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!

**May 21** – Melinda Hartong from Hartong Digital Media will be on hand to show us how to compose photos and get the perfect shot using our cell phone cameras. She’ll be sharing some quick and easy tips and, if the weather cooperates, we may head outside for some hands-on learning.

**Jul 16** – Stay tuned!

**Sep 17** – Stay tuned!

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

---

**Jack’s Farewell**

On January 3, 1989, a young landscape architect sent a letter and resume to express his interests in working for the Hamilton County Park District. Now, 30 years later, we are celebrating his career and sending him off on a new adventure. Active staff and volunteers are invited to help us honor Jack Sutton on Wednesday, May 15 from 3–6 p.m. at the Mill Race Banquet Center. Small bites, soft drinks and a cash bar will be available. No RSVP needed. Let’s send Jack off with a fond farewell!

---

**THIS MONTH’S BLOG**

Spotting the Spotted Salamander

http://blog.greatparks.org/2019/03/spotting-the-spotted-salamander/
Ann Griessmann

What is your favorite volunteer activity? Adopt-A-Trail. I love to do trail maintenance on heavy rain days. It’s a way to quickly see the results of your work.

When you’re not at Great Parks, where can we find you? When I’m not volunteering at Great Parks, I’m playing at Great Parks. I love trail running with my dog. You’ll mainly see me on the Badlands Trail. Otherwise, I’m orienteering (running through the woods again) with Orienteering Cincinnati.

What is something that might surprise us about you? I’m a Bridge Inspection Engineer. I spend my career climbing bridges and inspecting them for a living.

What is your favorite Great Park and why? Miami Whitewater Forest because I am absolutely in love with the topography that exists in the woods. There are so many beautiful features that I think many people don’t stop and notice while on the trails.


FARBACH WERNER

Frog Week
Fri–Tue 5/24–5/28, 11 a.m.–3 p.m.
We’ll be kicking off our summer series of nature weeks with Frog Week! Help children and parents see and learn about some of Ohio’s favorite frogs and toads. There will be live animals, activities and a craft. Meet in the 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].

GLENWOOD GARDENS

Maintain Flower Beds & Pots
Recurring, 5/18–10/31
Your help is needed watering, fertilizing and deadheading flowers and annual plantings. Your help will make these areas, which are frequently viewed and photographed by guests, shine. More hands will lighten the load of this 3-days a week work! To volunteer, contact Kurt Goldick at kgoldick@greatparks.org or phone 513-301-6534. For volunteers ages 14 and up. Gardening & Landscaping [Glenwood Gardens\CP East].

MIAMI WHITEWATER FOREST

Garlic Mustard Pull
Tue 5/7, 9 a.m.–noon
Help us pull garlic mustard along the old “braille trail”, a not so far away location tucked away in the heart of Miami Whitewater Forest. The 4,438 acre park is home to a wide-variety of wildlife that depends on native plants for their food and shelter. Meet at Shaker Trace Trail parking area just off Mt. Hope Rd. To volunteer, contact Kate McConnell at kmcconnell@greatparks.org or phone 513-367-4626. For volunteers ages 14 and up. Stew Crew [Miami Whitewater\C&P West].

Nature’s Fireworks
Fri 5/31, 8:30 p.m.
We’ll be exploring the intrigue and deceitful world of fireflies as we take a 2-mile hike along the Wetland Loop. Volunteers are needed to walk along with us, making sure no one gets left behind! Meet at the Cotswold Visitor Centre. To volunteer, contact Paul Seevs at pseevs@greatparks.org or phone 513-385-4811. For volunteers ages 18 and up. Interpreter Programs [Glenwood Gardens\Education & Events].

MYPOP Gardening
Flexible scheduling, call for more information
Confident gardeners can “adopt” an area within the Highfield Discovery Garden. Special one-time group projects occur as well. For less experienced gardeners, we offer three-hour supervised gardening sessions to get you going. To volunteer, contact Kathy Charvat at kcharvat@greatparks.org or phone 513-771-8733. For volunteers ages 18 and up. MYPOP [Glenwood Gardens\Guest Exp Central].

