

Vol. 55 No. 2

SPRING 2014

# GREEN ISLANDS

A QUARTERLY MAGAZINE FROM SUMMIT METRO PARKS

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Restoration  
in Twinsburg

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Heron

**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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This magazine is mailed free of charge to Summit County residents. To join the mailing list, send your name and mailing address to [marketing@summitmetroparks.org](mailto:marketing@summitmetroparks.org) or call 330-867-5511.

Green Islands can be downloaded online:  
[summitmetroparks.org](http://summitmetroparks.org)

## 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

*Beavers are nature's great engineers. In stream restoration projects, like the one at Liberty Park, humans are mimicking the actions of these manipulative mammals.*



## PARK news

- In January, Summit County **Probate Judge Elinore Marsh**



**Stormer** appointed **Jane E. Bond** to the Board of Park Commissioners. Bond replaced **Frances S. Buchholzer**, who served on the board from 1995 to 2013.

- **Spree For All**, the two-month hiking series on flat, easy trails, begins May 1. Earn rewards by completing five hikes before June 30. A first-year hiker earns a neck lanyard and commemorative pin. A veteran hiker earns the commemorative pin.



**PARK news** (continued)

- Ground will be broken this year on a new nature center in **Liberty Park** (9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg), on a two-mile section of the multipurpose **Freedom Trail** (between Tallmadge Circle and Eastwood Avenue in Akron), and on **Wood Hollow Metro Park** in Hudson (near the intersection of Barlow and Stow roads).

For more news, visit our website:

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

**SWIM SEASON BEGINS**

Enjoy lake swimming **May 24 through August 17**. During swim season, an admission fee or season pass is required to enter our swim areas, open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

**Munroe Falls Metro Park**  
**Lake Area**

521 S. River Rd.  
Munroe Falls 44262

**Silver Creek Metro Park**  
**Bathhouse**

5000 Hametown Rd.  
Norton 44203

**Daily admission** is \$4 for adults and teens (ages 13 and older), \$3 for children (ages 2 to 12). Kids under 2 are admitted free. Age at time of purchase determines price.

For more information, visit [summitmetroparks.org](http://summitmetroparks.org) or call **330-867-5511** Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**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)



**Sunday,**  
**May 11**

**Munroe Falls Metro Park**  
**Lake Area**  
521 S. River Rd., Munroe Falls

**Run, jog or walk**  
in **celeBration** of  
**Mom**  
during this family event!

The paved course travels twice around the scenic lake. Jogging strollers are welcome. Advance registration is \$20/person. Participants 14 and under are free, but they must register.

A fundraiser to support the  
**MetroParks**  
*Foundation*

[summitmetroparks.org](http://summitmetroparks.org)  
**330-865-8065**

**b**  
**BUCKINGHAM**  
EST. 1913

**STIFEL**

# A BROOK



ABOVE: Pond Brook's manmade path before the stream restoration began

BELOW: Pond Brook's meandering path takes shape during Phase I restoration in 2007



**M**ore than a decade ago, we joined forces with the City of Twinsburg to create what is now the largest natural area managed by Summit Metro Parks: the nearly 2,000-acre Liberty Park.

The dominant water feature of Liberty Park is Pond Brook. While the name inspires images of clean, flowing water, this was not the case when the property was acquired. Beginning in 1885, Pond Brook was ditched, drained and devoid of most life. The straightened stream was dominated by muck and lacked vegetation on its banks. Other than invasive carp, few fish could survive there.



# RUNS THROUGH IT

*Mike Johnson, Chief of Natural Resources*

Seeing a glass half full, Metro Parks staff immediately started a plan to restore and improve this degraded environment. Our goal was to restore natural morphology (meanders) to the stream and improve in-stream habitat (riffles, runs, pools and vegetation) so fish and wildlife would return.

