

PROTECT · CONSERVE · CONNECT



# chit chat

A publication of Geauga Park District



Volunteer Sister Julie Boehnlein shows off her antler as she explains bartering at the Ice Age Indians program in November.

*H*appy Birthday! Geauga Park District turns 50 years old in 2011...and is looking great! In celebration of our anniversary, and of your COUNTLESS volunteer hours over the past 50 years, we're returning to the original **Chit Chat** name for the volunteer newsletter.

We're looking forward to a very busy anniversary year. Please mark your calendars for Saturday, April 9, for the annual volunteer celebration, where we'll get a preview of the "Snowbelated: Winter's a Blast!" exhibit, opening in November 2011. We'll also share details for the Birthday Blast at Observatory Park's grand opening in August and all of the 50th anniversary events.

As we make plans for Geauga Park District's next 50 years, we's also like to take a moment to share our **UTMOST** appreciation for you, our valued volunteers. If it were not for your efforts over the years be it tagging monarchs, greeting guests at the fair, assisting a school field trip, answering the phones, labeling newsletters, baking cookies, wearing costumes to demonstrate maple sugaring in the cold, planting trees or pulling garlic mustard, just to name only a **FEW** of your thousands of volunteer hours over the last 50 years well, we never would have gotten beyond that first year. So it's largely thanks to **YOU** that we can celebrate Geauga Park District!

*Holly*

**PARK COMMISSIONERS**

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

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

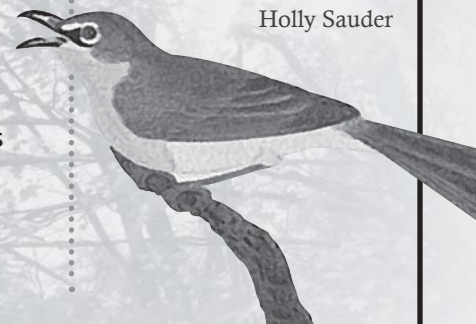
Thomas G. Curtin

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR**

Keith McClintock

**VOLUNTEER  
COORDINATOR**

Holly Sauder



W I N T E R 2 0 1 1

## volunteer trainings

### **Nature Scopes Astronomy Training**

*Tuesday, January 4, 9-11 AM*

*The West Woods Nature Center*

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 8, 9-11 AM*

*Great Blue Heron Lodge, The Rookery*

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

### **Maple Sugaring School Group Training**

*Thursday, March 3, 9:30-11:00 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.

### **Sap's-A-Risin'! Training**

*Saturday, March 5, 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 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.

*Volunteer Marlene Miller engaging visitors with "Mikey" the turtle at the Lizards, Turtles & Boas, Oh My! program in August.*

## special programs

### **Cub Scouts: Geology Belt Loop & Pin**

*Saturday, January 15, 2-4 PM*

*The West Woods Nature Center*

Two volunteers needed to assist with both rock activities and hike to Ansel's Cave. Must be comfortable hiking in snow. OCVN opportunity.

### **Junior Girl Scout Wildlife Badge**

*Saturday, February 5, 9:30-11:30 AM*

*The West Woods Nature Center*

Two OCVN or *Nature Scope* volunteers needed to tell about a local endangered animal, bird adaptations, using binoculars, or bird watching. (select one topic)

### **Bear Cub Scouts:**

#### **Sharing Your World with Wildlife Achievement**

*Saturday, Mar 26; 9:00-10:30 a.m.*

*The West Woods Nature Center.*

Two volunteers needed: one to help with check-in and building recycled bird feeders, one OCVN to tell about local extinct or endangered animals.

### **Geocache Monitors**

Volunteers are needed to monitor cards with letters posted at each park as part of the geocache game created for the 50th anniversary. Each park has one lettered card at a significant location. Check to make sure it is still in place. SW parks Jan-Dec, SE parks April-Dec, NW parks July-Dec, NE parks Oct-Dec. Call Judy to volunteer and get cache locations.

*Volunteer Joe Slepko demonstrating how to tap trees at the Sap's-A-Risin'! Age of Metal display.*



**volunteers in action!**

## 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 6, 13 & 20 from noon to 4 PM



Volunteer John O'Donnell at Sap's-A-Risin'! Age of Wood display.

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 in the sap gathering process
- \* 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 12 & 13 and March 19 & 20, 10-5 PM. Volunteers are needed to pass out syrup samples in the sugarhouse and answer questions.

