



The Magnificent Monarch

By: Shelley Tender, Program Coordinator

Certainly one of the most beloved of insects with perhaps the most fascinating life history is the Monarch butterfly. Named by the colonists for the colors of King William of Orange, these familiar fluttering friends are seen in great numbers heading southwest in the fall creating one of the most terrific spectacles in nature, Monarch migration!

Monarchs are members of a tropical group of butterflies known as *Danainae* or Milkweed butterflies. The Monarch is the only member of this group to live this far north, ranging across the United States and into the southern part of Canada, wherever its host plant milkweed is found.

For the most part, the life cycle of the Monarch is the same as other butterflies; hatching from an egg, growing in stages as a caterpillar, and completing the last phase in a chrysalis from which emerges a beautiful orange and black, delicately-winged adult. For many of the Monarchs seen in the late spring and throughout the summer, adults live only a few weeks. Where Monarchs differ and what makes them unique among North American butterflies is that the late summer/early fall individuals will live much longer, up to seven-to-eight months. These are the Monarchs destined to complete a



Monarch caterpillar

2000-plus mile journey drifting along on thermals to the high elevation Oyamel Fir Forests in the mountain range just west of Mexico City, Mexico. It is here that they will rest and wait for the frigid temperatures in the North to abate and spring to return. Sometime in late March, they will be driven by the urge to mate and move northward in search of milkweed in which to lay their eggs. These Monarchs only live for a short time after mating, and it is the second or even third generation of butterflies that will return to their ancestor's northern breeding grounds.

The survival of all Monarch butterflies depends on the availability of milkweed for larval hosts and nectar-producing wildflowers for adult feeding. Much research has been done that raised awareness about the importance of providing good butterfly habitat.

Monarch Madness September 11

If you would like to learn more about the extraordinary life of the Monarch butterfly and see some great examples of butterfly habitat, then plan to attend the Monarch Madness event on September 11. This free event is from 12-4 p.m. at the Wolf Creek Environmental Center and is open to all ages.



Butterfly tagging is one of many activities at the Monarch Madness event.

Park Volunteers Will Be Missed

With great sadness, the park district and Friends of the Parks lost two special volunteers this summer. Julie Stewart and Rick Morton passed away in July. In addition to being a volunteer, Julie served as a FOTP trustee for many years. Both of these individuals gave of their time and talents at various events. They will truly be missed by all.



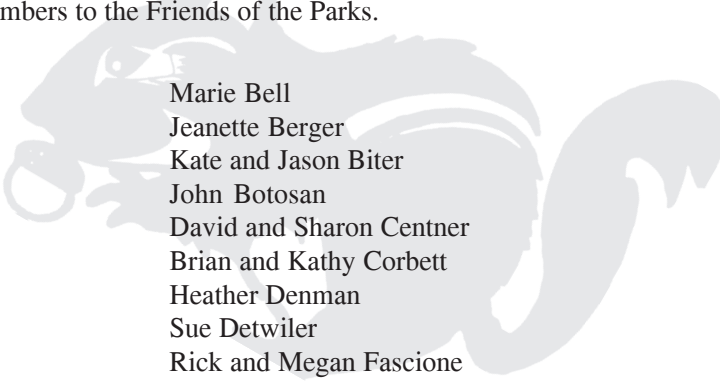
Julie Stewart



Rick Morton

Welcome New "Friends!"

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



Marie Bell
Jeanette Berger
Kate and Jason Biter
John Botosan
David and Sharon Centner
Brian and Kathy Corbett
Heather Denman
Sue Detwiler
Rick and Megan Fascione
Patricia Grabenstetter
Betty House
Nancy Lawrence
Kacie Liechty
Ian and Anna Longman
Kym Lucas
Todd Mason
Paul McQuown
Stacy Metheny
Henry and Kathy Meuer
Diane Miksch
Randy Miller
Maureen Mizerak
Patricia and Chuck Newhauser
John and Michele Reed
Kellie Reed
Jessica Scalera
Rick and Becky Smith
Richard Taylor
Thomas Vaughn
Dave and Jerri Watson
John Liston and Sharon Yarnell

Medina County Park District's 45th Anniversary Challenge

By Shelley Tender, Program Coordinator



Lake Medina is one of the 12 parks you'll visit while doing the 45th Anniversary Challenge.

The Medina County Park District is celebrating 45 years of enhancing the quality of life for Medina County residents. Since 1965, the park district has worked diligently to acquire and develop land throughout the county for the purpose of open space preservation, protection of unique natural

resources and enjoyment for our residents.

To celebrate this milestone, we have developed a scavenger-hunt type challenge for our residents to get out and explore many of our beautiful parks. This is an activity created for all ages, and the only requirements are that you have an enthusiastic sense of adventure and ability to hike our trails.

