



Miami Valley Outdoor Club

March, 2011

“Great Miami Outfitters - Inside & Out”



Join the Miami Valley Outdoor Club Tuesday, March 1 to hear all about Great Miami Outfitters, a local supplier of outdoor gear and apparel. The presentation will take place at Wegerzyn Garden Center, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave., Dayton, following a short business meeting at 6:30. Members and visitors are welcome to come at 6:00 to socialize, plan activities, browse the “Free Stuff” table or catch up on the news.

Great Miami Outfitters is an independent, family owned and operated small business opened their doors in May 2007. Although they chose to locate in an historic 1860’s building in downtown Miamisburg, their merchandise and services are anything but old fashioned. They carry the most up-to-date, highest quality gear and apparel, usually only found in outdoor specialty stores.

Their enthusiastic staff are knowledgeable about outdoor activities and the products they sell and want to make sure the customers enjoy the outdoors with the right gear. GMO is more than a store. They offer classes, programs and trips on canoeing, kayaking, backpacking and fishing, and they are an excellent information resource for area outdoor activities and facilities.

Store manager, Andrew Schlegel, will tell us just about everything we might want to know about Great Miami Outfitters. Learn a little about the history of the business, how it got its name and what they can do for you. Andrew will also bring along an assortment of the newest outdoor gear like footwear, backpacks, sleeping bags, apparel and trail food.

You can learn a lot about Great Miami Outfitters even before your first visit, by checking out their website at www.greatmiamioutfitters.com. Read their newsletter, plan a canoe trip, watch a video, shop online or ask a question by phone or email.

Annual Skunk Cabbage Hike,

Saturday, March 5, 2:00 p.m.

Looking for sure signs of spring? Here is a chance to walk through the woods in search of the northern species of skunk cabbage, one of the earliest flowers to bloom each year, often peeking up through snow and ice. We will meet in the parking lot of Brukner Nature Center, located at 5995 W. Horseshoe Bend Rd., Troy, OH. Wear appropriate shoes, it could be muddy. Lasts about two hours. If you plan to come, please contact Dwight or Donna Gehring at 836-8515 or ddgehring60@woh.rr.com.

Volunteers Needed for WPAFB Outdoor Open House

Friday, April 15, 10am - 2pm

The Miami Valley Outdoor Club has again been invited to the Wright Patterson Outdoor Recreation Open House this spring. We are looking for MVOC volunteers to host the booth. For those of you with busy lives, this is a chance to just sit back and relax, eat, and gab with other outdoor enthusiasts. If you can spare one or two hours to help us out, please contact Lindy McDonough, 278-1493 or lindymcd46@aol.com.

Out & About

by Lindy McDonough

Winter's bitter cold, snow and ice did not keep our Miami Valley Outdoor Club members from keeping active. Some even managed to escape the frozen north to visit some south eastern coastal states. MVOC member Andy Niekamp spent the month of February on the Gulf coast in Alabama. Andy visited the Gulf Islands National Seashore, Gulf State Park and Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge where he hiked over 120 miles. His favorite hiking area was the backcountry trails of Gulf State Park where he hiked among the wet and dry pine savannas, coastal wetlands, and old-growth maritime forest land. Alligators and armadillos were a common sight. On one hike he was there when a bicyclist collided with a pedestrian. Both were knocked to the ground. One lady was bleeding from the back of her head and Andy used applied direct pressure to her wound until the ambulance arrived. (She is ok.) In addition to hiking, Andy rode his bicycle many miles and enjoyed the beautiful coastal sunsets. After injuring her hand and wrist ice skating at Riverscape in January, MVOCer Jeanne Boeke took advantage of her medical leave to visit relatives in Florida, enjoy the sunshine and do a little beachcombing. Jim Nies also took a quick trip to Orlando.

The February MVOC meeting at Wegerzyn had to be cancelled because of the ice storm that day, but Jeanne Boeke's program "Rafting Alaska's



Tatshenshini and Alsek Rivers" was rescheduled for the May meeting. Also because of the ice storm, one of Jim Nies's moderate hikes on Tuesday at Taylorsville and



Lindy McDonough's hike at Cox MetroPark were cancelled, but true to form, Sharon Mullins's fast-paced hike at Taylorsville went on as planned, though perhaps a bit slower than usual. She said about three hearty souls showed up to slip

and slide through the woods. No injuries reported!

Since the last newsletter Lindy has led three hikes

on Wednesdays, two in Englewood and one at Huffman MetroPark with 6-8 people each time. On the latest hike to Englewood's South Park, Lindy set her hiking pole down to take a picture at Big Spring and didn't realize she had left it behind until near the end of the hike. Although it was one of her favorite poles, she decided not retrieve it since it only cost her a dollar at a garage sale. Dayton Hiker Chris Birch, a regular visitor to the Wednesday hikes, went back the next day and found the pole and returned it to Lindy at Aullwood's Project Feederwatch. Speaking of Feederwatch, MVOCer Jim Lemaster can be spotted at Feederwatch at Aullwood on a regular basis and sometimes at Feederwatch at Germantown Nature Center. Jim L. and a few others recently spent the day hiking at Old Man's Cave in Kentucky and I hear the frozen waterfalls were absolutely beautiful.

