱

## LINK UP AND GET INVOLVED!

To learn more about Five Rivers MetroParks' conservation strategies, visit our home page at [WWW.METROPARKS.ORG/CONSERVATION](http://WWW.METROPARKS.ORG/CONSERVATION) and mouse over the "About Us" tab. Then select "Conservation Efforts" from the drop-down menu and read up on the goals and future plans for the conservation department.

**To find out how you can volunteer for the conservation department,** mouse over the "Get Involved" tab from the home page and pick either "Prairie Partners" or "Habitat Healers" to learn more about these volunteer opportunities.



# WINTER IN THE PARKS: NATURE'S COSTUME CHANGE

The temperatures are falling along with the snow, but there are still lots of ways you and your family can “get out and live” - just put on a jacket first! “Winter is a fantastic time to explore your MetroParks,” says Five Rivers MetroParks Executive Director Charlie Shoemaker. “The bare trees and bushes expose lots of creatures’ habitats, and the snow-blanketed landscape punctuated with frozen water makes it feel like you’re visiting a completely different park than in the warmer months.”

In addition to more than 60 miles of paved recreational trails, there are plenty of opportunities to explore your Five Rivers MetroParks and experience the 25 facilities over nearly 15,000 acres in ways you might not have considered. Many activities take place outdoors; however there are classes and programs that are scheduled inside for those sensitive to chilly weather. Take a look at all your parks have to offer this winter:

## SLEDDING

What better way to spend a crisp winter day than zooming down a slope on a saucer or huddled on a sled with a loved one? Grab your hats, mittens and Rosebuds and head out to one of these MetroParks that features great sledding hills:

### CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK

Sledding hill is located in the pasture next to the visitor center at East Shull Road near State Route 201 in Huber Heights.

photo by Birgit Franke





## ENGLEWOOD METROPARK

Sledding hill is in the west park. Use the 100 E. National Road entrance (U.S. Route 40 at State Route 48) and follow the park road to the right for parking.

## GERMANTOWN METROPARK

Sledding hill is located at 6206 Boomershine Road, just north of Manning Road.

## TAYLORSVILLE METROPARK

Sledding hill's entrance is on the east side of Brown School Road, south of U.S. Route 40.

## CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

Cross-country skiing doesn't require hills and can be enjoyed on almost any snow-covered location. It's also easy to learn and offers an aerobic workout for the entire body. Five Rivers MetroParks embraces the sport and encourages residents to get out on their skis and use our existing hiking trails or blaze your own trails across snow-covered public spaces. Check out the map in this issue of ParkWays to find a MetroPark near you!



photo by C. Geiger

FOR MORE WINTRY IDEAS VISIT  
**[WWW.METROPARKS.ORG/WINTER](http://WWW.METROPARKS.ORG/WINTER)**



**TEMPERATURES  
ARE FALLING  
ALONG WITH  
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LIVE!”**

## HIKING TRAILS

Hiking trails are open all winter long in most MetroParks. Some trails are plowed and others are packed snow. Use caution when hiking on fresh-fallen snow and be vigilant of icy patches. There are nearly 80 miles of hiking trails and 25 miles of horseback riding trails. Take home a map of one of our parks from any park's visitor center, or stop by the MetroParks' main office at 1375 E. Siebenthaler Ave. in Dayton. Better yet, download a copy of any publication (including ParkWays) from the MetroParks' Web site: **[WWW.METROPARKS.ORG](http://WWW.METROPARKS.ORG)**.



## CAMPING

Just picture it – the fresh fallen snow; the clean-smelling, brisk air; the complete serenity of a hushed forest, devoid of pestering insects; and chatty woodland creatures are sound asleep until spring. Camping on the Twin Valley Trail truly gives you respite from the busy world. Twenty-two miles of trail connecting Twin Creek and Germantown MetroParks are open all year with backcountry hiking and camping opportunities for individual and group campers. Call (937) 277-4374 for camping permits.



## ICE FISHING

Anglers don't have to pack away their hooks and lures when it gets nippy outside. A few MetroParks offer opportunities for ice fishing on ponds and lakes. In addition, fishing can also be good in deeper sections of our local rivers and near warm- water discharges. A note to anglers: Before you shimmy onto frozen lakes and ponds, be aware that ice conditions are **NOT** monitored by staff; please use safety precautions when heading out on the ice.

### CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK

Ice fishing is permitted, but ice conditions are not monitored. Fish without a license and free-of-charge from the banks of both Cedar Lake and North Woods Pond.

### ENGLEWOOD METROPARK

Ice fishing is permitted off Old Springfield Road, but ice conditions are not monitored. An Ohio fishing license is required.

### POSSUM CREEK METROPARK

Ice fishing is permitted, but ice conditions are not monitored. Fish free-of-charge and without a license in ponds and Argonne Lake. There is a 10-inch minimum size on bass and a six-fish limit per day. Trout are introduced to the ponds during cold months (typically December through February or March).



## SHOPPING

When you're ready to come in from the cold, stop by the National City 2nd Street Market and warm up with delicious prepared foods before you check off your holiday shopping lists. The Market is open all year – from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays, and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays. Farm-fresh produce, meats, cheeses and dry goods will help you cook delicious, wholesome holiday treats. Entertaining a crowd? No problem! The Market vendors have dips, decorations, snacks, spices, flowers, favors and everything you need to throw the perfect holiday soiree. Need a unique gift? The Market has many hand-crafted, one-of-a-kind items for sale.

## GIFT BASKETS AND GIFT WRAPPING

The Humane Society of Greater Dayton will help make this holiday season less stressful by offering a holiday gift basket and gift wrapping service at the National City 2nd Street Market. Shop at the Market and put your gift items in their hands to turn into a beautiful holiday gift basket or an environmentally friendly gift bag. Bring purchases from market vendors, or anywhere you shop, and they'll wrap them and have them ready to go with no hassle on your part. This service will be available between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

**Be sure to stop by during these special shopping events:**

## FIRST FRIDAY AT THE MARKET

**Dec. 4 and Feb. 5, 5-8 p.m.**

Make the Market your holiday shopping destination! From unique handmade items to fresh local food, the Market is sure to have what you're looking for. Stop by for dinner, enjoy live music, go on a carriage ride and hang out with friends and family while you shop for the perfect gifts.

## HORSE-DRAWN CARRIAGE RIDES

**Dec. 4, 6-8 p.m., and Dec. 19, noon to 3 p.m.**

Take a break from doing your holiday shopping and travel downtown in a beautiful horse-drawn carriage. Children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Limited number of tickets available.

**Fees are \$5 per person, \$8 per couple.**

*Rides are weather-permitting.*

## SANTA VISITS THE MARKET

**Dec. 17 and 18 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., and Dec. 19 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

Bring your cameras and snap a photo of Santa with your friends and family. It won't be too late for Santa to hear what's on your wish list -- including Market goodies. He'll have a treat for everyone who stops by to see him.







## YOUR GUIDE TO A VERY LOCAL CHRISTMAS

Make holiday shopping a snap. Pick up a special Holiday Handbook from the Market for local “best bets” on entertaining and gift giving.

*(special shopping events continued)*

### COMMUNITY DAYS

**Jan. 14 and Jan. 15, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

Market customers will receive cupcakes and be treated to musical entertainment as they shop and have a relaxing lunch in appreciation of their patronage. All visitors will be entered to win gift certificates. Drawings will be at noon, 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. *Winners must be present.*

### WINTER FAMILY FUN DAY

**Jan. 16 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

Families can enjoy a fun-filled day at the Market. Kids can create art projects, or participate in a program conducted by Boonshoft Museum of Discovery.

### VALENTINE'S CELEBRATION

**Feb. 13, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

Pick the perfect gift for your sweetheart from flowers, decorated desserts, jewelry, wine, soaps and more. Enjoy light jazz and poetry, and help those in need by filling the heart in the pavilion with non-perishable food items.

### BLACK HISTORY DAY AT THE MARKET

**Feb. 27, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

This cultural celebration of music and dance includes The Dianne Coble Ensemble, DC Men of God, the Chaminade Julianne Ensemble, Mary Queen of Peace Special Edition Dance Troop and Mary Anne Studio Zumba of Ohio.





photo by RA Makley



## NATURE

When outside temperatures drop, skunks, raccoons, chipmunks and opossums are known to go into a temporary hibernation, according to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. Hibernating mammals take up shelter in trees, logs, beneath rocks or underground. Frogs, snakes, turtles and most other cold-blooded animals crawl into holes or burrows where they remain inactive all winter.

Many of Ohio's birds seek refuge from the cold winter months by migrating to warmer climates. But MetroParks visitors can catch a glimpse of the hardy,

non-migratory birds such as cardinals, robins, vultures, quail, eagles, owls and sparrows.

Other animals active during the snowy season include deer, rabbits, coyotes and foxes. MetroParks offers unique opportunities to see various non-migratory birds. To learn more about Morning Bird Walks, turn to page 40. For details on Project Feeder Watch at the Window on Wildlife located in Germantown MetroPark's Nature Center, turn to page 39.



Bobwhite Quail



### **(FREE) ADULT NATURE WALK**

**THU, DEC 10, 9:00AM - 11:00AM**

**THU, JAN 14, 9:00AM - 11:00AM**

**THU, FEB 11, 9:00AM - 11:00AM**

**SUGARCREEK METROPARK,**  
Parking Lot, 4178 Conference Rd.

Explore nature while meeting new friends on this slow-paced journey. Bring binoculars if you have them; a limited supply will be available. Call (937) 277-4178 for details.







## COMING SOON

When Phase III of RiverScape MetroPark's renovation is completed in May 2010, it will include a larger and improved skating rink. "At 150 feet by 70 feet, the new rink will be almost 50 percent bigger than the old rink," says Urban Events Manager Lorka Muñoz-Daugherty. "We're also going to have more skates for patrons to rent and we are extending the rink's season so people will be able to enjoy skating longer."

During the summer, the rink will be a pavilion with covered seating for festivals, community events, free entertainment or just a relaxing lunch with friends. RiverScape MetroPark also will be the home of a new bike hub with secure bike storage, showers and lockers that will provide a central location for downtown commuters going to work or play. Be sure to watch the Web site and spring edition of ParkWays to learn more about RiverScape MetroPark's re-opening. 🍃



photo by RA Makley



photo by Allison Walton



## OLD-FASHIONED HOLIDAYS

**(FREE) CHRISTMAS ON THE FARM**

**SUN, DEC 6, 12:00PM - 5:00PM**

**CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Farm, 7891 E. Shull Rd.**

String cranberries and popcorn for the farm-grown cedar tree just like families did a century ago. Enjoy fresh baked gingerbread and sample chestnuts hot from the fireplace. Play some period parlor games. At our Visitor Center you can make a Victorian Christmas decoration to take home. Enjoy a bobsled ride, weather permitting. **4052**

**(FREE) EVENING CHRISTMAS LANTERN AND LUMINARY TOUR**

**SAT, DEC 12, 6:00PM - 9:00PM**

**CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Farm, 7891 E. Shull Rd.**

A Victorian Christmas will be brought to life for this evening lantern tour. Tour various candle-lit stops around the farm while merrily singing carols. Join a period Christmas party and enjoy a hot cup of wassail while visiting the farmhouse. **4053**

	ACRES	FISHING - PONDS/LAKES	FISHING - RIVERS	WALKING TRAILS - FAIRLY LEVEL	HIKING TRAILS - VARYING TERRAIN	BRIDLE TRAILS	RIDING CENTERS	VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES	PICNICKING	PICNIC SHELTERS	RESERVABLE SHELTERS	SLEDDING	MOUNTAIN BIKING	CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING	BIRD FEEDING STATIONS	VISITOR/EDUCATION CENTERS	GIFT SHOPS	GROUP CAMPING W/PERMIT	PUBLIC WALKS	FACILITY RENTALS/WEDDINGS	CANDLING - RIVER/LAKE	BOATING	RECREATION TRAILS	DEMOS & WORKSHOPS	FARM VISITS	GROUP TOURS	HORTICULTURAL DISPLAYS	HISTORICAL FEATURES	FLOOD CONTROL DAMS	PLAYGROUND	PETS WELCOME	BACKPACKING				
Auldwood Garden	31							•											•						•		•	•								
Carriage Hill	944	■		•		•	•	■	■	■		•				■	■	•	•					■	■	■		■					•			
Cox Arboretum	182			■	•			■								■	■			■	■			■		■	■									
Eastwood	437	■	•	•				•	•	■				•					•			•	•	■			•				•	•				
Englewood	1956	•	•	■	•	•		•	■	■	■	•		•				•	■		•	*	■			■		•	•			•	•			
Germantown	1,534	•	•	■	•			■	■	■	■	•		•	■	■		•	•		•			■		■			•			•	•	•		
Hills & Dales	51			•				•	•	•	•			•					•							•		•				•	•			
Huffman	283	•	•	•	•			•	•	•			•	•					•			•	*				•			•		•	•			
Island	35	■	■					■	■	■				•					■		•	•	■			■	■				■	•	•			
Possum Creek	556	■		•		•		■	■	■	■			•	•			•	•		•	▲		■	■	■		•			■	•	•			
Recreation Trails	-			■				■	•					•					■					■			■		■							
River Corridors	2,628		•	■				■	•					•					■		•	•	■			■						•	•			
RiverScape	14	•						■	■					•			■		■		•		■	■	■	■	■	■					•	•		
Sugarcreek	597			■	•	•		•	•					•				•	•							•							•	•		
Taylorville	1,312		•	■	•			•	•	■	■	•		•				•	•		•		■			■		■	•				•	•		
Twin Creek	972	■	•	•	•	•		•	•	•				•					•							•		•				•	•	•		
Wegertzyr Gardens	46	•	•	■				■						•		■			■	☆			•	■		■	■	■					•	•		
Wesleyan/ Adventure Central	55		•	•	•			■	■	■	■			•		■			•						■		■				■	•	•			
	ACRES	FISHING - PONDS/LAKES	FISHING - RIVERS	WALKING TRAILS - FAIRLY LEVEL	HIKING TRAILS - VARYING TERRAIN	BRIDLE TRAILS	RIDING CENTERS	VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES	PICNICKING	PICNIC SHELTERS	RESERVABLE SHELTERS	SLEDDING	MOUNTAIN BIKING	CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING	BIRD FEEDING STATIONS	VISITOR/EDUCATION CENTERS	GIFT SHOPS	GROUP CAMPING W/PERMIT	PUBLIC WALKS	FACILITY RENTALS/WEDDINGS	CANDLING - RIVER/LAKE	BOATING	RECREATION TRAILS	DEMOS & WORKSHOPS	FARM VISITS	GROUP TOURS	HORTICULTURAL DISPLAYS	HISTORICAL FEATURES	FLOOD CONTROL DAMS	PLAYGROUND	PETS WELCOME	BACKPACKING				

### Chart Legend:

- ✱ Electrical motors under 42 lbs. thrust permitted.
- ▲ Hand-powered boats on Argonne Lake only. No vehicle access.
- Wheelchair accessible (some).
- ✱ Outdoor Rink
- ✱ Weddings Only



**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES OFFICE HOURS**  
**8 AM - 5 PM, MON. - FRI.**

1375 E. Siebenthaler Ave., Dayton. Take I-75 to Wagner Ford Rd./Siebenthaler Ave. Turn left onto Siebenthaler Ave. off N. Dixie. The entrance is on the right past Ridge Ave. (937) 275-PARK (7275)

**ADVENTURE CENTRAL AT WESLEYAN METROPARK**

2222 James H. McGee Blvd., Dayton. Take St. Rt. 35 to the James H. McGee Blvd exit. Travel north over 2 miles. Adventure Central is a barn-red brick building with a small parking lot in front. Call to ask about overflow parking. (937) 278-2601

**AULLWOOD GARDEN METROPARK**

955 Aullwood Rd., Englewood. From I-70 take St. Rt. 48 (Englewood) north to east on National Rd. (U.S. 40). Cross Englewood Dam; just after it, turn south onto Aullwood Rd. Drive past the Aullwood Audubon Center and continue to the sign which says "Garden Parking" entrance on the right. (937) 275-PARK (7275)

**CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK**

7800 E. Shull Rd. From I-70 take St. Rt. 201 Exit (Brandt Pike). Turn north on 201 and drive one mile to East Shull Rd. Turn right at park entrance. (937) 278-2609

**Carriage Hill Riding Center**

The Riding Center is on Shull Rd. past the farm. (937) 274-3120

**COX ARBORETUM METROPARK**

6733 Springboro Pike, Dayton. From I-75 take St. Rt. 725 (Miamisburg-Centerville Rd.) east to St. Rt. 741 (Springboro Pike). Turn north on St. Rt. 741. Cox Arboretum is on the left approx. 2 miles. (937) 434-9005

**Butterfly House**

Open late June through Labor Day, the Butterfly House is located on the west side of the park behind the Crab Apple Allée.