To date, the park district has restored 2.65 miles of Pond Brook and its



*Phase II work, January 2014*

tributary streams, and almost 100 acres of wetlands. A second phase was completed in February, and a third and final phase is in the planning stages.

## Improving Native Habitat

Stream restoration is a new science, and there are different goals for different projects. One agency may restore a stream to stop erosion. Another may

do so to increase a stream's ability to absorb pollutants. At Liberty Park, our goal is to restore habitats and encourage native wildlife to return.

To measure our success — and, most importantly, water quality — we use sophisticated biological indices developed by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. Samples have been taken the last four years, and the project is meeting most performance goals.



*Pond Brook, in 2009, returning to its natural beauty after Phase I restoration*



*Phase II completion, February 2014*

*continued on page 6*



*The manmade 40-acre wetland in Liberty Park is under water each spring and fall, attracting migratory waterfowl known as dabblers.*



**American Black Duck**



**Northern Shoveler**



**Gadwall**

*Dabblers include mallards, American black ducks, northern pintails, American wigeons, green-winged teals, blue-winged teals, northern shovelers and gadwalls.*

Of particular note is the improvement in native fish and aquatic insect populations.

One of the more interesting achievements was unplanned. During the first phase, a 40-acre wetland was restored. The water in this wetland comes from the adjacent Aurora Shores Lake in the Village of Reminderville. Part of their lake management strategy calls for releasing water each fall, so the wetland area is only seasonally under water. This allows for the growth of plants that benefit a group of migratory waterfowl known as dabblers. These long-billed ducks require shallow water for foraging. Our research has demonstrated that this new wetland in Liberty Park is a significant resource for these birds, as this very specific habitat is lacking in most of the surrounding area.

Most of the work completed to date has been funded by outside sources, including mitigation funds from the Ohio Department of Transportation, Section 319 grants from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, and a Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program grant from the Ohio EPA, which is sponsored by the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District.

When completed, the Pond Brook project will be one of the largest in Ohio, with more than five miles of stream restored and several hundred acres of wetlands restored or constructed. And it's right here, in your back yard. 🌱

# IN YOUR BACK YARD

Thousands of **daffodils** — including dozens of varieties — bloom in April along the H.S. Wagner Daffodil Trail in Furnace Run Metro Park.

The 0.6-mile trail is named for the park district's first director-secretary. Harold S. Wagner planted the first bulbs there in the late 1930s.



## BARRETT BROWNING DAFFODIL

Blooms: April/May  
Color: White; Orange Cup  
Height: 12-14"  
Location: Full Sun, Half Sun/Half Shade,  
or Full Shade



## GOLDEN BELLS MINIATURE DAFFODIL

Blooms: March/April  
Color: Gold/Yellow-orange  
Height: 6"  
Location: Full Sun

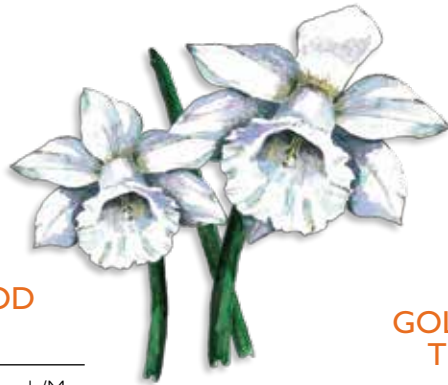


## LEMON BEAUTY DAFFODIL

Blooms: April  
Color: White; Lemon/Yellow Cup  
Height: 15-17"  
Location: Full Sun/Partial Shade



Illustrations  
by Naturalist  
Danette Rushboldt



## MOUNT HOOD DAFFODIL

Blooms: March/May  
Color: Pure; All-white  
Height: 12-18"  
Location: Full Sun, Half Sun/Half  
Shade, or Full Shade



## GOLDEN HARVEST TRUMPET DAFFODIL

Blooms: Late Winter/  
Early Spring  
Color: Yellow  
Height: 12-24"  
Location: Full Sun

**If You Go:** Parking in the gravel lot, at 3100 Brush Rd., Richfield, is limited to about 10 cars, so visitors are encouraged to be patient and go weekdays before 4 p.m. There are several picnic tables and a porta-potty near the start of the trail.