Probably the highlight of February was the MVOC Annual Hike & Chili Cook-Off at Cricket Holler Boy Scout Camp. Over 40 people attended and about 34 people went



Chili Cookoff Hike

on the hike through the snow covered, ice laden woodland, while a few stayed behind and enjoyed the fire inside the lodge. We had quite a few visitors from the Dayton Hikers group and one of the visitors won \$18 in the 50/50 raffle. We also got a few membership renewals and a couple of new people joined up. MVOCer Gary Mount won the coveted "Golden Ladle" for the best chili of the day and, for the first time, every bit of the chili was eaten up. Next time we'll have to make twice as much. Many had never been to Cricket Holler, but others like Jenny McConnell remembered camping there as youngsters. It was great to see Dan and Nancy Haas at the event. Despite some serious health problems over the past year, Nancy was able to join the hike through the campground. Many thanks go to Dwight and Donna Gehring, Ella Himes, Gary Mount and Sharon Mullins for arriving early to help set up and staying late to clean up. Everyone, old and new, seemed to enjoy themselves, and the MVOC board liked the location so much, they voted at their next meeting to have the chili cook-off there again next year. Mark your calendars. Cricket Holler has already been reserved for February 5, 2012!

Wednesday Hikes in March, 4:30 p.m.

Join MVOC member Lindy

McDonough for a moderately paced hike at a different location every Wednesday in March. Please check the listing for each week, because the Englewood meeting places change each time. Detailed maps of all the parks can be found at www.metroparks.org. Advance registration preferred. Contact Lindy at lindymcd46@aol.com or 278-1493.

March 2 - Englewood West Park, 100 E. National Rd. (St. Rt. 48). Meet in the parking lot near the Morgan shelter.

March 9 - Carriage Hill MetroPark, 7821 E. Shull Rd. Meet in the parking lot for the Red Wing Shelter.

March 16 - Englewood South Park, 9331 Meeker Rd., Meet in the parking lot.

March 23 - Possum Creek MetroPark 4790 Frytown Rd., Meet in first (Argonne Forest) parking lot.

March 30 - Englewood East Park, 4361 National Rd. (Rt. 40), Meet at the Patty Shelter parking lot

Tuesday Hikes at Taylorsville -

March 1, 8, 15, and 22

Join Sharon M and members of the Miami Valley Outdoor Club for a Tuesday hike at Taylorsville MetroPark. There will be two hikes going at the same time. Jim N. will be leading a slower more moderated paced hike. Sharon will continue to lead the fast-paced hike. Both will hike through hilly wooded terrain and along the Great Miami River. Both Hikes begin promptly at 4:20pm. We will be completing a modified orange loop with steep hills and a pace around 4 miles an hour for the fast paced hike and around 3.3 for the slower paced hike. Meet at the parking lot near the CCC shelter off Route 40. These are conditioning hikes.

The Second (5:15pm start) hike were cancelled during December, January and February due to early sunset. Check on the MVOC and Dayton hikers websites for status after the time change in mid-March.

Thursdays at Urban Krag

Thursdays 6:30, March 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31.
Urban Krag Climbing Center, 126 Clay Street,
Dayton, www.urbankrag.org.

Meet at the viewing platform at 6:30 pm. After 6:30 the person at the desk can point us out in the climbing area. Your first time in to the gym you will need to complete a belay certification which takes about 30 to 45 minutes and is a one-time charge of \$15.00. Everyone 14 or older must complete a belay certification. If you are under the age of 14 you will need someone who is belay certified to belay

for you. If you are a minor (under the age of 18) you will need to have a parent or guardian sign a waiver for you. Cost: The total charges for a first time visit will be: Belay certification \$15.00, Daily pass \$12.00, Shoes \$4.00, Harness \$3.00. For more information or to sign up, contact Hank Trimble at hank_trimble@yahoo.com

Time to Renew Memberships

It's now time to renew your membership for the new year. Please print out and mail the membership/waiver form on the last page of the newsletter and send it, along with your dues, to Miami Valley Outdoor Club, P.O. Box 292571, Dayton, OH 45429 or bring it to a meeting. We will stop sending newsletters and email notices to non-paid up members as of April 1.

Elections at March Meeting

The annual Miami Valley Outdoor Club elections are coming up at the March 1 meeting. We are always on the lookout for new leaders and new ideas. The elected positions are President, Vice President, Treasurer, Program Director, Activities Director, Newsletter Editor and Webmaster and they are all available.

If you are interested in running for one of the positions or want to recommend someone please contact Lindy McDonough at 278-1493 or lindymcd46@aol.com.

Newsletter Deadline March 27, 2011

MVOC Board meeting,

Thursday, March 10, 6:00 p.m. at Marion's Pizza on North Dixie Dr.

Metroparks Action

Don't forget the weekly MetroParks Hikes for the Health of it each Saturday at 2. Check websites for locations.

"Bike for the Health of It" starts again in April.

MetroPark Paddlesports activities begin in May.

The Backpacking series continues with Try Backpacking on March 8 and leads up to a Red River Gorge trip for women in late April. These programs fill up quick so check www.metroparks.org for registration and fee information or call 277-4374.

Horseback riding lessons start March 3. Thursday, Friday and Saturday classes are available for both adults and children (aged 8 and up.)

Other Outdoor Action of Interest

North Country Trail Conference will take place in the Dayton area August 11-14, 2011. Planning meetings are going on now. Contact Andrew Bashaw (abashaw@northcountrytrail.org) if you would like to attend the March 8 meeting.

The Buckeye Trail Association is conducting BT circuit hikes about twice a month during 2011. The next scheduled hike is the Delphos section on March 17-18. See their website (www.buckeyetrail.org) for further info.

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

Membership/Waiver 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	513-675-1425	dalebockhorst@yahoo.com
Programs Director:	Dwight Gehring	836-8515	ddgehring60@woh.rr.com
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