**DEEDS POINT METROPARK**

510 Webster St., Dayton. From I-75 take Stanley Ave. west until it dead ends at Helena St. and turn right. At North Bend Blvd. turn left; pass the Kettering Field diamonds until rd. forks to the right. Area to the right is Deeds Point. (937) 275-PARK (7275)

**EASTWOOD METROPARK**

1385 Harshman Rd., Dayton. Take Route 4 to the Harshman Rd. Exit and head south on Harshman. The first entrance to the right is to the lake; the second right is to the park. (937) 275-PARK (7275)

**ENGLEWOOD METROPARK**

4361 National Rd., Butler Twp. From I-70 take St. Rt. 48 (Englewood) north to east on National Rd. (U.S. 40). Cross Englewood Dam; the main entrance is just after it, east of the dam. (937) 275-PARK (7275)

**Blue Heron Disc Golf Course**

Located at the south end of East Park next to the lake.

**GERMANTOWN METROPARK**

7101 Conservancy Rd., Germantown. Follow St. Rt. 725 west through Germantown. Turn right onto Creek Rd. Take right on Conservancy Rd.; entrance will be on left. To Nature Center (6910 Boomershine Rd.): Pass Creek & Conservancy roads; turn right onto Boomershine Rd., park entrance will be on right. (937) 855-7717

**Nature Center**

**HOURS:** Fridays, NOON to 5PM;  
Saturdays 10AM - 5PM; Sundays NOON - 5PM.  
The center will also be open for scheduled public programs and tours by appointment.

**Twin Valley Backpacking Trail**

Overnight parking available by permit (937) 277-4374 at Boomershine trail head, 6206 Boomershine Rd.

**HILLS & DALES METROPARK**

2655 Patterson Blvd., Kettering. From 741, turn left on Dorothy Lane. Go thru S. Dixie Hwy. intersection. A few streets east of there is Hilton Dr. Turn left. Go 5 blocks north through residential area. Turn right onto Stockton Ave. then right onto S. Patterson Blvd. Twin Oak Shelter: 1/4 mile past Stockton on Patterson Blvd.; north of Patterson Monument. (937) 275-PARK (7275)

**HUFFMAN METROPARK**

4439 Lower Valley Pike, Fairborn. From St. Rt. 4 Exit at Huffman Dam Rd. Continue onto Lower Valley Pike. Entrances are on the right. (937) 275-PARK (7275)

**MoMBA-MetroPark Mountain Bike Area**

4485 Union Road, Fairborn. On Lower Valley Pike pass the main Huffman parking lot. Come to very sharp left-hand turn, pass under St. Rt. 4. Come straight through Union and Baker Rd. intersection. First left is MoMBA parking lot. (Union Rd. becomes Union Schoolhouse Rd. in Montgomery County west of the MoMBA parking lot.)

**ISLAND METROPARK**

101 E. Helena St., Dayton. From I-75 take the Stanley Ave. west until it dead ends at Helena St. Turn right and continue to Island MetroPark, which is on right side of the street near Riverside Dr. Use overflow parking lot east of park. (937) 275-PARK (7275)

**NATIONAL CITY 2ND STREET MARKET**

600 E. 2nd St., Dayton. Take Keowee St. to Third St. and turn left. Turn right at Webster St., then right at 2nd St. (937) 228-2088

**POSSUM CREEK METROPARK**

4790 Frytown Road, Dayton. From Gettysburg Ave.: Turn west onto Germantown St. Route 4. Go about 1.5 miles to Frytown Rd. and turn left. Head to main entrance or to reservable shelter area. (937) 276-7062

**RIVERSCAPE METROPARK**

111 E. Monument Ave., Dayton. Take I-75 to First St. and head east. Turn left on Patterson Blvd. and left on Monument Ave. (937) 274-0126

**SUGARCREEK METROPARK**

4178 Conference Rd., Bellbrook. From I-675 take Wilmington Pike south. Street name changes to Wilmington-Dayton Rd. Continue until it makes sharp turn to the right. Go straight; road turns into Conference Rd. (937) 275-PARK (7275)

**SUNRISE METROPARK**

50 Edwin C. Moses Blvd., Dayton. Take Salem Ave. to Riverview Ave. and turn right. Continue onto Edwin C. Moses Blvd. Sunrise is on the east side of the road. where the Great Miami River and Wolf Creek meet. (937) 275-PARK (7275)

**TAYLORSVILLE METROPARK**

2000 St. Rt. 40, Vandalia. From I-75 take U.S. 40 Exit (National Rd.) and head east. Continue on 40 where it heads south onto Brown School Rd. Then go on Brown School Rd. past U.S. 40 to entrances, or follow U.S. 40 east to other entrances. (937) 275-PARK (7275)

**TWIN CREEK METROPARK**

9688 Eby Rd., Germantown. Follow St. Rt. 725 west through Miamisburg. Take St. Rt. 4 south through Germantown; turn left on Eby Rd. Park entrance is on the left. (937) 275-PARK (7275)

**Twin Valley Backpacking Trail**

Overnight parking available by permit (937) 277-4374 at the High View trail head, 9688 Eby Rd.

**WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK**

1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave., Dayton. Take I-75 to Wagner Ford Rd./Siebenthaler Ave. Turn left onto Siebenthaler Ave. off N. Dixie. Pass Ridge Ave. and the administrative offices. Turn right into drive at bottom of the hill before bridge. Wegerzyn Center is located in the center of the Cultural Arts Complex; gardens are to the right of the parking lot. (937) 277-6545

**Children's Discovery Garden**

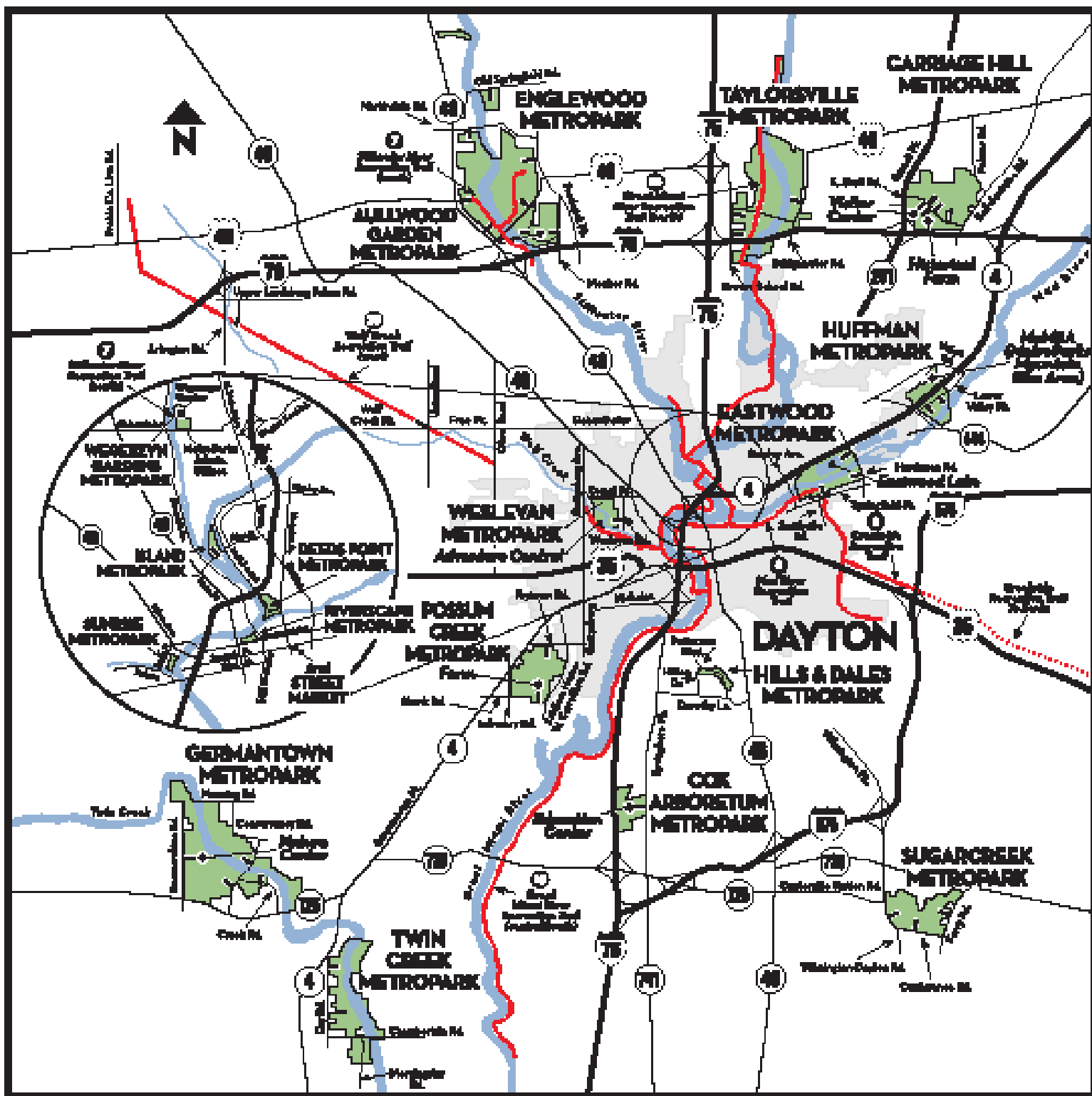
Directly to the right of the parking lot behind the walled area.

**WESLEYAN METROPARK**

1441 Wesleyan Rd., Dayton. From St. Rt. 35 to Gettysburg Exit; turn right. Go 3 miles, turn right on Cornell Dr. Go 2 blocks to Wesleyan Rd., turn right. Park is on the right side of the street. (937) 278-2601



No matter where you are in Montgomery County,  
you're only 15 minutes away from a  
**Five Rivers MetroPark.**





# DETOURS & CLOSINGS

DOWNLOAD A DETOUR MAP AT [WWW.METROPARKS.ORG/DETOURS](http://WWW.METROPARKS.ORG/DETOURS)

## PROGRAM CANCELLATIONS

Programs that require reservations may be cancelled if a minimum number of reservations are not received. Those with reservations will be contacted if such a situation occurs. Programs will have notation when it is weather-dependent; contact the supplied number if you have weather-related concerns. Generally, it is safe to assume a program has been cancelled during a Level 3 snow emergency.

## WINTER STORM POLICY

During, and immediately, following periods of severe winter weather some areas of MetroParks facilities may not be available for use. These areas will be reopened as soon as possible after such an event. We follow a reopening plan that has been developed to best protect and best serve the majority of visitors as quickly as possible.

## TRAIL CONDITIONS

### **MetroParks Mountain Biking Area (MoMBA) Trail Conditions**

For up to date trail conditions and closures at MoMBA, please call (937) 277-4374. Enjoy the Trails and "Get Out and Ride!"

### **Twin Valley Backpacking Trail (TVT) Conditions**

For up to date trail conditions and closures at TVT, please call (937) 274-3163. Check current weather conditions and short-term forecasts immediately before entering the backcountry. See you on the Trail!

## RIVER CORRIDOR RECREATIONAL TRAILS

The upper trail adjacent to the RiverScape III construction site west of Patterson Boulevard that connects with the Patterson Boulevard sidewalk will be temporarily closed to allow for adjacent site construction work. Public sidewalks along Monument Avenue and Patterson Boulevard adjacent to the project area will remain open. Please stay on the lower trail along the Great Miami River if you are continuing on towards points east or west of RiverScape. RiverScape MetroPark can be accessed by westbound upper trail riders by proceeding to Monument Avenue or accessing the lower trail at the Deeds Point pedestrian bridge.

## UNPAVED HIKING AND HORSE TRAILS

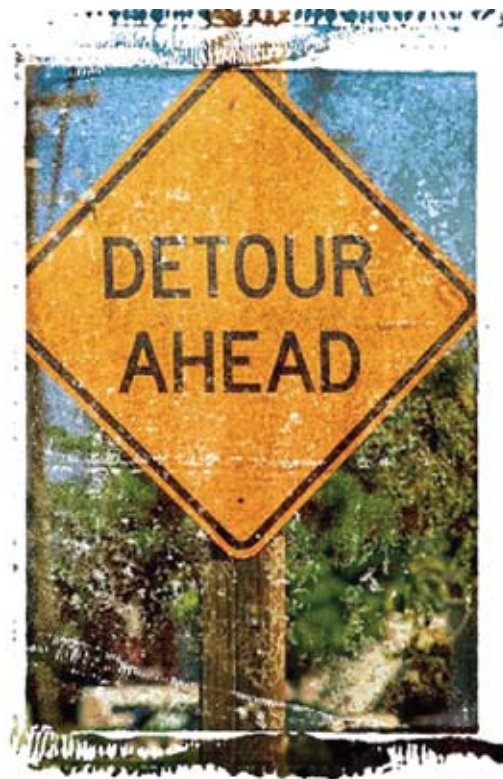
Exploring the wilderness in winter is a wonderful experience. Whether gliding through the trees on cross-country skis, or hiking up a ridge to a beautiful view, the silence and beauty of winter is truly something special. At the same time, the snowy, cold, winter environment can be dangerous. Plan your trips accordingly with the weather and bring the right equipment to travel safely in this type of environment.

## NATURE CENTER

**New hours:** Fridays, noon to 5:00 PM; Saturdays, 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM; Sundays, noon to 5:00 PM. The center will also be open for scheduled public programs and tours by appointment.

## RIVERSCAPE PHASE III CONSTRUCTION

Due to construction of RiverScape Phase III, the skating rink will be closed for the winter season.



*Due to the publication date of ParkWays, other detours may be in effect or the schedule of a project may change. For more information, visit the Alerts, Closures and Construction page at [metroparks.org](http://metroparks.org).*



# FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS IS PLEASED TO PRESENT **YOUR GUIDE TO WINTER ACTIVITIES**

Finding your interests is quick and easy. You can find them in this ParkWays by ACTIVITY or by DATE. Follow the simple instruction below and start filling up your calendar with fun, educational and physical activities for all ages.

## **BY ACTIVITY**

Interested in art, cooking, gardening or hiking? Looking to volunteer or maybe just want to find all the seasonal happening in the MetroParks? Then check out the ACTIVITY section. Each program lists the date, name, time, place and description. For more details on programs, check [metroparks.org](http://metroparks.org). You can register online or by phone.

## **BY DATE**

You can also search events and programs by date. This is a chronological listing of every activity at every park. Pick a date, find an activity that interests you and go to the page listed to find out more information. For more details on programs, check [metroparks.org](http://metroparks.org). You can register online or by phone.

## **ONLINE**

You can also search for events online at [www.metroparks.org](http://www.metroparks.org). Activities by park, interest group or topic can be found under the Get Outside tab. To search by Course Code, click on Things to See and Do under the Get Outside tab then click on the Course Code Search button on the right side of the page. [Metroparks.org](http://Metroparks.org) helps you get connected to park information, program guides, videos, nature play games and online registration. If you're a "go on your own" park user, the website is a great place to find maps, park features, trail information and more.

