

Vol. 55 No. 3

SUMMER 2014

# GREEN ISLANDS

A QUARTERLY MAGAZINE FROM SUMMIT METRO PARKS

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Butterflies  
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the crossroads

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Metro Parks

**Summit**  
**Metro Parks**



Your Metro Parks are funded by a small Summit County real-estate tax.  
This magazine is an example of your public dollars at work.

Our parks are like green islands  
in an urban landscape.

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[summitmetroparks.org](http://summitmetroparks.org)



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## BOARD of PARK commissioners



*The park district's governing body is appointed by the Summit County Probate Judge. Commissioners serve overlapping three-year terms and are assisted by the director-secretary, who oversees the work of full-time and part-time employees, seasonal workers and volunteers. For more information, please call the administrative offices at 330-867-5511.*

#### ABOUT the cover

*The monarch reigns as the most  
recognizable and studied butterfly  
— but for how much longer?*



## PARK news

- Summit Metro Parks and the City of Twinsburg broke ground in April on the **Liberty Park Nature Center**, 9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg. Plans for the park include a 3,900-square-foot building with exhibits and programming space, a picnic shelter, small outdoor amphitheater and two new hiking trails. The site should be completed late this year, with a grand opening in spring 2015.
- A new YouTube video addresses pet owners who don't leash their pooches or "bag the doo-doo." The animated clip is less than a minute long and introduces viewers to Bark, a four-legged visitor who describes what we're calling **PETiquette**, a combination of the words "pet" and "etiquette."

View the video at [youtube.com/summitmetroparks](http://youtube.com/summitmetroparks).





## PARK news (continued)

- The lake in Silver Creek Metro Park is open this summer for personal/private watercraft. Launched from the boathouse, at 5171 S. Medina Line Rd., Norton, boats may be placed in the water by hand year-round as conditions permit. All boaters must sign in and out at the kiosk, where complete rules are posted. At the lake in Munroe Falls Metro Park, 521 S. River Rd., Munroe Falls, personal/private watercraft may be used as conditions permit, September through December.

For more news, visit our website:

[summitmetroparks.org](http://summitmetroparks.org)

## MIND, BODY & SOLE

**READ AT YOUR OWN PACE, now through August 30**

Mind, Body & Sole is a reading/wellness experience for the whole family. Sign up now at your local Akron-Summit County Public Library, and read 30 minutes each day to win a prize or be entered into a prize drawing after reaching reading milestones.

Choose to be active, too. Run/walk 26.2 miles (or 52,000 pedometer steps) in the Metro Parks AND read 26 days this summer to receive a Mind, Body & Sole T-shirt. (Thirty minutes of activity count as one mile.)

Find out more at [mbs.akronlibrary.org](http://mbs.akronlibrary.org) or contact your local library.



## FRIENDS OF METRO PARKS

Friends of Metro Parks is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that supports the park district in many ways, including educating visitors about important issues and connecting residents of Summit County with the rich resources of our Metro Parks. Membership dues allow Friends to support the mission and programs of the park district.

For information about joining Friends:

[friendsofmetroparks.org](http://friendsofmetroparks.org)



We're Your Back Yard

Go out and  
**PLAY!**

"The spree is  
an adventure  
we share."

~ Maria, with husband  
Jerry

July 1 to  
August 31



Biking forms are  
available online and at  
all Acme Fresh Market  
stores. Spree rewards  
are **FREE** for Summit  
County residents.

One lucky participant –  
drawn at random from  
submitted forms – will  
win a new Raleigh bike  
from Century Cycles.



First-time participants who  
complete five different rides  
receive a bicycle license plate,  
reflective sticker and vehicle-  
window cling.

Veteran participants receive  
a sticker and cling.

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# MONARCHS

**T**he monarch butterfly's life history is one of nature's most incredible phenomena.

How can a butterfly that weighs .02 ounces migrate thousands of miles to Mexico? The monarch that makes it south of the border in fall has to survive on its body fat until the next March. Then it will mate, and the female will hopefully journey north to southern Texas, where she will lay eggs on milkweed plants. After five or six weeks, that generation spreads north into the Midwest looking for milkweed to lay eggs. One or more generations later may finally appear in our back yards.



