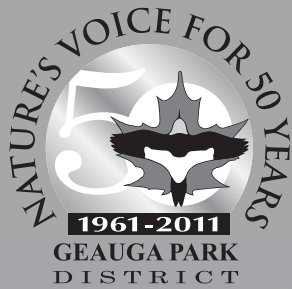


PROTECT · CONSERVE · CONNECT



chit chat

A publication of Geauga Park District



Volunteer Pat Mitchell checks on a young visitor in the vole tunnels at the Snowbelted exhibit.

Nature's voice can be inspiring: the melodious song of a Wood Thrush in the forest, the sound of a babbling brook, the echo of the wind through the autumn leaves, or the snowy silence of the outdoors. Geauga Park District has been honored to be a part of protecting those voices for the past 50 years, and is looking ahead to the next 50!

Your involvement as a volunteer has ensured that Geauga Park District has been a success, and we value and appreciate your contributions. Now we also ask if you will share your 'voice of nature' with a wider audience. Within the next few issues of *Chit Chat*, we'll be inviting you to participate in activities to do just that.

One of the most widely read sections of newspapers is the Letters to the Editor section. Would you be willing to share your positive experiences in a letter? Here are a few suggestions to guide your efforts.

**Keep it simple. *Keep your points short and clear, and stick to one subject. *Get personal. *Speak on points of local relevance. *Use your credentials - share why you volunteer. *Find additional letter-writing suggestions and contact information for the local media at <http://bit.ly/gpdletters> or by contacting me.*

THANK YOU for your efforts in keeping Geauga Park District's voice ringing clear!

Holly

PARK COMMISSIONERS

John D. Leech
Jim Patterson
Mark Rzeszutarski, Ph.D.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Thomas G. Curtin

DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Keith McClintock

**VOLUNTEER
COORDINATOR**

Holly Sauder



WINTER 2012

volunteer trainings

Nature Scopes Astronomy Training

Tuesday, January 3, 9-11 AM

Meyer Center, Big Creek Park

Overview of the volunteer roles and updates for astronomy stations covered in the *Nature Scopes* program for new and returning volunteers. Program assignments scheduled.

Winter Ecology Training

Saturday, January 7, 1-3 PM

Sunnybrook Preserve

What's going on in winter? Winter ecology session for interested volunteers (OCVN credit available). Search for evidence of winter-active animals and signs of activity from other seasons, revealed on the leafless landscape of winter.

Sap's-A-Risin'! Training

Saturday, March 3, Swine Creek Reservation

10-11 AM Lodge volunteers

11 AM-12:30 PM Sugarhouse area volunteers

This is an essential opportunity for volunteers to be introduced to the format of Sap's-A-Risin'! and the functions of various volunteer roles. Training will begin in the lodge with information on preparing and distributing maple treats. Group will reconvene at Woods Edge Shelter for an overview of the volunteer interpreter at each of the maple sugaring time periods: Age of Stone, Age of Wood, Age of Metal and Age of Plastic. We will also review guiding visitor participation in sap gathering in the sugarbush, sugarhouse interpretation and other important support functions.

Maple Sugaring School Group Training

Tuesday, March 6, 9:30-11 AM

Woods Edge, Swine Creek Reservation

All new and former school sugaring volunteers are encouraged to attend this training session. Learn the maple program facilitation, including program set up, maple history, addressing science and social studies standards, children's sap gathering in the "baby bush" and sugarhouse interpretation.



special programs

Cub Scouts: Wildlife Conservation Belt Loop & Pin

Saturday, January 21, 9:30-11:30 AM

The Meyer Center, Big Creek Park

Two volunteers needed to assist with activities. OCVN opportunity.

Chardon Winterfest

Saturday, January 21

1 morning and 1 afternoon shift

Chardon Square

Park District snowsnakes will skid across the square during this 2nd annual community event. Volunteers needed to help demonstrate and encourage participation in this fun activity with roots in Native American culture as well as to promote visits to *Snowbelted*. Contact Diane to volunteer.



