It’s O-Fish-ial; Conservation & Parks Have the Coolest Jobs!
Jenn Spreckelmeier, Conservation & Parks Administrator

A group of staff and volunteers delivered 537 pounds of hybrid bluegill to Triple Creek for the Kids Fishing Derby held at the end of April.

As you may have heard in one of retired CEO Jack Sutton’s “Jack Chats”, Shaker Trace Nursery has four different ponds for aquaculture. Volunteers watching over these ponds are instrumental in the success of this program. Raising these fish to a harvestable size (about a half pound), is a two-year process. There are currently 13 volunteers involved in the aquaculture program who see this process all the way through. They take water samples and feed the fish Monday through Saturday, as well as help with the spring harvesting and stocking.

The harvesting process takes about four days. They drain the pond down a little so that it’s not so deep and wide. Then they use a seine net that is 6 feet by 115 feet, and pull it through the pond from one end to the other. Once they have the net in place, they have to use a smaller net to catch the fish, weigh them and place them into a truck with a fish tank for transport.

In addition to the fish taken to Triple Creek, 800 pounds of hybrid bluegill were also harvested and taken to Campbell Lakes. That’s a total of 1,337 pounds harvested this year. That’s a lot of fish!

A special thanks goes out to the volunteers involved in harvesting: Elmer Weingartner, Bob Bohn, Dale Hoffmann, Phil Bross, David Carter, and Keith Fleckenstein. Also, thank you to the Conservation & Parks staff who helped make it possible: Reyna Poppe, Sara Barnes, Emily Roth, Alex Hearing, Zach Marcum, Amanda Nurre, Jessica Spencer and Tim Osborne. Without everyones help, the kids at Triple Creek wouldn’t have been able to enjoy such a wonderful fishing experience, which for many is their first time ever catching a fish! Again, thank you for all your hard work to make this happen!

August 9 is International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples. Its purpose is to promote and protect the rights of the world’s indigenous population. This event also recognizes the achievements and contributions that indigenous people make to improve world issues. Learn more here – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DLtimjdkenc
Lezlie Dearnell

What is your favorite volunteer activity? I work at Nature’s Niche at Farbach Warner Nature Preserve on Monday mornings. I enjoy talking to the customers as they come to the shop to find a special item.

When you’re not at Great Parks, where might we find you? I like to go boating every weekend in the summer. I also love to read and visit family and friends.

If you could go anywhere in the world, where would it be? I would love to take a several month trip to Australia and New Zealand.

What’s the last picture you took on your phone? My last photo on my cell phone is one of my six grandchildren.

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 hyper-linked to the VIC login portal.

Special Riders Program
Sat 8/3 – Sat 8/24, 10:15 – 11:15 a.m.
Volunteers are needed to lead or walk beside horses ridden by Special Rider students during this therapeu tic riding class. Lots of help is needed to alleviate the long waiting list of potential riders. Volunteer today for this very rewarding program. No experience necessary. 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].

Bands, BBQ & Brews at Lake Isabella
Sat 8/3, 3 – 9 p.m.
Guests will enjoy an evening of live music, a barbecue dinner and local craft beer tasting featuring Fifty West Brewing Company. Volunteers are needed to help with guest check-in and other event activities. To volunteer, contact Liz Keer at lkeer@greatparks.org or phone 513-728-3551, ext. 285. For volunteers ages 14 and up. Special Events [Lake Isabella\Education & Events].

Mad Tea Parties
Fri 8/2, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Sat 8/3, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. or 12:30 – 3:30 p.m.
Sun 8/4, 12:30 – 3:30 p.m.
Fall down the rabbit hole and join us for a mad tea party. Volunteer on 8/2 to decorate, laminate signs, wash dish ware and organize costumes and props. Volunteers are needed on 8/3 & 8/4 to greet and interact with guests in Alice in Wonderland style. You’re encouraged to wear full or partial wonderland costumes (costumes provided), talk or banter with guests, participate in photo ops or help with flamingo croquet! To volunteer, contact Randi Greathouse at rgreathouse@greatparks.org or phone 513-771-8733, ext. 102. For volunteers ages 14 and up. Interpreter Programs [Glenwood Gardens\Education & Events].

Inner Loop Honeysuckle Cut
Tue 8/6, 9 a.m. – noon
We’ll be cutting and spraying honeysuckle on the inner loop of Shaker Trace Hike/Bike Trail to make room for native species to grow. Meet us where the paved looped begins, just inside the main park entrance off of Mount Hope Rd. To volunteer, contact Alex Hearing at ahearing@greatparks.org or phone 513-367-4626. For volunteers ages 14 and up. Stew Crew [Miami Whitewater\C&P West].

Shakespeare in the Park: “A Midsummer Night’s Dream”
Sat 8/10, 5:30 – 9 p.m.
Everyone’s favorite, family-friendly Shakespeare comedy comes to life in this 7 p.m. production performed by the Cincinnati Shakespeare Company at Glenwood Gardens. Park guests will enjoy food, drinks and activities prior to the performance. Volunteers are needed to help with the activities and the Great Parks information tent. To volunteer, contact Liz Keer at lkeer@greatparks.org or phone 513-728-3551, ext. 285. For volunteers ages 14 and up. Special Events [Glenwood Gardens\Education & Events].
Lake Isabella Invasive Plant Removal  
**Wed 8/14, 9 – 11 a.m.**  
Come out to Lake Isabella to help remove invasive shrub species found here in Ohio. Learn about which invasive plants could be present in your backyards and how to properly remove them. Long pants and closed toe shoes are recommended. Tools will be provided. To volunteer, contact Jeremy Barkley at jbarkley@greatparks.org or phone 724-814-1008. For volunteers ages 14 and up.  
Stew Crew [Lake Isabella\C&P East].