Visitor Center and Gift Shop Help
Tue, Fri, & Sat, call for shift times
Volunteers are needed to help provide park guests with truly memorable experiences. If you enjoy making someone’s day better, volunteer at Cotswold Visitor Centre. Volunteers answer phones, assist guests with purchases, run the cash register, answer questions and do some light housekeeping which will make the facility shine. Training provided. To volunteer, contact Doug Stevenson at dstevenson@greatparks.org or phone 513-771-8733, ext. 110. For volunteers ages 18 and up. Visitor Center/Niche [Glenwood Gardens\Guest Exp Central].
Invasives and Litter, Oh My!  
Thu 5/16, 9 a.m.–noon  
Join forces to improve native wildlife habitat! We need your help cutting invasive woody, honeysuckle and autumn olive. We'll also be picking up trash along the paved inner loop hike/bike trail. Meet at Shaker Trace Trail parking area just off Mt. Hope Rd. To volunteer, contact Kate McConnell at kmccconnell@greatparks.org or phone 513-367-4626. For volunteers ages 14 and up. **Stew Crew [Miami Whitewater\C&P West].**

Garlic Mustard Pull  
Thu 5/23, 9 a.m.–noon  
This 4,438 acre park is home to a wide variety of wildlife that depends on native plants for their food and shelter. Join us as we hand pull and bag garlic mustard which will help make way for native species, particularly spring wild flowers. Meet at Badlands Trail parking lot on Timberlakes Dr. To volunteer, contact Kate McConnell at kmccconnell@greatparks.org or phone 513-367-4626. For volunteers ages 14 and up. **Stew Crew [Miami Whitewater\C&P West].**

MITCHELL MEMORIAL FOREST  
Tree Care and Invasive Species Removal  
Recurring first Thursday of the month  
Over the last few years, Great Parks has planted lots of native trees at Mitchell Memorial Forest. We are looking for help caring for these trees as they grow into forests. Volunteers will work with staff to remove vines, invasive species and straighten tree cages and tubes. Meet at the Tall Pines parking area. To volunteer, contact Zach Marcum at zmarcum@greatparks.org or phone 513-503-1326. For volunteers 18 years of age and up. **Stew Crew [Mitchell Memorial\C&P West].**

Program Animal Care  
Recurring Mon, Wed or Thu, once a week, 11 a.m.–4 p.m.  
Volunteers are needed to feed, clean and interact with program animals used for education programs. Each animal has its own unique feeding and care schedule. Keeping our critters healthy and happy may take some work but providing up close, hands-on animal encounters for our park guests is a great way to foster appreciation for nature and wildlife. Training is provided. To volunteer, contact Will Buelsing at wbuelsing@greatparks.org or phone 513-367-4774. For volunteers ages 14 and up. **Animal Care [Miami Whitewater\Education & Events].**

Dog Park Maintenance  
Mon–Fri as needed, anytime between 6:30 a.m.–3 p.m.  
Volunteers are needed at Simmonds Family Dog Park to string trim around dog park fencing. String trimming will reduce herbicide use around the cute pups that call the dog park their play space! You will not be enforcing dog park rules and the areas you will be working in will be closed to dogs. You most likely will be interacting with some dog parents, so good communication skills are a must! To volunteer, contact Graig Hoffman at grhoffman@greatparks.org or phone 513-367-4626. For volunteers ages 18 and up. **Construction & Maintenance [Miami Whitewater\C&P West].**

Lake and Tributary Cleanup  
Wed 5/15, 8–11 a.m.  
Join the team to help remove litter around Sharon Lake and surrounding tributaries. You'll be getting dirty and most likely a little wet! Boots and gloves are highly recommended. Meet at the Sharon Woods Harbor. To volunteer, contact Wayne Hawkins at whawkins@greatparks.org. For volunteers ages 14 and up. **Stew Crew [Sharon Woods\C&P East].**

Program Animal Care  
Recurring Sun, 11 a.m.–4 p.m.  
Volunteers are needed to feed, clean

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. Trainings are help at the Sharon Woods Employee Training Center, adjacent to the Sharon Centre. Certification cards will be mailed to you approximately 6 weeks after completion of training. Upcoming training dates are:

- Wed 5/15, 8 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
- Tue 7/16, 8 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
- Thu 6/13, 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](https://volunteers-greatparks.bridgeapp.com/login) (your user name is your 6 digit volunteer ID number found on your photo ID card. Example: 000987 or 009876)

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.
and interact with program animals used for education programs. Each animal has its own unique feeding and care schedule. Keeping our critters healthy and happy may take some work but providing up close, hands-on animal encounters for our park guests is a great way to foster appreciation for nature and wildlife. Training is provided. To volunteer, contact Angela Marczi at amarczi@greatparks.org or phone 513-563-4513. For volunteers ages 14 and up. Animal Care [Sharon Woods] Education & Events.

