



VOLUNTEER MEETING

Volunteer meetings are a great way to meet new people, hear about upcoming volunteer opportunities and learn something interesting from an exciting lineup of guest speakers. Meetings take place at 7 p.m. in the Winton Centre Auditorium, unless otherwise noted. Coffee and tea are provided. Bring in your favorite baked goods to share. No need to RSVP, just come and enjoy!

Mar 19 – Jack Sutton, Great Parks Chief Executive Officer, will take a look back at 2018 and also provide some insight on what lies ahead in 2019. Stay tuned with what's going on in the park district. This will be Jack's final annual state-of-the-park address and something you definitely won't want to miss.

May 21 – Stay tuned!

Jul 16 – Stay tuned!

When recording your hours in VIC for volunteer meetings, log them under [Volunteer Meeting \[Training/Volunteer Services\]](#). Training hours may be doubled. Drive time to and from the training may be included but not doubled.



From Jack's Desk

Jack Sutton, Chief Executive Officer

For many years, area leaders and the general public have encouraged Great Parks to work cooperatively with nonprofit organizations, private sector entities and other public sector agencies to further our mission in Hamilton County. This is certainly appropriate advice, as we have continued to hear similar comments during our Comprehensive Master Plan project. But did you know, Great Parks has been "walking this talk" for decades? I recently was reminded of a "partnership" that began nearly 50 years ago that is still reaping benefits today.

Since 1971, Great Parks of Hamilton County (then known as Hamilton County Park District) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) joined forces to preserve unique natural areas in the Cincinnati-Hamilton County area. The Nature Conservancy was – and still is – a leading conservation organization working around the world to protect ecologically important land and water resources. TNC has helped to protect more than 119 million acres of land and conserve thousands of river miles and more than 100 marine projects across the globe.

The following acquisition stories attest to the successful and significant accomplishments realized when a major regional park system and an international organization dedicated to preservation of natural areas work together.

Winton Woods – A 33-acre tract formerly known as Spring Beauty Dell was acquired by TNC in 1971. While being held by TNC, the acquisition was used as a basis for a successful grant resulting in the development of a picnic complex in the McKelvey Road area. Now known as the Warren Wells Preserve, this 33-acre tract was considered one of the finest examples of Beech-Maple climax forest in our geographical area when it was acquired. Today, Winton Woods includes 2,555 acres.

Embshoff Woods – An initial donation of 40 acres was made to TNC in 1974 by George and Margaret Embshoff, avid conservationists and Delhi Township residents. Working with the park district, TNC was instrumental in the acquisi-






Continued on page 2

THIS MONTH'S BLOG

A No-Drama Llama
<http://blog.greatparks.org/2018/12/a-no-drama-llama/>

CONNECT WITH GREAT PARKS

 facebook.com/GreatParksHC
 twitter.com/greatparks
 instagram.com/great_parks

Volunteer Spotlight



Dave Barnett

What is your favorite volunteer activity?

I team up with my wife for stream monitoring. We are amazed with what we've learned about aquatic life and water quality. We also help with the Aquaculture Program, feeding hybrid bluegill and monitoring pond water quality. Also, I am learning to repair and maintain trains at Glenwood Gardens.

What is or was your paid profession?

I retired as Emeritus from the University of Cincinnati after a rewarding career as a professor and early intervention researcher for graduate students focusing on educational/developmental questions.

Do you have any hobbies that you are passionate about?

Fishing and woodworking are lifetime hobbies. Stream monitoring has made me aware of many invertebrates - I quickly learned my tied flies were no match to the real thing. I have built puppet theaters, trundle beds, toy boxes, cabinets, windows and kayaks. I am now building arched train bridges at Glenwood Gardens.

Do you have a favorite volunteer memory at Great Parks?

The discovery of the volunteer program early in retirement is it. These are activities full of satisfaction and great people. The opportunities keep unfolding with beauty and nature at the heart. Thanks Great Parks!

From Jack's Desk, continued

tion of an additional 94 acres by 1979. Embshoff opened to the public in 1982, and now consists of 334 acres of protected green space.

Woodland Mound – In 1977, TNC assisted in the acquisition of five tracts totaling 89 acres, including a gift of 40 acres of mature woods, representative of the Eastern Deciduous Forest, from Mrs. Sara K. Weston. Today, Woodland Mound encompasses 1,070 acres.

