



MIAMI VALLEY OUTDOOR CLUB

June 2007

7,000 miles on the Pacific Crest, Continental Divide and Appalachian Trails

June 5 Membership Meeting

For the third time, *Dayton Daily News* reporter Larry Budd will try to present a program about his adventures on three popular American hiking trails. In February, when he was first scheduled to speak, our meeting was cancelled because of a major winter snowstorm. At last month's meeting, after Larry had shown only a dozen slides of the Pacific Crest Trail and aroused the interest of many MVOC members, his slide projector crashed. The bulb burned out and there was no back up. Despite seeing only a few images before the presentation abruptly ended, members had many questions for Larry about his backpacking experiences - like "What about snakes, mesquitos, bad water, equipment, clothing and medical issues?" Fortunately for us, Larry is willing to try one more time to share his presentation at our June membership meeting. The program will begin at 7:00 p.m., preceded by the business meeting at

6:30 p.m. Come at 6:00 p.m. for socializing and trip planning. The meeting will be at Wegerzyn Garden Center, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave., Dayton.

(continued on page 2)

*Navigating rocky terrain above ground at the Great Saltpetre Cave Preserve in Rockcastle County, Kentucky in April.
(photo by Donna Gehring)*

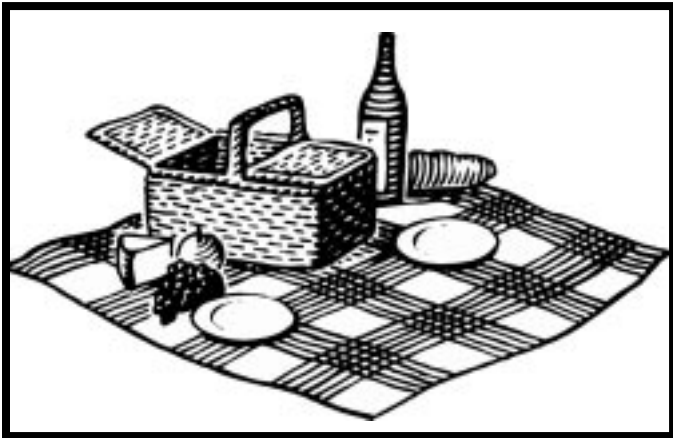


June Activities

Larry Budd Program, Tuesday, June 5 at Membership Meeting

Seasoned outdoorsman and reporter for the *Dayton Daily News*, Larry Budd, will tell us about his adventures walking the Pacific Crest, Continental Divide and Appalachian Trails from 1985-1987. Larry is also a sailor, kayaker, and trail runner, sometimes reporting his outings in the *DDN*, including a canoe trip with photographer Ty Greenlees along most of the Little Miami River. His favorite hiking spot in the area is the Red River Gorge.

Someday he'd like to visit Nepal and climb the Himalayas, and hike Europe from top to bottom. While he was pondering this trip and a trek on the northern section of the Continental Divide he met his wife. In recent years he's been developing a multimedia project starting from an unpublished story he wrote about a return to the Wolf Creek Pass, where his hikes nearly ended in 1987. He has instructed his wife to spread his ashes there after his death.



Englewood Family Picnic, Sunday, June 10

Since food is always a draw for MVOC'ers, our president Sandy Todd thought we might try a "social." Bring a covered dish to share, regular picnic equipment, and beverages. The club will not be providing any food or supplies, so come ready to prepare your own. Bring your bikes, rollerblades, frisbees or hiking shoes if you are interested in more than eating. The park also provides volleyball and horseshoe

equipment. Meet at Patty Shelter in Englewood MetroPark. Activities begin at 2:00 p.m. To enter the park, turn north off Rt. 40 east of the Englewood Dam. For more info call Sandy Todd at 678-5046.

Sailboarding at Eastwood Lake Wednesday, June 13

Want to try sailboarding? Virginia and David Wood will have their boards out at Eastwood Lake (south of SR4 off of Woodman Dr.) 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. Kayaks and canoes are welcome too. Someone usually goes for food toward 6 pm. Call 426-9875 if you are unsure about the weather.

Board Meeting, Thursday, June 14

This month's board meeting will be at Marion's Pizza Restaurant, 3443 N. Dixie Dr., 6:00 p.m. All club members are welcome.

