



# Volunteer News & Views

THOUSANDS OF ACRES AND MILES OF TRAILS. **IT ALL BELONGS TO YOU!** – OCTOBER 2023

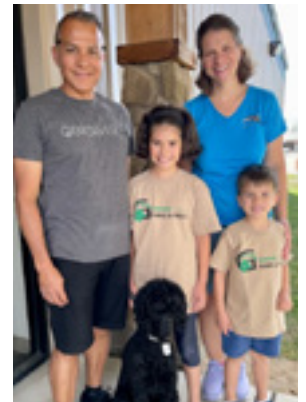
## Greene County Parks & Trails Welcomes Fall!

Fall has arrived and we are ready for another fabulous season of fun and interesting programming at Greene County Parks & Trails! Please continue to attend all of the events and programs that GCP&T has to offer throughout the year – from Wiggle Worms to Seniors Programming! Please enjoy this newsletter and review our Greene County Parks & Trails accomplishments during the third quarter of 2023. We've been busy! See you in the Greene County Parks!

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FOR NEW VOLUNTEER  
OPPORTUNITIES**

### GCP&T VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: MEET THE TIBUNI FAMILY!

We are the Tibuni Family (Mom: Kandice, Dad: Dan, Daughter: Emerson, Son: Branson, and Dog: Tamera). We have called Dayton home for the past 8 years. We started volunteering with Greene County Parks and Trails when our daughter expressed interest in wanting to learn more about animals and nature. We wanted her to develop more leadership skills, so it started with Mom and daughter signing up to be volunteers over a year ago to be trained to help with educational field trips. Over the past year, we have learned so much about our local parks and the animals and plants that call them home. Soon Dad and son joined in the volunteering, too, and now it is a family affair. Serving others as a family is very important to us. Some of our favorite events to help out at have been The Great Pancake Pickup, Maple Sugaring Tours, Build-An-Animal program, handling animals at educational programs, and hiding eggs for the ever-so-popular Egg Hunts. We have also loved bringing our Standard Poodle, Tamera, a future breeder for 4 Paws for Ability, to many events, specifically the seniors' programs. We love our Greene County parks and are proud to serve as volunteers together as a family for them.



### MONARCH BUTTERFLY TAGGING EVENT HELD IN SEPTEMBER



GCP&T held our annual Monarch Butterfly Tagging Program on September 16, at the Russ Nature Reserve.

During this program, the participants learned how to catch, tag and release monarch butterflies, and enjoyed other monarch-related activities.

**Join the mission to help save these endangered butterflies.**

Fun facts about monarchs:

- They're bright orange and poisonous.
- They weigh less than a paperclip.
- They fly high.
- They're picky eaters.
- Overwintering monarchs live up to eight months, while other generations only live about two to six weeks.

You can learn a lot more about monarchs at our yearly tagging programs! Please plan to come out and learn how to catch, tag and release these beauties next year!



# JUST SAY “YES” TO NEW ADVENTURES

Great stories often start by saying “yes” to a new adventure. Two strangers said “yes” to a Greene County Parks & Trails event called “Love is Blind” and started their journey together.

It all began one crisp fall day in 2021 at Caesar Ford Park, where GCP&T hosted a special evening for singles. Couples were matched based on a questionnaire, and among those matched were Michael and Tiffany. They had a romantic dinner in a forest grove at a candlelit bistro table for two. They enjoyed the meal and spent time discussing a provided list of questions that had been placed at the table. Toward the end of the evening, they began to open up and share their hearts. Some people left early, while others stayed to enjoy the dessert, music, and dancing under lights in the trees. At the end of the evening, as Michael and Tiffany walked toward their cars together, Tiffany paused in the field to point out a few constellations, and they gazed at the starry night sky together.

During the next week, Michael texted and asked Tiffany for a date, to which she replied “Yes!” They arranged a second date, and then a third, and then a fourth. They officially became a couple by early November.

Christmas was a cozy season to be together, where Tiffany and Michael enjoyed Christmas parties, light displays and other festive events. With January came some winter blues, but even heavy snow wouldn’t keep Michael from seeing Tiffany. In the spring, they enjoyed being outside as flowers, gardens, and their love grew and bloomed. In the summer, they soaked up the sun together, exploring local parks and festivals, and especially enjoyed trying new food trucks. As autumn drew near, they went to a corn maze and tasted apple cider slushies.

Michael and Tiffany enjoyed their time together and drew closer together while building joyful memories wherever they went.

Of all the places they explored, they found that they especially loved experiencing the beauty of nature together.

On the anniversary of their first encounter, Michael and Tiffany returned again to Caesar Ford Park for the “Night of Romance” couples’ event, which had a similar setup as the “Love is Blind” event. Michael had big plans for the evening. He had arranged with park staff for them to sit at the same table as their first date. He brought lanterns for a walk in the woods after dinner, and he had a shiny ring hiding in his pocket! They enjoyed a delightful meal in the woods with many other couples. The evening was magical, with twinkling lights strung overhead and romantic songs playing over dinner. As the sun set, the event came to a close, but their romantic evening was far from over.

Michael suggested a walk in the woods, because earlier that day, he had hiked to a secluded spot and arranged a surprise for Tiffany.

The lanterns Michael brought came out, and they walked into the darkness. He led her through the forest until they came to the spot he had prepared. He had set up a magical display of love in the middle of the woods. He sought to recreate the wonder of that first night when they gazed at the stars, but this time he would show her the constellations of his heart. Michael had hung 274, hand-folded origami stars on twine stretched in the trees. There was one star for each day of the past year that they had spent together. Each star held an encoded message of love for her eyes only, and Michael gave her the key to read them in an app he developed. Tiffany was speechless and enchanted with the stars and their messages.