Youth volunteers David Eippert (l) and Ryan Sauder, along with Naturalist Linda Gilbert, demonstrate the snowsnakes.

Geocache Reunion

February 25

Location TBD

Volunteers are needed to help plan and set up a series of geocaches in preparation for the event recognizing the year-long anniversary geocaching project, and to assist on February 25 when invited participants come together for the event. Contact Diane to volunteer and get further information.

**Looking for a new way to
exercise in 2012?**

*Join the Volunteer Bike Patrol!
Call Holly for details!*

Sap's-a-Risin'!

Be part of Geauga's sweet tradition of maple sugaring! Sap's-A-Risin' is Geauga Park District's annual maple sugaring celebration, and will be held March 11, 18 & 25 from noon to 4 PM. Volunteers make this event a great success! Can you help?

Volunteers needed as follows:

- * 4 volunteers in the lodge to take orders, make maple stirs, pop popcorn, greet visitors and tend the fires
- * 2 volunteers to oversee participation with sap gathering
- * 2 volunteers to interpret syrup production and hand out samples in the sugarhouse
- * 5 costumed volunteers interacting with visitors in a fun banter about sugaring during each era (dialogue suggestions mailed to volunteers ahead of time)

Age of Stone – 1700s, gather sap in bark basket, boil sap in hollow log with hot rocks (2 volunteers)

Age of Wood – 1800s, carve wooden spiles, haul buckets with shoulder yolk, boil sap in kettles (2 volunteers)

Age of Metal – 1900s, work the brace & bit, gather with shoulder yoke (1 volunteer)

Maple Madness Tour

This annual drive-it-yourself tour of local sugarhouses will be held Saturdays & Sundays, March 10 & 11 and 17 & 18, 10 AM to 5 PM. Volunteers are needed to pass out syrup samples in the sugarhouse and answer questions.

Saturday, March 10 -- 2 shifts, 1 volunteer needed both 10 AM-1 PM and 1:30 PM-5 PM

Sunday, March 11 -- 1 shift, 1 volunteer needed 10 AM-noon, prior to Sap's-A-Risin'!

Saturday, March 17 -- 2 shifts, 1 volunteer needed both 10 AM-1:30 PM and 1:30-5 PM

Sunday, March 18 -- 1 shift, 1 volunteer needed 10 AM-noon, prior to Sap's-A-Risin'!

To volunteer for these special maple sugaring programs or any other program, visit the volunteer website at www.geaugaparkdistrict.org or contact Holly Sauder, volunteer coordinator, at hsauder@geaugaparkdistrict.org, 440-286-9516 or 440-279-0802 (direct).

citizen science update

EXPERIENCED CARPENTER NEEDED

... to build 20+ bluebird boxes for use in our parks. Time is taking its toll on our existing boxes and replacement boxes are needed for the 2012 season. We will supply all the materials. Boxes need to be constructed by the beginning of March. Please contact Tami Gingrich for details at tgingrich@geaugaparkdistrict.org or 440-279-0811 (direct).

Community Outreach Volunteers

2012 is going to be a very important year for Geauga Park District, and we need your help to broaden our outreach in the community. Here are just a few ways where you may help.

Research

We need someone to research and identify various groups, their contact persons, meeting dates, etc. (A lot of this work is done, but we have gaps of information to fill.) This person is needed ASAP so we can complete our master list by the end of January.

Scheduling

This person will call various groups to schedule a spot on meeting agendas for our spokespersons. (If you wish to be part of our speakers bureau, please let us know.)

Area Business Outreach

These persons will tag team with members of our staff to visit area shops and distribute Park District promotional materials.

Community Event Representatives

These people will represent the Park District at various community events throughout the year (displays and materials provided).

Your assistance is invaluable. To help, please contact Paige at 440-279-0804 or phosier@geaugaparkdistrict.org.