# AT THE CROSSROADS



The monarch reigns as the most recognizable and studied butterfly — but for how much longer? *Pat Rydquist, Interpretive Naturalist*

We have had every reason to take this for granted, because monarchs have never failed to arrive and delight us. However, monarch migration is at a crossroads. With numbers at an all-time low, freezing temperatures this spring in Texas delaying milkweed growth, and a lack of milkweed availability in the Midwest, the phenomenon may be fading into memories.



*Monarch egg on milkweed leaf*



*Monarch caterpillar on milkweed plant*

Monarch numbers have fluctuated for nearly 20 years, but a steady decline since 2010 has researchers worried. Members of the worldwide scientific community have written a petition to leaders in the USA, Mexico and Canada to better protect butterfly wintering sites and to encourage farmers to avoid spraying milkweed with herbicides.

Last winter, only two of the twelve historic sites in the Trans-volcanic

Mountains in Michoacán, Mexico hosted monarchs. They amounted to the size of 1.5 football fields, maybe 33 million monarchs. If this sounds like a lot, consider that in 2012 the number was about 140 million. One concern with fewer monarchs at the winter roosting sites: There are weaker pheromones left behind that guide these migrants to their haven in the Oyamel fir trees the following year.



*Monarch chrysalis just before emerging*

continued from page 5

## Stages of the Monarch Butterfly

Butterfly metamorphosis has four completely different stages of life, and each stage has many perils. Even though the tiny eggs are hidden under milkweed leaves, ants, hummingbirds and ladybugs snack on them. If it's not too hot, the teeny caterpillars hatch after four to seven days and their first food is the egg that protected them. If they happen upon another unhatched egg on their leaf, it's a bonus meal, but the end for an unborn caterpillar. Luckily, a female can lay 400 eggs.

During the monarch's two-week caterpillar stage, they dine only on milkweed. The plants have a milky, latex sap containing glycosides and cardenolides known to be toxic to most animals. To keep their mouths from getting stuck on the latex, caterpillars chew a notch at the base of the milkweed leaf vein, cutting off the flow of sticky latex to the rest of the leaf and allowing more efficient eating. But are monarch caterpillars safe? Ants, stink bugs, spiders, parasitic wasps and praying mantises have no problem eating the caterpillars. About 10 percent survive.

The tachinid fly is another predator, laying its egg inside the caterpillar. The poor monarch doesn't know it has been parasitized and goes on happily until an ugly, brown fly pupa comes out of the chrysalis instead of a beautiful butterfly. Other creatures that eat the third stage of metamorphosis — the green chrysalis dotted with gold — are paper wasps and mice.

When (or if) adulthood is achieved, the late-summer monarch has been the one that slowly roves southward, nectaring to keep up energy and hopefully finding enough flowers to

continued on page 11



## F.A. SEIBERLING NATURE REALM

1828 Smith Rd., Akron 44313

*The 104-acre park includes a 10,000-square-foot visitors center, hiking trails, several gardens, two ponds, wetlands and a tall-grass prairie. Dogs are not permitted in this nature-study area.*

## my FAVORITE place

**BOB ROACH**

**VOLUNTEER**

Volunteer Bob Roach visits the Nature Realm three to five times per week throughout the year, in part because it has a great diversity of habitats.

"I go there to photograph nature," Roach said, which should be no surprise to fans of the park district's Facebook page, where

Bob's images are regularly shared. "My favorite subjects are birds, butterflies and dragonflies, in that order. In warmer weather I carry a second camera with a macro lens to photograph the insects."

