



Miami Valley Outdoor Club

April, 2011

“Canoeing in the Boundary Waters Wilderness”



Join the Miami Valley Outdoor Club Tuesday, April 5, to hear outdoor enthusiast, former scout leader and MVOC member Nat Davis share his adventure canoeing last summer in the Boundary Waters Wilderness. The 7:00 p.m. presentation will take place at Wegerzyn Garden Center, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave., Dayton, following trip reports and announcements at 6:30.

For nine days during July and August, Nat Davis, along with his son Jim, and three other MVOC members, Sharon Mullins, David Snell and Jenny McConnell, took to the cool waters of the north in rented canoes. Starting at the Lake One entrance about 20 miles east of Ely, Minnesota they paddled about 75 miles and portaged another 5 miles between lakes as they moved in a big counter-clockwise oval, ending their trip at the Moose Lake entrance. Everyone was amazed by the magnificent, near-perfect weather. Temperatures

were in the upper 70's in the daytime and the 50's at night with only a couple rainy evenings after making camp. They encountered only one windy day. The sunsets and sunrises were spectacular and they even went swimming several times. Fishing was great. They caught smallmouth bass, walleye and pike and they saw lots of bald eagles, but were happy not to encounter any bear. This was Nat's fifth trip to the Boundary Waters. His first trip there was with his Virginia Boy Scout troop in 1999 when they were on the water during the “storm of the millennium” that took out tens of thousands of acres of trees. Fortunately Nat's troop survived to tell the tale! The program is free and open to the public.

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.



Welcome New Members

Dene Berman
Brenda Taulbee
Laurel Slate
Randy Kerns
Leslie Schuller

Rick Youngberg
John Shivley
Connie Mulder
Rita Calhoun
Wesley Bacon

Out & About

by Lindy McDonough

Never a shortage of outdoor things to do for Miami Valley Outdoor Club members - summer, fall, winter and spring. During the long Presidents' Day weekend in February, Linda Sharp explored

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the reclaimed coal lands, marshes and lakes in Indiana's Greene and Sullivan counties. There were lots of Sandhill Cranes, Snow Geese, and other waterfowl. In March she took a waterfowl weekend trip to Killdeer Plains and then on north to Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge at Lake Erie. And one Sunday she explored the restored marshes of the Limberlost Swamp near Geneva, Indiana. At Limberlost, the museum home of the late naturalist and author Gene Stratton Porter was not open, but the marshes were full of waterfowl and singing frogs.

At a recent meeting, Andy Niekamp, representing the Dayton Hikers, and Lindy McDonough, there for MVOC, joined Five Rivers MetroParks, Greene and Miami County Parks and other outdoor organizations to help plan the annual North Country Trail Conference coming to Dayton August 11-14. Guest speakers, outdoor activities, demonstrations and social events are on the agenda.

With the arrival of spring Jim Lemaster is back riding his bike. He recently did 22 miles from his house in West Milton to Grossnickle Park. The following week he rode from Beaver creek to Spring Valley and back for 30 miles



Wednesday Hike Group

with the Dayton Cycling Club. He also participated in a recent "Hike for the Health of It" and two Wednesday Hikes at Englewood MetroPark. Another cycling enthusiast, Dale Bockhorst, bought a new Fuji Crosstown 4.0 bicycle (7 speeds) this winter. Sometime this year he hopes to ride the C & O canal trail from Cumberland, Maryland to Washington, DC. He is also interested in riding the Pittsburgh to Cumberland trail. The combined trails are about 330 miles.

Cindy Goubeaux recently thought she wanted to sell her kayak, but changed her mind. Hope to see her again at Eastwood Lake this summer. Jim Nies didn't change his mind - he sold his canoe to Steve Longenecker. Steve hopes to lead some canoe/kayak activities when the weather gets warmer. Since last fall Steve has also been enjoying walks

at Sycamore State Park with his new dog Buckeye.

After months of planning and preparation as well



as training on Sharon Mullins's rigorous hikes at Taylorsville MetroPark, Amy Callahan and her son Nick embarked on their long awaited adventure hiking the Appalachian Trail, starting on

March 2. Their anticipated 6-month journey began at Springer Mountain, Georgia. They were the 118th and 119th hikers to start the trek this year. Amy took the trail name "FallingTurtle" and Nick is "Trashcan" to his fellow hikers. It took the two about 12 days to reach the North Carolina border. At this writing Amy last reported they had made it to the Fontana Hilton, NC, south of Knoxville, TN and had covered over 160 miles. Up to this point they have encountered lots of rain, cold and some snow, with at least one day in the 80's. We're looking forward to hearing more about their "ups and downs" on the AT. If anyone wants to follow their day-to-day activities check out Amy's journal at www.trailjournals.com/fallingturtle.