Withrow Nature Preserve – The initial purchase of 141 acres was negotiated by TNC in 1977. Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Farny donated 127 acres, contiguous to the original purchase, to TNC for eventual transfer to the park district in 1981. Today, Withrow Nature Preserve includes 270 acres.

Richardson Forest Preserve – The Nature Conservancy assisted in acquiring a 162-acre gift from Mrs. Ann W. Richardson in 1978 in memory of her late husband, Dr. Albert S. Richardson. The gift acreage was used to leverage matching grants in order to acquire additional adjacent forested land. Mrs. Richardson donated the land because of her desire to see it preserved in a natural state and her keen interest in youth education. Today, Richardson Forest Preserve protects 393 acres.

Kroger Hills – This conservation area consists of 217 acres, 89 of which were used as a federal grant application match by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), and held for a time by TNC. Great Parks has protected this land through a long-term lease with ODNR since 1978.

Get Certified in First Aid CPR

Sign up for National Safety Council First Aid CPR classes. First Aid CPR is an optional training, free and open to all Great Parks volunteers and employees. Certification cards will be mailed to you approximately 6 weeks after completion of training. All programs will be held in the Employee Training Center at Sharon Woods. Upcoming training dates are:

Thu 2/7, 8 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Tue 2/19, 8 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Wed 3/6, 8 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Thu 3/14, 8 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Tue 4/9, 8 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Wed 5/15, 8 a.m.-12:00 p.m.



Registration closes one-week prior to training so don't delay. Sign up on line at: <https://volunteers-greatparks.bridgeapp.com/login>.

If you register for this training and can no longer attend, please cancel or reschedule by logging into your Bridge account using the link above.

Not able to log into Bridge? Contact the Volunteer Services Department at volunteer@greatparks.org or phone 513-521-7275 and ask for Kris or Niki.

Please record these training hours under [First Aid CPR \[Training\Risk Management\]](#). Training hours may be doubled. Drive time to and from the training may be included but not doubled.

Try Something New!

Please review the list of programs below. If you are able to assist with the activity, phone or email the event supervisor to volunteer. **Click on any bolded assignment category and you will be hyperlinked to the VIC login portal.**

CAMPBELL LAKES

Thu 2/28, 9 a.m.-noon:

Litter Pickup Around the Lakes

Hate litter? We do too! It's unsightly and harmful to wildlife. Your help is needed cleaning up the area. Bring heavy work gloves, a water bottle and snacks. We'll provide everything else. Meet at the Campbell Lakes parking lot. To volunteer, contact Kate McConnell at kmccconnell@greatparks.org. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [Park Cleanup \[Campbell Lakes\C&P West\]](#).

FARBACH WERNER

Fri 2/15, 7-9 p.m.:

Maple in the Moonlight

Kick off the maple season with the chance to volunteer in the park after dark. Guests will be hiking the trail and then warming up by the fire while they experience the craft of bringing maple syrup to the table. There will be maple tastings, local music and crafts. Volunteers will assist with luminaries along the trail, fire tending and other activities. Meet at Ellenwood Nature Barn. To volunteer, contact Stephanie Morris at smorris@greatparks.org or phone 513-385-4811. For volunteers ages 18 and up. [Interpreter Programs \[Farbach Werner\Education & Events\]](#).

Sat 2/23 & Sun 2/24, noon-4 p.m.:

Maple Sugar Days

It's maple-sugaring time! This family-friendly event celebrates the awakening of maple trees with making maple syrup. Volunteers will help with dem-

onstrations, hikes and other activities. Meet at Ellenwood Nature Barn. To volunteer, contact Stephanie Morris at smorris@greatparks.org or phone 513-385-4811. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [Interpreter Programs \[Farbach Werner\Education & Events\]](#).

KROGER HILLS

Tue 2/13, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.:

Rx Fire Preparation

Show your favorite natural area some love on Valentine's Day eve. Last year's prescribed fire at Kroger Hills was a huge success, but we still have a few units to burn. Be a vital part of the prescribed fire process as we cut and rake fire breaks. You'll learn what goes into conducting a prescribed fire and how your efforts will enhance our native landscapes! Bring heavy work gloves and water to stay hydrated. To volunteer, contact Chris Glassmeyer at cglassmeyer@greatparks.org. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [Stew Crew \[Kroger Hills\C&P East\]](#).