Saturday, March 12 – 2 shifts, 1 volunteer needed both 10 AM-1 PM, and 1:30 PM-5 PM

Sunday, March 13 – 1 shift, 1 volunteer needed 10 AM-Noon, prior to Sap's-A-Risin'!

Saturday, March 19 – 2 shifts, 1 volunteer needed both 10 AM-1:30 PM, and 1:30 PM-5 PM

Sunday, March 20 – 1 shift, 1 volunteer needed 10 AM-noon, prior to Sap's-A-Risin'!

To volunteer for these or any programs, visit the volunteer website at [www.geaugaparkdistrict.org](http://www.geaugaparkdistrict.org) or contact Holly Sauder at [hsauder@geaugaparkdistrict.org](mailto:hsauder@geaugaparkdistrict.org), 440-286-9516 or 440-279-0802 (direct).

## citizen science updates

In 2009, Geauga Park District Field Naturalists Tami and Linda established butterfly transects on park properties at Observatory Park, Oakton Preserve and Frohring Meadows. A transect is basically a survey route which is walked each week during the April-October survey period. The number and abundance of butterfly species as well as weather information are tallied and the data is shared with the Ohio Lepidopterists long-term monitoring of Ohio Butterflies project. Tami and Linda are compiling the data for this year's survey, and from a preliminary look at the data, 2010 was a good year for butterflies. One noteworthy species was the Common Buckeye. All three survey sites reported occurrences of this beautiful butterfly. According to the ODNR fact sheet for this species, *"The Common Buckeye is not a resident of Ohio, but is an immigrant. It first appears in late summer in southern Ohio and spreads northward by fall. However, some years it is rare or absent from the state."* Many folks reported seeing this butterfly in their own yards this past summer and fall.

Common Buckeye



# olunteer opportunities

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

## January

- 1/2 Forest Kick-Off 1 PM  
(West Woods)
- 1/8 50 Years/50 Miles 1 PM  
(Beartown)
- 1/9 Armchair Adventure 1:30 PM  
(West Woods)
- 1/9 Amazing Owls 7 PM  
(West Woods)
- 1/15 Cross Country Skiing 10:30 AM  
(Big Creek)
- 1/16 Armchair Adventure 1:30 PM  
(West Woods)
- 1/16 Sledding & Snowflakes 2 PM  
(Orchard Hills)
- 1/19 Full Moon Ski 6:30 PM  
(Orchard Hills)
- 1/20 Man vs. Wild 7 PM  
(West Woods)
- 1/22 Timbertots 10 AM  
(The West Woods)
- 1/22 Tree Trek 1 PM  
(Sunnybrook Preserve)
- 1/23 Armchair Adventure 1:30 PM  
(West Woods)
- 1/25 Timbertots 10 AM & 1 PM  
(Big Creek)
- 1/25 Food & Farms 6:30 PM  
(West Woods)
- 1/26 Timbertots 10 AM  
(The West Woods)
- 1/27 Jam Session 7 PM  
(West Woods)
- 1/29 50 Years/50 Miles 2 PM  
(Chickagami)
- 1/29 Creativity Tapped 7 PM  
(West Woods)
- 1/30 "Wood" Walk 3 PM  
(West Woods)

## February

- 2/5 50 Years/50 Miles 2 PM  
(The Rookery)
- 2/6 Armchair Adventure 1:30 PM  
(West Woods)
- 2/8 Getting to the Root 7 PM  
(West Woods)
- 2/11 Homeschool Days 2 PM  
(The West Woods)
- 2/11 Fireside Songs & Stories 7 PM  
(The Rookery)
- 2/12 Winter Tree ID 2 PM  
(Big Creek)
- 2/13 Armchair Adventure 1:30 PM  
(West Woods)
- 2/13 Bear Facts 3 PM  
(West Woods)
- 2/18 Full Moon Ski 6:30 PM  
(Headwaters)
- 2/19 50 Years/50 Miles 9 AM  
(Burton Wetlands)
- 2/19 Backyard Bird Count 12 PM  
(West Woods)
- 2/20 Backyard Bird Count 12 PM  
(West Woods)
- 2/20 Armchair Adventure 1:30 PM  
(West Woods)
- 2/20 Timbertots 3 PM  
(West Woods)
- 2/21 Timbertots 10 AM & 1 PM  
(The Rookery)
- 2/21 Crinkleroots 9:30 AM  
(Sunnybrook Preserve)
- 2/21 Muskraters 9:30 AM  
(Sunnybrook Preserve)
- 2/23 Timbertots 10 AM  
(West Woods)
- 2/24 Jam Session 7 PM  
(West Woods)
- 2/27 Armchair Adventure 1:30 PM  
(West Woods)
- 2/27 Woodpeckers 3 PM  
(West Woods)