**NOTE:** Some programs that are limited require a minimum number of participants and are subject to cancellation. Those with reservations will be contacted if this occurs. Some outdoor events are weather permitting. The website contains up-to-date information on cancellations.

**FEES:** Fees are required at the time of registration and are non-refundable.

## **PTN PASSPORT TO NATURE!**

Your child can become an official MetroParks Nature Traveler by participating in eight Passport to Nature programs. Nature Travelers will receive a special backpack. Look for the symbol showing designated passport programs.

## **HOW TO CONTACT A RANGER IN A METROPARK:**

Emergency contact: **9-1-1**

Non-emergency contact: **(937) 535-2580**

Inform the Sheriff Department's dispatcher you are in a MetroParks facility. A MetroParks Law Enforcement Ranger will be notified and respond to the situation as soon as possible.



## EDUCATION

### FARMING

#### (FREE) PARENT & PRESCHOOLER: SHARING THE HARVEST

**TUE, DEC 8, 1:30 PM- 3:00 PM**

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Education Center Classroom, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Make treats for the birds using grains grown on the farm. Be prepared for a gooey experience. Reservations required and limited, call (937) 276-7062. **PTN**  
Age: 3Y - 6Y. **4130**

#### (FREE) WINTER ON THE FARM

**SAT, DEC 19, 11:00 AM- 2:00 PM**

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Education Center Classroom, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Winter will soon be here. The days are getting shorter and nature is preparing for a long winter nap. Drop by the Possum Creek Farm Education Building to make a quick craft, make a gift from nature for the wintering birds, and decorate your own snack. Then, visit our wonderful animals in the barn and learn what preparations must be made for them for winter. **PTN**  
Age: 3Y - 12Y. **4168**

#### (FREE) MORNING FARM CHORES

**SAT, DEC 19, 8:30 AM- 9:15 AM** 4056

**SAT, JAN 16, 8:30 AM- 9:15 AM** 4057

**SAT, FEB 20, 8:30 AM- 9:15 AM** 4060

CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Farm, 7891 E. Shull Rd.

Families can help the farm hand with daily chores. Clean stalls, collect eggs or feed the animals. Dress for the weather and barnyard work. Meet at the big red barn. Reservations required and limited. Age: 6Y - 18Y.

#### (FREE) PARENT & PRESCHOOLER: THE SEED

**TUE, JAN 12, 1:30 PM- 3:00 PM**

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Education Center Classroom, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Learn how seeds travel and how they grow. Make a picture using seeds to take home. Reservations required and limited, call (937) 276-7062. **PTN** Age: 3Y - 6Y. **4150**

#### (FREE) JR FARMER SERIES

Participants will learn interesting facts about farm animals and participate in some hands-on activities. Each session will focus on a different animal. The series runs from January to July. Participants completing four sessions are eligible for a certificate and a special memento. Homeschoolers are welcome.

### GOATS

**SAT, JAN 23, 9:00 AM-10:30 AM**

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Education Center Classroom, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Become a goat expert! Learn about different goat breeds, goat anatomy and products from goats. Spend some time with Possum Creek Farm's resident goats. Reservations required and limited, call (937) 276-7062. Age: 8Y - 12Y. **4255**

### SHEEP

**SAT, FEB 20, 9:00 AM-10:30 AM**

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Education Center Classroom, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Become a sheep expert! Learn about different sheep breeds, sheep anatomy and products from sheep. Spend some time with Possum Creek Farm's resident sheep. Reservations required and limited, call (937) 276-7062. Age: 8Y - 12Y. **4256**

#### (FREE) PARENT & PRESCHOOLER: FARM PLAY

**TUE, FEB 9, 1:30 PM- 3:00 PM**

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Education Center Classroom, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Become your favorite farm animal. During this program you will make a mask of your favorite farm animal and then become that animal for some down on the farm fun. Reservations required and limited, call (937) 276-7062. Age: 3Y - 6Y. **4155**

#### (FREE) MAPLE SYRUP TIME

**SAT, FEB 27, 9:00 AM- 3:30 PM**

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Sugar Maple Shelter/Parking Lot, 4790 Frytown Rd.

It's prime "sugaring" time in Ohio. Come out and help the farmers collect sap from the grove of maple trees and watch as a roaring fire boils the sap down into maple syrup. Ongoing demonstrations, a review of proper tree selection, tapping and harvesting techniques will be discussed throughout the day. Follow signs to the Sugar Maple Shelter. Age: 16Y and up. **4153** 🍁

## GARDENING & LANDSCAPING

#### (FREE) PRUNING FOR HEALTH AND BEAUTY

**SUN, JAN 10 - SUN, JAN 17, 2:00 PM- 4:30 PM**

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, MeadWestvaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Learn the best way to manage overgrown shrubs and trees, along with pruning best

practices. This is a two-part (theory on day one, hands-on practicum on day two) is an introduction to all aspects of pruning. This is the prerequisite for the upcoming plant specific pruning classes. Reservations required and limited, call (937) 434-9005 or register online. **4332** 🍁

#### (FREE) LUNCH AND LEARN SERIES

Enjoy speakers who will give new meaning to the term "power gardening" during this popular brown bag lunch series. Reservations required and limited.

### BEST ANNUALS

**TUE, JAN 19, 11:30 AM- 1:00 PM**

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, MeadWestvaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Benefit from the horticulture knowledge, extensive experience and garden savvy of Pam Bennett, OSU Extension. Create impact, long season interest and less work using Best Annuals in the 2009 garden trials. Age: 18Y and up. **4137** 🍁

### THE FUNDAMENTALS

**WED, JAN 20, 1:00 PM- 3:30 PM**

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, MeadWestvaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Learn how to evaluate your site, decide where to place plants and visualize the change. Then, learn a few simple techniques to create a plan that reflects your ideas. Reservations required and limited, call (937) 434-9005 or register online. Age: 18Y and up. **4082** 🍁

### FOOL-PROOF PLANTS

**FRI, JAN 29, 11:30 AM- 1:00 PM**

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, MeadWestvaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Learn about plants that are spectacular and require minimal effort. We will introduce you to plants, from perennials to tough trees and shrubs, as well as those plants to avoid. Age: 18Y and up. **4134** 🍁

### INCREDIBLE EDIBLES

**TUE, FEB 16, 11:30 AM- 1:00 PM**

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, MeadWestvaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk.

You can grow more than tomatoes this year by learning the basics of creating a high-yield vegetable garden. Timing, techniques, pre-planting practices, and variety selection will be discussed. Age: 18Y and up. **4135** 🍁

### COMPOSTING

**FRI, FEB 26, 11:30 AM- 1:00 PM**

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, MeadWestvaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Learn about turning your yard waste into

your garden treasure. Investigate the different systems available and learn from our experience the pros and cons of each so that you can start effective composting at your home. Age: 18Y and up. **4136** 📞

### **(FREE) LIVING WITH MOTHER EARTH SERIES:**

#### **GETTING READY FOR SPRING**

**SAT, JAN 23, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM**

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Adult Classroom, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave. Join us as farmer Doug Christen talks about getting the best information from seed catalogs, materials for starting seeds, and general winter garden information. Registration is requested and walk-ins are welcome. Call (937) 277-6545 or register online. **4046** 📞

#### **AULLWOOD GARDEN IN WINTER**

**SAT, FEB 6, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM**

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Adult Classroom, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave. Join us for a winter visit to one of the most beautiful MetroParks. Even without flowers, Marie Aull's garden is a peaceful haven, ready to be enjoyed. Dress for the weather. We will meet at Wegerzyn and go in vans to Aullwood Garden. Registration is requested and walk-ins are welcome. Please call (937) 277-6545 or register online. **4047** 📞

### **SEED TRAYS AND SWEET POTATOES**

**SAT, FEB 27, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM**

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Adult Classroom, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave. CSA owner/farmer Doug Christen leads in starting three kinds of seeds and making cuttings for sweet potatoes. Get ready for gardening with an expert! Registration requested and walk-ins welcome. Please call (937) 277-6545 or register online. **4049** 📞

### **(FREE) GARDEN PRIMER SERIES:**

This series of gardening classes can be taken individually, but those who take all eight sessions will receive a completion certificate.

#### **DESIGN ESSENTIALS**

**WED, JAN 27, 1:00 PM- 3:30 PM**

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, MeadWestvaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk. What information is essential in creating a good garden design? Bring at least one picture of your garden to share for discussion. Reservations required and limited, call (937) 434-9005 or register online. Age: 18Y and up. **4083** 📞

### **SOIL HEALTH**

**WED, FEB 3, 1:00 PM- 3:30 PM**

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, MeadWestvaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk. Learn what plants need to flourish, how to create healthy soil, and how to develop a good foundation for your garden. Reservations required and limited, call (937) 434-9005 or register online. Age: 18Y and up. **4084** 📞

### **PLANTS FOR PENNIES**

**WED, FEB 10, 1:00 PM- 3:30 PM**

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, MeadWestvaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk. Vegetative propagation is an easy and economical way to grow more plants. Learn the how and when to divide, take cuttings and other techniques. Participants will also learn how to interpret seed catalogs correctly and growing plants successfully at home. Reservations required and limited, call (937) 434-9005 or register online. Age: 18Y and up. **4085** 📞

### **PLANTS FOR OHIO**

**WED, FEB 17, 1:00 PM- 3:30 PM**

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, MeadWestvaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk. Learn which plants are must haves for your landscape. We will vouch for the all stars, and demonstrate how to incorporate them into your garden for spectacular seasonal interest. Reservations required and limited, call (937) 434-9005 or register online. Age: 18Y and up. **4086** 📞

### **GARDEN MAINTENANCE & CARE**

**WED, FEB 24, 1:00 PM- 3:30 PM**

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, MeadWestvaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk. Learn some basic maintenance tips to keep your plants looking their best all season. Planting, maintenance, and basic pruning techniques will be presented. Reservations required and limited, call (937) 434-9005 or register online. Age: 18Y and up. **4087** 📞

### **PEST, PLANT, AND PROBLEM SOLVING**

**WED, MAR 3, 1:00 PM- 3:30 PM**

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, MeadWestvaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk. Friend, Foe or Nuisance is a fuzzy line gardeners must draw to help manage their garden tasks. This class will use organic methods to control garden pests, weeds, and diseases. Reservations required and limited, call (937) 434-9005 or register online. Age: 18Y and up. **4088** 📞

### **SIMPLE GARDEN LAYOUTS**

**WED, MAR 10, 1:00 PM- 3:30 PM**

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, MeadWestvaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk. We will create some simple designs for your home garden, using your garden photographs and favorite garden pictures from magazines or garden books Prerequisite: Participants must have attended the entire series, the Fall Garden Primer series, or be a current Master Gardener for this last session on 3/10. Reservations required and limited, call (937) 434-9005 or register online. Age: 18Y and up. **4089** 📞

### **(FREE) SEED SWAP**

**SAT, JAN 30, 9:30 AM-11:30 AM**

OFF SITE, Community Gardens, Contact Us for Map Bring saved vegetable and flower seeds to trade or give away. Please sort and separate seed types, with a minimum of 10-20 seeds per type (i.e. Brandywine tomato, marigold). People do not need to have seeds to participate; please bring non-hybridized seeds to trade if you do have them. Hosted by Aldersgate United Methodist Church Community Garden, 5464 Old Troy Pike, Huber Heights. Reservations requested, walk-ins welcome. For details, call (937) 277-6545. **4265** 📞

### **(FREE) GREENSCAPING YOUR LANDSCAPE**

**SUN, FEB 7, 2:00 PM- 5:00 PM**

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, MeadWestvaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk. Greenscaping is a way to improve your lawn and garden using environmentally friendly practices. Discover some simple guidelines and learn how to put nature to work in your yard. Reservations required and limited, call (937) 434-9005 or register online. Age: 18Y and up. **4165** 📞

### **(FREE) FAMILY GARDEN DESIGN**

**SAT, FEB 27, 1:00 PM- 3:00 PM**

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Auditorium Front (lower level), 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave. Using the square foot gardening design method and lots of great plant information your family will create the perfect design for growing tasty vegetables and/or attracting wildlife. Measure the space you would like to plant (it should be at least 5 square feet) and bring it along. All ages welcome. At least one adult per family required. Reservations required and limited. Call (937) 277-6545 or register online. **PTN** All ages. **4064** 📞



**(FREE) SHADE GARDENING****SUN, FEB 28, 2:00 PM- 5:00 PM**

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK,  
MeadWestvaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk.  
Learn the many aspects of shade and about  
the array of plants that can thrive in these  
areas. Add interest to your shade garden with  
texture, stature, and color by broadening your  
gardening palette. Reservations required and  
limited, call (937) 434-9005 or register online.  
Age: 18Y and up. **4164** 📞

**YOUR BEST VEGETABLE  
GARDENING SERIES****DEADLINE: TUE, MAR 2**

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Education  
Center Classroom, 4790 Frytown Rd.  
Sessions include composting and soils,  
planning, planting, pests and preserving your  
harvest. Each includes a lecture and hands-on  
activity. Participants will provide gardening tips  
for the final session. A field trip and work days  
are included. Fee: \$20 for manual, handouts  
and activity materials. Participants are  
requested to complete 25 hours of volunteer  
service to Five Rivers MetroParks. **Contact**  
**Kevin Kepler before March 2 at**  
**(937) 275-7275 ext. 1212 to register and**  
**schedule an interview.**

**15TH MIAMI VALLEY GARDENING  
CONFERENCE****SAT, MAR 6, 7:30 AM- 4:30 PM**

OFF SITE, Sinclair Community College, 444 West  
Third St., Dayton  
Keynote speaker Roger Swain, of PBS  
"Victory Garden," presents two talks,  
"Planting Villages: How Gardens Make Good  
Neighbors" and "Returning Fruit to the  
American Yard." We'll have six additional  
garden experts, beginning and advanced  
tracks and two hands-on presentations.  
Lunch, breaks, and parking are included in the  
registration fee. **Registration is required and**  
**due February 19.** Please call (937) 277-6545  
for information or register online. Fees: \$50  
**4058** 📞

**GREEN LIVING****(FREE) ENVIRONMENTAL  
FILM SERIES:**

Join us for a discussion after each film. Free  
popcorn and refreshments will be provided.

**TRANSFORMING ENERGY****WED, JAN 6, 7:00 PM- 9:00 PM**

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK,  
MeadWestvaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk.  
Transforming Energy is a documentary about

the hope of Alternative Energy as a solution  
to the problems of Global Warming and the  
end of cheap oil and gas. Please call (937)  
434-9005 or register online. **4034** 📞

**ADDICTED TO PLASTIC****WED, FEB 3, 7:00 PM- 9:00 PM**

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK,  
MeadWestvaco Theatre, 6733 Springboro Pk.  
Addicted To Plastic is a global journey to  
investigate what we really know about the  
material of a thousand uses and why there's  
so darn much of it. On the way we discover  
a toxic legacy, and the men and women  
dedicated to cleaning it up. Reservations  
are requested and walk-ins are welcome.  
Please call (937) 434-9005 or register  
online. **4035** 📞

**(FREE) LIVING WITH MOTHER  
EARTH SERIES:****BEYOND LIGHT BULBS****SAT, JAN 9, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM**

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Adult  
Classroom, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave.  
Representatives from DP&L were be here to  
talk about taking energy saving to the next  
level. Registration requested, walk-ins  
welcome. Please call (937) 277-6545 or  
register online. **4044** 📞

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRESS****SAT, JAN 16, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM**

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Adult  
Classroom, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave.  
Join us as EPA representatives talk about  
the progress we've made in the environment  
and goals we have yet to achieve.  
Registration requested, walk-ins welcome.  
Call 277-6545 or register online. **4045** 📞

**EATING SEASONALLY, EATING  
LOCALLY****SAT, FEB 20, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM**

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Adult  
Classroom, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave.  
Join us as we go to the National City 2nd  
Street Market for a great cooking program,  
using food from the vendors. A great time  
for all! We'll meet at Wegerzyn and go in  
vans to the Market. Registrations are  
required and limited. Please call  
(923) 277-6545 or register online. **4048** 📞

**(FREE) WORM CIRCUS AT  
WEGERZYN****SAT, JAN 30, 10:00 AM-11:30 AM**

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK,  
Auditorium, Lower Level, 1301 East Siebenthaler  
Ave.

