



Volunteer News & Views

THOUSANDS OF ACRES AND MILES OF TRAILS. IT ALL BELONGS TO YOU! — APRIL 2022

From our Director

We have survived the winter and are now getting back out into our Parks. Seeing people in our parks is the most rewarding part of what I do. It's not about the work we do, it's about who we are doing it for.

It's all here for us to explore in our Greene County Parks and on our Greene County Trails. One of things that I am most proud of is that over the past few years, our efforts have doubled the attendance in our parks.

I, along with our Team, want to continue to be good stewards and to demonstrate that we are worthy of your trust – and want to see even more people in our parks.

We've opened up opportunities and that's what our work is all about – people in the Parks! **Welcome to your backyard – It all belongs to you!**

– Jon Dobney



VOLUNTEER OPEN HOUSES & TRAIL SENTINEL MEETING HELD AT GCP&T HEADQUARTERS

In January, two Volunteer Open Houses were held at GCP&T Headquarters to show appreciation to our dedicated Volunteers that share their valued time at our events!

The theme for the event was “popcorn” as it was National Popcorn Day during the timeframe of the open houses. New ID/name badges were made for the Volunteers in attendance, and our goal is to provide all Volunteers with ID badges.

In addition, the first Trail Sentinel Meeting of 2022 was held at the GCP&T Headquarters on February 17, at which time information was shared and input from those in attendance was discussed.

We look forward to working with a successful Team of GCP&T Trail Sentinels!

SEE OTHER
SIDE FOR
VOLUNTEER
OPPORTUNITIES



Collin Rust, 23, is one of our newest volunteers. Collin resides in Beavercreek after having grown up in Tipp City, OH. He is currently a civilian Program Manager at Wright Patterson Air Force Base. Collin holds two degrees from local universities with a Bachelors in Business Economics from Wright State University and a Masters of Business Administration from the University of Dayton.

Collin enjoys spending quality time with his fiancé Courtney and their dog, Chewie. He loves exploring our local area through the multitude of parks and wildlife areas we are all so fortunate to be surrounded by. Collin loves to explore the vast amount of parks in Greene County through hiking, running, and cycling. Collin currently volunteers with Greene County Parks & Trails, Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce's Generation Dayton, Beavercreek Board of Zoning Appeals, and the Beavercreek Youth Development Committee. Collin's favorite quote is, “A society grows great when old men plant trees in whose shade they shall never sit.”

PARKS TOOLKIT: ANIMAL AMBASSADORS

by Jared Merriman,
GCP&T Naturalist

Animal Ambassadors open doors into people's minds and hearts. The experience of encountering another living being, especially when that encounter is up close and personal, draws people in and invites them to be curious. Up close encounters also allow us to provide a safe space for people to conquer their fear of species like snakes. But the biggest and most valuable result of using animal ambassadors is their ability to build connections with people emotionally – they are called ambassadors after all!

We're going to take a look at how we use animal ambassadors using the example of our Eastern Screech-Owl Mike. Our top priority whenever we use any animal is safety, so we always make sure Mike is secured using falconry supplies called almars and jesses, and a leash. We also always handle Mike with gloves to protect ourselves. Then we rely on the relationship we have built with Mike to maintain his trust in us so he feels safe around other people. This unseen work then allows us to take Mike out and about to engage the public in conversations about owl biology, bird conservation, and wildlife rehabilitation. Mike, and the rest of the animal ambassadors on our team, work magic when it comes to making our programs relevant and provoking. All we have to do during the program is introduce the animal and focus on safety, the animal and the program participants lead the way from there. Hopefully, you all will get the chance to meet Mike soon!



Many children and adults enjoyed our Sugar Maple Tours and the chance to taste maple sugar at the Narrows Reserve in February. GCP&T Volunteers were on hand to share their valuable time and knowledge during this much anticipated annual event.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES April through June 2022

April 19	Wetland Walk (1st Grade)	Sara Lee Arnovitz	9:15 – 11:30am
April 19	Greene Grasshoppers	James Ranch Park	6 – 8pm
April 21	Wiggle Worms	James Ranch Park	10am – 12pm
May 6	Valley Elem. Seasonal Hike	Narrows Canoe L.	9:30 – 11:30am
May 12	Underground Railroad	Indian Mound Res.	8:30 – 11:30am
May 13	Greene Co. ESC – Fishing	Spring Lakes Park	11am – 12pm
May 17	Greene Grasshoppers	James Ranch Park	6 – 8pm
May 19	Wiggle Worms	James Ranch Park	10am – 12pm
May 27	Night Owlz! Puzzle Quest	Russ Nature Reserve	5 – 7pm
May 27	GTO: Escape Woods	Russ Nature Reserve	8 – 10pm
June 4	Summer Fest Concert Series	Caesar Ford Park	7 – 10pm
June 6-10	Dino-rific	Narrows Reserve	9:30 – 11:30am
June 6-10	Roughin' It	Caesar Ford Park	8:45am – 3pm
June 7	Pups on a Mission	James Ranch Park	6 – 8pm
June 8	Family Night Out	Russ Nature Reserve	6 – 8pm
June 9-10	Roughin' It / OVERNIGHT	Caesar Ford Park	3pm – 9am
June 16	Wiggle Worms	Spring Lakes Park	10am – 12pm
June 21-24	Animal Pals	Spring Lakes Park	9:30 – 11:30am
June 21-24	Art in Nature	Spring Lakes Park	9:30am – 2:30pm
June 21	Greene Grasshoppers	Spring Lakes Park	6 – 8pm
June 24	Night Owlz! Bigfoot Scav.	Russ Nature Reserve	5 – 7pm
June 24	GTO: Sasquatch Safari	Russ Nature Reserve	8 – 10pm

To sign-up, please contact Amy at 937-562-6442. Thank you!

Please note: Summer Fest Concert Series, Caesar Ford Park, July 9, 7 – 10pm



ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL GCP&T PANCAKE PICK-UP!

GCP&T held The Great Pancake Pick-Up on March 5 at GCP&T Headquarters, and served approximately 1,000 community residents – including two bicyclists!

We wish to thank all of the Volunteers and staff members that worked that day, as well as those who participated in the event and waited patiently for their hot cakes, bacon, and real maple syrup. It was definitely worth the wait! GCP&T received multiple compliments regarding how tasty the food was and how much the event is appreciated.

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