



## 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!

**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 \[Training\]](#) [Volunteer Services](#). Training hours may be doubled. Drive time to and from the training may be included but not doubled.



Rick Dikeman and Angie Wasson headed out to pull garlic mustard with Great Parks C&P staff at Winton Woods.

# Farewell Jack

## 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/>

## CONNECT WITH GREAT PARKS

 [facebook.com/GreatParksHC](https://facebook.com/GreatParksHC)  
 [twitter.com/greatparks](https://twitter.com/greatparks)  
 [instagram.com/great\\_parks](https://instagram.com/great_parks)

## Volunteer Spotlight



### 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.

**What is your life motto?** Enjoy life, nature and your family. Pay no attention to what others think. Enjoy what you enjoy.

## 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.**

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:kgoldick@greatparks.org) or phone 513-301-6534. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [Gardening & Landscaping \[Glenwood Gardens\CP East\]](#)

#### 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 Seevers at [pseevers@greatparks.org](mailto:pseevers@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](mailto: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](mailto:d Stevenson@greatparks.org) or phone 513-771-8733, ext. 110. For volunteers ages 18 and up. [Visitor Center/Niche \[Glenwood Gardens\Guest Exp Central\]](#).

### 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 [kmccconnell@greatparks.org](mailto:kmccconnell@greatparks.org) or phone 513-367-4626. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [Stew Crew \[Miami Whitewater C&P West\]](#).

## 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 woodies, 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](mailto: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 am.–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](mailto:kmccconnell@greatparks.org) or phone 513-367-4626. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [Stew Crew \[Miami Whitewater\C&P West\]](#).

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:grhoffman@greatparks.org) or phone 513-367-4626. For volunteers ages 18 and up. [Construction & Maintenance \[Miami Whitewater\C&P West\]](#).

## 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](mailto:zmarcum@greatparks.org) or phone 513-503-1326. For volunteers 18 years of age and up. [Stew Crew \[Mitchell Memorial\C&P West\]](#).

## SHARON WOODS

### Saturday Tree Maintenance

Sat 5/4, 9–11 a.m.

We need your help rescuing trees previously planted by volunteers. You'll be removing invasive vines and repairing and removing deer fencing. Lots of hands are needed! Meet at the Sharon Centre. To volunteer, contact Wayne Hawkins at [whawkins@greatparks.org](mailto:whawkins@greatparks.org). For volunteers ages 14 and up. [Stew Crew \[Sharon Woods\C&P East\]](#).

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

## 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](mailto: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 [ssumner@greatparks.org](mailto:ssumner@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](mailto: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 [ssumner@greatparks.org](mailto:ssumner@greatparks.org) or phone 513-385-4811. For volunteers ages 18 and up. [Interpreter Programs \[Winton Woods\] Education & Events](#).

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## 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 Schurfranz  
Denise Tingle  
Howard Tumler  
Joyce Witt  
Mary Ann Zundel

## 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.

Gary Bourgraf  
Dave Carter  
Gail & Bill Curtis  
Phyllis & Jim Doerger  
Mike Draper  
Bob Elkins  
Chris & Meg Ernst  
Bill Hart  
Marianne & Dale Hoffmann

Chuck & Gayle Kowzan  
Ken Kroll  
Roger Loosen  
Paul Luckey  
Harriet Schierenbeck  
Louise Schurfranz  
Les & Helen Sterwerf  
Cliff Zepf