Zaleski Backpack Trip

Saturday - Sunday, June 16 - 17

Come see Ohio's Champion White Pine while enjoying a weekend on the Zaleski backpack trail. This famous tree is located in the midst of an impressive stand of white pines on the upper (and seldom used) loop of the backpack trail. Plans are to enter via the Rt. 56 trail head, hike in about 2 miles to a portion of the trail that is on national forest land, which means camping is at-large. Once camp is set up, we can explore the area, including finding this impressive 152 foot state champion tree. On Sunday, we'll complete the loop for the hike out. All told, the entire loop is about 5.5 miles. Note: parking is very limited at this trailhead, so carpooling is preferred. Plans are to leave early Saturday and return Sunday late afternoon. If interested, contact Connie Steele at 698-5397 or connsteele@msn.com.

Evening Bicycle Rides

Anyone interested in riding Monday evenings in June, please call Jeanne Boeke (299-4102) at least the day before to find out the location. We ride for about an hour or so on one of the local bikepaths. Dinner afterwards is a possibility if there is interest.

Little Miami River Group Campout, Oregonia, Sat. - Sun., June 30 - July 1

Group Campout at Morgan's Canoe Camp-ground on the Scenic Little Miami River, Saturday, June 30.

There will be hiking, cycling, canoeing, and a pot luck picnic on Saturday night. There are options in the area for in-line skating, and visiting a restored ancient summer solstice marker.

This is the first of three group camp-outs this summer. The second will be on July 21 at Hueston Woods, and the Third at Kiser Lake, August 18. Contact person: Donna Gehring at 836-8515 or dgehring@worldnet.att.net.

Trip Reports

Camping/Hiking/Caving, Great Saltpetre Cave Preserve, KY April 27 - 29.

by Andy Niekamp

Everyone had a great time at the camping/hiking/caving outing at The Great Saltpetre Cave Preserve in Kentucky. Fifteen people participated, including Andy Niekamp, Shari Christy, Connie Steele, Barbara McCray, Dwight Gehring, Donna Gehring, Jeanne Boeke, Kathy Hemmerick, Julie Webb, David Wood, Virginia Wood, Dan Haas, Nancy Haas, Brian Stadler and Andrew Stadler.

We had plenty of open camping area and everyone found a camping spot that suited their needs. Since our campsite was located near an electrical outlet we decided to "rough it" with comforts of two electric coffee makers and some electric lights.

On Friday night Andy led a tour of the Great Saltpetre Cave. The group covered almost all areas of the cave and learned many historical facts. The adventurous ones crawled into the Pig Pen area of the cave to see a 50,000 year old peccary bone sticking out of the cave dirt.

On Saturday morning Andy led a crew of five people on a wild cave trip to the Sinks of

The Roundstone. The trip lasted three hours and consisted mostly of a walking passage but some crawling and climbing was required. Connie remarked that the cave trip was not that bad and actually a lot of fun. At the end of the cave trip we were greeted by the non-cavers who wanted to see the scenic natural entrance.

On Saturday afternoon we took a rugged and trail-less hike into the Little Egypt area of Daniel Boone National Forest. We were rewarded with seeing lots of spring wildflowers and two very spectacular waterfalls. Some of the adventurous hikers climbed onto the many boulders and cliffs to get a better view. Later on Saturday we visited the Daughtery Bear Tracks Petroglyph. This petroglyph was carved by native Americans about 10,000 years ago and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

On Saturday night Andy led another tour of Great Saltpetre Cave for those who did not get a chance to see it on Friday night. After the tour those who still had energy left visited the old cemetery at the Preserve and told ghost stories.

We experienced a few brief rain showers on Saturday morning but by 10 am there was plenty of sun and blue sky. And of course on Sunday morning, the day we left, the weather was the best with a high around 80 degrees. Andy, Barbara and Connie stayed a little longer to do some four wheel driving to visit the 11 mile long Goochland Cave that has a very large and scenic entrance.

SunWatch Indian Village Sleepover Saturday & Sunday, May 5 & 6

by Donna Gehring

From a maximum of 32 people signed up to attend, only 22 ultimately showed up. The crowd started gathering around 6:00 p.m. There was Virginia, Bianca and Daddy Mark Wood, as well as Dan and Nancy Haas, Lindy McDonough and husband Mike Nelson. Sandy and Dave Todd with grandson Zack, Jeanne Boeke and niece Heather, Emma Pleasant, Paul Hopper and Luisa Guardione and, of course, my husband, Dwight and I also attended.