**PASSPORT TO NATURE**

This popular program gives incentives for families  
to complete eight visits to our designated passport  
programs. If you are new to this program, here's  
how it works: Visit MetroParks facilities,  
participate in designated passport programs and  
get your passport stamped. When eight of the  
boxes are stamped, fill in the requested  
information and mail your passport to Five  
Rivers MetroParks. Every child who completes a  
passport with eight stamps will become an official  
MetroParks Nature Traveler and will receive a  
special nature traveler gift along with recognition  
in this MetroParks publication. Children  
completing additional passports will receive  
special opportunities to explore MetroParks,

Look for **PTN** in the program listing to see if  
it qualifies as a Passport to Nature program!  
For more information or directions to program  
sites, call **275-PARK** or visit us on the web at  
**METROPARKS.ORG.**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE RECENT  
METROPARKS NATURE TRAVELERS!****WINTER 2009****Nathan Gonsalves****Aidan Beaty****Vanessa Layne-Hall****Calyssa Hall****Lewis Tucker****Roxanne Slone****Isabel Slone****Lauren Hill****Madison Lanham**

Families can enjoy learning about worms  
and composting in this fun station-based  
program. We'll learn first-hand about how  
worms live and how they can help us at  
home and in the garden. Program  
participants will also be entered in a drawing  
to win a worm bin. Reservations requested,  
walk-ins welcome. Call (937) 277-6545 or  
register online. **PTN 4063** 📞

**HERITAGE & HISTORY****(FREE) CHRISTMAS ON THE FARM****SUN, DEC 6, 12:00 PM- 5:00 PM**

CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Farm, 7891 E.  
Shull Rd.

String cranberries and popcorn for the  
farm-grown cedar tree just like families did a  
century ago. Enjoy fresh baked  
gingerbread and sample chestnuts hot  
from the fireplace. Play some period parlor  
games. At our Visitor Center you can make  
a Victorian Christmas decoration to take  
home. Enjoy a bobsled ride, weather  
permitting. **4052**

**(FREE) EVENING CHRISTMAS LANTERN AND LUMINARY TOUR****SAT, DEC 12, 6:00 PM- 9:00 PM**

CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Farm, 7891 E. Shull Rd.

A Victorian Christmas will be brought to life for this evening lantern tour. Tour various candle-lit stops around the farm while merrily singing carols. Join a period Christmas party and enjoy a hot cup of wassail while visiting the farmhouse. **4053**

**(FREE) ICE HARVESTING****SUN, JAN 17, 12:00 PM- 5:00 PM**

CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Farm, 7891 E. Shull Rd.

Watch the farm hands use ice saws, pike poles and tongs to cut blocks of ice from the farm pond and load them onto the bobsled for storage in the farm's ice house. Ice can then be used year-round to make ice cream, and keep certain foods cool. Depending on the weather, date may change. Call (937) 278-2609 for more information. **4062**

**(FREE) TRADITIONAL BUTCHERING****SAT, FEB 6 - SUN, FEB 7, 12:00 PM- 3:00 PM**

CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Farm, 7891 E. Shull Rd.

Watch the age-old activity of processing the meat that was the staple in the 19th century farmer's diet. On Saturday, the hog is scraped, cleaned and cooled. On Sunday, the meat is prepared into the various cuts such as ribs, roasts, and hams. Also, watch as meat is then salted, cured and also made into sausage. Call (937) 278-2609 for details. **4061**

**HOMES & HOBBIES****(FREE) BEGINNER CROCHET****SAT, DEC 5, 1:00 PM- 3:30 PM** 4131**SAT, JAN 9, 1:00 PM- 3:30 PM** 4257**SAT, FEB 6, 1:00 PM- 3:30 PM** 4258

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Center, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Learn the terms and simple steps to crochet a project. You will learn to 'chain' to make something unique. Please bring a US H-8 crochet hook and worsted yarn. Program begins at 1:00 PM. Meet at Education Building. Reservations required and limited, call (937) 276-7062. Age: 16Y and up.

**(FREE) HERB PROGRAM: HERBAL TEA PARTY****SAT, DEC 5, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM**

CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Visitor Center Meeting Room, 7800 E. Shull Rd.

Join fellow herbies for a cup of tea and fun. Bring a snack for 4-6 people and also bring an unwrapped gift for a child. **4055**

**(FREE) HOLIDAY CRAFTS ON THE FARM****SAT, DEC 12, 1:00 PM- 3:30 PM**

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Education Center Classroom, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Make centerpieces using grains and other natural materials found on the farm. Centerpiece base provided. Please bring your own pliers, wire cutters and artificial floral items in your choice of color. Reservations required and limited, call (937) 276-7062. Age: 18Y and up. **4132**

**(FREE) JELLIES AND JAMS FOR KIDS****SAT, JAN 16, 1:00 PM- 3:30 PM**

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Education Center Classroom, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Make some freezer jam to take home and share. You will learn the easy steps to make your own jam from fresh or frozen fruits. Reservations required and limited, call (937) 276-7062. Age: 3Y and up. **4151**

**(FREE) HOBBY MAPLE SYRUP PRODUCTION****SAT, JAN 30, 12:30 PM- 4:00 PM**

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Education Center Classroom, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Learn to produce your own syrup. Learn to select trees, equipment, tapping procedures, collection, storage and finishing the sap. Participants will have an opportunity to make their own "taps" and locate suitable trees. Practice your sugaring skills during our daily sap harvest the next two months, culminating with "It's Maple Syrup Time" in February when we produce maple syrup. Reservations required and limited, call (937) 276-7062. Age: 16Y and up. **4167**

**(FREE) NATURE'S SWEETENERS****SAT, FEB 27, 1:00 PM- 4:00 PM**

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Education Center Classroom, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Learn about honey, sorghum, maple syrup, sugar cane, and corn syrup. Help make some quick bread to sample the sweeteners. Reservations required and limited, call (937) 276-7062. Age: 3Y - 16Y. **4157** 🍯

**NATURE****(FREE) TUESDAY MORNING ADULT WALK SERIES**

Join us every Tuesday morning for a nature walk in the park. Bring binoculars for wildlife viewing. For more information call (937) 278-2623 Monday through Friday. No reservations are required.

**TUE, DEC 1, 9:00 AM-10:30 PM** 4009**TUE, DEC 8, 9:00 AM-10:30 PM** 4010**TUE, DEC 15, 9:00 AM-10:30 PM** 4011**TUE, DEC 22, 9:00 AM-10:30 PM** 4012**TUE, DEC 29, 9:00 AM-10:30 PM** 4013

CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Redwing Shelter/Parking Lot, 7821 E. Shull Rd.

**TUE, JAN 5, 9:00 AM-10:30 PM** 4014**TUE, JAN 12, 9:00 AM-10:30 PM** 4015**TUE, JAN 19, 9:00 AM-10:30 PM** 4016**TUE, JAN 26, 9:00 AM-10:30 PM** 4017

ENGLEWOOD METROPARK, Patty Shelter/East Park, 4361 National Road

**TUE, FEB 2, 9:00 AM-10:30 PM** 4018**TUE, FEB 9, 9:00 AM-10:30 PM** 4019**TUE, FEB 16, 9:00 AM-10:30 PM** 4020**TUE, FEB 23, 9:00 AM-10:30 PM** 4021

EASTWOOD METROPARK, First Parking Lot, 1385 Harshman Rd.

**(FREE) BACKPACKING BABIES: WINTER BEGINNINGS****THU, DEC 3, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM**

SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Parking Lot, 4178 Conference Rd.

Treat your baby to some fresh air as we travel through the park searching for signs of winter. A baby backpack or carrier is required for this program, as trails are not stroller friendly. Weather Permitting: Call (937) 277-4178. Age: 1M - 2Y. **4092**



photo by Mark Branham







Five Rivers MetroParks and Wright State University present

# the ADVENTURE SUMMIT

## MARCH 5 - 6

Wright State University's Student Union



The Adventure Summit is an event celebrating the spirit of outdoor adventure by showcasing the vibrant lifestyle and culture of human-powered endeavors through inspiration, education and experience.

The Adventure Summit is the area's premiere outdoor adventure exposition that will focus attention on Dayton as the region's emerging adventure capital of the Midwest, serving the adventure market by hosting skill clinics and hands-on trainings from some of the world's leading experts to showcasing regional places to play and locals who have

engaged in featured activities around the world.

The event is free and open to outdoor enthusiasts of all ages and interest levels. The Adventure Summit is committed to providing something for everyone from the armchair adventurer to the hard core enthusiast.



## Greg LeMond

Aside from being three-time Tour de France winner, LeMond also claims distinction in the Cycling Hall of Fame, as a two-time ABC Sports Athlete of the Year and for being an accomplished entrepreneur.



[WWW.THEADVENTURESUMMIT.COM](http://WWW.THEADVENTURESUMMIT.COM)



**(FREE) PROJECT FEEDER WATCH****FRI, DEC 4, 12:30 PM- 2:30 PM** 4178**SAT, DEC 5, 10:30 AM-12:30 PM** 4179**WED, DEC 16, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM** 4198**FRI, DEC 18, 12:30 PM- 2:30 PM** 4180**SAT, DEC 19, 10:30 AM-12:30 PM** 4181**SAT, JAN 2, 10:30 AM-12:30 PM** 4183**FRI, JAN 15, 12:30 PM- 2:30 PM** 4184**SAT, JAN 16, 10:30 AM-12:30 PM** 4185**FRI, JAN 29, 12:30 PM- 2:30 PM** 4186**SAT, JAN 30, 10:30 AM-12:30 PM** 4187**FRI, FEB 12, 12:30 PM- 2:30 PM** 4188**SAT, FEB 13, 10:30 AM-12:30 PM** 4189**FRI, FEB 26, 12:30 PM- 2:30 PM** 4190**SAT, FEB 27, 10:30 AM-12:30 PM** 4191GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Nature Center,  
6910 Boomershine Rd.

Enjoy our Window on Wildlife from the warmth of indoors. Help count the visitors to our bird feeders for a citizen's science report to be sent to Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. Bird watchers of all skill levels are welcome. Meet at the Window on Wildlife in the Nature Center. Weather permitting. Call (937) 855-7717.

**(FREE) WINTER BIRD SEARCH****SAT, DEC 5, 9:00 AM-10:30 AM**HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Paw Paw Shelter,  
2800 Patterson Blvd.

Search for birds that call Ohio their tropical paradise. Bring binoculars if you have them; a limited supply will be available.

Call (937) 277-4178 for details. **4096** 📞**(FREE) BARE TREE I.D.****SAT, DEC 5, 1:00 PM- 2:30 PM**ENGLEWOOD METROPARK, West Park Parking  
Lot, 100 East National Rd.

With all the leaves gone tree identification is extra challenging in the winter months. Come learn a few fun tricks to recognize some of our common species in winter on this short hike. No reservations required. For more information call (937) 278-2623 Monday - Friday. **4025**

**(FREE) PRAIRIE GAMES****SAT, DEC 5, 1:00 PM- 2:30 PM**POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Fishing Ponds  
Parking Lot, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Besides the absence of insects, discover why prairies are one of the best places to play in winter. Bring the family and play nature games in this tall grass habitat! Call (937) 277-4178 for details. **PTN 4101** 📞

**(FREE) STAR GAZE CRAZE****SAT, DEC 5, 6:00 PM- 7:30 PM**SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Parking Lot, 4178  
Conference Rd.

See nebulae, star clusters, and galaxies with your own eyes, with high-powered telescopes and guides from the Miami Valley Astronomical Society. We will also share constellation and nature stories around a campfire. Call (937) 277-4178 for details. **PTN 4107** 📞

**(FREE) BARRED OWL PROWL****SAT, DEC 5, 9:00 PM-10:30 PM**SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Parking Lot, 4178  
Conference Rd.

Venture into the woods and search for this vocal predator, as a naturalist attempts to lure in an owl for an up-close experience. Call (937) 277-4178 for details. **PTN 4103** 📞

**(FREE) LITTLE ELF WORKSHOP****SUN, DEC 6, 1:00 PM- 4:00 PM**GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Nature Center,  
6910 Boomershine Rd.

Attention all little crafters, bring a grown-up and ring in the holidays with crafts inspired from nature. Stop by the Nature Center between 1 PM and 3:30 PM and there will be several projects you can create such as a pine cone tree or wreath or natural collage. Afterwards, everyone will can enjoy the winter views from our boardwalk. Call (937) 855-7717 for more information. **PTN 4072** 📞

**(FREE) TIKE HIKE: WINTER MYSTERIES****TUE, DEC 8, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM**HILLS & DALES METROPARK, Paw Paw Shelter,  
2800 Patterson Blvd.

Bundle your little one up for a winter adventure through the park, where we will search for nature's mysteries of survival during this quiet season. Call (937) 277-4178 for details. **PTN** Age: 2Y - 5Y. **4119**

**(FREE) ADULT NATURE WALK****THU, DEC 10, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM** 4108**THU, JAN 14, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM** 4109**THU, FEB 11, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM** 4110SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Parking Lot, 4178  
Conference Rd.

Explore nature while meeting new friends on this slow-paced journey. Bring binoculars if you have them; a limited supply will be available. Call (937) 277-4178 for details.

**(FREE) PARENT & PRESCHOOLER:****MERRY MISTLETOE****THU, DEC 10, 10:00 AM-11:30 AM**COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Fifth Third  
Conference Room, 6733 Springboro Pk.

We'll have fun discovering the secrets of this seasonal plant. Make a special card to keep or send. Registrants may arrive between 10:00 and 10:30 AM Call (937) 434-9005 Age: 3Y - 6Y. **4239** 📞

**(FREE) HOME SCHOOLER:****ANIMAL TRACKING & BEHAVIOR****FRI, DEC 11, 1:00 PM- 2:30 PM**SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Parking Lot, 4178  
Conference Rd.

Turn your homeschooler into an animal tracker! We will first study the various tracks and signs left by these creatures. Then we will hike through the park in search of clues to the lives these animals experience in winter. Meet at parking lot. Reservations required and limited, call (937) 277-4178 or register online. **PTN** Grade: 1 - 3. **4124** 📞

**(FREE) TIKE HIKE: ANIMAL TRACKING****FRI, DEC 11, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM**SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Parking Lot, 4178  
Conference Rd.

Bring your preschooler out for a fun-filled animal tracking experience! We will explore the science and technique behind animal tracks, as well as examine track molds, scat replicas, and mammal furs. Most of the program will be a hike looking for tracks in the wild. Meet at parking lot. Call (937) 277-4178 for details.

**PTN** Age: 2Y - 5Y. **4118****(FREE) EUREKA LAB! EVERGREENS****SAT, DEC 12, 1:00 PM- 3:00 PM**COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Kettering  
Learning Lab, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Discover that there is much more to evergreens than just pines and spruces during today's program. Unravel the mystery of how these plants stay green all year and more. Participants can drop in anytime between 1 and 2:30 PM and must be accompanied by an adult. Check the web site or call (937) 434-9005. Age: 6Y - 12Y.

**3957** 📞

**(FREE) SILENT NIGHT  
LUMINARY WALK****SAT, DEC 12, 7:00 PM- 9:00 PM**

GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Nature Center, 6910 Boomershine Rd.