Special Thanks

Special thanks to Susan Sifritt for her work on the landscape of The West Woods Nature Center. Nearly every Wednesday morning from spring through fall, she weeded the gardens around the nature center & made the flower beds look fabulous! THANK YOU, SUSAN!

Special thanks also to Al Zack for his assistance on every possible task around The West Woods. Al shows up every Tuesday and lends assistance to anything needed. His input on the *Snowbelted* and *Wild Nights* exhibits was invaluable. THANK YOU, ALL!

Volunteer opportunities

Reminder: Program start times are listed below.
Volunteers should plan to arrive 15 to 30 minutes earlier.

January

- Snowbelted Exhibit--Daily
(West Woods)
- 1/7 Full Moon Ski 6:30 PM
(Orchard Hills)
- 1/8 Winter Recreation 1 PM
(Big Creek)
- 1/8 *Snowbelted* Hike 4 PM
(West Woods)
- 1/14 Hawk Wagon Ride 10 AM
(Swine Creek)
- 1/14 Snowflake Program 1:30 PM
(Sunnybrook)
- 1/15 Armchair Adventure 1 PM
(Big Creek)
- 1/15 'RTE' Species 2:30 PM
(Big Creek)
- 1/15 *Snowbelted* Hike 4 PM
(West Woods)
- 1/21 Cub Scout Program 9:30 AM
(Big Creek)
- 1/21 Otter Hike 2 PM
(Eldon Russell)
- 1/22 Forecasting Snow 1PM
(Big Creek)
- 1/22 *Snowbelted* Hike 4 PM
(West Woods)
- 1/26 Timbertots 10 AM & 1 PM
(West Woods)
- 1/26 Jam Session 7 PM
(Big Creek)
- 1/28 Sledding & Snowflakes 2 PM
(Orchard Hills)
- 1/28 Timbertots 10 AM
(The West Woods)
- 1/29 Armchair Adventure 1 PM
(Big Creek)
- 1/29 *Snowbelted* Hike 4 PM
(West Woods)

February

- Snowbelted Exhibit--Daily
(West Woods)
- 2/4 Sweet Maple 2 PM
(Big Creek)
- 2/5 Surviving Cold 1 PM
(Big Creek)
- 2/5 Weather Wonders 1 PM
(West Woods)
- 2/5 *Snowbelted* Hike 4 PM
(West Woods)
- 2/6 Full Moon Ski 6:30 PM
(The Rookery)
- 2/11 Nature Challenge 1 PM
(West Woods)
- 2/12 Armchair Adventure 1 PM
(Big Creek)
- 2/12 *Snowbelted* Hike 4 PM
(West Woods)
- 2/18 Caves & Icicles Hike 10 AM
(West Woods)
- 2/18 Ski The West Woods 1:30 PM
(West Woods)
- 2/19 Climate Change 1 PM
(Big Creek)
- 2/19 Butterfly Surveys 2:30 PM
(Big Creek)
- 2/19 Timbertots 3 PM
(The Rookery)
- 2/19 *Snowbelted* Hike 4 PM
(West Woods)
- 2/20 Muskrateers 10 AM
(Big Creek)
- 2/20 Crinkleroots 10 AM
(Big Creek)
- 2/20 Timbertots 10 AM & 1 PM
(The Rookery)
- 2/23 Jam Session 7 PM
(Big Creek)
- 2/25 Sledding & Snowflakes 2 PM
(Beartown)
- 2/26 Armchair Adventure 1 PM
(Big Creek)
- 2/26 *Snowbelted* Hike 4 PM
(West Woods)

March



Volunteers Audrey Hudak and Sam Barnhart demonstrate maple sugaring at the 'Age of Stone'

