



# Miami Valley Outdoor Club

December, 2011

December 6 Meeting

## Annual Holiday Dinner & Benefit Auction

Get ready for great food, some real bargains and a whole lot of fun! Join us for the Miami Valley Outdoor Club's annual holiday dinner and auction on Tuesday, December 6. Family members and friends are welcome. Thinking of becoming a member? - Come on down to Wegerzyn Garden Center, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave., Dayton.

Set-up begins at 6:00 p.m., dinner will start at 6:30 p.m. and the auction will start around 7:30 p.m. Please bring a covered dish, salad or desert to share, plus table service for yourself. If you have a bright-colored table cloth, bring that too - to add to the festive atmosphere. MVOC will provide honey baked ham, turkey breasts, rolls, and hot and soft drinks.



The entertainment will feature an auction of your donated outdoor gear. The proceeds will be given to a deserving nature center in the area.

Bring your gently worn outdoor gear and related items - skis, rollerblades, backpacks, tents, jackets, books, dried food, stoves, flashlights, lanterns, maps, sunglasses - and your money - to this fun and food-filled annual event, at our regular December meeting. If you don't have any used gear to donate, a trip to Goodwill or any local thrift store might turn up something worth contributing to the auction. At least one individual does that very thing every year!

**NEW THIS YEAR:** Annual election of officers at the dinner. Terms of office and memberships will run from January 1 - December 31, starting in 2012. See list of nominees in a separate item in this newsletter. Finally, think about renewing your memberships at the dinner - they expire December 31.

## Elections of MVOC Officers

We will be doing things a little differently this year, since the month we elect officers has changed to the December meeting which is our traditional holiday dinner and benefit auction. When you come to the dinner, if you are a MVOC member in good standing, you will receive a paper ballot which you can mark Yes, No or Abstain, for the entire slate of officers. A ballot box will be placed on the stage and you may cast your ballot anytime during the event.

As of Thanksgiving no one new had stepped forward to run for any of the positions. A final email requesting volunteers was sent out November 28. Anyone

who wishes to run may contact Lindy McDonough, 278-1493 or [lindymce46@aol.com](mailto:lindymce46@aol.com) by Sunday, December 4th to add their name to the list of candidates. The current candidates are:

President: Lindy McDonough

Vice President: Gary Mount

Program Director: Dwight Gehring

Activities Committee:

Sharon Mullins

Ella Himes

Steve Longenecker

Treasurer: Dale Bockhorst

Newsletter Editor: Jim Nies

Webmaster: Mary Ellen Beardmore

## Program Director Search

Our current Program Director, Dwight Gehring, is requesting any MVOC Member willing to learn the responsibilities, and take over as Program Director by January 1, 2013 to contact him at (937)371-8511 or ddgehring60@woh.rr.com by April 30, 2012 to start learning the duties. Jim, We might want to save this one for January and include your notice. Or we can do both this month. You decide.

## Time to Renew!

It's now time to renew your membership for 2012. 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

## Annual Christmas Light Hike

John Bryan to Clifton Mill  
Saturday, December 10, 2011

Join MVOCers Dwight and Donna Gehring for the Annual Christmas hike from John Bryan State Park, through Clifton Gorge to historic Clifton Mill to see the thousands of holiday lights turned on. We will start at the John Bryan State Park Office parking lot. Please arrive at the parking lot by 3:30. We will move cars to the parking area near the mill by the Clifton Gorge National Natural Landmark plaque to they will be at the other end of the gorge when we finish.

Hike begins promptly at 4:00. Contact: Dwight & Donna Gehring, 836-8515, or talk to Dwight Gehring at the December MVOC dinner at Wegerzyn on Dec. 6.

## Out and About

by Lindy McDonough

Outdoor activities among MVOC members keep humming along - summer, spring, winter, and fall. November 1, we had a very successful joint meeting with the Dayton Hikers at Wegerzyn Garden Center featuring Andy Niekamp talking about his recent adventure through-hiking the Buckeye Trail. About 120 people attended. If you missed Andy's talk, he will be presenting it several more times in the coming months. You can see a schedule at [www.buckeyetrail.org](http://www.buckeyetrail.org).

