



Miami Valley Outdoor Club

Dec. 1

Annual Holiday Feast and Benefit Auction

December, 2009

Join us for an evening of good food and fun starting at 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 1 at Wegerzyn Garden Center, 1301 Siebenthaler Ave., Dayton. The outdoor club will provide meat, bread and drinks and members are asked to bring a side dish, salad or dessert, your own place settings and a colorful tablecloth if you wish. Don't forget to bring your gently used outdoor gear for the annual benefit auction.

Don't forget! If you haven't accumulated enough gear to donate or you've already given it all away, you can sometimes pick up neat stuff at local thrifts stores. Proceeds will go to Glen Helen's Raptor Center and the Brukner Nature Center.

Upcoming MVOC Activities

Evening Hikes at Taylorsville

Every Tuesday thru Dec. 22 4:10 p.m.

Join MVOC member Sharon Mullins for a brisk fall hike at Taylorsville MetroPark starting at the CCC shelter at 2101 U.S. 40 east of the Taylorsville Dam. This fast-paced walk through hilly wooded terrain and along the Great Miami River lasts about an hour.

For those familiar with the area who want to walk at a slower pace, feel free to come along and take one of the shorter loops. Hike begins promptly at 4:10 so that everyone can finish before dark. For more information contact Sharon at 620-0887 or dmullinsvanoh@aol.com.

Christmas Light Hike

Saturday, December 12, 2009 4:00pm EST

Annual Christmas hike to see the lights being turned on at Clifton Mill. Contact person: Donna and Dwight Gehring 937-836-8515 or ddgehring60@verizon.net

Upcoming Events

- Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22 Taylorsville Evening Hikes 4:10 PM CCC Shelter on National Road
- Dec. 10 MVOC Board Meeting, Marion's Pizza 6:00 PM
- Dec. 12 Holiday Light Hike, Clifton Gorge 4:00 PM
- Jan. 5 MVOC meeting, Douglas McWain, Living Green 6:00
- Jan. 14 MVOC Board Meeting, Marion's Pizza 6:00
- Jan. 18 Winter Hike at Hueston Woods
- Jan. 21 Backcountry Fast & Light Cooking, MetroParks
- Jan. 28 Intro to Backcountry Survival, MetroParks
- Feb. 7 Annual Chili Cook-Off & Hike
- Mar. 4-5 Adventure Summit, WSU

Elections

Elections are coming in February so it's time to think about club leadership. Would you like to take a turn? Know someone who would? All offices are open. Even if the incumbent for a given office is running, don't let that stop you from throwing your hat in the ring.

Trip Report

Mammoth Cave, KY

Oct. 30 - Nov. 1

by Lindy McDonough

We were determined to go to Mammoth Cave National Park, rain or shine, and we got both! Just three of us - Jeanne Boeke, Mike Nelson and me, Lindy McDonough - piled all our gear into one van and set out for Kentucky's underworld. We had heard that the tours sell out fast, so as soon as we arrived at the park, Friday afternoon, we stopped at the visitor center and bought our tickets. A good thing too, because the next morning our 4-hour Grand Ave. Tour was sold out. The first evening after we set up camp and were just about to light our fire, it started to rain, so we retreated to a screen shelter I was trying out for the first time. We stayed relatively dry while eating a cold dinner. Then, in the spirit of Halloween, we spent the rest of the evening telling each other the scariest things that had ever happened to us. When we all turned in, it was still pouring rain, and it didn't stop until sunrise the next day. Fortunately the temperature outside wasn't too cold, because Mike's and my tent leaked terribly and if it were not for our self-inflatable mattresses (that, by the way, we bought at last year's holiday auction) we would have been totally soaked. On the other hand, Jeanne fared somewhat better. She stayed dry all night, but had a hard time sleeping because the pouring rain was pounding just inches from her face inside her one-person backpacking tent.

Saturday the weather was much better - good enough to dry out our gear - almost. We took an early morning guided history walk near the visitor center before starting our half-day hike

through Mammoth Cave. Although there were 78 visitors and two guides on our underground tour, it never seemed crowded because the cave was so big and the group was comfortably spread out. Along the way we learned about the early natives and explorers, wildlife, rock formations and geologic activity going back tens of thousands of years and spent the day trekking through narrow passages, wide-open caverns, and steep up and down walkways. At noon we stopped and had a boxed lunch in the enormous Snowball Room. When the tour finally ended and we were bussed back to the visitor center, the three of us stopped at the hotel cafe for coffee and dessert before returning to our campsite, where we were able to finish drying out our pillows and sleeping bags at a nearby campground laundromat.