SHAWNEE LOOKOUT

Garlic Mustard Challenge
Sun 5/5, 9 a.m.–noon
Now is the time to tackle some of our most unwanted invasive plants, especially garlic mustard. Help us clear out space for natives to grow. Trained herbicide applicators are a plus! Meet at Miami Fort Parking Lot. 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.

Little Tykes
Wed 5/1, 11 a.m.
What small creatures delight little ones? Bugs! Warm days bring all sorts of six-legged insects out. Volunteers are needed to help with activities for 3-6 year olds and their parents, and hike along with the group to make sure no one gets left behind. Meet in the Winton Centre Auditorium. To volunteer, contact Susan Sumner at ssunmer@greatparks.org or phone 513-385-4811. For volunteers ages 18 and up. Interpreter Programs [Winton Woods] Education & Events.

Sticker Mania!
Kimberly Whitton, Public Engagement Coordinator
Wow...nearly 9,000 Event Guides were labeled in just four hours by 20 incredible volunteers! Everyone arrived at the Winton Woods warehouse as the sun started to shine. With a little sugar rush from donuts, caffeine kick from coffee and laughter from Dale’s jokes, the whole operation ran like a well-oiled machine. A big thanks goes to the volunteers who spent their Tuesday morning peeling, sticking and boxing up the guides!

Pat Andwan
Maureen Brabbs
Janice Carter
Barb Chivinski
Gail Curtis
Phyllis & Jim Doerger
Barb Gerwe
Dale Hoffmann
Ann Hudepohl
Gayle Kowzan
Mary Kay & Paul Luckey
Judy Middendorf
Bill Oden
Louise Schurfanz
Denise Tingle
Howard Tumler
Joyce Witt
Mary Ann Zundel

WINTON WOODS

Special Riders Program
Mon 3/4–Sat 5/25,
Mon 6:15–7:15 p.m.,
Wed 6:15–7:15 p.m.,
Sat 10:15–11:15 a.m.
Volunteers are needed to lead or walk beside horses ridden by Special Rider students during this therapeutic riding class. Training is provided at the Riding Center. To volunteer, contact Margie Rennie at mrennie1@icloud.com or phone 513-931-3057. For volunteers ages 14 and up. SRP [Riding Center] Guest Exp Central.

Little Tykes
Wed 5/1, 11 a.m.
What small creatures delight little ones? Bugs! Warm days bring all sorts of six-legged insects out. Volunteers are needed to help with activities for 3-6 year olds and their parents, and hike along with the group to make sure no one gets left behind. Meet in the Winton Centre Auditorium. To volunteer, contact Susan Sumner at ssunmer@greatparks.org or phone 513-385-4811. For volunteers ages 18 and up. Interpreter Programs [Winton Woods] Education & Events.

Fun on the Farm Fridays
Fri 5/3, 5/10, 5/17 & 5/24, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.
We’ll be gathering at the Farm to unwind from the school year. Volunteers are needed to help with the contact yard, garden, play barn, close-up animal encounters, driving the hay wagon and greeting Farm visitors. To volunteer, contact Eric King at eking@greatparks.org.
For volunteers ages 14 and up. Interpreter Programs [Parky’s Farm] Education & Events.

The World of Insect Ecology
Tue 5/21, 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Home-schooled students, ages 5-12 and their parents, will learn about habitats, food webs and life cycles while examining the ecology of insects. Volunteers are needed to help with learning stations and activities. Meet in the Winton Centre Auditorium. To volunteer, contact Susan Sumner at ssunmer@greatparks.org or phone 513-385-4811. For volunteers ages 18 and up. Interpreter Programs [Winton Woods] Education & Events.

A BIG Golf Ball Party Thanks!
Mike Uffman, General Manager MWF Golf Course & Matt Starr, PGA Head Golf Professional ML&GA
On March 19 at Miami Whitewater Forest, volunteers gathered approximately 8,000 balls and popped an additional 3,000 out of the soft turf. There were so many balls recovered, we didn’t have room to store them all! On March 26 at Meadow Links & Golf Academy, volunteers collected an estimated 17,000 range balls. That’s a savings of approximately $5,550 in park assets. Thank you to everyone who participated in this very important inventory recovery effort.