- 3/? Amphibian Awakening 8 PM
(West Woods)
- 3/3 Living History: John Muir 1:30 PM
(Big Creek)
- 3/8 Timbertots 10 AM & 1 PM
(Swine Creek Reservation)
- 3/8 Food & Farms 6:30 PM
(West Woods)
- 3/10 Timbertots 10 AM
(Swine Creek Reservation)
- 3/10 Maple Madness Tour 10 AM
(Swine Creek Reservation)
- 3/10 Tree Tappers Ball 7:30 PM
(Parkman Community House)
- 3/11 Maple Madness Tour 10 AM
(Swine Creek Reservation)
- 3/11 Sap's-A-Risin'! 12 PM
(Swine Creek Reservation)
- 3/17 Affelder Falls Hike 9 AM
(West Woods)
- 3/17 Maple Madness Tour 10 AM
(Swine Creek Reservation)
- 3/18 Maple Madness Tour 10 AM
(Swine Creek Reservation)
- 3/18 Sap's-A-Risin'! 12 PM
(Swine Creek Reservation)
- 3/20 Equinox Hike 6:30 PM
(Observatory Park)
- 3/23 Meet the Artist 7 PM
(West Woods)
- 3/24 Shrike Hike 2 PM
(Frohring Meadows)
- 3/25 Sap's-A-Risin'! 12 PM
(Swine Creek Reservation)



Volunteer Katie Eippert at Sledding & Snowflakes

thank you!

Volunteer hours for August, September and October are 2,805!

ALLEN, BILL
ALLEN, KATHY
ALLENSON, STEPHEN
ANDREAS, MARIE
BALCER, KELLY
BANZER, CHARLOTTE
BANZER, JOSEPH
BARNHART, SAM
BELLITTO, RITA
BENEDICT, HENRY
BERGER, SUE
BERGER, WILLIAM
BERMAN, TED
BEST, DAN
BETTS, DENNIS
BETTS, JOANN
BLOCH, BARBARA
BOBBITT, TRENT
BOEHNLEIN, SISTER JULIE
BOSWORTH, SHERRY
BOWMAN, DEBBIE
BROZOVIC, NICHOLAS
CALLAHAN, JOYCE
CHEW, DAVID
COMBS, JOHN C
COMBS, JOHN E
COMBS, JORDAN
COMBS, RITA
COOK, PATTI
CRAUN, NANCY
CUPP, ELIZABETH
CVERNA, FRAN
DAVIDSON, ANNE
DAVIDSON, JIM
DESANTIS, ALAN
DIVELY, FRED
DIVELY, JEAN
DREIMILLER, BILL
FABIG, DAVE
FATH, JOAN
FATH, MIKE
FEDOR, JO
FISH, BONNIE

FISH, GARY
FISHER, MADDIE
FLETCHER, CHARLES
FORD JR., DAVID
FRANCIS, JOAN
FRANZ, BILL
FRASER, WILLIAM
FRAZIER, DAVE
FRAZIER, KAREN
FRENCHIE, RICHARD
FROHRING, GLENN
FROHRING, JEAN
GAZLEY, CINDY
GILES, JAY
GRAU, STEPHEN
HANNAN, PEGGY
HANNAN, TOM
HAYES, LOIS
HECKLER, JERRY
HEDLUND, GEORGIA
HEROLD, DEBORAH
HICKOX, JEFFREY
HODAKIEVIC, JAN
HOLM, RUTH
HOSIER, PAIGE
HOSMER, PAT
HOSMER, WAYNE
HRIVNAK, NANCY
HUDAK, AUDREY
JANOCH, JOHN
JEFFRIES, CLARENCE
KEICHEL, CLIFFORD
KIEVETS, CLARA
KOVACEVIC, JOHN
KOVANES, SANDRA
KOZA, CHERYL
LEAVENWORTH, KATHY
LEECH, PAT
LEWIS, CRISTINE
LIPTAK, VICKY
MANWARING, ROSA
MATHIOTT, DOTTIE
MATHIOTT, RACHAEL