Roach, a 14-year volunteer who fills several roles and has tallied more than 5,000 service hours, recalls one of his favorite memories: "I had a coyote follow me for about 15 minutes when I was doing a trail patrol. It stayed very close and watched everything I did. It was just curious. I would talk to it and it would cock its ears and look at me. I'll never forget it." 🐾

# IN YOUR BACK YARD

## MILKWEED FAMILY

Plants in the **milkweed** family play a critical role in the success of monarch butterflies. In addition, they provide food and nectar for hundreds of other insects. The following milkweed species are all easy, low-maintenance native plants that you can enjoy in your back yard:



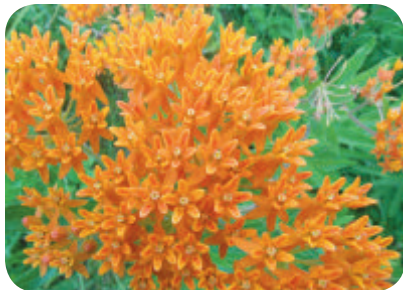
### COMMON MILKWEED (*Asclepias syriaca*)

The most well-known species of milkweed, common milkweed is a tall, large-leaved plant that is easily maintained in sunny areas. It is the host plant for almost 90 percent of the monarch butterflies that migrate. The large clusters of flowers attract a variety of butterflies, beetles and other insects.



### SWAMP MILKWEED (*Asclepias incarnata*)


Swamp milkweed, also known as rose milkweed, is becoming a favorite of gardeners and butterfly enthusiasts. Well known for its delicate blooms, this tall plant attracts tiger swallowtail butterflies, monarchs and fritillaries.



### BUTTERFLY WEED (*Asclepias tuberosa*)

This low-growing species of milkweed is a great addition to any back yard. Its vibrant orange color attracts nectaring butterflies from near and far. This plant can easily be added to a garden with dry or rocky soil. It will give you a burst of color when planted in groups.

All three of these varieties can be seen in a Metro Park near you. The Tallmadge Meadows Area in Munroe Falls Metro Park (1088 North Ave., Tallmadge) is a great place to start. Springfield Bog Metro Park (1400 Portage Line Rd., Springfield Township) and Liberty Park (9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg) also offer great opportunities to see milkweed.

To put on a colorful show in your yard, plant all three species and watch your garden transform all summer long. Your neighbors will be wondering how you attracted such a beautiful variety of pollinators! 

— Meghan Doran, Interpretive Naturalist





# BIKING SPREE

2nd annual spree on wheels is July 1 to August 31

*Nathan Eppink, Chief of Marketing & Communications*

A family of four from Barberton was the first to complete the first-ever Summer Biking Spree in 2013, and they intend to earn spree rewards this year, too.

The Trumps — dad Michael, mom Kristin, and daughters Amanda, 15, and Tricia, 11 — live about a mile from one of the trailheads for the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail. “Three of the rides are in our back yard,” Michael said.

That explains why the Trumps managed to finish the 2013 spree within its first four days.

Now in its second year, the two-month, at-your-own-pace cycling event offers rewards to participants who complete five different sections of the multipurpose trails managed by Summit Metro Parks: the 34-mile Bike & Hike Trail, the 4.2-mile Freedom Trail in Tallmadge, and about half of the towpath — 22.4 miles — in Summit County.



*The Trump Family at F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm in Akron, after receiving their rewards for completing the 2013 Summer Biking Spree*



# RETURNS

Spree riders can earn a reflective commemorative sticker, bicycle license plate and vehicle-window cling. Rewards are free to Summit County residents. Out-of-county participants will pay \$5 for their rewards.


"The biking and hiking trails here in Summit County are rich resources," Michael said. "They have provided us with exercise opportunities, school class trips and a way to commute to Akron for events."

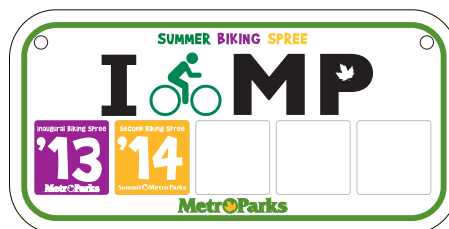
And now, the Trumps have another reason to ride.

"I guess (the Summer Biking Spree) is a new family tradition," Michael added.

A form with the list of possible trail sections is on the back of this

magazine. Additional forms are available at F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm (1828 Smith Rd., Akron), the park district's administrative offices (975 Treaty Line Rd., Akron), Century Cycles (1621 Main St., Peninsula), and all Acme Fresh Market stores in Summit County.