# Proper PETI

**T**ed Moore and Jonas, a loveable black and brown mutt, hike the trails several times a week. On every fourth or fifth visit, Moore said, the duo encounters a dog off leash, or a leash that's far too long. Metro Parks rules limit leash length at 8 feet.

Moore has also seen pet owners not pick up after their pooches, so he often carries an extra bag to do what others won't with doo-doo.

Moore, a small-business owner, adopted Jonas eight years ago from PAWSibilities®, Humane Society of Greater Akron, a no time-limit shelter. Jonas had been there, waiting for a new home, for three and a half years.

"The rules are clear and serve a purpose."

Ted Moore



# QUETTE

*Nathan Eppink, Chief of Marketing & Communications*

Moore said the dog had been abused, leaving it fearful and anxious.

Jonas was left for some time in the back yard of an abandoned home, tied up with wire, yet somehow managed to survive on rainwater and mice or other little critters. He had deep scars on his haunches, and the hair grew back like thin, white racing stripes.

"I didn't want him to sit there forever," Moore said, explaining he has experience with dogs that have behavioral issues. He took the dog home, and the rest is history. "He's a great companion," Moore said of his energetic hiking buddy.

Their favorite trek is the challenging Deer Run Trail at O'Neil Woods Metro Park (2550 Martin Rd., Bath). They also enjoy the Tallmadge



Meadows Area, part of Munroe Falls Metro Park (1088 North Ave., Tallmadge), and Deep Lock Quarry Metro Park (5779 Riverview Rd., Peninsula).

Moore wishes more people would consider rescues before buying a puppy, and that more dog owners would be considerate of others on the trails.

"The rules are clear and serve a purpose," he said. "They're there to keep dogs safe, people safe, and the environment protected." 🌱



For information about PAWSibilities, visit [summithumane.org](http://summithumane.org).



*New signs are being installed in the Metro Parks this season to remind visitors to pick up after their pets and to keep them leashed.*

# The **best places** to view **GREAT** **T BLUE HERON** **O NESTS** in the **SPOTS Metro Parks**



The largest herons in North America, **great blue herons** eat mostly fish, but also eat amphibians, reptiles, small mammals and insects.



**Great blue herons** gather in colonies each spring to build stick nests high off the ground. Nests are saucer-shaped and lined with pine needles, dry grass, leaves or small twigs. These elaborate structures are used over multiple years and can reach more than 4 feet across and nearly 3.5 feet in depth.

Breeding occurs from late March to mid-April. Herons lay up to six eggs that require incubation for 25 to 30 days. After hatching, the young birds will remain in the nest for up to eight weeks before they fly for the first time.



## BATH ROAD HERONRY

*Between Riverview and Akron-Peninsula roads, Akron*

This active heronry, on land leased by Metro Parks from the City of Akron, has been a nesting site for more than a decade. A small, temporary pulloff is available, or park at the Towpath Trail's Botzum Trailhead (2928 Riverview Rd., Akron) and walk on the towpath north to Bath Road, then turn right. It's a leisurely 15-minute walk to the viewing area. Naturalist-led viewing opportunities are offered here each spring.

## OHIO & ERIE CANAL TOWPATH TRAIL Wilbeth Road Trailhead

*392 W. Wilbeth Rd., Akron 44314*

This largely industrial area is home to a lively colony each spring. Travel south toward the Manchester Trailhead to see these majestic birds repairing their giant nests and fishing in the water-filled canal. Some nests are located a fair distance from the trail, so be sure to bring binoculars or a spotting scope.



