



MIAMI VALLEY OUTDOOR CLUB

January 2008

The Basics of Trip Planning at January 2 Meeting

Important change: The meeting will be on Wednesday instead of the usual Tuesday which is New Year's Day.

In an effort to make trip planning seem less intimidating to newcomers, program director Dwight Gehring and activities director Donna Gehring, both longtime members of MVOC, will use a slide presentation to review highlights of the past eighteen years of outdoor club activities. They will cover the range of outings from short local day hikes, weekend trips, week-long trips, out-of-state trips and even trips abroad. They'll offer a breakdown of trips in terms of activity level, length of time and method of interacting with the environment. We'll get a close look at the amount of effort and time involved in planning, and individual organizational styles. It will be a great opportunity for new members to learn some of the club's history and a chance for older members to share funny, difficult and successful experiences organizing and leading trips. The talk 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.

"Ohio Above and Below" Trip to Ohio Caverns and Campbell Hill, Dec. 8, 2007

*(right) Eighteen people turned out for this trip below ground and to the highest point in Ohio. (Photo by Andy Niekamp)
See story page 3.*



Upcoming Activities

Membership Meeting, Wednesday, January 2

Learn the basics of trip planning and leading by long-time MVOCers Dwight and Donna Gehring. The talk 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.

Board Meeting, Thursday, January 11

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.

Northern Ohio Cross Country Ski Trip Friday - Sunday, January 25-27

If there is snow we will leave either Friday evening or Saturday morning for either the Toledo/Detroit area or Lake County outside Cleveland for some cross country skiing. Cross country ski and some snowshoe rentals available. Motel accommodations. For more information or to be put on the call list, contact David or Virginia Wood, 937-426-9875.

Carter Caves 27th Annual Crawlathon Friday - Sunday, January 25-27

Crawl out of the bitter cold and into the warmth of a deep dark cave in Kentucky. The Crawlathon, sponsored by Carter Caves State Resort Park, is a popular caving event with wild cave trips and programs for all skill levels. Registration began on December 15. Register early as trips fill up fast! For more info visit www.crawlathon.com. Contact Andy Niekamp at 937-296-0245 or andyniekamp@gmail.com if you are interested.

4th annual Chili Cook-Off and Hike at Sycamore State Park, Sunday, Feb. 3

TENTATIVELY mark your calendars on Feb. 3, for the 4th annual Chili cook-off and hike at Sycamore State Park. The date is not set due to not being able to reserve the building until after the first of the year. Dust off your favorite chili recipe or bring a yummy salad or desert to share. After our hike we will begin the arduous task of

eating different kinds of chili and voting on the best one and then awarding the coveted GOLDEN SPOON. For more info call Sandy Todd at 698-5046.

Volunteers Needed for Adventure Summit, WSU, Fri.- Sun., Feb. 8-10

Don't miss the 2008 Adventure Summit celebrating the spirit of outdoor adventure through human powered endeavors. This three-day event offers exhibits, vendors, speakers, an adventure film series, networking, activities, contests and prizes. MVOC will again have a booth to advertise our activities on Saturday 10:00-6:00 and Sunday 11:00-5:00. Volunteers are needed to fill approximately 2-hour time slots on those days. You'll want to stay longer to hear the great adventure stories, see all the gear and talk to other outdoor lovers. Contact Gary Mount 367-6702, glmount@yahoo.com or Lindy McDonough at 278-1493, lindymcd46@aol.com for more information or to sign up. Check out the schedule of Adventure Summit activities at www.theadventuresummit.com.

Michigan Cross Country Ski Trip, February 9-15 and Planning Meeting, January 6

Join us in Paradise in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. We have three spots left in the cabins currently rented for our group. A private room with a double bed and one or two sleeper sofas in the living room area. \$60 non-refundable deposit required. We will begin the weekend in Sault Ste. Marie trying out some night cross country skiing (motel accommodations). On Monday we travel to Paradise for snowshoeing and cross country skiing near Paradise MI (cabin accommodations). Cross country ski and snowshoe rental can be arranged. For more information look up Paradise on www.exploringthenorth.com/Paradise or Harmonsbirchwoodresort.com or just call David or Virginia Wood, 937-426-9875.