For more information, visit [summitmetroparks.org](http://summitmetroparks.org) or call 330-865-8065. 



To alleviate conflicts on trails built for hiking and biking, please remember the following:

**Be Courteous:** All trail users should be respectful of others regardless of speed, skill level or mode of travel (i.e., bicycle, wheelchair or on foot).

**Pass on the Left:** Pass other trail users on their left. Give an audible signal before passing, either by voice (e.g., "On Your Left!") or other means (e.g., ringing a bell). Pay special attention when passing children and pets.

**Stopping:** Move to the right when stopping. If possible, exit the trail. Be cautious of others approaching from behind and make sure they know you are pulling over.

**Be Predictable:** Travel in a consistent and predictable manner. Always look behind you before changing positions on the trail.

**Don't Block the Trail:** Use no more than half of the trail. Do not block the flow of other users.

**Obey All Traffic Signs and Signals:** Use extra caution where trails cross streets. Stop at all signs and intersections. When entering or crossing a trail, yield to other users.

# ON THE TRAIL

What do you  
**ENJOY** about  
taking your  
**LUNCH**  
**BREAK** in  
the **METRO**  
**PARKS?**



**Griffin Brown**, 26, Cuyahoga Falls

"I frequently hike here and enjoy the beauty of Gorge Metro Park. It's always a good time," Griffin told us. "And it's a great lunch escape on a beautiful day."

**Alice Walker**, 65, Stow, with her dog, **Columbo**, 12

"I'm just thrilled with this park. We come here often,"

Alice said about the Tallmadge Meadows Area in Munroe Falls Metro Park. "I feel really safe here and Columbo is very comfortable hiking the trails with me. She's very nosy and loves to explore."



**Tia Brooks**, 34, & **J.R.**, 5, both of Akron

"It's fun here." It was that simple for J.R. when we asked him why he likes Goodyear Heights Metro Park. Mom Tia said, "I'm just enjoying the shade, the nice breeze and trying to keep cool."

**Heskiah Lampley**, 60, Tallmadge

Heskiah told us he likes the Metro Parks because they're "convenient, free and you can do it all ... walk, hike, run or bike." He plans to hike all of the trails this summer. "That's not a punishment. They're very beautiful and it's good exercise."



**Debbie Dibble**, 51, with **Sarah**, 21, & **Zach**, 18, all of Akron

"I grew up on these trails," explained Debbie of Sand Run Metro Park. "I like the challenges of the trails," said Zach. "And I love how many trees there are," added Sarah.



continued from page 6

put on weight for winter. At some point during its travel, magnetism in its body changes its direction and pulls the butterfly to the iron-rich Trans-volcanic Mountains, arriving around Halloween. But if the monarch encounters cold snaps, storms, drought or fire, that dramatically lessens the chance for a safe arrival in Mexico.

## Is Extinction on the Horizon?

Are monarchs facing extinction? No! There are populations of monarchs that do not migrate. South of the Trans-volcanic Mountains, throughout Central and South America, Hawaii, Australia and New Zealand, monarchs

are alive year-round. There are full-time resident monarchs in Florida.

It is the monarch migration that is in trouble — and with it, Ohio's monarch “treasure.” In the future, we may have to plan trips to exotic locations to see these fantastic butterflies in person.



## 2014 Summer Biking Event

### SUMMER BIKING SPREE

#### TO PARTICIPATE

Complete **FIVE** different trail sections between **July 1 and August 31** to receive rewards. First-time participants who complete five different rides receive a bicycle license plate, reflective sticker and vehicle-window cling. Veteran participants receive a sticker and cling. Rides are **FREE** for all participants. Since the program is funded by Summit County tax dollars, out-of-county residents pay \$5 to receive their rewards.

#### WHERE TO GET YOUR REWARDS

**The administrative offices:** 975 Treaty Line Rd., Akron, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

**F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm:** 1828 Smith Rd., Akron, noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday.

Rewards are not mailed. Forms cannot be redeemed after October 15, 2014.