Enjoy this traditional peaceful luminary lit trail for an evening stroll with friends. Follow it up with some live seasonal music by artist Eric Loy along with holiday snacks and friendship tea by the wood stove in the nature center. You may begin the self-guided walk from 7 - 8:30 PM Meet at the Nature Center. Weather Permitting: Call (937) 855-7717. **3952**

**(FREE) STROLLER STUDIES: FEED  
THE BIRDS****TUE, DEC 15, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM**

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Fifth Third Conference Room, 6733 Springboro Pk.

We'll have fun discovering new things about birds and make a special bird to take home. There will be plenty of time to play with nature friends. Registration required. Call (937) 434-9005 Age: 1M - 3Y. **4234** 📞

**(FREE) TIKE HIKE: DISCOVER  
NATURE****WED, DEC 16, 1:00 PM- 2:00 PM**

TAYLORSVILLE METROPARK, CCC Shelter, 2101 U.S. 40

Discover the treasures of nature with your little ones! Join us for a short walk as we explore the great outdoors. Hot chocolate will be available at the end of the walk. Walk will be held in all weather unless conditions are hazardous. Call (937) 278-2623 Monday through Friday for more information.

**PTN** Age: 2Y - 5Y. **4117****(FREE) MORNING BIRD WALK****WED, DEC 16, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM** <sup>4198</sup>**WED, JAN 20, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM** <sup>4200</sup>**SAT, FEB 13, 10:00 AM-11:30 AM** <sup>4095</sup>**WED, FEB 17, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM** <sup>4199</sup>

GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Nature Center, 6910 Boomershine Rd.

Germantown MetroPark has been designated as an Important Birding Area. Search a variety of habitats and discover why this park is such a great place for birds. Bring binoculars if you have them; there is a limited supply to borrow. Beginners and experienced bird watchers welcome. Reservations requested, call (937) 855-7717, or register online.

**(FREE) HOME SCHOOLER:  
SURVIVING THE COLD****TUE, DEC 22, 1:30 PM- 3:00 PM**

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Possum Creek Education Center, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Learn how plants, animals and insects cope with and survive the cold. Visit the barn to see how farm animals must adapt. Reservations required and limited, call (937) 276-7062. **PTN** Grade: 1 - 3. **4129**

**(FREE) BACKPACKING BABIES:  
NATURE IN WINTER****THU, JAN 7, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM**

SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Parking Lot, 4178 Conference Rd.

Take a walk with a naturalist and look for signs that life goes on, even during winter! A baby backpack or carrier is required for this program as trails are not stroller friendly. Weather permitting: Call (937) 277-4178. Age: 1M - 2Y. **4093**

**(FREE) HOOTING AND HOWLING  
FRI, JAN 8, 5:30 PM- 7:00 PM**

TAYLORSVILLE METROPARK, Tadmor Parking Lot, 2005 US Route 40

When the lights go out, the woods come alive. Join us on this search for nocturnal critters as we walk along the bike path. No reservations required. For more information call (937) 278- 2623 Monday-Friday.

**PTN** **4027****(FREE) PARENT & PRESCHOOLER:  
WHAT GROWS IN A DESERT?****THU, JAN 14, 10:00 AM-11:30 AM**

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Fifth Third Conference Room, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Can anything grow in such a dry place? Come find out what makes its home in a desert. Registrants may arrive between 10:00 and 10:30 AM Call (937) 434-9005 Age: 3Y - 6Y. **4238** 📞

**(FREE) HOME SCHOOLER: BASIC  
MAMMOLOGY****FRI, JAN 15, 1:00 PM- 2:30 PM**

SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Parking Lot, 4178 Conference Rd.

Beaver, Coyote, Deer, and Skunk are just a few mammals that call Dayton home. Come explore the lives of mammals, learn about their behavior, study their skulls and pelts, then hike in search of their signs. Meet at parking lot. Reservations required and limited, call (937) 277-4178 or register online.

**PTN** Grade: 1 - 3. **4126** 📞**(FREE) BIRDING WORKSHOP:  
OWLS****SAT, JAN 16, 6:00 PM- 9:00 PM**

GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Nature Center Classroom, 6910 Boomershine Rd.

Explore Ohio's eight owls with a relaxing one hour presentation of their courtship rituals, feeding behaviors, identification characteristics, songs, and their interactions with people. We will then take a slow-paced night hike into the forest in search of owls. Each participant will receive an ODNR field guide to Ohio Owls and a CD of their sounds. Meet at nature center. Reservations required and limited, call (937) 277-4178 or register online. Age: 14Y and up. **4112** 📞

**(FREE) MORNING BIRD SEARCH****SAT, JAN 16, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM**

WESLEYAN METROPARK, Pavilion Shelter, 1441 Wesleyan Rd.

Explore Wesleyan's winter birds, including juncos, various woodpeckers, and maybe a brown creeper! Bring binoculars if you have them. Call (937) 277-4178 for more information. **PTN** **4215**

**(FREE) WINTER TREE ID  
WORKSHOP (14+)****SAT, JAN 16, 1:00 PM- 4:00 PM**

HILLS &amp; DALES METROPARK, Paw Paw Shelter, 2800 Patterson Blvd.

Learn how to identify more than 30 native trees by their twig, bark, and other winter characteristics. Discover pioneer, wildlife and commercial uses for each tree while sharing stories of folklore. Each participant will receive a winter tree identification notebook, with everything needed to get started identifying trees. Reservations required and limited, call (937) 277-4178 or register online. Age: 14Y and up. **4111** 📞

**(FREE) MAMMALS KIT DISPLAY  
AND DROP-BY ACTIVITY****SUN, JAN 17, 1:00 PM- 3:00 PM**

GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Nature Center, 6910 Boomershine Rd.

Drop by the center to see the loaner Mammal Kit on display featuring materials such as furs, scat replicas, and skulls to identify mammals commonly found in Ohio. Teachers can use the kit to make plaster casts of mammal tracks to send home with students. Today's drop by kit activity for children will feature stencils tracks. Call (937) 855-7717 for more information. **4230**



**(FREE) TIKE HIKE: ANIMAL HOMES****WED, JAN 20, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM**

HILLS &amp; DALES METROPARK, Paw Paw Shelter, 2800 Patterson Blvd.

Search for where the animals are spending the winter, and explore how some are keeping warm on this discovery hike. Call (937) 277-4178 for details. **PTN** Age: 2Y - 5Y. **4120**

**(FREE) ALPHABET SAFARI FOR TWOS SERIES:**

Bring your 2-year-old and explore the fun world of letters with nature-inspired activities. You'll pick up your passport at the door and travel the stations. Attend at least two Alphabet Safaris and receive a patch. Reservations required. Call (937) 434-9005.

**LETTERS A-F****WED, JAN 20, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM**

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Fifth Third Conference Room, 6733 Springboro Pk.

The alphabet adventure begins. Caregivers and 2-year-olds will have fun and surprises as they explore the world of letters. Nature-inspired activities at each station. **4174** 🍷

**LETTERS G-L****WED, FEB 17, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM**

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Education Center, 6733 Springboro Pk.

The alphabet adventure continues. Caregivers and 2-year-olds will have fun and surprises as they explore the world of letters. Nature-inspired activities at each station. **4175** 🍷

**(FREE) TIKE HIKE: DISCOVER NATURE****WED, JAN 20, 1:00 PM- 2:00 PM**

CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Redwing Shelter/Parking Lot, 7821 E. Shull Rd.

Discover the treasures of nature with your little ones! Join us for a short walk as we explore the great outdoors. Hot chocolate will be available at the end of the walk. Walk will be held in all weather unless conditions are hazardous. Call (937) 278-2623 Monday through Friday for more information.

**PTN** Age: 2Y - 5Y. **4299****(FREE) WOODPECKER RAMBLE****SUN, JAN 24, 2:00 PM- 3:30 PM**

ENGLEWOOD METROPARK, Patty Shelter/East Park, 4361 National Road

Bare trunks and branches make this the best time of year to watch these fascinating birds. We'll discuss woodpecker ecology as we search for all 5 species common to this area, including Ohio's largest, the pileated. No reservations required. For more information call (937) 278-2623 Monday - Friday. **PTN** **4028**

**(FREE) STROLLER STUDIES: SEED SORT****TUE, JAN 26, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM**

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Fifth Third Conference Room, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Seeds can look just as special as the plants they grow. We'll take a closer look at seeds. There will also be time to play with nature friends. Registration required. Call (937) 434-9005 Age: 1M - 3Y. **4235** 🍷

**(FREE) CAFE SCI 2010 SEASON KICK-OFF****THU, JAN 28, 7:00 PM- 9:00 PM**

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Fifth Third Conference Room, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Make 2010 your year to discover science in a new way and join us at the Cafe! We'll enjoy a presentation from a local science expert with open discussion following the topic introduction. Light refreshments provided. Reservations requested; walk-ins welcome. Please RSVP by 5 PM on Tuesday, January 20 for name tags. Call (937) 275-5059. Age: 14Y and up. **4341** 🍷

**(FREE) AMERICA'S WONDERLANDS SERIES:**

Enjoy shade-grown coffee or other beverages and discussion at the end of the program. Call (937) 855-7717 for more information.

**CANYONS OF THE SOUTHWEST****SAT, JAN 30, 1:30 PM- 3:00 PM**

GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Nature Center Classroom, 6910 Boomershire Rd.

"Canyons of the Southwest" will start at the lesser known North Rim of the Grand Canyon. Journey to the bottom of the canyon to the much less crowded and cooler North Rim and then onto nearby Zion and Bryce Canyon National Parks. **4205**

**THE MANY FACES OF COLORADO****SAT, FEB 13, 1:30 PM- 3:00 PM**

GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Nature Center Classroom, 6910 Boomershire Rd.

Our second America's Wonderlands presentation, "The Many Faces of Colorado," will begin with Rocky Mountain National Park, this presentation will take you to the canyon beauty of Colorado National Monument, to Mesa Verde National Park, the Black Canyon of the Gunnison and then on to the newest National Park, Great Sand Dunes. **4225**

**CALIFORNIA, COAST TO THE MOUNTAINS****SAT, FEB 27, 1:30 PM- 3:00 PM**

GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Nature Center Classroom, 6910 Boomershire Rd.

"California, From the Coast to the Mountains" will begin with a trip to the giant trees of Muir Woods followed by a visit to Alcatraz Island. Enjoy the stunning beauty of Yosemite, and onto the lesser known beauty of Kings Canyon and Sequoia National Parks. **4227**

**HAWK & OWL FIELD TRIP****SAT, JAN 30, 8:00 AM- 8:00 PM**

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Farm, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Search for saw-whet owls, rough-legged hawks, bald eagles, and other rare winter birds at Ohio's winter birding hot spot, Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area, near Kenton, Ohio. This nearly 9000-acre bird haven is an excellent place to study birds of prey. Once there, we will travel throughout the area hitting various habitats, birding from the vans, and taking short hikes. Weather permitting. Reservations required and limited; Call (937) 277-4178 or register online. Age: 14Y and up. Fees: \$15 **4113** 🍷

**(FREE) OHIO FOSSILS KIT DISPLAY AND DROP-BY ACTIVITY****SUN, JAN 31, 1:00 PM- 3:00 PM**

GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Nature Center, 6910 Boomershire Rd.

Drop by the center to see the loaner Ohio Fossils Kit featuring activities about the animals and plants that lived in the past. Students use the kit to identify southwestern Ohio fossils and learn about the geological timeline. They can also make their own replicas of fossils using molds and plaster to take with them. Today's drop-by kit activity for children will feature painting plaster fossil casts. Call (937) 855-7717 for more information. **4231**

**(FREE) BACKPACKING BABIES: WINTER SOUNDS****THU, FEB 4, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM**

SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Parking Lot, 4178 Conference Rd.

Take a walk with a naturalist and let your baby listen to the sounds of winter. A baby backpack or carrier is required for this program as trails are not stroller friendly. Weather permitting: Call (937) 277-4178. Age: 1M - 2Y. **4094**

**(FREE) SCALES AND FEATHERS****SUN, FEB 7, 2:00 PM- 3:30 PM**

CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Visitor Center Meeting Room, 7800 E. Shull Rd.

Come take a close look at some wild animals found in Ohio. What do they like to eat and where do they live? No reservations required. Call (937) 278-2623 for more information Monday- Friday. **PTN 4029**

**(FREE) TIKE HIKE: ANIMAL TRACKING****TUE, FEB 9, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM**

HILLS &amp; DALES METROPARK, Paw Paw Shelter, 2800 Patterson Blvd.

Bring your preschooler out for a fun-filled animal tracking experience! We will explore the science and technique behind animal tracks, as well as examine track molds, scat replicas, and mammal furs. Most of the program will be a hike looking for tracks in the wild. Meet at parking lot. Call (937) 277-4178 for details.

**PTN** Age: 2Y - 5Y. **4122****(FREE) PARENT & PRESCHOOLER: PLANTS, THE UNTOLD STORY****THU, FEB 11, 10:00 AM-11:30 AM**

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Fifth Third Conference Room, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Today we'll discover the hidden stories found in plants. Registrants may arrive between 10:00 AM to 10:30 AM.

Call (937) 434-9005 to register or for more information. Age: 3Y - 6Y. **4237**

**(FREE) TIKE HIKE: DISCOVER NATURE****WED, FEB 10, 1:00 PM- 2:00 PM**

HUFFMAN METROPARK, Redtail Shelter/ Parking Lot, 4439 Lower Valley Pk.

Discover the treasures of nature with your little ones! Join us for a short walk as we explore the great outdoors. Hot chocolate will be available at the end of the walk. Walk will be held in all weather unless conditions are hazardous. Call (937) 278-2623 Monday through Friday for more information.

**PTN** Age: 2Y - 5Y. **4300****(FREE) HOME SCHOOLER: DENDROLOGY****THU, FEB 11, 1:00 PM- 4:00 PM**

SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Parking Lot, 4178 Conference Rd.

Join us for a journey through the forest and learn how to identify common trees found in MetroParks. A discussion on terminology,

forest ecology, and identification methods will be followed by a field study in the forest, where we will examine trees in a natural setting, and learn about it's uses. Reservations required and limited, call (937) 277-4178 or register online.

**PTN** Grade: 4 - 6. **4125****(FREE) ANIMAL TRACKING WORKSHOP****SAT, FEB 13, 1:00 PM- 3:00 PM**

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Education Center Classroom, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Discover the art and science of animal tracking as we learn how to identify animal tracks and scat. We will explore a scat collection, as well as make track plaster casts. The 45 minute workshop will be followed by a field study in the park. Dress warmly. Reservations required and limited; call (937) 277-4178 or register online.

Age: 14Y and up. **4114****(FREE) WINTER NATURE EXCURSION****SAT, FEB 13, 4:00 PM- 5:00 PM**

WESLEYAN METROPARK, Pavilion Shelter, 1441 Wesleyan Rd.

Come explore mammals in this hidden gem of Dayton! We will explore mammal furs, then go on a search for their tracks and other signs. Call (937) 277-4178 for more information. **PTN 4214**

**(FREE) BEAVER FEVER****SAT, FEB 13, 6:00 PM- 7:00 PM**

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Fishing Ponds Parking Lot, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Learn the life history of the largest rodent in North America while searching for them and the clues they leave behind. Call (937) 277-4178 for details. **PTN 4100**

**(FREE) COYOTE SEARCH****SAT, FEB 13, 8:00 PM-10:00 PM**

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Argonne Forest Parking Lot, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Learn more about our park's top dog and discover what enables them to be so highly adaptable, allowing them to survive in our developed world. We will then journey into the night and use sounds to locate them. Reservations required and limited; call (937) 277-4178 or register online. Age: 12Y and up. **4098**

**(FREE) BIRDS KIT DISPLAY AND DROP BY ACTIVITY****SUN, FEB 14, 1:00 PM- 3:00 PM**

GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Nature Center, 6910 Boomershire Rd.