Recently MVOC adopted a section of the Buckeye Trail to maintain, and eight MVOCers, Sharon Mullins,

David Snell, John Pawlak, Jim Nies, Dale Bockhorst., Lindy McDonough, Tom Schommer, and Steve Longenecker volunteered for the first work session Nov. 18. The trail is a lovely natural section that starts at Johnston Farm in Piqua and continues north to Lockington Dam. It winds through a wooded stretch between farm fields and on into woods along the old Miami-Erie Canal and the Great Miami River. From the trail you can see the towpath where every summer a mule pulls a replica of a canal boat carrying visitors along a preserved portion of the old canal. The MVOC trail maintenance outing inspired an event we hope to have this summer, hiking along the Buckeye trail, then a ride on the canal boat and even a visit to the museum and historical Johnston Farm.



**John Pawlak paints blue blazes on the Buckeye Trail**

Our MVOC weekly events - Sharon Mullins' fast hike at Taylorsville, Hank Trimble's climbing at Urban Krag and Lindy McDonough's weekly moderate hikes at various MetroParks - continue to attract regular and new hikers.

Dwight and Donna Gehring have taken the lead on planning a camping/hiking/canoe trip to Isle Royale in 2012. They already have had a couple informational meetings and expect to have more. Interested people are welcome to attend whether they want to go on the MVOC trip or need ideas for planning their own trip. Contact Dwight or Donna at 836-8515 or [ddgehring60@woh.rr.com](mailto:ddgehring60@woh.rr.com) for meeting dates and times.

Now that the year is winding down it's time to thank our MVOC officers who have worked hard to offer a variety of programs and events for our members all year. To start, not only is he the backup for the President, but Vice President Gary Mount, with the help of Ella Himes, has faithfully prepared coffee for every meeting at Wegerzyn or made sure someone filled-in. We could not have functioned without Program Director Dwight Gehring who has done a great job working with our many guest speakers and making sure our audio-visual equipment is in good working order. Not only that, he is an endless source of information about MVOC history and policy.

Program Directors Sharon Mullins and Ella Himes have done a great job planning numerous fun and successful special events throughout the year. They have





### Sharon Mullins cuts weeds, doing Buckeye trail maintenance

time and informative. And finally, Mary Ellen Beardmore, our webmaster, has been indispensable in keeping our website up-to-date and making sure our email service is always working.

Many thanks for an excellent 2011, and special thanks for agreeing to be candidates for the upcoming election!

*(Editor's note: Since Lindy wrote this article she's too modest to tout her own success, so I'm doing it for her. Lindy has done a tremendous job re-energizing the club. She misses no chance to talk about the club, passing out MVOC business cards at the many outdoor activities she attends. She has represented the club at many conferences and expositions during the past few years, getting the MVOC prime booth spaces and plentiful volunteers to man them. During her time as president, we've seen increases in membership, more weekly activities and a larger variety of outdoor fun, from hiking to sailboarding to cross-country skiing. Thank her when you see her.)*

### Moderate Hikes in December

Join Lindy McDonough for these moderately paced, 1.5 hour hikes at 3:00 p.m. every week in December. Days and locations vary. Dogs are welcome but must be on leash.

Mon., Dec. 5 ..... Possum Creek MetroPark - 4790 Frytown Rd; meet at the Argonne Forest parking lot  
Tues., Dec. 13 ..... Huffman MetroPark - 4095 Lower Valley Pike, meet in the parking lot  
Mon., Dec. 19 ..... Taylorsville - Tadmor Loop - 2005 U.S. 40, meet in parking lot northwest of dam.  
Mon., Dec. 26 ..... Carriage Hill MetroPark - 7821 E. Shull Rd; meet at the Red Wing Shelter.

been assisted this year by Steve Longenecker, who regularly comes to the board meetings even though he is not an elected officer. He has led and organized several activities and has shared his experience and expertise on running a volunteer organization. Of course we must thank our Treasurer Dale Bockhorst for keeping track of our financial matters and continuously updating our membership list.