Sharon Mullins and Jim Nies continued to lead their hikes at Taylorsville through March, and expect to keep it up in April, but watch for some start-time changes this spring. Patty Wheelbarger, John Pawlak, Hank Trimble and David Snell are among the Taylorsville regulars, along with a number from the Dayton Hikers group. New MVOC member Rick Youngberg, who joined the club at the Chili



Taylorsville Tuesday Hike Group

Cook-

Off, has been spotted hiking with the Dayton Hikers at Germantown and Twin Creek this month. Lindy McDonough led four out her five Wednesday hikes in March. The Possum Creek hike was cancelled because of tornado watches and thunderstorm warnings.

Mid-March while walking

her dog Arby at Wegerzyn, she saw an 18" garter snake and two Morning Cloak butterflies. It must be spring! She & her husband Mike Nelson went to Feederwatch at Germantown MetroPark a couple of times in March, one day taking along Arby, who thoroughly enjoyed watching squirrels and chipmunks while all the people counted birds. At a March "Hike for the Health of It" in Germantown MetroPark, she and Mike ran into Jim Nies who had just hiked more than twice the prescribed distance - as usual.

Jim joined Dayton Hikers events at Hills & Dales and Germantown MetroParks and John Bryan State Park last month. He also showed up for a Wednesday hike at Englewood, along with Bruce Howorth and John Shively. Keeping active has certainly made the winter go by faster for many of us and I'm sure everyone is ready for warmer, drier weather and a change to summer clothes. See you - Outdoors!



(Editors note: And this trail report comes from Andy Niekamp)

Greetings, MVOCers,

I am out hiking on Ohio's Buckeye Trail. The Buckeye Trail is over 1,400 miles long and is the longest circular trail in the nation. I don't know how much of it I will hike. I plan to hike for as long as it is fun.

I started on March 20 from Deed's Point in Dayton and headed north. As of March 28 I have hiked 128 miles. The Buckeye Trail has been on bike paths, roads and in the woods. The route north of Dayton generally follows the Miami Erie canal. The Buckeye Trail passes by many canal locks, aqueducts, small towns and historic sites. It has been a great journey so far.

I have not camped out yet. I have stayed with family and friends along the way. This will change soon. You can follow along on my journey and see my photos at www.BuckeyeTrailHiker.com

Andy Captain
Blue Niekamp

Taylorville Tuesday Hikes

April 5, 12, 19, and 26

Join Sharon M and members of the Dayton Hikers.org Meetup Group for a Tuesday hike at Taylorville MetroPark. There will



be two hikes going at the same time. Jim N. will be leading a slightly slower, moderately fast-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. Because of other commitments, it doesn't look like these will start up again with any regularity. If you are interested in a 5:30 or 6:00 Tuesday hike, contact Jim or Sharon; contact info listed on the back page.

Wednesday Evening Hikes in April

4:30 p.m.

Join MVOC member Lindy McDonough for a moderately paced hike at a different location every Wednesday in April. 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.

April 6 - Carriage Hill MetroPark, 7821 E. Shull Rd. Meet in the parking lot for the Red Wing Shelter.

April 13 - Englewood West Park, 100 E. National Rd. (St. Rt. 48). Meet in the parking lot near the Morgan shelter.

April 20 - Possum Creek MetroPark 4790 Frytown Rd., Meet in first (Argonne Forest) parking lot.

April 27 - Englewood East Park, 4361 National Rd. (Rt. 40), Meet at the Patty Shelter parking lot

Wednesdays at Urban Krag (Note change of day)

Wednesdays 6:30, April 6, 13, 20, 27

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

Aullwood Wildflower Walk

Saturday, April 9, 2:00 p.m.

