



Miami Valley Outdoor Club

April, 2008

April 1 Meeting:

Cross-Country Skiing and Snowshoeing in Paradise

By Donna Gehring

In February 2008 Eight MVOCers left the traditional 1000 shades of gray of Ohio winter to journey to Upper Michigan for a week long romp in the white stuff. The April program is the photographic documentation of that adventure accompanied by stories. We experienced a blizzard with white-outs so serious that we were afraid to cross the street to get the the restaurant. Yes! It is true. We so feared for our lives that we ate leftovers in the Lobby of our motel instead. When the blizzard had passed we had 2.5 to 3 feet of snow waiting for us in Paradise, Michigan. We xc skied and snow shoed in a winter wonderland for days. Join us for an evening report of fun and adventure.

The talk will begin at 7:00 P.M., preceded by the business meeting at 6:30 P.M. Come at 6:00 for socializing and trip planning. The meeting will be at Wegerzyn Garden Center, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave., Dayton.

Upcoming MVOC Activities

BT Trail Maintenance, Hiking, and Picnic at Fort Hill

April 11-13

No, it's not Wildcat Hollow Trail Maintenance (that's the next weekend.) It's Fort Hill! Connie Steele is leading a collaborative trail maintenance trip with members of the Buckeye Trail Association at Fort Hill, which is part of the Buckeye Trail, April 11-13.

The Gorge Trail is in need of some serious brush and briar clearing. Next year is the BT's 50th anniversary and they are working hard to get the entire trail system in shape to celebrate. The Buckeye Trail Assoc. has special permission for volunteers working at Fort Hill to camp free at Fort Hill on Friday and Saturday nights. Tents and campers are welcome, but bring enough water to last the weekend as the water there is not safe to drink.

The work crew plans to begin working at

8 am Saturday as well as a few hours on Sunday morning. Come down to work one or both days, any help is appreciated. BT furnishes all the tools, however if you have pruning shears or a folding pruning saw, you might want to bring them.

We'll cap off the weekend on Sunday afternoon with MVOC's annual hike and picnic at Fort Hill. This is open to both those who participated in trail maintenance and to those who just want to come down on Sunday to hike and picnic. The club will furnish the "tubular meat products" so just bring your favorite dish or dessert to add to the fare. We plan to eat later in the afternoon.

Join us for one or for all activities. Connie plans to go down Friday night. If interested, call her at 698-5397 or email connsteele@msn.com.

More MVOC Activities

Wildcat Hollow Trail Maintenance

April 19, and 20, Saturday and Sunday, is our usual Trail Maintenance day with the rangers at Wildcat Hollow. You may arrive on Friday night, work on Saturday till 3-4PM and camp on Saturday night. Camping is free for trail maintenance volunteers at the National Forest Campground near Burr Oak State Park. The usual mushroom hunt after trail maintenance will net a suspicious award for the person who finds the First Morrell Mushroom. This morrell mushroom award is only rivalled by the equally suspicious or did I mean auspicious golden spoon award given out to the winner of the Chili-cook-off this past February. Or if you prefer, you may arrive Saturday morning in time for trail work and leave as soon as it is over and avoid suspicion.

If you choose to attend please dress in work clothes, bring work gloves, water and lunch to carry on the trail. Open-toed high heeled hiking boots are discouraged. Tools will be provided. Contact person: Ralph Weiss (937) 698-3232.

May 3 and 4

Car Camping at Red River Gorge

This weekend will be the peak of the season for Wildflowers at Red River Gorge, a part of Daniel Boone National Forest, Slade, Kentucky near Natural Bridge State Park. Lots of hiking along gorgeous sandstone cliffs and trails among the acid-soil loving wildflowers such as Mocasins Flowers, Ladyslipper orchids, Clintonia, Wild Iris, and Showy Orchis to name a few.

Getting there involves driving South from Dayton on I75 to Lexington and turning left and driving for another hour. This is a tent style camp-out, also called car camping. Anything that you can put into, on-top-of or drag behind your car is okay to bring. The contact person for this event is Kathy Hemmerick. (937)698-6492 or hemmerkm@gmail.com

Trip Report

Glen Helen Skunk Cabbage Walk

By Donna Gehring

On Sunday March 24 my husband, **Dwight Gehring** and I met up with, **David and Virginia Wood** at the trail head located near the Nature Center on Corry Road in Yellow Springs. We headed down the icy switch-back trail and found the skunk cabbage right where it always is. It was growing in an icy stream and its pointed tops were just barely penetrating the surface of the snow cover in a few places. Yes, Spring won't be far behind. We hiked all over the Glen and then concluded our hike as usual with a meal at Young's Jersey Dairy. It was good to get out into the fresh air.

Time Is Running Out!!

February 1 was the start of the new membership year. Unless you renew this will be your last MVOC newsletter. Keep your mailings and email announcements coming. Membership form is on the back of this newsletter. You can bring it to the meeting on Tuesday or send it (along with a check for your dues) to MVOC, P.O. Box 292571, Dayton, OH 45429.

Other

State Park events:

Saturday April 5

Just in case you missed Easter celebrations in March, **Paint Creek Lake State Park** is holding an egg hunt. For details call (937)365-1401.

A **Trout Derby** is being held the same day at 1PM-4PM at nearby **Rocky Fork State Park**. There are also shooting events (equipment provided.) Call 937-393-4284 for details.

Saturday April 26 is clean up litter day at **Sycamore State Park**. Call (513)523-6347 or (937)854-4452 for details.

Saturday April 26 is also clean-up day for **Buck Creek State Park** which will be followed by lunch. (937) 322-5334 for more details.

For more information about what is happening at Ohio State Parks you may visit online: <http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/parks>

Board Meeting, Thursday, April 10

This month's board meeting will be at Marion's Piazza, 3434 N. Dixie Dr., at 6:00 p.m. All club members are welcome.

March 2 Skunk Cabbage Walk

By Sandy Todd

It seems that finding Skunk Cabbage has become an annual spring event. On March 2, nine MVOC'ers (**Sandy & David Todd, Virginia & Dave Wood, Dwight & Donna Gehring, Lindy McDonough & Mike Nelson** and **Melissa Reed** , plus 2 guests) met in the parking lot at Brukner Nature Center to begin our hunt. After saying hello to the animals we meandered over hill and valley until we came to the marsh area and lo and behold there was the Skunk Cabbage. It was just peeking up out of the muck. We were all elated, knowing that this is a sure sign of spring. NOT!! The next weekend brought us between 10-13 inches of snow.

REMINDER: May MVOC meeting at Gander Mountain

In May we are ousted from our usual meeting place because of the plant and garden sale at Wegerzyn. This year at our May meeting we will be sharing tips on the subject of living our modern lives in an earth friendly way.

What have you done and do regularly to make this planet a healthier and safer place to live? Do you have websites to share? Cleaning techniques to share? Gardening tips to share? Energy conservation tips to share?

Bring your information to the Gander Mountain Meeting and help us all live GREEN by sharing.

Activity Calendar April 2008

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1 Meeting at Wegerzyn	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 Board Meet- ing at Mari- on's	11	12 BT Trail, etc. @ Fort Hill	13
14	15	16 5 Rivers Trail Building @ German- town MP	17 Newsletter Deadline	18	19 Train Maint. @ Wildcat Hollow	20
21	22	23	24	25	26 Sycamore & Buck Creek Cleanup	27
28	29	30			May 3 & 4 Red River Car Camping	Gorge

Miami Valley Outdoor Club
P.O. Box 292571
Dayton, OH 45429
www.miamivalleyoutdoorclub.org

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
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