**One lucky participant** — drawn at random from submitted forms — will win a new Raleigh bike from Century Cycles. The drawing will be held October 16. The number of completed forms will determine the odds of winning.

Additional forms available at Acme Fresh Market stores and Century Cycles in Peninsula. For trail maps and directions: [summitmetroparks.org](http://summitmetroparks.org), 330-865-8065.

#### MULTIPURPOSE TRAILS

##### METRO PARKS BIKE & HIKE TRAIL

**SR 82 lots**  
685 & 686 Aurora Rd.  
Sagamore Hills 44067

**Brandywine Falls**  
8176 Brandywine Rd.  
Sagamore Hills 44067

**Silver Springs Park & Campground**  
5027 Stow Rd.  
Stow 44224

##### METRO PARKS FREEDOM TRAIL

**Middlebury Trailhead**  
1765 Northeast Ave.  
Tallmadge 44278



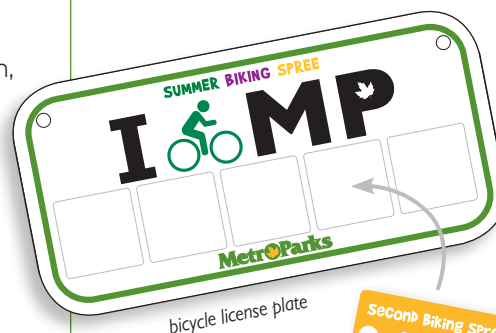
##### OHIO & ERIE CANAL TOWPATH TRAIL

**Big Bend Trailhead**  
1337 Merriman Rd.  
Akron 44313

**Barberton Trailhead**  
5 Fairview Ave.  
Barberton 44203

**Vanderhoof Road Trailhead**  
2445 Vanderhoof Rd.  
New Franklin 44203

#### REWARDS



bicycle license plate



reflective sticker



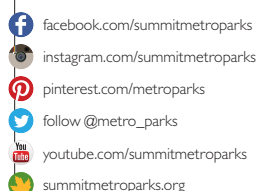
vehicle-window cling

**Summit Metro Parks**

# Summit Metro Parks GREEN ISLANDS

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Akron, OH 44313-5837



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## Second Annual SUMMER BIKING SPREE INDIVIDUAL & FAMILY/GROUP SPREE FORM

### PRIMARY PARTICIPANT

FIRST-YEAR Rider VETERAN SUMMIT CO. RESIDENT

Primary Participant's Last Name	First Name	M.I.	Age	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Address			City	State	Zip	
Email			Phone			

### ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS

FIRST-YEAR Rider VETERAN SUMMIT CO. RESIDENT

Last Name	First Name	M.I.	Age	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Last Name	First Name	M.I.	Age	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Last Name	First Name	M.I.	Age	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Last Name	First Name	M.I.	Age	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Last Name	First Name	M.I.	Age	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

### MULTIPURPOSE TRAIL TRAILHEADS

SYMBOL MILES RATING DATES (Volunteers or staff may be available to date your form.)

Bike & Hike	SR 82 north to Alexander Road		6.2	1	
Bike & Hike	SR 82 south to Brandywine Falls		6.2	1	
Bike & Hike	Brandywine Falls south to SR 303		8.6	1	
Bike & Hike	Silver Springs Park & Campground north to SR 303		10.0	2	
Freedom	Middlebury to Southwest Avenue		8.4	1	
Towpath	Big Bend south to Memorial Parkway		4.0	1	
Towpath	Barberton north to Summit Lake		11.4	1	
Towpath	Barberton south to Vanderhoof Road		8.2	2	
Towpath	Vanderhoof Road south to Clinton		7.4	1	
Biker's Choice	(Ride another section of the Bike & Hike or Towpath trails to earn credit!)	<input type="checkbox"/>			

Rating: 1=Easy 2=Moderate 3=Strenuous (All trail mileage is round-trip)

This form may be reproduced.

**Please note:** Before starting any fitness program, it is the participant's responsibility to contact their physician with respect to any past or present illness or injury that may affect their ability to participate in the program.

Summit Metro Parks