A planning meeting for the Michigan ski trip is planned for Sunday, January 6 at the home of David and Virginia Wood. We will start with a meal at 6 p.m. with the planning to begin around 6:45. David and Virginia will have Sloppy Joes and cider. Bring a side dish to share. For directions call David or Virginia at 937-426-9875.

Trip Reports

December 4 Feast, Auction and Wildcat Hollow Awards

Our annual holiday dinner and benefit auction was a smashing success this year. Delicious food, enough for several refill trips, was enjoyed by all. And the attendance was the best we've had in a number of years.

MVOC member Jim Foster did an outstanding job as auctioneer, persuading many of us to spend more than we should have on things we didn't need, but it was all in good fun and for a good cause. The final tally came to \$303 and will be divided equally between Bruckner Nature Center and Glen Helen Raptor Center.

Ohio forest service workers from Wildcat Hollow, Bill Scripp and Stan Carte, were in attendance to present certificates and awards to several MVOCers for their dedication and hardwork on the Wildcat Hollow Backpacking Trail and for all the assistance they have given over the years.

Bob Kelley, Emma Pleasant and Ralph Weiss were recognized for the most years of service by receiving fleece shirts, volunteer hats and big beautiful belt buckles.

Others recognized with certificates and gifts were Dwight and Donna Gehring, Dave Todd, Dan Haas, Dale Bockhorst, Sandy Todd, Nancy Haas, Connie Steele, Jim Steele, Barbara McCray, Doral Drew, Gary Mount, Ella Himes and Shari Christy.

Ohio - Above & Below, Saturday, December 8

by Andy Niekamp

On Saturday, December 8, eighteen people participated in the Ohio Above & Below Outing. They were Scott Barger, Linda Boonshoft, Donna Gehring, Kathy Hemmerick, Ella Himes, Sharon Mullins, Andy Niekamp, Ned Shepard, Marion Shepard, Gary Smith, Brian Stadler, Carol Stadler, Drew Stadler, Sydney Stadler, Julie Webb, Terrie Shouse & grandchildren Xavier and Avery. The day started with a visit to Campbell Hill, near Bellefontaine, which is the highest point in Ohio at 1,549 feet above sea level. We drove right to the snowy summit and enjoyed the view. We played in the snow and slid down the hill.

Next we toured Ohio Caverns. Ohio Caverns is the longest and most decorated of all Ohio caves. After lunch in West Liberty we visited Marie's Candies. We enjoyed the chocolate candy and were treated with free take home samples. From there we visited Freshwater Farms near Urbana. We visited the indoor fish hatchery, petted sturgeon and fed the rainbow trout. Our last stop was to a buffalo farm outside of Urbana. We saw buffalo and deer in a pasture and learned all about raising buffalo. Many of us made purchases of buffalo meat to take home. It was a great trip!

Hikes in Need of Contact People

Several park sponsored winter hikes are coming up in Ohio and may be of interest to MVOCers, but they all need a contact person. They are Hocking Hills, Jan. 19; Hueston Woods, Feb. 16; Caesars Creek Feb. 23. Call Donna Gehring at 836-8515 to volunteer to lead, or for more info.

Other

Interested in Running for the Board?

Elections are coming up at the February meeting. Let someone on the board know if you are interested in any position. All positions are listed on the back of this newsletter.

Time to Renew Your Membership

Jan. 1 is the start of the new membership year. Membership forms are on the back of this newsletter.

Coming Up

Jan. 2.....Membership Meeting, Wegerzyn
Jan. 19.....February newsletter deadline
Jan. 19.....Hocking Hills Day Hike
Jan. 25-27. Cross-Country ski trip to northern Ohio
Jan. 25-27. Annual Carter Caves Crawlathon
Feb. 3..... 4th annual Chili Cook-Off and Hike at Sycamore State Park.
Feb. 5 MVOC meeting and elections
Feb. 8-10... Miami Valley Adventure Summit, WSU
Feb. 9-15... Michigan Cross Country Ski Trip
Feb. 16..... Hueston Woods Day Hike
Feb. 23..... Caesar Creek Winter Hike
Feb. 24..... Glen Helen Skunk Cabbage Hike
Mar. 2.....Bruckner Skunk Cabbage Hike

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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