MCCULLOUGH, BOB
MCGUIRE, MIKE
MCKINNEY, RACHEL
MEER, KELLI
MERRYMAN, ALICE
METYK, BONNIE
MILLER, MARLENE
MITCHELL, DONALD
MITCHELL, PATRICIA
MOONE, CHERYL
MORGAN, KAREN
MORGAN, KEVIN
NEMECKAY, DOUGLAS
NEMETH, JANE HALL
NEMETH, WILLIAM
NESNADNY, MARSHA
NESTOR, JOHN
NEWTON, MICHELE
O'DONNELL, JOHN
O'NEILL, MARY BETH
ORAVEC, ELLEN
OWENS, CAROL
PADAVICK, JOYCE
PARKINSON, BARBARA
PODOJIL, GENIE
PODOJIL, ROY
POLITZER, JUDITH
PRUSZYSKI, ROBERT
RABB, SHELDON
RAMSEY, LISA
RASMUSSEN, BARBARA
RAWLS, SHA'YUMA
RAY, TODD
ROBBINS, THOMAS
ROBERTSON, BARBARA
SAMUEL, JACQUELINE
SAUDER, BRAD
SAUDER, RACHEL
SAUDER, RYAN
SCHIEMANN, LEE
SCHRADER, MARILYN
SCHWING, WILLIAM
SICILIANO, SALLY

SICKLING, KATHRYN
SIFRITT, SUSAN
SIMKO, DAVE
SIMON, MARSHA
SINDELAR, GEO
SKINNER, CAROL
SKINNER, DAVID
SKINNER, IOLA
SOUCEK, JOSEPH
SPEAR, LINDA
SPECK, NANCY
STANTON, NORA
STEHLI, FRANK
STEIGERWALD, GEORGIE
STEIGERWALD, JOHN
STITH, AMANDA
STRONG, PJ
STRONG, REBECCA
SUSZYNSKI, JEFF
SWANEY, JOHN
SZUTER, KEITH
TANNER, ALAN
TITTL, JESSICA
TOMPKINS, KEITH
TRETERA, DON
TRETERA, FRAN
TURPIN, STEVE
ULLMAN, CATHERINE
VALEN, DIANE
VALENTINE, BRIAN
VALKO, MIKE
WEAVER, ABE
WIEBUSCH, SANDY
WINTON, DON
WOLFE, DENISE
WOLFE, TIMOTHY
WOOLF, SANDY
YOON, SUZY
YORK, DAVID
ZACK, AL
ZEITZ, JAMES
ZELAZNY, BILL
ZRINYI, GENE

Thank you to all volunteers! Geauga Park District truly appreciates your time and hard work.

GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT FOUNDATION



Updates from Geauga Park District Foundation

You can leave a legacy of protecting and conserving Geauga County's important natural resources for generations to come through a planned gift to the Geauga Park District Foundation. An outright bequest is the simplest way to provide a future gift. A charitable gift annuity returns a present stream of payments to the donor or another beneficiary while also providing a future gift for the Foundation. A named endowment fund may be established with a minimum gift of \$10,000, which may be paid over a three-year period.

Gauga Park District Foundation is a partner with the Cleveland Foundation in assisting those who wish to leave a legacy gift for the Park District and

who have questions about how to accomplish this. Another resource for answering questions you may have are the Gift Planning pages on Geauga Park District's website. You will find a wealth of information there about all manner of planned and deferred giving.

The Park District's McCullough Society acknowledges and recognizes those who have made "lifetime" gifts in support of Geauga Park District through the Foundation. To learn more, call the Geauga Park District Development Office at 440-286-9516 or visit www.geaugaparkdistrict.org and click Support Your Parks button at the top of each page.



THE McCullough SOCIETY



Geauga Park District
9160 Robinson Road
Chardon, OH 44024-9148



Snowbelted: Winter's a Blast!

Open daily through March 1, 2012

There's still time to volunteer in the exhibit - call Holly for details!

THANK YOU
to all who have
volunteered so far!

For a detailed list of volunteer opportunities, visit www.geaugaparkdistrict.org or check the current issue of Geauga Park District's public newsletter, "Voices of Nature." The volunteer logo appears by programs requiring volunteers. Or call Holly Sauder, volunteer coordinator, at 440-286-9516 or 440-279-0802 (direct).