Jim Nies has done a super job publishing our monthly newsletter - on

## Climbing at Urban Krag

Wednesdays 6:30, Dec. 7, 14, 21, 28

Urban Krag Climbing Center, 126 Clay Street, Dayton, [www.urbankrag.org](http://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](mailto:hank.trimble@yahoo.com)

## Tuesdays at Taylorsville

December 6, 13, 20, 27 at 4:30

Join Sharon M and members of the Dayton Hikers.org Meetup Group for a Tuesday hike at Taylorsville MetroPark. Sharon will lead a fast-paced hike through hilly wooded terrain and along the Great Miami River, beginning promptly at the time noted above. We will be completing a modified orange loop with steep hills and a pace around 4 miles an hour. Meet at the parking lot near the CCC shelter off Route 40. This is a conditioning hike.

In addition, Amy Callahan will be leading a more moderately-paced hike at the same time.

## Welcome New Members

Mary Anne Eisma  
Carl Trimble  
Ronald & Debra Hart

## Coming Up - Mark Your Calendars

November 10 ..... Board Meeting at Marion's  
December 6 ... Election, Holiday Dinner & Auction  
December 26 ... Newsletter deadline  
January 3 ... Mike Fanelli on 32 countries on \$50 a day  
January 12 ... Board Meeting at Marion's  
January 16 ... MLK Day Hike at Hueston Woods  
February 7 ... Chili Cookoff at Cricket Hollow  
February 10 & 11 ... Adventure Summit  
March 6 ... Nat Davis on Hiking in the Swiss Alps



## **Vote Passed to Make MVOC Constitutional Changes**

Thanks to all who cast their ballots to change the MVOC constitution at the November meeting at Wegerzyn. The issue passed 24-Yes to 1-No. Basically it changed wording in the document to have elections at the December meeting and officers start their terms January 1 each year. Also now memberships and the fiscal year will run January 1 through December 31 of each year.

## **MVOC Booth Volunteers Needed for 2012 Adventure Summit**

Friday & Saturday, February 10 & 11

Sign up and be part of the Outdoor Adventure event of the year! The Miami Valley Outdoor Club will again have a booth at the 2012 Adventure Summit at Wright State University. It is one of the largest expositions of outdoor culture, skill and experience in the Midwest. Just spend a couple of hours Friday evening or Saturday at the MVOC booth talking with other outdoor enthusiasts and then spend the rest of your time learning about the latest outdoor gear and all kinds of outdoor organizations and hear experts speak on mountain climbing, kayaking, backpacking, cycling and more.

Friday night's featured speaker Gary Fisher presenting the program "My Life on Two Wheels." Gary is founding father of mountain biking, a member of the Mountain Bike Hall of Fame, a bike designer and innovator, and a cycling world icon. Enjoy food, music and demonstrations too! To volunteer contact Lindy McDonough at 278-1493 or [lindymcd46@aol.com](mailto:lindymcd46@aol.com). For more information about the summit itself, see [www.metroparks.org/adventuresummit](http://www.metroparks.org/adventuresummit).

## **Martin Luther King Hike at Hueston Woods**

Monday, January 16, 2012, 9:00 a.m.

Join MVOCers and hikers from around the state for the annual hike sponsored by the Buckeye Trail Association. Meet at Hueston Woods State Park Lodge 5201 Lodge Rd.. The hike will start at 9AM. Arrive early and have breakfast with other hikers at the Lodge at 8AM. Hikers will hike around Acton Lake, about 11 miles, on a variety of trails.

A bean soup and/or chili and corn muffin lunch will be available at the park office next to the Nature Center. Donations for meal are accepted. For those wishing to hike only from the Lodge to the Nature Center, a shuttle back to the Lodge will be available. This is a free event.

Note: Dogs (all pets) are not allowed in the nature preserve portion of Hueston Woods. There is an easy route

bypassing that section if you bring your dog. For more information contact Lindy McDonough at 278-1493 or [lindymcd46@aol.com](mailto:lindymcd46@aol.com).

The following info comes from Andy Niekamp  
**Greetings MVOC Members,**

I apologize in advance for this shameless self-promotion ..... but if you are on Facebook I need your vote with a Facebook "like"!

A photo of mine made it as a finalist in the Appalachian Trail Conservancy's "Good Times on the AT" photo contest. Please view the photo here and click "like".