Join MVOC member Jeanne Boeke on this spring wildflower walk at Aullwood Garden MetroPark. Parking at 955 Aullwood Rd. Follow drive down to parking lot near the Englewood dam and beside the Stillwater River. A chance to see a spectacular display of winter aconite, bulbs, mertensia and bluebells on the hillsides. They are accompanied with a profusion of blue-eyed Mary's. Hepaticas, drifts of trillium, Dutchmen's britches, shooting stars, and violets are throughout the woods. Peak springtime bloom is mid-April. Bring your wildflower books or even your binoculars, if you want to bird watch along the way. If there is interest, we will move on to nearby Englewood's South Park, at 9527 Meeker Rd. for more wildflowers. Reservations are not required but appreciated. For info or to sign up contact Jeanne at 299-4102.

TVT Backpack

April 30 & May 1

This local backpack trail connects the Germantown Metropark with the Twin Creek Metropark via bike trail, road and private property. The total loop is approximately 22 miles. The beauty of the TVT is that one can tailor their backpack/hike to his or her own liking.

Our plan is to meet at the Germantown sled hill at 2pm. We will depart with our packs and hike the Germantown orange backpack trail in to the Shimps Hollow Group Campsite where we will set up camp, have dinner and relax around the campfire. The entire loop is approximately 8 miles and depending on the weather we will hike 5 in and 3 out or vice-a-versa.

Currently no water is available at the group campsite; however, I will cache 1 gallon of water per person prior to our hike for your use Saturday evening and Sunday morning. You will only have to worry about water for the hike in.

If you will be driving and leaving your vehicle at the Sled Hill overnight parking area on Boomershine Road, please forward me your vehicle make, model and license plate number upon registering. These will be forwarded to the Five Rivers MetroParks personnel to insure your car will not be towed.

The campsite provides picnic tables, a fire ring, firewood, and a pit toilet. Everyone is responsible for cooking their own food Saturday night and Sunday morning. Dogs are allowed if leashed and under control at all times.

To Sign-up or for more info contact Sharon M at 620-0887 or dmullinsvanoh@aol.com; or Ella H at 321-6314 or ellahimes@yahoo.com.

John Bryan Biking/Hiking/Camping

June 25 & 26 - Corwin to John Bryan State Park

Come join us for an overnight trip on the Little Miami Bike Trail! Here are the details:

We will meet at 1:00pm on June 25 in the parking lot by the bike path in Corwin. The plan is for you to bring your camping gear with you to Corwin where we will have a car to transport the gear. We will leave Corwin and ride about 25 miles to Yellow Springs. In Yellow Springs, we will take the road to the John Bryan Park Group Campgrounds. We will set up camp, have dinner, and relax around the campfire.

Then, Sunday morning we will eat breakfast, break down camp and start riding back to Corwin arriving around noon where we can have lunch or just collect our gear and head home.

If you will be driving and leaving your vehicle by the bike path in Corwin overnight, please forward me your vehicle make, model and license plate number upon registering. These will be forwarded to Corwin Parks personnel to insure your car is not towed.

The campsite provides picnic tables, a fire ring, and a pit toilet. The cost for the campsite is \$4 per person, and we will need to purchase firewood if we want a fire so make sure you bring some cash for the the group camp as well as for lunch on Sunday. Everyone is responsible for cooking their own food Saturday night and Sunday morning (unless someone wants to run into Yellow Springs for carryout??). Dogs are allowed if leashed and under control at all times.

If you aren't up for the whole 50 miles, you have two other options:

a. Skip the bike ride, but meet us in Corwin at 1:00pm to collect our camping gear. Then drive to Yellow Springs and claim your campsite first and enjoy the park! On Sunday, drive our camping gear back to Corwin and join us for lunch.

OR

b. Skip the bike ride, and meet us in Yellow Springs at the John Bryan group campsite and claim your campsite first and enjoy the park! On Sunday, drive our camping gear back to Corwin and join us for lunch.

c. If no one volunteers to transport our gear, we will plan to collect the camping gear on Friday night and transport it to the park prior to our departure on Saturday. Stayed tuned for final details.

To Sign-up or for more info contact Sharon M at 620-0887 or dmullinsvanoh@aol.com; or Ella H. at 321-6314 or ellahimes@yahoo.com.

Election Results:

All our officers were re-elected at the March meeting. Many thanks for their willingness to serve again. This year we are hoping to create committees under some of the positions to generate more ideas and spread out the work. Steve Longenecker has already agreed to help the Activities co-directors and Andy Niekamp is willing to be back-up for our club webmaster. If someone is willing to send meeting announcements to the media each month, that would be great. And of course we are always looking for people to lead hikes, campouts, bike rides, boat trips, nature walks, etc. Contact any of the officers (listed at the end of the newsletter) to volunteer.