Soon everyone was there except the Shouse tribe of five and Bob Kelley. I was worried. Were we going to be thrown out if less than 20 showed up? I didn't have to worry because Terrie Shouse and her son Michael and grandsons, Caleb, Will, and Xavier apparently, took the scenic route. Or, in true Fugarwe tribe spirit, got lost. Bob was at the KY Derby with the Queen and couldn't get away on time.



These grass huts were the overnight sleeping quarters for twenty-two MVOC visitors to SunWatch Indian Village in May. (photo by Donna Gehring)

After depositing our stuff in the appropriate huts, we went on our private tour, including a short movie. The youngin's asked lots of questions and the tour guide answered them patiently. After the tour we showed off our necklace making skills. We used a primitive drill (except for the the steel drill bits purchased from the local hardware store) and drilled a hole in a shell. We then strung the shell and additional beads supplied by our host onto a bit of sinew.

After snacks, we shopped at the gift shop and then returned to our chosen huts. The marshmallow party was at Virginia's hut. S'mores and a fire in the hut firepit created a festive environment. The weather was great. To get an idea what it was like for our ancient counterparts, we had to ignore the numerous trains that passed nearby and the traffic sounds of I-75. Next morning we gathered at the modern building to unwrap and eat our breakfast and drink juice, tea, or coffee with fresh strawberries and grapes. Yes, it was worth the \$25.

Deadline for July newsletter is June 15.

Coming Up

- July 3.....Annual Summer Picnic, Indian Riffle Park
- July 12..... Board Meeting, Marions Pizza,
- July 14..... Mad River Inner Tube Float
- July 21-22.... Hueston Woods Group Campout
- Aug. 7..... Membership Meeting, Betty Ross of Glen Helen outdoor education raptor center.
- Aug. 11.....Mad River Inner Tube Float
- Aug. 18.....Kiser Lake Campout
- Sept.. 4..... Membership Meeting, Allen Johnson on Biking to the Arctic Circle or Canoeing the Wabash or Walking Hadrian's Wall or Kayaking Around Iceland.
- Sept. 7-9.....Junction Trail Festival, Milford, OH
- Oct. 2..... Membership Meeting, Rubin Battino on Tramping and Touring in New Zealand.
- Oct. 6..... Outdoor GearFest at 2nd Street Market
- Dec. 4.....Annual Holiday Feast & Auction



Trail Maintenance at Wildcat Hollow, Saturday, April 21

by Ralph Weiss

Eight MVOC'ers built a connector trail from the North Country trail to Lake Tecumseh. We benched a short section, to a wetland, then a stone bridge/path over to the dam.

The village of Shawnee plans to erect a sign advising hikers of the lake and town and welcoming them.

The early arrivals were Dave Todd, Dan Haas, Bob Kelley, Dwight and Donna Gehring, Dale Bockhorst, Gary Mount, and me.

Late comers Jim and Connie Steele, along with Bob Kelley and I, hiked Sunday morning to the site of our tethered bridge, just below the refrigerator, which is there lying quietly, parallel to the creek. The cold snap stopped the mushroom growth so we found a grand total of six.



*Scenes (left) from the Wildcat Hollow Trail Maintenance outing in April.
(Photos by Ralph Weiss)*

Membership Response Form

Annual dues are \$16 for singles or \$24 for families. New members joining after July 1 may pay half a year's dues.

Name _____ I'd like to join _____ I'd like to renew _____

Address _____ I'd like more information _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone # _____

Email address _____ Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Please circle one: (Include) (Do not include) my name and information on the annual roster sent to all MVOC members.

I hereby declare that I am at least 18 years of age and agree to abide by the rules and regulations of the Miami Valley Outdoor Club. I do hereby relieve the Miami Valley Outdoor Club and/or its officers and members from all responsibility and liability regarding any loss, injury, or accidents incurred at, or related to, any club activity or function.

Signature _____ Date _____

MVOC Officers

President:	Sandy Todd	698-5046	saza3@hotmail.com
Vice President:	Gary Mount	367-6702	glmount@yahoo.com
Secretary/Treasurer:	Dale Bockhorst	433-5533	dalebockhorst@yahoo.com
Programs Director:	Dwight Gehring	836-8515	dgehring@worldnet.att.net
Newsletter/Publicity:	Lindy McDonough	278-1493	lindymcd46@aol.com
Activities:	Donna Gehring	836-8515	dgehring@worldnet.att.net
Webmaster:	Shari Christy	879-7241	mac.secretary@sbcglobal.net

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