



Miami Valley Outdoor Club

June, 2008

June 3 Meeting:

Hiking In Idaho's Sawtooth National Forest

The June 3 meeting will feature Hunt Brown and Si Adams talking about hiking and backpacking in the Sawtooth National Forest. Join us at 6:00 for socializing and trip planning, followed at 6:30 by the business meeting and at 7:00 for the featured presentation. The meeting will be held at the Wegerzyn Garden Center, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Avenue, Dayton.

Upcoming MVOOC Activities

June 14, 15, and 16

Tar Hollow Camp-out

This will take place at the Shady Hollow Shelter right across the road from the registration cabin and store. Join us for the day or for the weekend. We can enjoy the beach, the rental canoes, paddle boats, miniature golf, ping pong, nature center and miles of hiking trails. Restrooms are primitive, but there are showers. Water does need to be carried into the site so bring containers.

Plans are to have a pot luck dinner on Saturday for the evening meal for those who wish to do so. Cost is \$15 per person for 3 nights camping. Contact person: David and Virginia Wood dvwood@donet.com or 937-426-9875. Call and let them know if you plan to attend.

June 21

Paint Creek Lake State Park Rock-climbing

If rock climbing is on your bucket list, join us at Paint Creek Lake on Saturday Morning. This is weather dependent. The rain date is June

28. You need not be experienced. You need not have climbing shoes and harnesses, but if you have them bring them.

We will set up two separate climbs. We won't be doing any rappelling this time. One climb is appropriate for beginners and can be done in ordinary athletic shoes. The other climb is slightly more challenging and climbing shoes are helpful although I have seen it climbed barefoot. You will need to wear long pants because of possible scrapes and abrasions. Bring lunch, water, and maybe a lawn chair.

Contact persons: Donna and Dwight Gehring dgehring@worldnet.att.net or 937-836-8515.

June 23

Eastwood Lake Sailboarding

This is our first outing of the summer. We have our 2 boards at Eastwood Lake from 5PM to 8PM weather permitting. Someone usually goes for fried chicken around 6PM. Call for reservations and directions. Life jackets provided. You will need a suit, water shoes and a towel. Some people like to use bicycle gloves. Contact persons: David and Virginia Wood dvwood@donet.com or 937-426-9875.

May 2-4 Red River Gorge Campout

By Sheryl Faulkner

On May 2-4, sixteen campers called Koomer Ridge Campground in Red River Gorge "Home Sweet Home." Campers included Donna and Dwight Gehring, Sandy and Dave Todd, Dave and Virginia Wood (and granddaughters Lucy and Bianca), Dan and Nancy Haas, Connie Steele, Sheryl Faulkner, Luisa Guardione and Jeanne Boeke. Lindy McDonough and Mike Nelson arrived Saturday.

Friday night and Saturday morning were a little soggy but once the sun came out on Saturday it was a beautiful day! Perfect weather for hiking the 3.75 mile Hood Branch Trail that allows for viewing several different types of wildflowers and rock house formations. Because some changes to the trail would have extended our hike to almost 6 miles, we chose to ride the Sky Lift to the top and hike down.

After exiting the Sky Lift, we followed a short trail off to the left that leads to a wonderful overlook where you can see Natural Bridge off to the right. We then took another trail off to the right which led us across Natural Bridge and through Fat Man's Squeeze to the beginning of Hood Branch. I lost count myself, but I believe there were at least 50 types of wildflowers identified on this trail alone! We were all happy

when we reached the end and a few of us even stopped for a treat of ice cream on the drive back to camp!

After coming back to camp and relaxing a little bit, a small group of us decided to take a walk around the campground to Cliff Trail which lead us to another adventure to see the Silvermine Arch. It was a neat sight, but be prepared for a lot of stairs!!

On Sunday morning we awoke to such a beautiful day we broke camp and drove to where you could park at the Bison Way trail head and walk until you came to Sheltoewe Trace and either go up to Indian Stairway or continue along Sheltoewe Trace. Part of our group decided to make the journey up to Indian Stairway, myself included. In all the years I've been camping at Red River Gorge, I was too chicken (for lack of a better word) to ever try to reach the top, but I sure am glad that I rose to the challenge this time! It's not just about the spectacular view from the top (which, by the way, was pretty breathtaking); it's really about the fact that we have the power to amaze ourselves if we only try and you should never, ever let fear hold you back in life. This was by far the highlight of the weekend for me. Thanks to all of the friends who helped me make it up to the top!

Twin Valley Backpack Trail Trip Report

By: Andy Nickamp

On Saturday, May 17, Scott Barger, Sharon Mullins and I day hiked the entire 22.2 miles of MetroPark's new Twin Valley Backpack Trail. The Twin Valley Trail consists of the orange loop at Germantown Dam (6.8 miles), the orange and purple loops at Twin Creek (8.1 miles) and a new Connector trail (7.3 miles). We started at 8:10am and hiked the Germantown section first.