## F.A. SEIBERLING NATURE REALM Visitors Center

*1828 Smith Rd., Akron 44313*

An intact nest, removed from a dying tree at the Bath Road Heronry, has been preserved for up-close viewing. Visitors can marvel at the impressive construction skills of one of Ohio's largest birds. Regular center hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. Admission is always free.





**SPREE FOR ALL**

330-865-8065  
summitmetroparks.org

**May 1 to June 30**



*We're Your Back Yard*  
**Go out and ENJOY!**

PICTURED: Eileen (front), Patricia, Lawrence and Anthony

**Summit Metro Parks**

f t p in y

#summitmetroparks

## SPREE FOR ALL

## 2014 Spring Hiking Event

### TO PARTICIPATE

Complete **FIVE** hikes between **May 1 and June 30** — on five different trails, the same trail or any combination of trails — to receive a reward. Starting point at each trailhead is the information kiosk, which has a legend with the following symbols:

- Blue Circle = 1/4 mile round trip
- Yellow Square = 1/2 mile round trip
- ▲ Green Triangle = 1 mile round trip

Mileage markers are provided as an aid. **You do not need to hike any prescribed length to receive credit.**

First-year hikers earn a neck lanyard and commemorative pin. Veteran hikers earn the commemorative pin. Hikes are **FREE** for all participants. Out-of-county residents pay to receive their rewards (\$10 for first-year hikers, \$5 for veteran hikers).

### WHERE TO GET YOUR REWARD

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 **August 15, 2014**.

### MULTIPURPOSE TRAILS

#### BIKE & HIKE TRAIL

**Barlow Road**  
331 Barlow Rd.  
Hudson 44236

#### FREEDOM TRAIL

**Middlebury**  
1765 Northeast Ave.  
Tallmadge 44278

#### OHIO & ERIE CANAL TOWPATH TRAIL

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

**Memorial Parkway**  
499 Memorial Pkwy.  
Akron 44313

**Franklin**  
2328 Center Rd.  
New Franklin 44216

**Clinton**  
2749 North St.  
Clinton 44216

### PARKS

#### CASCADE VALLEY

**Overlook Trail**  
354 Sackett Ave.  
Akron 44313

#### F.A. SEIBERLING NATURE REALM

1828 Smith Rd.  
Akron 44313

#### FURNACE RUN

**Brushwood Area**  
4955 Townsend Rd.  
Richfield 44286

#### GOODYEAR HEIGHTS

**Pioneer Area**  
550 Frazier Ave.  
Akron 44305

#### GORGE

**Main Entrance**  
1160 Front St.  
Cuyahoga Falls 44221

#### MUNROE FALLS

**Tallmadge Meadows Area**  
1088 North Ave.  
Tallmadge 44278

#### SAND RUN

**Old Portage Area**  
1300 Sand Run Pkwy.  
Akron 44313



Please share this publication and recycle it when finished.

# 11th ANNUAL SPREE FOR ALL

SPRING HIKING EVENT

## INDIVIDUAL & FAMILY/GROUP HIKING FORM

### PRIMARY PARTICIPANT

FIRST-YEAR Hiker 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 Hiker 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

Bike & Hike Trail  
Freedom Trail  
Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail  
Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail  
Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail  
Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail

### TRAILHEAD

Barlow Road  
Middlebury  
Big Bend  
Memorial Parkway  
Franklin  
Clinton

### DATES (Volunteers or staff may be available to date your form.)

### METRO PARK

Cascade Valley  
F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm (no pets)  
Furnace Run (1/8 mile round trip, only)  
Goodyear Heights (1/2 mile round trip, only)  
Gorge (1/2 mile round trip, only) Grade is approximately five percent.  
Munroe Falls (1/2 mile round trip, only)  
Sand Run

### LOCATION

Overlook Trail  
Rock & Herb Garden  
Brushwood Area  
Alder Trail  
Gorge Trail  
Meadow Loop  
Jogging Trail

**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.