Drop by the center to see the loaner Birds Kit featuring activities about the lives of birds. Students discover different birds that call Ohio home by examining feather specimens, field guides and bird song CD's, as well as books on bird behavior, and drawing birds. Today's drop by kit activity for children will feature bird bills and how birds use them. Call (937) 855-7717 for more information. **4232**

**(FREE) HOME SCHOOLER: TAPPING THE MAPLE TREE****THU, FEB 18, 1:00 PM- 3:00 PM**

GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Nature Center Classroom, 6910 Boomershire Rd.

Learn how maple trees are selected and tapped to gather the sap for processing into syrup. Students will review basic tree identification skills, maple tree characteristics, and how maple syrup can be made in your home. Some maple-tapping equipment will be available for a fee after the program. Weather permitting. Reservations required and limited, call (937) 855-7717 or register online.

**PTN** Grade: 1 - 4. **4202****(FREE) TIKE HIKE: WINTER MYSTERIES****THU, FEB 18, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM**

SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Parking Lot, 4178 Conference Rd.

Bundle your little one up for a winter adventure through the park, where we will search for nature's mysteries of survival during this quiet season. Call (937) 277-4178 for details. **PTN** Age: 2Y - 5Y. **4121**

**(FREE) EUREKA LAB! FOCUS ON FOSSILS****SAT, FEB 20, 1:00 PM- 3:00 PM**

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Kettering Learning Lab, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Join us for today's lab and discover more about the Arboretum's prehistoric past. We'll explore fossils from our fossil ravine of organisms alive during the Ordovician time period and make a few "fossils" of our own. Participants can drop-in any time between 1 and 2:30pm and must be accompanied by an adult. Call (937) 434-9005 or register online. **4301**





photo by RA Makley



# CHRISTMAS ON THE FARM

## NOON TO 5PM, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

**Carriage Hill MetroPark, 7891 E. Shull Road, Huber Heights**

Celebrate the holidays just like families did in the 1880s. String cranberries and popcorn for the farm-grown cedar tree just like families did a century ago. Enjoy fresh baked gingerbread and sample chestnuts hot from the fireplace. Play some period parlor games. At our Visitor Center you can make a Victorian Christmas decoration to take home. Enjoy a bobsled ride, weather permitting.

### JOIN US FOR MORE SPECIAL WINTER EVENTS: EVENING CHRISTMAS LANTERN AND LUMINARY TOUR

**6-9PM SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12**

A Victorian Christmas will be brought to life for this evening lantern tour. Tour various candle-lit stops around the farm while merrily singing carols. Join a period Christmas party and enjoy a hot cup of wassail while visiting the farmhouse for this free event.

### ICE HARVESTING

**NOON TO 5PM SUNDAY, JANUARY 17**

Watch the farm hands use ice saws, pike poles and tongs to cut blocks of ice from the farm pond and load them onto the bobsled for storage in the farm's ice house. Ice can then be used year-round to make ice cream and keep certain foods cool. Depending on the weather, date may change. Call (937) 278-2609 for more information regarding this free event.





Whether you struggle keeping houseplants alive or just want to further hone your gardening skills, the variety of horticultural programs Five Rivers MetroParks' education staff offer will help you get your thumbs to their desired green-ness!

## GARDEN PRIMER SERIES

This series is an introduction to sustainable gardening practices and is a prerequisite for more in-depth horticulture programs. Classes can be taken individually or as a series. Those completing all eight classes will receive a completion certificate. Reservations required and limited, call (937) 434-9005 or register online.

**DESIGN ESSENTIALS:** JANUARY 27, 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM

**SOIL HEALTH:** FEBRUARY 3, 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM

**PLANTS FOR PENNIES:** FEBRUARY 10, 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM

**PLANTS FOR OHIO:** FEBRUARY 17, 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM

**GARDEN MAINTENANCE & CARE:** FEBRUARY 24, 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM

**PEST, PLANT, AND PROBLEM SOLVING:** MARCH 3, 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM

**SIMPLE GARDEN LAYOUTS:** MARCH 10, 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM

## LUNCH AND LEARN SERIES

Enjoy speakers who will give new meaning to the term "power gardening" during this popular brown bag lunch series. Reservations required and limited; call (937) 434-9005 or register online.

**BEST ANNUALS:** JANUARY 19, 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

**THE FUNDAMENTALS:** JANUARY 20, 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM

**FOOL-PROOF PLANTS:** JANUARY 29, 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

**INCREDIBLE EDIBLES:** FEBRUARY 16, 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

**COMPOSTING:** FEBRUARY 26, 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM





**(FREE) WINTER DISCOVERY HIKE****SAT, FEB 20, 1:00 PM- 2:30 PM**

GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Nature Center, 6910 Boomershire Rd.

Winter is an excellent time to explore outdoors for signs of life. Bring your sharp eyes and ears and take a walk with a naturalist on a nearby trail. Afterwards, we will discuss our adventure over a cup of hot chocolate. Meet at Nature Center. Weather permitting: Call (937)855-7717. Reservations requested, walk-ins welcome. **PTN 4192** 📞

**(FREE) WOODPECKER SAFARI****SUN, FEB 21, 2:00 PM- 3:30 PM**

SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Parking Lot, 4178 Conference Rd.

Sugarcreek is home to 5 different woodpeckers; the red-bellied, flicker, downy, hairy, and pileated! Come search for woodpeckers and learn how to identify them on this slow-paced walk through the park. Call (937) 277-4178 for details. **PTN 4229** 📞

**(FREE) STROLLER STUDIES:****NATURE HIDE AND SEEK****TUE, FEB 23, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM**

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Fifth Third Conference Room, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Discover ways that living things protect themselves. There will be time for playing with nature friends. Registrations required. Call (937) 434-9005 Age: 1M - 3Y. **4240** 📞

**(FREE) CAFE SCIENTIFIQUE****THU, FEB 25, 7:00 PM- 9:00 PM**

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Fifth Third Conference Room, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Join us for this month's cafe and discover science in a relaxed atmosphere with friends and neighbors from the Miami Valley. Increase your science-'savvy'ness and share your opinion in our open discussion following the topic introduction. Light refreshments provided. Call (937) 275-5059 or see detailed web listing for final topic details. Age: 14Y and up. **4342** 📞

**(FREE) EYE ON EAGLES****SAT, FEB 27, 2:00 PM- 3:00 PM**

EASTWOOD METROPARK, Eastwood Lake, 1401 Harshman Rd.

Eagles have captured the human imagination for thousands of years. We'll discuss how and where bald eagles live as well as their remarkable comeback in the state of Ohio. Then we will take a peek at the nest across the street through a scope. No reservations required. For more information call (937) 278-2623 Monday - Friday. **PTN 4030**

**(FREE) WOODPECKER SAFARI****SUN, FEB 28, 2:00 PM- 3:30 PM**

POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Argonne Forest Parking Lot, 4790 Frytown Rd.

Search for these amazing hole-drillers, explore their behavior, and bask in their sounds while exploring the Argonne Forest. Call (937) 277-4178 for details. **PTN 4228** 📞

**(FREE) INSECTS KIT DISPLAY AND DROP BY ACTIVITY****SUN, FEB 28, 1:00 PM- 3:00 PM**

GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Nature Center, 6910 Boomershire Rd.

Drop by the center to see the loaner Insects Kit featuring insect nets and magnifying boxes that students can use to capture and examine the many different insects found right out our backyards! Kit includes identification books. Today's drop by kit activity for children will feature insects tricked into waking up during the winter so we can see them up close with magnifying glasses. Call (937) 855-7717 for more information. **4233**

**OUTDOOR PLAY****(FREE) WINTER WONDERS PLAYTIME****SAT, DEC 12, 1:00 PM- 2:30 PM**

EASTWOOD METROPARK, Last Parking Lot, 1385 Harshman Rd.

Just because it's cold outside doesn't mean the fun has to stop! Bundle up and join us for a winter adventure as we build shelters, climb trees, or play in the snow and ice. This program occurs in rain, snow or sunshine unless conditions are hazardous. Warm up with a cup of hot chocolate at the end of the program. No reservations required. For more information call (937) 278-2632 Monday - Friday. **4026**

**(FREE) OUTDOOR EXPLORERS CLUB SERIES**

Each week, Club members have fun getting to know each other and the natural world through activities such as rock skipping, following animal tracks, turning over rocks and logs, building forts, and digging holes. Reservations required and limited beginning Dec 1: Call (937) 277-6545 or register online. Age: 8Y - 12Y.

**CLUB I****WED, JAN 6 - WED, FEB 24, 4:00 PM- 5:30 PM**WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, South Picnic Area, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave. **4036** 📞**CLUB II****THU, JAN 7 - THU, FEB 25, 4:00 PM- 5:30 PM**WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, South Picnic Area, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave. **4037** 📞**(FREE) WINTER GAME FUN****SAT, JAN 9, 1:00 PM- 3:30 PM**

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, South Picnic Area, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave.

Get out into the fresh winter air for some active, fun family games! We will head to the natural areas of our park to play then share some hot cocoa around the fire. All ages are welcome, but games will be best for youth older than 6 years. Dress to be outside. Weather permitting: Call (937) 279-6979. Reservations requested, walk ins welcome.

**PTN** All ages welcome. **4067** 📞**PHOTOGRAPHY****(FREE) PHOTOGRAPHING THE BEAUTY OF WINTER****SAT, JAN 16, 1:30 PM- 3:30 PM**

GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Nature Center Classroom, 6910 Boomershire Rd.

This course is for those who normally put away their cameras for the winter. Come explore the great photographic opportunities with Naturalist/Photographer Skip Layman as we walk around the woods. Learn about the challenges and solutions to winter photography. The program will be geared toward SLR cameras, but all photographers are welcome. Weather permitting: Reservations required and limited, call (937) 855-7717 or register online. Age: 12Y and up. **4263** 📞

## RECREATION ALL OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

### (FREE) ADVENTURE SUMMIT SPEAKERS SERIES

Enjoy a slideshow presentation from four different local outdoor enthusiasts. You will discover their trips through four amazing adventures in different areas of North America. This speakers series is leading up to The Adventure Summit March 4-5, 2010, one of the largest expositions of outdoor culture, skill and experience in the Midwest featuring three-time Tour De France winner, Greg Lemond. Call (937) 277-4374 for details.

### JOURNEY ON THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL

**THU, JAN 7, 7:00 PM- 8:30 PM**

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Fifth Third Conference Room, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Take a walk through the images and stories of Angie Sullivan and Shane Sheldon's five-month thru-hike of the 2,170-mile Appalachian Trail from Georgia to Maine. Share in the fun, rain, pain and perseverance of this legendary long-distance hike. **4259**

### CYCLING THE OHIO TO ERIE TRAIL

**WED, JAN 20, 7:00 PM- 8:30 PM**

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Fifth Third Conference Room, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Learn about the Ohio to Erie Trail from Tom Helbig's journey from Cincinnati to Cleveland on a single-speed bicycle in just five days. **4260**

### THRU-HIKING THE PACIFIC CREST TRAIL

**MON, FEB 1, 7:00 PM- 8:30 PM**

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Fifth Third Conference Room, 6733 Springboro Pk.

From the Mojave Desert to the High Peaks of the Sierra, on to the Cascades of Oregon and Washington, join Brent and Amy Anslinger on a slide show journey of the joys and struggles of their 2,650-mile, five-month walk from Mexico to Canada on this spectacular trail. **4261**

### KAYAKING THROUGH THE GRAND CANYON

**TUE, FEB 16, 7:00 PM- 8:30 PM**

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Fifth Third Conference Room, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Imagine waves that take seven strokes to climb, boulders the size of 4-story

buildings and a 6-foot kayak battling through 227 miles of the Colorado River. Amy Dingle will share the experiences of a 21-day expedition and how the river has carved a lifetime of memories. **4262**

### (FREE) VOLUNTEER: METROPARKS VOLUNTEER PATROL (MVP) TRAINING

**SAT, JAN 16, 8:00 AM- 6:00 PM**

WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Auditorium, Lower Level, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave.

Volunteer while doing what you love by joining MetroParks Volunteer Patrols (MVPs)! Join one of four patrols: Bike, Hike, Mountain Bike, or Horse. You must provide your own equipment (bike, helmet, horse, etc.). MVPs provide trail users with information, communicate information about trail conditions, and foster positive public interactions. **Reservations required and limited by December 17.** Interviews required.

For more information, please contact Rachel Brand at Rachel.Brand@metroparks.org or (937) 564-5431. Age: 18Y and up. **4247**

### (FREE) VOLUNTEER: STREET TEAM TRAINING

**TUE, FEB 2, 6:00 PM- 9:00 PM**

OFF SITE, Wright State University, 3640 Colonel Glenn Hwy., Dayton

Just like bands have Street Teams to promote their music, the Outdoor Recreation Department started a fun, energetic Street Team to promote their events. Roles include Web site Gurus, Flyer Maniacs and Public Eye. Subs will be served. Rock climbing afterwards. Reservations requested; walk-ins welcome. Meet at Wright State, Student Union, Endeavour 156. For more information, contact Rachel Brand at rachel.brand@metroparks.org or (937) 564-5431. Age: 18Y and up. **4246**

### (FREE) VOLUNTEER: ADVENTURE SUMMIT ORIENTATION

**WED, FEB 17, 7:00 PM- 8:30 PM 4211**

**MON, FEB 22, 6:00 PM- 7:30 PM 4217**

FIVE RIVERS ST. CLAIR BUILDING, Outdoor Recreation Classroom, 224 N St Clair St.

Be part of one of the most exciting outdoor recreation events in the region, The Adventure Summit. Volunteer opportunities are available Thursday, March 4 thru Saturday, March 6. Without the help of volunteers, events such as this would not be possible. To learn more, please attend one of The Adventure Summit Orientations. Pizza will be served.

Reservations requested, walk-ins welcome. For

more information, contact Rachel Brand at rachel.brand@metroparks.org or (937) 564-5431. Age: 14Y and up.

## BACKPACKING

### (FREE) TRY SNOWSHOEING!

**THU, JAN 7 - THU, FEB 25,**

**1:00 PM- 5:00 PM**

FIVE RIVERS ST. CLAIR BUILDING, Outdoor Recreation Classroom, 224 N St Clair St.

Have you ever tried snowshoeing? Do you burn with cabin fever in the winter months? Why not get out, enjoy winter, and Try Snowshoeing with us? Snowshoes will be available on a first come first served basis. Youth under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Reservations requested, walk-ins welcome. For more information and to register, call (937) 277-4374. **4243**

### BACKCOUNTRY FAST AND LIGHT COOKING

**THU, JAN 21, 6:30 PM- 9:00 PM**

FIVE RIVERS ST. CLAIR BUILDING, Outdoor Recreation Classroom, 224 N St Clair St.

Do you have the ultra-light backpacking bug and are looking for a ways to cook nutritious and light weight meals while in the backcountry? This course will introduce you to hands on techniques such as using a pot cozy, and reviewing some of the newest and innovative ultra-light cooking equipment on the market. Bring your spork or spoon. Registration is required and limited so please call (937) 277-4374. Age: 12Y and up. Fees: \$10 **4268**

### INTRO TO ALCOHOL STOVES

**THU, FEB 11, 6:30 PM- 8:30 PM**

FIVE RIVERS ST. CLAIR BUILDING, Outdoor Recreation Classroom, 224 N St Clair St.