Red River Gorge Camping

Friday and Saturday night April 29 and 30

Dwight and Donna Gehring will be camping at Koomer Ridge in the Red River Gorge of Daniel Boone National Forest, Kentucky. They will be hiking and enjoying the spring wildflowers. If any of you would like to join them please respond no later than Monday April 25. Contact Dwight at ddgehring60@woh.rr.com or 937-836-8515.

Trail Maintenance at Wildcat Hollow

All Day April 23

Once again it is time to get into your lumberjack or lumberjoan mode and give back to the forest and its trails for all that it has given us. For all of you hikers who prefer not to have your hiking experience interrupted by having to climb over fallen debris or experience the uncertainty of where the trail lies . . . or seeing trash along the trail, this is your opportunity to regain and sustain the harmony of the hiking experience for everyone. Trail maintenance will take place on April 23 at Wildcat Hollow part of Wayne National Forest near Burr Oak State Park.

for Forest Service Volunteers. You may camp out on Friday and/or Saturday night or just show up Saturday am and drive home Saturday evening. We meet at the State Forest Campground at 8:00am and sign up and receive our safety lecture. We will finish work by mid afternoon. Wear work clothes, gloves and boots. Bring lunch and water to carry on the trail. Tools and safety helmets will be provided. To sign up or for more information contact Donna Gehring 836-8515 or ddgehring60@woh.rr.com There are pictures and descriptions of the trail at <http://backpackohio.com/wildcat.html>

Please feel free to forward this to hikers or backpackers who you think might be interested. This is not strictly an MVOC event. Backpackers Campfire members and Dayton Hikers are all welcome.

WPAFB Outdoor Recreation Open House

Friday, April 15, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Open to all who work at WPAFB and their families. MVOC will have a table.

MVOC Tours of New MetroPark Natural Areas

Join Five Rivers MetroParks Director of Conservation Dave Nolin for special tours of two of the MetroParks' most recent acquisitions. Learn the history of each area as well their special features and future plans. These are not MetroPark events, but tours just for the outdoor club members, family and friends. Find directions later on web calendar at www.mvoc.net or call Lindy M at 278-1493.

Monday, May 2, 6:00 p.m.

Shiloh Woods Conservation Area, located along the Stillwater River in Butler Township and Clayton, is a 320-acre preserve which includes two tracts of old woods, meadows, thickets, a scenic pond and access to the Stillwater River.

Monday, June 6, 6:00 p.m.

Medlar Conservation Area is a former farm located in Miami Township, is a 200 acre site which contains mature woods, fields, thickets and a significant number of wetlands that are being created for wildlife habitat.

Newsletter Deadline April 24

MVOC Board meeting,

Thursday, April 14, 6:00 p.m. at Marion's Pizza on North Dixie Dr. Everyone is welcome. Stop by and help plan future activities.

RENEW REMINDER

If you have not renewed your membership, this is the LAST newsletter you will receive and you will be removed from the MVOC emailing list.

«FREE STUFF» Table

At every meeting at Wegerzyn Garden Center, we have a table of free information - brochures, flyers, magazines, cd's, videos & books. Feel free to add any of your used outdoor-related material to this table for members and visitors to take.

Metroparks Action

Don't forget the weekly MetroParks "**Hikes for the Health of It**" each Saturday at 2. Ten hikes and you get a hat.

4/2 Sugarcreek Metropark

4/9 Taylorsville

4/16 Twin Creek

4/23 Englewood

4/30 Carriage Hill

"Bike for the Health of It" starts again in April, each Saturday at 9:00 AM

4/2 Rain or shine on the Wolf Creek Recreation Trail. Meet in the parking lot behind Rob's Restaurant, 705 Arlington Rd. in Brookville. Ride toward Verona (11 miles).

4/9 Rain or shine, on the Wolf Creek Recreation Trail. Meet in the parking lot behind Rob's Restaurant, 705 Arlington Rd. in Brookville. Ride toward Trotwood (14 miles).

4/16 Rain or shine on the Creekside Recreation Trail; Use the entrance at 1385 Harshman Rd. at the traffic light. Meet in the last parking lot. Ride to the Greene County Line (12 miles).