SHAWNEE LOOKOUT

Sat 2/9, 9-11 a.m.:

Oh Deer!

Have you seen small fenced areas in the middle of the woods? They are our deer "enclosures". Volunteers are needed to remove and replace the old barrier fencing with new, and do some vine and honeysuckle removal. New barrier fencing will be installed if time allows. Bring heavy work gloves and meet at Waterhole Shelter. To volunteer, contact Adam McCosham

at amccosham@greatparks.org or phone 513-978-7198. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [Stew Crew \[Shawnee Lookout\C&P West\]](#).

WINTON WOODS

February & March, week days:

1803 Farm Sampler

Second grade students and teachers will take a leap into Ohio's early statehood while they compare life today to the life of yesteryear. Volunteers are needed to help with farm chores and fun activities. To volunteer, contact Eric King at eking@greatparks.org or phone 513-521-3276 ext. 107. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [Interpreter Programs \[Parky's Farm\Education & Events\]](#).

WOODLAND MOUND

Tue 2/13, noon-3 p.m.:

Tree Maintenance

We need your help removing vines from tree barriers which protect young trees from predators. Removing the vines will eliminate competition for sun, moisture and other elements needed for better and faster tree growth. Bring work gloves, water and snacks. Meet at Monarch Meadow Picnic Shelter. To volunteer, contact Dan Hart at dhart@greatparks.org or phone 513-250-0925. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [Stew Crew \[Woodland Mound\C&P East\]](#).

In case you missed the email...

Happy Trails, Jack

Sutton! After 30 years at Great Parks, Jack will be retiring in May 2019. He plans to take a brief respite pursuing new challenges and yet to be determined opportunities. Jack says, "In reflecting on my career with Great Parks, there have been many highlights. The one aspect for which I feel most fortunate is to have worked with so many talented and passionate people.



Todd Palmeter, new Great Parks Chief Executive Officer, effective May 2019

The future for Great Parks is very bright, primarily because each of you makes it shine every day".

The Board of Park Commissioners has selected Chief of Planning Todd Palmeter to serve as its next Chief Executive Officer. Todd joined Great Parks in 2003 and has served in multiple positions including Park Planner, Facilities Management Superintendent, Planning Director and Chief of Planning. He has been actively involved with the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association, Green Umbrella and Tristate Trails – all of which have afforded him the opportunity to be engaged with a wide variety of partners, stakeholders and constituents. Please join us in congratulating Todd on his selection to be our next CEO!

Last Swing at Shawnee Lookout!

In September of 2019, Great Parks will discontinue operating Shawnee Lookout Golf Course. In spite of our recent efforts to interject new concepts, rounds of play have remained flat and at times even declined. Additionally, the course is nearing 40 years of play and faces significant capital investments in the near future. The clubhouse, restrooms and archaeological museum will remain open to the general public, and the cart path will be available for guests to use as a trail this winter and beyond. While golf at Shawnee Lookout will cease, new opportunities for creative outdoor experiences will most certainly emerge.



Shawnee Lookout Golf Course

New Commissioner

Aboard! A Great Parks welcome to Mr. Marcus Thompson, who was appointed to the Board of Park Commissioners by Probate Court Judge Ralph Winkler on January 3, 2019. Mr. Thompson is the program leader for HYPE (Harnessing Young Professional Energy) at the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber. He also serves as director of Gameday Opera-



New Board of Park Commissioner Marcus Thompson

tions for Saturday Hoops, a growing group of friends and vulnerable kids who get together on Saturday for fun, faith and positive role modeling. Thompson serves on the Board of Trustees for the Center for Addiction Treatment, is a member of the Cincinnati Zoo Ambassador Council and is a mentor and serves on the Board of Directors for the Cincinnati Youth Collaborative. He was a 2018 Forty Under 40 award recipient by the Cincinnati Business Courier and is a graduate of Leadership Central Kentucky and United Way BOLD. Thompson earned a B.A. in Business Communications from Seton Hill University. He lives in Anderson Township with his wife Ashley, and their dog Miley. Mr. Thompson replaces Park Commissioner DeVere Burt, who retired from the Board on December 31, 2018 after six years of service. He joins Bill Burwinkel, Buck Niehoff, Joseph Seta and Ginger Warner on the Board of Park Commissioners.