Prairie Seed Collection  
**Thu 8/22, 9 a.m. – noon**  
As we walk through the prairie, we’ll be collecting native seeds to be used in habitat restoration projects. You’ll be making a positive impact on the environment and learn lots along the way. Meet at Baughman Wetland parking area. To volunteer, contact Alex Hearing at ahearing@greatparks.org or phone 513-367-4626. For volunteers ages 14 and up.  
Stew Crew [Miami Whitewater\C&P West].

Francis Homestead Invasive Plant Removal  
**Wed 8/28, 9 – 11 a.m.**  
Come out to the Francis Homestead to assist in the removal and treatment of invasive plant species while creating better habitat for our native plants and wildlife. Learn about what invasive plants could be present in your backyards and how to properly remove them. Long pants and closed toe shoes are recommended, tools will be provided. To volunteer, contact Jeremy Barkley at jbarkley@greatparks.org or phone 724-814-1008. For volunteers ages 14 and up.  
Stew Crew [Frances RecreAcres\C&P East].

Sew Luminary Hike Costumes  
**Flexible scheduling, now – Sep 10**  
Volunteers with sewing skills are needed to create costumes for enchanted Luminary Hike nature characters. Costumes need to be completed no later than 9/10, before the Luminary Hike on 9/21. To volunteer, contact Randi Greathouse at rgreathouse@greatparks.org or phone 513-771-8733, ext. 102. For volunteers ages 14 and up.  
Interpreter Programs [Glenwood Gardens\Education & Events].

Landscaping: Maintain Flower Beds & Pots  
**Flexible scheduling, now – 10/31**  
Your help is needed at Glenwood Gardens with watering, fertilizing and deadheading flowers in containers and in annual planting beds. These areas, which are frequently viewed and photographed by guests, will shine thanks to you. To volunteer, contact Kurt Goldick at kgoldick@greatparks.org or phone 513-301-6534. For volunteers ages 14 and up.  
Gardening & Landscaping [Glenwood Gardens\C&P Central].

MYPOP Gardening  
**Flexible scheduling**  
Volunteers can “adopt” an area within 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].

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 8/14, 8 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
Thu 9/19, 8 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
Registration closes one-week prior to training so don’t delay. Sign up online 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.
GrapeVINE Survey Results

Kris Roselle, Volunteer Services Manager

Thanks to everyone who took the time to complete the GrapeVINE survey. Your input is appreciated. What did we find out?

Over 70% of respondents prefer to find out about volunteer opportunities through emails over the GrapeVINE. No worries GrapeVINE readers! We will continue to create this publication because we know people like to receive their news in various ways.

Some of you were concerned about non-tech savvy volunteers not receiving a hard-copy of the GrapeVINE by mail. Actually, anyone can receive a hard copy if they prefer. Several years ago we made the change to electronic copies to cut back on paper, printing and mailing expenses in our quest to be a more sustainable organization (after all, we are a park district). However, if you prefer a hard copy, this can be done by changing email preferences in your VIC account or by simply sending an email to volunteer@greatparks.org.

Many of you asked for the GrapeVINE to be attached to the email notification we send. We can do that!

We received a lot of interesting responses to the question regarding how we list volunteer opportunities, from listing by park or the type of project, to grouping volunteer opportunities by weekday and weekend – and they were all great ideas. However, one thing did come out on top – the majority of you prefer listing volunteer opportunities by date over everything else.

So, we’ll continue communicating with you in several ways to reach different types of learners. We’ll also begin attaching the GrapeVINE to emails to cut back on “clicks”. Finally, moving forward, we’ll be listing volunteer opportunities in date order until the new “latest and greatest” comes along and we’ll be looking at creative ways to incorporate some of your other ideas.

Thanks again for your input!

2019 Greenspace Hero

Kimberly Whitton, Public Engagement Coordinator

Great Parks was honored to receive the 2019 Greenspace Hero award at Green Umbrella’s Midwest Regional Sustainability Summit on Friday, June 14. The award recognizes Great Parks active role in adding land to its network, making it the largest landowner in Hamilton County. Chief of Planning, Tim Zelek, received the award from Ryan Mooney-Bullock, Executive Director of Green Umbrella.

Zero Waste Goalie Training a Big Hit

Kris Roselle, Volunteer Services Manager

It was a packed house! Thank you to the 28 volunteers who participated in Zero Waste Goalie Training. What a fantastic turnout!

Great Parks recently received a grant from Can’d Aid’s Crush it Crusade to increase our recycling and compost initiatives. Zero Waste Goalies play an important role in this process - they tend to recycling stations at park events like Kids Outdoor Adventure Expo and the Cincinnati Pops and while there, educate park guests about these important issues by demonstrating what items are recyclable, compostable or trash.

We’re on our way to becoming a more sustainable organization, and a more sustainable region, thanks to our new Zero Waste Goalies.