4/23 Rain or shine, on the Mad River Recreation Trail. Use the entrance at 1385 Harshman Rd. at the traffic light. Meet in the last parking lot. Ride to Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark (13 miles).

4/30 Rain or shine, on the Great Miami River Recreation

Trail. Meet at Rip Rap Park, Located at the intersections of Little York, Rip Rap, and Taylorsville roads. Meet in the parking lot near the soccer fields. Ride through historic Tadmor (9 miles).

A two class series on **Smart Cycling** starts April 28 with a 2 1/2 hour classroom session "**Intro to Smart Cycling**" at the Five Rivers St. Clair Street classroom. Cost is \$10. To register, go online (www.metroparks.org) or phone 277-4374. This class is a pre-requisite for the second, six-hour session on Saturday, April 30 entitled "**Smart Cycling Basics.**" Cost for this session is \$20.00. Call 277-4374 to register.

Flyfishing for Bass and Bluegill

April 4, 6-7:30 PM. \$5.00 fee. St. Clair street classroom.

The Miami Valley is loaded with great bass and bluegill fishing opportunities on our local streams, ponds and lakes. Learn about the techniques, gear and flies needed to catch these fun sport fish on a fly rod. Fly Fishing experience is recommended, but, not required. This is a classroom session. Reservations requested, walk-ins welcome, or register online. For more information and to register call (937) 277-4374.

Try Flyfishing!

April 7, 4-7 PM, Carriage Hill Metropark. Free.

MetroPark **Paddlesports** activities begin in May with a two session series that often leads to a longer adventure trip in the summer.

5/09 at Wegerzyn, 6-8 PM. \$5.00 fee **Intro to Kayaking** is the first step in the paddle-sports progression. You will be introduced to various equipment selection, ranges for equipment, categories of paddle-sports, trip planning, navigation, and general locations of where to paddle locally and regionally. It is a good way to ease into learning in a systematic way. For more information and to register please call (937) 277-4374 or register on-line.

5/17 at Eastwood Metropark 6-8 PM \$40.00 fee **Kayak Basics** During this hands-on class, students will become acquainted with equipment and learn basic paddle strokes and concepts along with safety topics for beginners in recreational kayaking. Equipment is provided by Five Rivers MetroParks Outdoor Recreation Department. Please dress to get wet, bring water and closed toed shoes with you. Intro to Kayaking is a prerequisite. For more information and to register please contact (937) 277-4374.

The **Backpacking** series continues with a two night/three day trip on the Twin Valley Trail beginning April 15 and leads up to a Red River Gorge trip for women in late April. These programs fill up quickly

so check www.metroparks.org for registration and fee information or call 277-4374.

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

Useful Web Links

www.mvoc.net
www.metroparks.org
www.ohiodnr.com
www.buckeyetrail.org
northcountrytrail.org
www.go4theoutdoors.com (Dayton area gear retailers)

Other Outdoor Action of Interest

North Country Trail Conference will take place in the Dayton area August 11-14, 2011. Here's the start of the description of the Dayton area on the North Country Trail's website (northcountrytrail.org).

“Dayton, Ohio is the largest “Trail Town” on the North Country Trail. To many people that means concrete, asphalt, and tall buildings. However, while the trail passes through the heart of this urban area you'll get a new perspective of what hiking in a city can be like” trees, rivers, and recreation dominate the experience.

“With the North Country Trail Annual Conference coming to Dayton in August I wanted to introduce you to the area and invite you to make plans to visit the Miami Valley.

“As you travel up the Little Miami Scenic Trail from Cincinnati you follow the first National Scenic River into Greene County and the artsy town of Yellow Springs, named one of the “Coolest Small Towns” by Budget Travel Magazine. The trail skirts John Bryan State Park, and Clifton Gorge State Nature Preserve, home to waterfalls and ancient rock formations, before heading to Springfield's Eco Corridor Whitewater Park.

“The trail leaves Wright State University on its way into Montgomery County and goes by the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historic Park Huffman Flying Field Interpretive Center and the National Museum of the US Air Force, Ohio's largest free tourist attraction.....”

Check out their website for more info.

The Buckeye Trail Association is conducting BT circuit hikes about twice a month during 2011. The next scheduled hike is the Stockport section on April 14-16. 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
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