Halloween night was absolutely beautiful. Very few campers were there so it was very peaceful and quiet. The clear sky, warm campfire and hot coffee were a nice change from the cold wet night before. Everywhere the ground was covered with newly fallen leaves, and the light from the full moon, shining through the bare trees made it so bright we could find our way to the restrooms without flashlights all night long.

Next morning, after eating and packing up our gear, we went for a short walk before heading home. The sun was out and the trail high above the Green River was glorious. When it was finally time to go, at least one of us thought that two days was not enough time to fully enjoy this wonderful park. We must come back again and see more caves, peddle the woodland bikeways and paddle the scenic Green River.

Next board meeting:

The next MVOC board meeting will be at Marion's on North Dixie December 10 at 6:00. All members are welcome.

Beginning Thu, March 11, 6:00 pm TO 9:00 pm

Backcountry Leadership Development Program

Five Rivers St. Clair Building

The Backcountry Leadership Development Program (BLD) will consist of multiple evening classroom sessions and a multi-day field experience. Applicants accepted into the program will learn the fundamentals of backcountry leadership through a progression of topics ranging from group dynamics, expedition behavior, program design, and site management. Applications are due by March 1, 2010. Contact (937) 277-4374. Age 18 Y and up. Fees \$150.

(Editor's note: These programs tend to fill up early.)

Metro Parks Action

Hike for the Health of it!

Hike for a healthier lifestyle in the great outdoors! Hikes will be held every Saturday year round at 2:00 PM. Each hike will be about 3 miles and will move at a comfortable, brisk pace. Terrain will vary with the site and some is rugged. Hikers that complete 10 hikes will receive a Five Rivers MetroParks Health Hike ball cap. For general Health Hike questions, call 278-2623, Monday-Friday.

12-05-Last Parking Lot - Eastwood MetroPark

12-12- Parking Lot - Sugarcreek MetroPark

12-19- Blue Heron Shelter - Taylorsville MetroPark

12-26- Nature Center - Germantown MetroPark

Buckeye Trail 50th Anniversary Celebration

Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the 1400 mile Buckeye Trail with a talk on the history of the BTA by President Pat Hayes and images from along the trail, followed by an optional 3 mile hike on the Buckeye Trail along the Mad River to Eastwood MetroPark where an anniversary cake and hot chocolate will await before you are shuttled back to RiverScape MetroPark. www.buckeyetrail.org Dress for the weather. All participants will receive a 50th Anniversary Patch. Reservations Requested, Walk Ins Welcome. Call 277-4374

Saturday Morning Hikes plus Coffee & Donuts

Saturday, December 5th 8:30 AM

Twin Creek MetroPark Yellow Trail [about 2.9 miles]

For any hikers up for a little longer trek, you may continue on for an additional 1.6 mile loop, passing the Hopewell Earthwork.

Meet at the High View parking lot, next to the trailhead on 9688 Eby Road, Germantown, OH 45327

Other Outdoor Action

“Living for Adventure” Presentation Series

Sponsored by Great Miami Outfitters

Tuesday, December 1

Barry Reis: Summit of the Grand Tetons
6:30 - 7:30 PM FREE. Adult Program.

Barry Reis's tale will include how he spent 11 days in the Jackson Hole area, biking and acclimating himself before his ascent to the summit of the Grand Tetons. Join us for these true tales of adventure. You'll see and hear how these local people have experienced various journeys, treks and feats. All presentations will take place next door to the Great Miami Outfitters store at A Taste of Wine, 90 S. Main Street, Miamisburg.

Tuesday, December 15

Joe Denniston: 35 Day Alaskan Brooks Range Expedition

6:30 - 7:30 PM FREE. Adult Program.

Joe Denniston hiked across the Brooks Range, then paddled over 400 miles from the headwaters of Noatak River to the final five mile stretch across the Artic Ocean to reach the small town of Kotzebue. You'll see and hear how these local people have experienced various journeys, treks and feats. All presentations will take place next door to the Great Miami Outfitters store at A Taste of Wine, 90 S. Main Street, Miamisburg.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Meeting Annual dinner and Auction 6:00	2	3	4	5 Hike Twin Creek Hike/Health
6	7	8 Taylorsville Hike	9	10 MVOC Board 6:00	11	12 Hike/Health Clifton Mill Lights Hike
13	14	15 Taylorsville Hike	16	17	18	19 Hike/Health
20	21	22 Taylorsville Hike	23	24	25	26 Hike/Health
27	28	28	30	31	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:	Lindy McDonough	278-1493	lindymcd46@aol.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	ddgehring60@verizon.net
Newsletter/Publicity:	Jim Nies	275-9614	jnies@aol.com
Activities:	Kathy Hemmerick	698-6492	hemmerkm@woh.rr.com
Webmaster:	Andy Niekamp	296-0245	andyniekamp@gmail.com