Are you interested in exploring more of the ultralight backpacking evolution? Have you tried an alcohol stove? This evening program is an introduction to alcohol stove building and use taught by a local thru hiking expert. Included are instructions on how to build alcohol stoves, stove demos, and tips on use. Registration is required and limited, so please call (937) 277-4374. Age: 12Y and up. Fees: \$5 **4245**

### INTRO TO BACKPACKING

**THU, MAR 18, 6:30 PM- 9:00 PM**

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Fifth Third Conference Room, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Get an introduction to backpacking and



find your comfort zone in terms of trips and gear selection. The class will cover trip planning, trail techniques and nutrition, physical fitness, and "Leave No Trace" concepts. Introduction to Backpacking or other demonstrable experience is a prerequisite for local Outdoor Recreation overnight backpacking trips. Registration is required. For more information and to register, please contact (937) 277-4374. Age: 12Y and up. Fees: \$5 **4434**

## FITNESS & HEALTH

### (FREE) HIKE FOR THE HEALTH OF IT! SERIES

Hike for a healthier lifestyle in the great outdoors! Hikes will be held every Saturday year round at 2 PM. Each hike will be about 3 miles and will move at a comfortable, brisk pace. Terrain will vary with the site and some is rugged. Hikers who complete 10 hikes will receive a Five Rivers MetroParks Health Hike ball cap. For general Health Hike questions, call (937) 278-2623, Monday-Friday.

**SAT, DEC 5, 2:00 PM- 3:30 PM** 3996  
EASTWOOD METROPARK, Last Parking Lot,  
1385 Harshman Rd.

**SAT, DEC 12, 2:00 PM- 3:30 PM** 3997  
SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Parking Lot, 4178  
Conference Rd.

**SAT, DEC 19, 2:00 PM- 3:30 PM** 3998  
TAYLORSVILLE METROPARK, Blue Heron Shelter,  
2000 U.S. 40

**SAT, DEC 26, 2:00 PM- 3:30 PM** 3999  
GERMANTOWN METROPARK, Nature Center,  
6910 Boomershire Rd.

**SAT, JAN 2, 2:00 PM- 3:30 PM** 4000  
WEGERZYN GARDENS METROPARK, Wegerzyn  
Parking Lot, 1301 East Siebenthaler Ave.

**SAT, JAN 9, 2:00 PM- 3:30 PM** 4001  
POSSUM CREEK METROPARK, Argonne Forest  
Parking Lot, 4790 Frytown Rd.

**SAT, JAN 16, 2:00 PM- 3:30 PM** 4002  
ENGLEWOOD METROPARK, Patty Shelter/East  
Park, 4361 National Road

**SAT, JAN 23, 2:00 PM- 3:30 PM** 4003  
TWIN CREEK METROPARK, Chamberlain Parking  
lot, 8502 Chamberlain Rd.

**SAT, JAN 30, 2:00 PM- 3:30 PM** 4004  
TAYLORSVILLE METROPARK, Blue Heron Shelter,  
2000 U.S. 40

**SAT, FEB 6, 2:00 PM- 3:30 PM** 4005  
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Cedar Lake  
Shelter/Parking Lot, 7891 E. Shull Rd.

**SAT, FEB 13, 2:00 PM- 3:30 PM** 4006  
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Education  
Center, 6733 Springboro Pk.

**SAT, FEB 20, 2:00 PM- 3:30 PM** 4007  
HUFFMAN METROPARK, Huffman North Park,  
4095 Lower Valley Pk

**SAT, FEB 27, 2:00 PM- 3:30 PM** 4008  
SUGARCREEK METROPARK, Parking Lot, 4178  
Conference Rd.

## HORSEBACK RIDING

### CHRC RIDING LESSONS

**SAT, MAR 6 - SAT, MAY 1,**  
**10:00 AM - 11:00 AM**

CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK, Riding Center,  
8111 E. Shull Rd.

Attend this eight-week instruction on equitation, horsemanship and horse safety. This course will build confidence and is available for a variety of experience levels. Age: 8Y and up. Fees: \$160 **4254**

## MOUNTAIN BIKING

### RAY'S MOUNTAIN BIKE TRIP

**SAT, JAN 9, 7:00 AM- 9:00 PM**

**SAT, FEB 20, 7:00 AM- 9:00 PM**  
COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Cox House  
Parking Lot, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Take a road trip to the premier indoor MTB facility in the U.S. Ray's MTB Park near Cleveland offers opportunities for riders of all abilities to enjoy riding various stunts, features, and trails. Helmets, gloves and mountain bikes REQUIRED. Rental bikes are available. Riders under 18 must have parent present. Riders provide their own lunch. For more information about Ray's, visit raysmtb.com or call (937) 277-4374. Age: 14Y and up. Fees: \$25 **4242**

## OUTDOOR SKILLS & SAFETY

### INTRO TO BACKCOUNTRY SURVIVAL

**THU, JAN 28, 6:30 PM- 9:00 PM**

FIVE RIVERS ST. CLAIR BUILDING, Outdoor  
Recreation Classroom, 224 N St Clair St.

So you were out for a hike, you got lost, and now it is raining. What do you do now? Come join us for a fun hands on evening and find out. Registration is required and limited so please call (937) 277-4374. Age: 14Y and up. Fees: \$30 **4244**

## BACKCOUNTRY LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

**THU, MAR 11, 6:00 PM- 9:00 PM**

FIVE RIVERS ST. CLAIR BUILDING, Outdoor  
Recreation Classroom, 224 N St Clair St.  
The Five Rivers MetroParks Backcountry Leadership Development Program (BLD) will consist of multiple evening classroom sessions and a multi-day field experience. Applicants accepted into the program will learn the fundamentals of backcountry leadership through a progression of topics ranging from group dynamics, expedition behavior, program design and site management. **Applications are due by March 1, 2010.** For more information and to apply, please contact 277-4374. Age: 18Y and up. Fees: \$150 **4266**

## WILDERNESS FIRST RESPONDER

**SAT, MAR 20 - SUN, MAR 28,**

**8:00 AM-12:00 AM**

OFF SITE, Cricket Holler Scout Camp, 6675  
Brantford Rd, Dayton

Wilderness First Responder (WFR) is the ideal medical training for outdoor educators, guides, SAR team members, and others who work or play in remote areas. This course teaches what to do with a medical emergency when help is miles away and calling 911 isn't an option. Lodging is available for an additional fee. Registration is required and limited so please call (937) 277-4374.

Age: 16Y and up. Fees: \$525 **4253**

## PADDLING

### (FREE) TRY KAYAKING!

**SUN, FEB 7, 4:00 PM- 6:00 PM**

OFF SITE, Beavercreek YMCA, 560 Grange Hall  
Rd., Beavercreek

Come try a kayak and see if it is something you would like to learn more about in the future. An introduction to the boat and proper safety gear will be offered and you will have the opportunity to try different styles of kayaks. A great way to learn about the sport in a controlled environment. For more information please call (937) 277-4374. Age: 8Y and up. **4210**



**ADVANCED SWIFT WATER RESCUE FOR PADDLERS****FRI, APR 23 - SUN, APR 25,****8:00 AM - 6:00 PM**

OFF SITE, Rocky Fork &amp; Paint Creek, Highland County, OH

This workshop is aimed at trip leaders, safety personnel and anyone desiring opportunities to develop their rescue skills for canoeing and kayaking in moving water. The focus of this course will be on recognition and avoidance of common river hazards, execution of self-rescue techniques, and rescue methods for paddlers in distress.

For more information or to register please call (937) 277-4374. Age: 18Y and up.

Fees: \$50 **4287****ACA CANOE INSTRUCTOR CERTIFICATION****FRI, MAY 7 - SUN, MAY 9,****8:00 AM - 6:00 PM**

EASTWOOD METROPARK, Blue Hole, 1385 Harshman Rd.

American Canoe Association certification is meant to give you a good foundation in the skill and knowledge needed to instruct paddling a tandem canoe on flatwater. Designed as a short program emphasizing safety, enjoyment, and skill acquisition for entry level individuals. Certification requires ACA membership. For more information and to register please contact (937) 277-4374.

Age: 18Y and up. Fees: \$50 **4294****ACA KAYAK INSTRUCTOR CERTIFICATION****FRI, MAY 7 - SUN, MAY 9,****8:00 AM - 6:00 PM**

EASTWOOD METROPARK, Blue Hole, 1385 Harshman Rd.

American Canoe Association certification is meant to give you a good foundation in the skill and knowledge needed to instruct paddling a tandem canoe on flatwater. Designed as a short program emphasizing safety, enjoyment, and skill acquisition for entry level individuals. Certification requires ACA membership. For more information and to register please contact (937) 277-4374.

Age: 18Y and up. Fees: \$50 **4295****SPECIAL EVENTS ENTERTAINMENT****(FREE) FIRST FRIDAY AT THE MARKET****FRI, DEC 4, 11:00 AM- 8:00 PM**

NATIONAL CITY 2ND STREET MARKET, 600 E. 2nd St.

Make the Market your holiday shopping destination! From unique handmade items to fresh local food, the Market is sure to have what you're looking for. Stop by for dinner, enjoy live music, go on a carriage ride and hang out with friends and family while you shop for the perfect gifts. Call (937) 228-2088 for more information. **4264**

**HORSE-DRAWN CARRIAGE RIDES****FRI, DEC 4, 6:00 PM- 8:00 PM** 4334**SAT, DEC 19, 12:00 PM- 3:00 PM** 4335

NATIONAL CITY 2ND STREET MARKET, 600 E. 2nd St.

Take a break from doing your holiday shopping and travel downtown in a beautiful horse-drawn carriage. Children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Limited number of tickets available. Call (937) 228-2088 for more information. Fees are \$5 per person, \$8 per couple. Rides are weather-permitting.

**(FREE) LUMINARY WALK****SUN, DEC 6, 6:00 PM- 9:00 PM**

AULLWOOD GARDENS METROPARK, 955 Aullwood Road

Stroll at your own pace among the luminaries to the historic Aull house and then join us around the campfire where we will learn a little history about the Aull family, sing some holiday tunes and enjoy a delicious cup of hot chocolate. Dress for cold weather. **4452**

**(FREE) GUIDED BY THE LIGHT - LUMINARY WALK****FRI, DEC 11, 7:00 PM- 9:00 PM**

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Education Center, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Join us at the Arboretum for a stress-relieving luminary walk through the gardens and grounds. Thousands of candles will light the way for you, or join one of our tour guides to discover many hidden treasures. Experience the calming impact of nature at night, and enjoy hot chocolate and s'mores by the outdoor fireplace. This is a weather-permitting event, please call (937) 277-4147 for more information. **4081**

**(FREE) SANTA VISITS THE MARKET****THU, DEC 17, 11:30 AM- 1:30 PM** 4218**FRI, DEC 18, 11:30 AM- 1:30 PM** 4219**SAT, DEC 19, 11:00 AM- 1:00 PM** 4220

NATIONAL CITY 2ND STREET MARKET, 600 E. 2nd St.

Bring your cameras and snap a photo of Santa with your friends and family. It won't be too late for Santa to hear what's on your wish list -- including Market goodies. He'll have a treat for everyone who stops by to see him. Call (937) 228-2088 for more information.

**(FREE) COMMUNITY DAYS****THU, JAN 14, 11:00 AM- 3:00 PM** 4221**FRI, JAN 15, 11:00 AM- 3:00 PM** 4222

NATIONAL CITY 2ND STREET MARKET, 600 E. 2nd St.

To show our appreciation, market customers will receive cupcakes and be treated to musical entertainment as they shop and have a relaxing lunch. All visitors will be entered to win gift certificates. Drawings will be at 12:00, 1:00 and 2:00 p.m. Must be present to win. Consider it a "thank you for your patronage" party! Call (937) 228-2088 for more information.

**(FREE) WINTER FAMILY FUN DAY****SAT, JAN 16, 10:00 AM- 2:00 PM**

NATIONAL CITY 2ND STREET MARKET, 600 E. 2nd St.

Families, come and enjoy a fun-filled day at National City 2nd Street Market! While mom and dad shop, kids can create an art project, be amused by a clown, or participate in a program conducted by Boonshoft Museum of Discovery. Call (937) 228-2088 for more information. **4223**

**(FREE) FIRST FRIDAY AT THE MARKET****FRI, FEB 5, 11:00 AM- 8:00 PM**

NATIONAL CITY 2ND STREET MARKET, 600 E. 2nd St.

Start your First Friday celebration at the Market. With great food, live music, unique shopping and wine tasting, the Market has something for everyone. Several of the Market's vendors will demonstrate their art and have their photographs, paintings, jewelry and pottery on display and for sale. Call (937) 228-2088 for more information. **4296**





**(FREE) VALENTINE'S CELEBRATION****SAT, FEB 13, 9:00 AM- 2:00 PM**

NATIONAL CITY 2ND STREET MARKET, 600 E. 2nd St.

It's Valentine's eve and the Market has the perfect gift for your sweetheart. Choose from flowers, elaborately decorated desserts, jewelry, wine, soaps and so much more! We will be celebrating with light jazz for lovers followed by a poetry reading by Emily's Boys. Help those in need by filling the heart in the pavilion with non-perishable food items. All donations will be given to The Foodbank. Call (937) 228-2088 for details. **4224**

**(FREE) BLACK HISTORY DAY****AT THE MARKET****SAT, FEB 27, 9:00 AM- 2:00 PM**

NATIONAL CITY 2ND STREET MARKET, 600 E. 2nd St.

You are invited to the fourth annual Black History Day at the Market. Join us for a cultural celebration of great old-school and gospel music and dance. The entertainment line-up includes The Dianne Coble Ensemble, DC Men of God, the Chaminade Julianne Ensemble, Mary Queen of Peace Special Edition Dance Troop and Mary Anne Studio Zumba of Ohio. Call (937) 228-2088 for more information. **4226**

**FITNESS & HEALTH****(FREE) CHRISTMAS WALK IN****DOWNTOWN DAYTON****SAT, DEC 5, 9:00 AM- 3:00 PM**

NATIONAL CITY 2ND STREET MARKET, 600 E. 2nd St.

This outdoor community opportunity is provided by Ohio Wander Freunde and not a Five Rivers MetroPark program. For more information contact Mikki White (937) 890-0416 or mikkiw17@sbcglobal.net. **4216**

**HOME & HOBBIES****(FREE) ORCHID SHOW****SAT, FEB 20 - SUN, FEB 21, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM**

COX ARBORETUM METROPARK, Education Center, 6733 Springboro Pk.