## March



- 3/? Amphibian Awakening 8 PM  
(West Woods)
- 3/5 50 Years/50 Miles 2 PM  
(Walter C. Best)
- 3/6 Sap's-A-Risin' 12 PM  
(Swine Creek Reservation)
- 3/12 Maple Madness Tour 10 AM  
(Swine Creek Reservation)
- 3/12 Tree Tappers Ball 7:30 PM  
(Parkman Community House)
- 3/13 Maple Madness Tour 10 AM  
(Swine Creek Reservation)
- 3/13 Sap's-A-Risin'! 12 PM  
(Swine Creek Reservation)
- 3/16 Timbertots 10 AM  
(Swine Creek Reservation)
- 3/18 Timbertots 10 AM & 1 PM  
(Swine Creek Reservation)
- 3/19 Timbertots 2 PM  
(Swine Creek Reservation)
- 3/19 Maple Madness Tour 10 AM  
(Swine Creek Reservation)
- 3/19 Sugarbush Full Moon 8:30 PM  
(Swine Creek Reservation)
- 3/20 Maple Madness Tour 10 AM  
(Swine Creek Reservation)
- 3/20 Sap's-A-Risin'! 12 PM  
(Swine Creek Reservation)
- 3/24 Jam Session 7 PM  
(West Woods)
- 3/27 Grover Gifford 1 PM  
(West Woods)
- 3/27 50 Years/50 Miles 2 PM  
(West Woods)



*Volunteer Marsha Simon at  
Sledding & Snowflakes*

**thank you!**

**Volunteer hours for August, September and October are 2,784!**

ALLEN, KATHY  
ALLENSON, STEPHEN  
ANDREAS, MARIE  
ARMBRUSTER, DEBBIE  
BANZER, CHARLOTTE  
BANZER, JOSEPH  
BARBER, MADISON  
BELLITTO, RITA  
BENEDICT, HENRY  
BERGER, WILLIAM  
BERMAN, TED  
BEST, DAN  
BLOCH, BARBARA  
BOBBITT, TRENT  
BOEHNLEIN, SISTER JULIE  
BOSWORTH, SHERRY  
BOWMAN, DEBBIE  
BUEHNER, LARRY  
COMBS, JOHN C  
COMBS, JOHN E  
COMBS, RITA  
CONNER, AMY  
COOK, PATTI  
CUPP, ELIZABETH  
CVERNA, FRAN  
DESANTIS, ALAN  
DIVELY, FRED  
DIVELY, JEAN  
DONALDSON, CAROLINE  
DREIMILLER, BILL  
EIPPERT, JOAN  
FATH, JOAN  
FATH, MIKE  
FEDOR, JO  
FISH, BONNIE  
FISH, GARY  
FLETCHER, CHARLES  
FORD JR., DAVID  
FRANCIS, JOAN  
FRANZ, BILL  
FRASER, WILLIAM  
FRAZIER, DAVE

FRAZIER, KAREN  
FRENCHIE, RICHARD  
FROHRING, GLENN  
FROHRING, JEAN  
GALDUN, DAN  
GALIARDI, JAMIE  
GALIARDI, JONATHAN  
GARVER, BEBE  
GAZLEY, CINDY  
GILES, JAY  
GILES, SUSAN  
GRANGER, PAM  
GRAU, STEPHEN  
HANNAN, PEGGY  
HANNAN, TOM  
HAYES, LOIS  
HECKLER, JERRY  
HEDLUND, GEORGIA  
HEROLD, DEBORAH  
HEROLD, DESMOND  
HICKOX, JEFFREY  
HODAKIEVIC, JAN  
HOLM, RUTH  
HOSIER, PAIGE  
HOSMER, PAT  
HOSMER, WAYNE  
HUDAK, AUDREY  
HYDE, MARILYN  
KEICHEL, CLIFFORD  
KIEVETS, CLARA  
KOVACEVIC, JOHN  
KOVANES, SANDRA  
KOVANES, WILLIAM  
KOZA, CHERYL  
LEAVENWORTH, KATHY  
LEECH, JOHN  
LEECH, PAT  
MANWARING, ROSA  
MARABITO, CONNIE  
MARTIN, ERIN  
MATHIOTT, BRYCESON  
MATHIOTT, DOTTIE