Michael got down on one knee and asked Tiffany to marry him under a galaxy of stars, and she said “Yes!!”

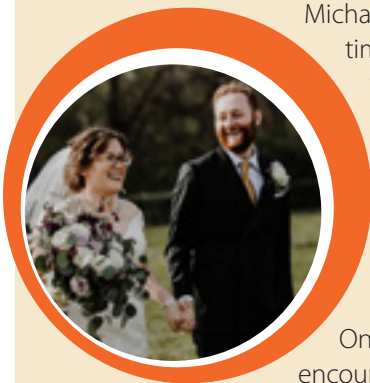
The couple began to plan the wedding, and one of the first tasks was to find a venue. They looked at several options, but both of them had only one place in mind: Caesar Ford Park.

So that is where they got married, right where they first met. The wedding took place on a peaceful, sunny day in May, one and a half years after they first met. They held a Christian ceremony, where they exchanged heartfelt vows before God, their family, and their friends under a beautiful canopy of trees. Michael and Tiffany said yes to a new adventure of marriage and sharing life experiences together.

They then celebrated at their reception, under a large round tent in a field behind the woods. Everyone had an amazing time celebrating with great music, food, and of course, a three-tier cake artfully decorated with pressed wildflowers. Even the children enjoyed the evening, dancing and running through the meadows around the tent. The newlyweds soaked in the beauty and the love surrounding them on their wedding day, while praising God for his goodness in bringing them together.

As part of their send-off, Michael and Tiffany had their guests step outside the tent. For a few minutes they turned the lights off, and the newlyweds finished that night the same as their very first evening together: stargazing and embracing.

That day they started the next chapter in their lives together, all because they were willing to say “yes” to a new adventure.





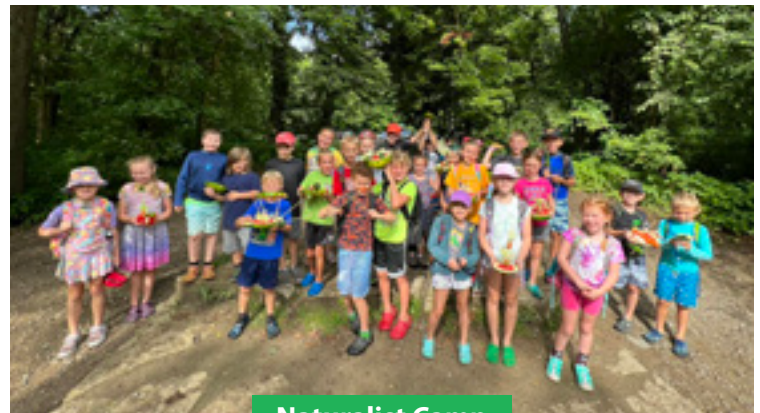
Archaeology Home School



Seniors: Art in the Park



DIY Project



Naturalist Camp



Backyard Jamboree



Bubble Play



Reptile Safari



Ranger Classic 2023



Summerfest 2023

# GCP&T Volunteer Opportunities

## October / November / December 2023

To sign up to VOLUNTEER for any of these events, please contact Amy at 937-562-6442

OCT  
NOV

10/26-28	<b>Pumpkin Glow</b>	4 Volunteers	Caesar Ford Park	6:00pm - 9:00pm
11/2	<b>Boggs Homeschool Mound Builders</b>	1 Volunteer	Indian Mound Reserve	9:30am - 2:00pm
11/7 & 11/8	<b>Paint Stick Ornaments</b>	1 volunteer	GCP&T Headquarters	6:00pm - 8:00pm
11/18	<b>Wiggle Hoppers Fall Harvest</b>	5-7 Volunteers	Fairgrounds Rec. Ctr.	12:00pm - 2:00pm

DEC

12/2	<b>Wiggle Hoppers Christmas</b>	5-7 Volunteers	James Ranch Park	1:00pm - 3:00pm
12/7	<b>Boggs Home School Discovery Hike</b>	1 Volunteer	Caesar Ford Park	9:30am - 11:30am
12/9	<b>Santa's Workshop</b>	5 Volunteers	GCP&T Headquarters	10:00am - 1:00pm
12/21	<b>Winter Solstice Hike</b>	2 Volunteers	Russ Nature Reserve	7:00pm - 9:00pm

## GCP&T ACCOMPLISHMENTS – THIRD QUARTER 2023

Greene County Parks & Trails has been busy this past quarter! We are proud to share the following accomplishments:

- **Narrows Reserve** – Assisted with river clean-up as part of a Scout project
- **Hobson Freedom Park Trebein Road Crossing** – New bridge is in and crosswalk is completed
- **Russ Nature Reserve & Fairgrounds Recreation Center** – new asphalt installed on parking lots, driveways, shelter area, bike path respectively
- **Russ Nature Reserve** – planted 50 additional trees as part of the Retreat Program
- **Twin Towers Park** – rehabbed and stained horse stalls
- **Constitution Park** – Paved a new concrete pad down to the river to improve access to the river and to improve the ability for Spring Valley EMS crews to launch their Rescue Boat
- **McCalmont Park** – a new park that is under development & a driveway and parking lot were installed. Ribbon cutting planned for this Fall



- **New Entrance Signs** – installed at Fairgrounds Rec. Center, Scout Burnell Dog Park, Pierce Park, Jacoby Road Canoe Launch, Old Town Reserve, & Sara Lee Arnovitz Preserve
- **Koogler Reserve** – Scout Project added gravel to Trail
- **Caesar Ford Park Campground** – gravel roads, campsites, & electric well underway, septic system approximately 40% completed, CXT restroom/shower is installed, kiosk is installed, landscaping is completed and final grading is finishing
- **New Caesar Ford** – Day use/horse parking lot off New Jasper Station Road is completed.