Next we hiked the new Connector trail. The Connector trail begins at the dam and starts out on a newly created footpath in the woods. We made a brief stop at the new backcountry campsite and checked out the tenting areas. The trail went from being well marked to not being marked at all. After crossing SR-725 we joined with the Germantown bike path and followed it to the end. From there the Connector trail is a road walk through Sudbury and by a gravel quarry where it goes back into the woods. It follows a tract of farmland leased by MetroParks. The owner of the land was working on his tractor and we stuck up a

conversation with him. At the edge of the farmland the Connector trail ends at Twin Creek Park.

For a bit of humor we decided to call ourselves "thru hikers". (Thru hiker is a term to describe someone who is attempting to complete the entire length of a long distance trail.) Our story is that we would tell people we thru hiked the Twin Valley Trail and averaged 22.2 miles per day! Of course most people won't be familiar with the Twin Valley Trail so it will sound like an impressive feat.

We took a break around 1:30pm in a Twin Creek parking where Marc Minneman met us for the rest of the hike. Scott and I finished the hike at our own pace while Sharon and Marc hiked together. The last hiker finished at 4:55pm and despite the weather forecast it did not rain on us. Since the Twin Valley Trail is brand new we think we might be the first ever thru hikers of the trail! We decided to celebrate our accomplishment with dinner at the Florentine Hotel in Germantown.

Trip report: Wildflower walk at Englewood MetroPark

by Lindy McDonough

On a beautiful May 18, ten people showed up to walk the trails in the southern part of Englewood Reserve. Donna and Dwight Gehring led the group which included Dave and Sandy Todd, Mike Nelson, Lindy McDonough, Dan and Nancy Haas and their guests the Hendersons. Soon after leaving the parking lot on Meeker Rd. the group split into two, with the Haas and Hendersons taking a shorter route, while the others set out on a two-hour trek through, woods, meadows, hills, creek beds, muddy patches and deep forest. A variety of blooming wildflowers were observed

Board Meeting, Thursday, June 12

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.

Other Activities: What do do when there's nothing to do

State Parks

Hueston Woods June 7, and 8

This is the 4th year Art Show. This features 75 artisans. Admission: adults \$2 children free

Hueston Woods June 14

Gander Mountain paddle fest. Pre-registration required. More info www.gandermountain or call Gander Mountain Store.

Sycamore June 14

Youth fishing derby 10am to 1PM ages 15 and under Prizes for best anglers. more info 515-523-6347 or 937-854-4452.

Kiser Lake June 14

Youth fishing derby. A day of fun and prizes or youngsters accompanied by a adult more information 937-362-3822.

Caesar Creek June 14

Cast Iron Cooking workshop. 10am. Learn how to prepare a 5 course meal using cast-iron kettles and dutch ovens. limited to 15 people pre-registration and an \$8 fee.

June 13, 14 and 15 Family fun weekend. Campers may enjoy cornhole, basket ball, volley-

including Jack-in-the-pulpit, Virginia blue bells, yellow trillium, and lovely orange and yellow columbines. The grassy fields were loaded with wood ticks, and nearly everybody found at least one crawling up their slacks, but Sandy Todd attracted the most, finding at least seven, if not more on her person. We also spotted a goldfinch and bluebird. When passing close to Aullwood Audubon Center, we briefly stopped by to climb at bird observation tower. On the last leg of the walk, we passed through a MetroParks group camping area, unfamiliar to many of us. Upon returning to the parking area, we all said our good-byes and went our separate ways.

REMINDER: Check out the calendar on the club website:

www.miamivalleyoutdoorclub.org

ball, horse shoes and board game tournaments, face painting, sack races family tug-of-war and more 937-295-2011.

MetroParks

June 7 Paddle in the Park: All day canoe/kayak demonstrations with ACA-certified instruction at **Eastwood Lake**. See MetroParks Website for further info. Here's your chance to test drive that \$3500 teflon cruiser.

June 17, Kayak Demo night at **Eastwood Lake** 6PM to 8:30PM try out kayaks before purchasing. If you have a particular kayak that you would like to see call 937-222-7020.

MVOC Activities Coming Up

Innertube Float trip July and August (no date yet) Watch Website calendar.

July 1 Picnic at Indian Riffle Park. Bring dish to share and table service. More info next month.

Saturday August 16. Camp-out

Meteorite Shower Camp-out on private property between Bellbrook and Springboro. Bonfire and potluck on Saturday night and team initiatives games on Sunday Morning.

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
Newsletter/Publicity:	Jim Nies	275-9614	jnies@aol.com
Activities:	Donna Gehring	836-8515	dgehring@worldnet.att.net
Webmaster:	Andy Niekamp	296-0245	andyniekamp@gmail.com