The object of the challenge is to find a series of boxes that have been hidden in 12 of our parks to collect a sticker from each box to put on a game card that you can download from our website. For each of the 12 boxes, a poem has been written to provide you with clues to find it. When you've collected all 12 stickers, you will bring your completed game card to the Wolf Creek Environmental Center (during open hours) and turn it in at the front desk to collect a token gift and enter into a drawing for one of three great prizes. It is as easy as that! For those of you familiar with geocaching, each box has also been listed with a coordinate so that you may find it easily with a GPS.

The challenge will run throughout the summer and fall to give you an opportunity to enjoy our parks at your leisure. Boxes will remain in place until October 31, and game cards must be submitted by November 14. You can find more detailed information about this challenge and the game card on our website, www.medinacountyparks.com. On our home page, click on "Park District's 45th Anniversary Challenge."

Consider taking the Medina County Park District's 45th Anniversary Challenge and discover what your Medina County parks have to offer. Happy Trails!



Details for the 2010 *Trekking Through Autumn* program will be available in mid-August. Visit medinacountyparks.com, the park office or Wolf Creek Environmental Center at that time for details. Hikes must be completed from September 1 through November 30.

Pioneers in the Park

Mark your calendars for the annual Pioneers in the Park program on October 9 and 10. Volunteers are needed to assist with greeting visitors and selling popcorn and hot beverages.

The *Acorn* is published quarterly by Friends of Medina County Parks, Inc.

6364 Deerview Lane, Medina, Ohio 44256

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

Editor - Don Butler Assistant Editor - Jill Teubl



Volunteer Survey

My name is Angie Strock, and I am the volunteer coordinator for the Medina County Park District. We thank you for your support of our county parks and know some of you may care to do even more. We want to provide you with opportunities to volunteer where you feel most comfortable. In order for us to best serve your interests as a potential volunteer, please take a few minutes to fill out the survey below.

What is the difference between a Friends of the Parks volunteer and a Medina County Park District volunteer?



Friends of the Parks volunteers help out a few times a year with FOTP events.

Examples of opportunities:

- Working in the FOTP information tent at park district events
- Summer hotdog sales
- Assisting at the maple syrup/pancake breakfast

Requirement: current FOTP membership



Medina County Park District volunteers help weekly or monthly with park district events, programs and surveys.

Examples of opportunities:

- Assisting the naturalist staff at Wolf Creek with school programs
- Office at Wolf Creek (answering phones and other light office duties)
- Hike and monitor trails

Requirement: MCPD volunteer application, interview, background check, and fingerprint check

Please fill out this form if you are interested in learning how to become a volunteer for the park district. You may mail in the form below or send me an e-mail with your information to: volunteercoordinator@roadrunner.com. I look forward to meeting you at future park functions.

Please detach form and mail to:

Wolf Creek Environmental Center
Attn: Angie Strock
P.O. Box 488
Sharon Center, OH 44274

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Please check the one (or more) that apply:

I would like to become/continue as a Friends of the Parks volunteer.

I would like to become/continue as a Medina County Park District volunteer.

Please call me, I'd like more information before deciding.

I'm not able to volunteer at this time.

Volunteer Spotlight: Tim Bakan

Tim Bakan began volunteering for the park district in spring of 2009. He was a Friends of the Parks member and saw an ad in the newsletter soliciting volunteers. Tim's goal as a volunteer is to assist with any tasks the Wolf Creek staff need completed. Working in the office at Wolf Creek is one of the areas Tim volunteers. In addition, he volunteers for Tales for Tots, Hiking for the Health of It, hot dog sales and the county fair.

Tim named Allardale as his favorite park for its scenic vistas and wildflowers. When asked about his favorite season, he replied, "I enjoy all the seasons; however, I wish winter were shorter!"

The park district appreciates all the time and energy Tim brings forth to us as a volunteer.

This issue of the *Acorn* is
brought to you by our friends at



3995 Medina Road, Suite 200
Medina, OH 44256

800-837-1872

www.americanportfolios.com/medina/

American Portfolios Financial Services, Inc.
Member FINRA, SIPC, MSRB

Inside this issue . . .

- The Magnificent Monarch
- Two Park Volunteers Will Be Missed
- Trekking Through Autumn
- Park District's 45th Anniversary Challenge
- Volunteer Survey



The park district publishes its *Leaflet* newsletter in the *Medina County Gazette* on the first Saturday and second Tuesday of each month.

In addition, the newsletter is published in *The Post* on the second Sunday of each month. If you do not receive either newspaper, the latest version of the *Leaflet* can be found at www.medinacountyparks.com. Click on "Publications," then on "*Leaflet*."

Non-Profit Organization
U S Postage
PAID
Permit No. 29
Seville, OH 44273



6364 Deerview Lane
Medina, Ohio 44256