Hundreds of orchids will be on display, as well as orchids and other items for purchase. Informal orchid talks and repotting classes will be held throughout the weekend. This event is sponsored by the Miami Valley Orchid Society. Age: 18Y and up. **4166**

**EVENTS BY DATE, TIME****TUE, DEC 1, 2009**

**9:00 am Tuesday Morning Adult Walk**, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 36)

**THU, DEC 3, 2009**

**10:00 am Backpacking Babies: Winter Beginnings**, Sugarcreek MetroPark (see page 36)

**FRI, DEC 4, 2009**

**11:00 am First Friday at the Market**, National City 2nd Street Market (see page 48)

**12:30 pm Project Feeder Watch**, Germantown MetroPark (see page 39)

**6:00 pm Horse-Drawn Carriage Rides**, National City 2nd Street Market (see page 48)

**SAT, DEC 5, 2009**

**9:00 am Christmas Walk in Downtown Dayton**, National City 2nd Street Market (see page 49)

**9:00 am Winter Bird Search**, Hills & Dales MetroPark (see page 39)

**10:00 am Herb Program: Herbal Tea Party**, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 36)

**10:30 am Project Feeder Watch**, Germantown MetroPark (see page 39)

**1:00 pm Beginner Crochet**, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 36)

**1:00 pm Bare Tree I.D.**, Englewood MetroPark (see page 39)

**1:00 pm Prairie Games**, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 39)

**2:00 pm Hike for the Health of It!**, Eastwood MetroPark (see page 47)

**6:00 pm Star Gaze Craze**, Sugarcreek MetroPark (see page 39)

**9:00 pm Barred Owl Prowl**, Sugarcreek MetroPark (see page 39)

**SAT, DEC 6, 2009**

**12:00 pm Christmas on the Farm**, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 35)

**1:00 pm Little Elf Workshop**, Germantown MetroPark (see page 39)

**TUE, DEC 8, 2009**

**9:00 am Tuesday Morning Adult Walk**, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 36)

**10:00 am Tike Hike: Winter Mysteries**, Hills & Dales MetroPark (see page 39)

**1:30 pm Parent and Preschooler: Sharing the Harvest**, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 33)

**THU, DEC 10, 2009**

**9:00 am Adult Nature Walk**, Sugarcreek MetroPark (see page 39)

**10:00 am Parent and Preschooler: Merry Mistletoe**, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 39)

**FRI, DEC 11, 2009**

**10:00 am Tike Hike: Animal Tracking**, Sugarcreek MetroPark (see page 39)

**1:00 pm Home Schooler: Animal Tracking and Behavior**, Sugarcreek MetroPark (see page 39)

**7:00 pm Guided by the Light - Luminary Walk**, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 48)

**SAT, DEC 12, 2009**

**1:00 pm Eureka Lab! Evergreens**, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 39)

**1:00 pm Holiday Crafts on the Farm**, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 36)

**1:00 pm Winter Wonders Playtime**, Eastwood MetroPark (see page 45)

**2:00 pm Hike for the Health of It!**, Sugarcreek MetroPark (see page 47)

**6:00 pm Evening Christmas Lantern and Luminary Tour**, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 36)

**7:00 pm Silent Night Luminary Walk**, Germantown MetroPark (see page 40)

**TUE, DEC 15, 2009**

**9:00 am Tuesday Morning Adult Walk**, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 36)

**10:00 am Stroller Studies: Feed the Birds**, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 40)

**WED, DEC 16, 2009**

**9:00 am Morning Bird Walk**, Germantown MetroPark (see page 40)

**1:00 pm Tike Hike: Discover Nature**, Taylorsville MetroPark (see page 40)

**THU, DEC 17, 2009**

**11:30 am Santa Visits the Market**, National City 2nd Street Market (see page 40)

**FRI, DEC 18, 2009**

**11:30 am Santa Visits the Market**, National City 2nd Street Market (see page 48)

**12:30 pm Project Feeder Watch**, Germantown MetroPark (see page 39)

**SAT, DEC 19, 2009**

**8:30 am Morning Farm Chores**, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 33)

**10:30 am Project Feeder Watch**, Germantown MetroPark (see page 39)

**11:00 am Santa Visits the Market**, National City 2nd Street Market (see page 48)

**11:00 am Winter on the Farm**, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 33)

**12:00 pm Horse-Drawn Carriage Rides**, National City 2nd Street Market (see Special Events: Entertainment)

**2:00 pm Hike for the Health of It!**, Taylorsville MetroPark (see page 47)

**TUE, DEC 22, 2009**

**9:00 am Tuesday Morning Adult Walk**, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 36)

**1:30 pm Home School: Surviving the Cold**, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 40)

**SAT, DEC 26, 2009**

**2:00 pm Hike for the Health of It!**, Germantown MetroPark (see page 47)

**TUE, DEC 29, 2009**

**9:00 am Tuesday Morning Adult Walk**, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 36)

**SAT, JAN 2, 2010**

**2:00 pm Hike for the Health of It!**, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 47)

**10:30 am Project Feeder Watch**, Germantown MetroPark (see page 39)

**TUE, JAN 5, 2010**

**9:00 am Tuesday Morning Adult Walk**, Englewood MetroPark (see page 36)

**WED, JAN 6, 2010**

**4:00 pm Outdoor Explorers Club I**, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 45)

**7:00 pm Environmental Film Series: Transforming Energy**, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 35)

**THU, JAN 7, 2010**

**10:00 am Backpacking Babies: Nature in Winter**, Sugarcreek MetroPark (see page 40)

**1:00 pm Try Snowshoeing!**, Five Rivers St. Clair Building (see page 46)

**4:00 pm Outdoor Explorers Club II**, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 45)

**7:00 pm Journey on the Appalachian Trail**, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 46)

**FRI, JAN 8, 2010**

**5:30 pm Hooting and Howling**, Taylorsville MetroPark (see page 40)

**SAT, JAN 9, 2010**

**7:00 am Ray's Mountain Bike Trip**, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 47)

**10:00 am Living With Mother Earth: Beyond Light Bulbs**, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 35)

**1:00 pm Beginner Crochet**, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 36)

**1:00 pm Winter Game Fun**, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 45)

**2:00 pm Hike for the Health of It!**, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 47)

**SUN, JAN 10, 2010**

**2:00 pm Pruning for Health and Beauty**, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see Education: page 33)

**TUE, JAN 12, 2010**

**9:00 am Tuesday Morning Adult Walk**, Englewood MetroPark (see page 36)

**THU, JAN 14, 2010**

**9:00 am Adult Nature Walk**, Sugarcreek MetroPark (see page 36)

**10:00 am Parent and Preschooler: What Grows in a Desert?**, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 40)

**11:00 am Community Days**, National City 2nd Street Market (see page 48)

**1:30 pm Parent and Preschooler: The Seed**, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 33)

**FRI, JAN 15, 2010**

**11:00 am Community Days**, National City 2nd Street Market (see page 48)

**12:30 pm Project Feeder Watch**, Germantown MetroPark (see page 39)

**1:00 pm Home Schooler: Basic Mammology**, Sugarcreek MetroPark (see page 40)

**SAT, JAN 16, 2010**

**8:00 am Volunteer: MetroParks Volunteer Patrol (MVP) Training**, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 46)

**8:30 am Morning Farm Chores**, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 33)

**9:00 am Morning Bird Search**, Wesleyan MetroPark (see page 40)

**10:00 am Living With Mother Earth: Environmental Progress**, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 35)

**10:00 am Winter Family Fun Day**, National City 2nd Street Market (see page 48)

**10:30 am Project Feeder Watch**, Germantown MetroPark (see page 39)

**1:00 pm Jellies and Jams for Kids**, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 36)

**1:00 pm Winter Tree ID Workshop (14+)**, Hills & Dales MetroPark (see page 40)

**1:30 pm Photographing the Beauty of Winter**, Germantown MetroPark (see page 45)

**2:00 pm Hike for the Health of It!**, Englewood MetroPark (see page 47)

**6:00 pm Birding Workshop: Owls**, Germantown MetroPark (see page 40)

**SUN, JAN 17, 2010**

**12:00 pm Ice Harvesting**, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see 36)

**1:00 pm Mammals Kit Display and Drop-By Activity**, Germantown MetroPark (see page 40)

**TUE, JAN 19, 2010**

**9:00 am Tuesday Morning Adult Walk**, Englewood MetroPark (see page 36)

**11:30 am Lunch and Learn: Best Annuals**, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 33)

**WED, JAN 20, 2010**

**9:00 am Morning Bird Walk**, Germantown MetroPark (see page 40)

**10:00 am Alphabet Safari for Twos: Letters A-F**, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 41)

**10:00 am Tike Hike: Animal Homes**, Hills & Dales MetroPark (see 41)

**1:00 pm Garden Primer: The Fundamentals**, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 34)

**1:00 pm Tike Hike: Discover Nature**, Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 41)

**7:00 pm Cycling Ohio to Erie Trail**, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 46)

**THU, JAN 21, 2010**

**6:30 pm Backcountry Fast and Light Cooking**, Five Rivers St. Clair Building (see page 46)

**SAT, JAN 23, 2010**

**9:00 am Jr Farmer - Goats**, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 33)

**10:00 am Living With Mother Earth: Getting Ready for Spring**, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 34)

**2:00 pm Hike for the Health of It!**, Twin Creek MetroPark (see page 47)

**SUN, JAN 24, 2010**

**2:00 pm Woodpecker Ramble**, Englewood MetroPark (see page 41)

**TUE, JAN 26, 2010**

**9:00 am Tuesday Morning Adult Walk**, Englewood MetroPark (see page 36)

**10:00 am Stroller Studies: Seed Sort**, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 41)

**THU, JAN 27, 2010**

**1:00 pm Garden Primer: Design Essentials**, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 34)

**FRI, JAN 29, 2010**

**11:30 am Lunch and Learn: Fool Proof Plants**, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 33)

**12:30 pm Project Feeder Watch**, Germantown MetroPark (see page 39)

**SAT, JAN 30, 2010**

**8:00 am Hawk & Owl Field Trip**, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 41)

**9:30 am Seed Swap**, Off Site (see page 34)

**10:00 am Worm Circus at Wegerzyn**, Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 35)

**10:30 am Project Feeder Watch**, Germantown MetroPark (see page 39)

**12:30 pm Hobby Maple Syrup Production**, Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 36)

**1:30 pm America's Wonderlands: Canyons of the Southwest**, Germantown MetroPark (page 41)

**2:00 pm Hike for the Health of It!**, Taylorsville MetroPark (see page 47)

**SUN, JAN 31, 2010**

**1:00 pm Ohio Fossils Kit Display and Drop-By Activity**, Germantown MetroPark (see page 41)

**MON, FEB 1, 2010**

**7:00 pm Thru-Hiking the Pacific Crest Trail**, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 46)

**TUE, FEB 2, 2010**

**9:00 am Tuesday Morning Adult Walk**, Eastwood MetroPark (see page 36)

**6:00 pm Volunteer: Street Team Training**, Off Site (see page 46)

**WED, FEB 3, 2010**

**1:00 pm Garden Primer: Soil Health**, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 33)

**7:00 pm Environmental Film Series: Addicted To Plastic**, Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 35)



**THU, FEB 4, 2010**

**10:00 am Backpacking Babies: Winter Sounds,** Sugarcreek MetroPark (see page 41)

**FRI, FEB 5, 2010**

**11:00 am First Friday at the Market,** National City 2nd Street Market (see page 48)

**SAT, FEB 6, 2010**

**10:00 am Living With Mother Earth: Aullwood Garden in Winter,** Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 34)

**12:00 pm Traditional Butchering,** Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 36)

**1:00 pm Beginner Crochet,** Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 36)

**2:00 pm Hike for the Health of It!,** Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 47)

**SUN, FEB 7, 2010**

**2:00 pm Greenscaping your Landscape,** Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 34)

**2:00 pm Scales and Feathers,** Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 42)

**4:00 pm Try Kayaking!,** Off Site (see page 47)

**TUE, FEB 9, 2010**

**9:00 am Tuesday Morning Adult Walk,** Eastwood MetroPark (see page 36)

**10:00 am Tike Hike: Animal Tracking,** Hills & Dales MetroPark (see page 42)

**1:30 pm Parent and Preschooler: Farm Play,** Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 33)

**WED, FEB. 10, 2010**

**1:00 pm Garden Primer: Plants for Pennies,** Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 33)

**1:00 pm Tike Hike: Discover Nature,** Huffman MetroPark (see page 42)

**THU, FEB 11, 2010**

**9:00 am Adult Nature Walk,** Sugarcreek MetroPark (see page 39)

**10:00 am Parent and Preschooler: Plants, the Untold Story,** Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 42)

**1:00 pm Home Schooler: Dendrology,** Sugarcreek MetroPark (see page 42)

**6:30 pm Intro to Alcohol Stoves,** Five Rivers St. Clair Building (see page 46)

**FRI, FEB 12, 2010**

**12:30 pm Project Feeder Watch,** Germantown MetroPark (see page 39)

**SAT, FEB 13, 2010**

**9:00 am Valentine's Celebration,** National City 2nd Street Market (see page 49)

**10:00 am Morning Bird Walk,** Hills & Dales MetroPark (see page 40)

**10:30 am Project Feeder Watch,** Germantown MetroPark (see page 39)

**1:00 pm Animal Tracking Workshop,** Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 42)

**1:30 pm America's Wonderlands: The Many Faces of Colorado,** Germantown MetroPark (page 41)

**2:00 pm Hike for the Health of It!,** Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 47)

**4:00 pm Winter Nature Excursion,** Wesleyan MetroPark (see page 42)

**6:00 pm Beaver Fever,** Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 42)

**8:00 pm Coyote Search,** Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 42)

**SUN, FEB 14, 2010**

**1:00 pm Birds Kit Display and drop by activity,** Germantown MetroPark (see page 42)

**TUE, FEB 16, 2010**

**9:00 am Tuesday Morning Adult Walk,** Eastwood MetroPark (see page 36)

**11:30 am Lunch and Learn: Incredible Edibles,** Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 34)

**7:00 pm Kayaking through the Grand Canyon,** Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 46)

**WED, FEB 17, 2010**

**9:00 am Morning Bird Walk,** Germantown MetroPark (see page 40)

**10:00 am Alphabet Safari for Twos: Letters G-L,** Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 41)

**1:00 pm Garden Primer: Plants for Ohio,** Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 34)

**7:00 pm Volunteer: The Adventure Summit Orientation,** Five Rivers St. Clair Building (see page 46)

**THU, FEB 18, 2010**

**10:00 am Tike Hike: Winter Mysteries,** Sugarcreek MetroPark (see page 42)

**1:00 pm Home Schooler: Tapping the Maple Tree,** Germantown MetroPark (see page 42)

**SAT, FEB 20, 2010**

**7:00 am Ray's Mountain Bike Trip,** Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 47)

**8:30 am Morning Farm Chores,** Carriage Hill MetroPark (see page 33)

**9:00 am Jr Farmer - Sheep,** Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 33)

**10:00 am Living With Mother Earth: Eating Seasonally, Eating Locally,** Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 35)

**10:00 am Orchid Show,** Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 49)

**1:00 pm Eureka Lab! Focus on Fossils,** Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 42)

**1:00 pm Winter Discovery Hike,** Germantown MetroPark (see page 45)

**2:00 pm Hike for the Health of It!,** Huffman MetroPark (see page 47)

**SUN, FEB 21, 2010**

**2:00 pm Woodpecker Safari,** Sugarcreek MetroPark (see page 45)

**MON, FEB 22, 2010**

**6:00 pm Volunteer: The Adventure Summit Orientation,** Five Rivers St. Clair Building (see page 46)

**TUE, FEB 23, 2010**

**10:00 am Stroller Studies: Nature Hide and Seek,** Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 45)

**9:00 am Tuesday Morning Adult Walk,** Eastwood MetroPark (see page 36)

**WED, FEB 24, 2010**

**1:00 pm Garden Primer: Garden Maintenance & Care,** Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 34)

**THU, FEB 25, 2010**

**7:00 pm Cafe Scientifique,** Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 45)

**FRI, FEB 26, 2010**

**11:30 am Lunch and Learn: Composting,** Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 33)

**12:30 pm Project Feeder Watch,** Germantown MetroPark (see page 39)

**SAT, FEB 27, 2010**

**9:00 am Black History Day at the Market,** National City 2nd Street Market (see page 49)

**9:00 am Maple Syrup Time,** Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 33)

**10:00 am Living With Mother Earth: Seed Trays and Sweet Potatoes,** Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 34)

**10:30 am Project Feeder Watch,** Germantown MetroPark (see page 39)

**1:00 pm Family Garden Design,** Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (see page 34)

**1:00 pm Nature's Sweeteners,** Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 36)

**1:30 pm America's Wonderlands: California, Coast to the Mountains,** Germantown MetroPark (see page 41)

**2:00 pm Eye on Eagles,** Eastwood MetroPark (see page 45)

**2:00 pm Hike for the Health of It!,** Sugarcreek MetroPark (see page 47)

**SUN, FEB 28, 2010**

**1:00 pm Insects Kit Display and Drop-By Activity,** Germantown MetroPark (see page 45)

**2:00 pm Woodpecker Safari,** Possum Creek MetroPark (see page 45)

**2:00 pm Shade Gardening,** Cox Arboretum MetroPark (see page 35)

If you live in  
Montgomery County,  
look for the next  
issue of ParkWays to  
arrive in your mailbox  
mid-February!



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## TIME FOR YOUR CLOSE UP!

Can you figure out where this is? Maybe at Eastwood MetroPark, the Butterfly House at Cox Arboretum, or a water feature in the Discovery Garden?

Take a guess and then visit the spot and see how big the world of MetroParks can be. (answer upside down below)

Guess the spot!



Eastwood MetroPark - Lake Side

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