MATHIOTT, RACHAEL  
MCCULLOUGH, BOB  
MCGUIRE, MIKE  
MCKINNEY, RACHEL  
MEER, KELLI  
MEER, RACHEL  
MERRYMAN, ALICE  
METYK, BONNIE  
MILLER, MARLENE  
MITCHELL, PATRICIA  
MOONE, CHERYL  
MORGAN, KAREN  
MORGAN, KEVIN  
MOSTER, JANET  
NEMETH, JANE HALL  
NEMETH, WILLIAM  
NESTOR, JOHN  
NEWTON, MICHELE  
NICHOLS, TIM  
NOBLE, KATHLEEN  
O'DONNELL, JOHN  
O'NEILL, MARY BETH  
OWENS, CAROL  
PAGANO, EMILY  
PAGE, BOB  
PARKINSON, BARBARA  
PODOJIL, GENIE  
PODOJIL, ROY  
POLITZER, JUDITH  
RABB, SHELDON  
RADER, ELIZABETH  
RALSTON, DOUG  
RAMSEY, LISA  
RANDOLPH, NATHAN  
RASMUSSEN, BARBARA  
RAWLS, SHAYUMA  
RAY, TODD  
ROBBINS, THOMAS  
RZESZOTARSKI, MARK  
SAUDER, RACHEL  
SAUDER, RYAN  
SCHIEMANN, LEE

SCHMID, HARRY  
SCHRADER, MARILYN  
SICILIANO, SALLY  
SICKLING, KATHRYN  
SIMON, MARSHA  
SINDELAR, GEO  
SKINNER, CAROL  
SKINNER, DAVID  
SKINNER, IOLA  
SLEPKO, JOSEPH  
SMITH, BRIAN  
SNYDER, JACK  
SOUCEK, JOSEPH  
STANTON, NORA  
STEHLI, FRANK  
STEIGERWALD, GEORGIE  
STEIGERWALD, JOHN  
STOTTER, JAMES  
STROJAN, JEAN  
SUSZYNSKI, JEFF  
SWEENEY, DAWN  
SZUTER, KEITH  
TERRAZZINO, SUSAN  
TITTL, JESSICA  
TOMPKINS, KEITH  
TRETERA, DON  
TRETERA, FRAN  
TURPIN, STEVE  
ULLMAN, CATHERINE  
VALEN, DIANE  
VOLIN, EVELYN  
WEAVER, ABE  
WHITE, ALAINE  
WIEBUSCH, SANDY  
WINTON, DON  
WOLFE, DENISE  
WOLFE, TIMOTHY  
ZACK, AL  
ZEITZ, JAMES  
ZELAZNY, BILL  
ZRINYI, GENE

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



*Beartown Lakes Reservation*



*Walter C. Best Wildlife Preserve*



*Sunnybrook Preserve*

*For a detailed list of volunteer opportunities, visit [www.geaugaparkdistrict.org](http://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.)*





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

## Calling Artists & Bakers for Creativity Tapped!

Geauga Park District is hosting a 2-month community art exhibition, featuring works inspired by maple sugaring, as well as artwork/sculpture created from metal sap buckets and other sugaring equipment. Artwork including paintings, photography, pottery, sculpture, and jewelry, as well as projects made from the tree itself will be accepted... contact Teresa Runion for details to enter your own work!



Your maple-flavored or maple leaf-shaped baked items are being sought for the opening of Creativity Tapped at The West Woods Nature Center, Saturday, January 29<sup>th</sup> from 7-9 p.m. (non-maple goodies are welcome too!)

Baked items may be dropped off Friday, January 28 or Saturday, January 29 at The West Woods Nature Center from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. Please contact Teresa Runion at 440.286.9516 or [trunion@geaugaparkdistrict.org](mailto:trunion@geaugaparkdistrict.org) or with questions or if you wish to participate as an artist!

*For a detailed list of volunteer opportunities, visit [www.geaugaparkdistrict.org](http://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.)*