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10150353566297396&set=a.10150353565817396.346634.16218202395&type=3>

This is of Laura Letton jumping in the air on Hump Mountain in North Carolina and Tennessee. I took the photo in October.



The winning photo will be printed in an upcoming edition of the Appalachian Trail Journeys magazine. The winner gets a new pair of hiking poles.

Thank you for your vote! And thank you to those who have already voted!

Andy Niekamp

PS. Can you get 100 of your friends to click "like" too? :-)

## **Metroparks Action**

### **Backcountry Fast and Light Cooking**

Wed 12/07 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM

PNC 2nd Street Market 14Y and Up \$10.00

Do you have the ultra-light backpacking bug? Are you looking for ways to cook nutritious and light weight meals

while in the backcountry? This course will introduce you to hands on techniques such as using a pot cozy, and reviewing some of the newest and most innovative ultra-light cooking equipment on the market. Bring your spork or foon. Registration is required and limited so please call (937) 277-4374 or register online.

## Fundamentals of Lightweight Backpacking

Thu 12/15 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark 14Y and Up \$5.00

Looking to lighten your load so you can backpack more easily, hike longer, or get more miles in? Then join us for this evening classroom based program as we explore a variety of ways to reduce our backpacking load. Registration is required and limited so please call for reservations at (937) 277-4374 or register online.

## Christmas Walk

Sat 12/03 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

PNC 2nd Street Market All Ages Free

This outdoor community opportunity is provided by Ohio Wander Freunde Volkspart and not a Five Rivers MetroPark program. There will be two 5k loop routes, one in downtown Dayton and the other in the St. Anne's Hill neighborhood. Meet at the Market and start between 9:00 AM and 12:00 PM and finish by 3:00 PM. For more information contact Mikki White 890-0416 or mikkiw17@sbcglobal.net.

## 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 who complete 10 hikes will receive a Five Rivers MetroParks Health Hike ball cap. For general Health Hike questions, call (937) 277-4374 Monday-Friday.

Sat 12/03 Sugarcreek MetroPark

Sat 12/10 Taylorsville MetroPark

Sat 12/17 Wegerzyn Gardens

Sun 12/04

1:30 PM - 4:00 PM **Englewood Hike With The Metro Dayton Hikers**

Enjoy a 5 mile, 2 1/2 hour hike with the Metro Dayton Hikers. This hike is considered difficult, very hilly in spots. Call Chris Sands at (937) 687-0114 for more information.  
Englewood MetroPark All Ages Free

## Other notes of interest



Sharon M., Patty W. and Hank T. on top of Springer Mountain in October. Hank has completed the stretch from Springer Mountain, Georgia to Damascus, Virginia, of the Appalachian Trail, by section hiking on weekends and other short stretches since the beginning of 2011. At times he has been accompanied by various members of the MVOC like Jim N., Danny and David. Other times he went solo. The tales they tell make for amusing anecdotes, from bed-bugs in hotels to interesting shelter encounters. Sharon and Patty have made it to somewhere in Virginia.

Meanwhile, keep an eye on your email. There aren't any firm plans yet, but some of those who experienced cross-country skiing during last winter's snows have indicated they'd like to go again.....even if they have to travel to find snow.

Note: Hocking Hills annual winter hike will happen Saturday, January 21. Wintertime, gorgeous scenery, slippery trails, beans and cornbread, 3,500 fellow hikers..... what more could you ask for? See the ODNR website for details.

Can't find enough places to walk/people to walk with? Check out the Dayton Hikers meetup at [www.daytonhikers.org](http://www.daytonhikers.org). Next week, for example, hikes are scheduled for Dec. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 10....every day except Friday. And who knows, someone may fill in that day with a last minute ramble?

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
Newsletter/Publicity:	Jim Nies	275-9614	jnies@aol.com
Activities:	Sharon Mullins	620-0887	dmullinsvanoh@aol.com
	Ella Himes	321-6314	ellahimes@yahoo.com
	Steve Longenecker	901-8722	slongenecker@woh.rr.com
Webmaster:	Mary Ellen Beardmore	274-2956	beardmore@aol.com