



THE STEW CREW NEWS

February 2017

Conservation Calendar

Fire Break Maintenance and Woody Control at Winton Woods 2/14

Annual Prescribed Fire Crew Training and Refresher 2/16

Fire Break Maintenance and Woody Control at Farbach-Werner Nature Preserve 2/22

Replacing/Removing Protective Tubes Around Tree Seedlings 2/28

Reminders

- Bring something to drink
- Wear sturdy gloves
- Consider bug repellent
- We recommend long pants, long-sleeved shirts and closed-toe shoes
- Remember to record your hours under **Stew Crew [NATURAL RESOURCES] All Locations**



GPHC Prescribed Fire Update

For almost 40 years Great Parks of Hamilton County has been conducting prescribed burns as a land management practice. Prescribed fire provides benefits to many ecosystems including prairies, forests and wetlands. Over the last four decades, Great Parks has learned a lot and has adapted to changing conditions in order to use fire in the safest, most effective ways. One key component seems to always be a common denominator in our discussions about prescribed burns: experienced, well trained crew members.

In the pursuit of having a well trained and experienced crew, a few changes has been made in the training process for both volunteers and staff. The burn crew training and refresher will now be held annually, and all volunteers and staff must attend if they wish to be on the burn crew. In addition to the classroom portion, there will be a hands-on "live-fire" portion of the training as well. This will occur separately from the classroom portion, and will only be mandatory for people new to the burn crew. Any volunteers currently on, or wishing to be on the GPHC burn crew will have to sign a new volunteer role description to participate. This new description details what is expected of a crew member, the conditions in which you will be working, and the physical demands of a burn crew member.

In order to continue our long-standing record of excellence, we need the best crew possible. With the Stew Crew's help, we can take our prescribed fire program to the next level.

February Stew Crew Projects

Fire Break Maintenance and Woody Control at Winton Woods

What: Around ten years ago, the Great Parks planted a prairie on a reclaimed livestock pasture on what is known as the Paul tract. This little known area of Winton Woods is arguably one of the most picturesque places in the park. This spring, the Great Parks burn crew plans to use prescribed fire to rejuvenate the plants and grasses growing in the prairie. We will be weed-whacking and raking out a new section of fire line, as well as cutting and treating woody plants that are growing within the prairie.

When: February 14 from 9:00 a.m.–noon

Where: We will meet at Fox Knoll shelter, 10248 Mc Kelvey Rd, Cincinnati, OH. This is the same entrance as the disc golf course and Adventure Outpost. We will then carpool over to the site.

Register: RSVP by February 13th to Chris Glassmeyer at cglassmeyer@greatparks.org

Annual Prescribed Burn Crew Training and Refresher

What: Great Parks of Hamilton County Natural Resources Division will be holding our annual prescribed burn crew training on February 16th. This classroom portion of the training will cover all of the basics; crew positions and expectations, how we conduct our burns, equipment used, etc... After this portion of the training is complete, the next step will be the hands-on “live fire” training at Shaker Trace Nursery in early March. If you wish to be part of the GPHC burn crew, you must complete both portions of the training.

New to this year—Even if you have been through our burn training before, you must still attend the classroom portion. This will act as the annual refresher before burn season. All staff and volunteers must attend the classroom portion every year.

When: February 16 from 9:30 a.m.–noon

Where: Winton Centre, 10245 Winton Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45231

Register: RSVP by February 15th to Chris Glassmeyer at cglassmeyer@greatparks.org

Fire Break Maintenance and Woody Control at Farbach-Werner Nature Preserve

What: The prairie at Farbach-Werner Nature Preserve is in need of some serious TLC! This spring we plan to conduct a prescribed burn in the prairie to rejuvenate the native plants and grasses growing in the area. We will be weed-whacking and raking out a new section of fire line, as well as cutting and treating woody plants that are growing within the prairie.

When: February 22 from noon–3:00 p.m.

Where: Farbach-Werner Nature Preserve
3455 Poole Rd, Colerain Township

Register: RSVP by February 21st to Chris Glassmeyer at cglassmeyer@greatparks.org

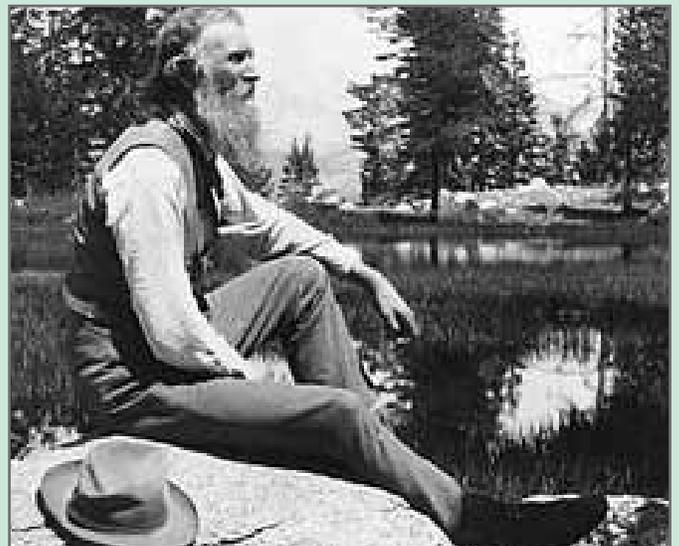
Replacing/Removing Protective Tubes Around Tree Seedlings

What: As part of a regional campaign for reforestation called Taking Root, 100,000 trees have been planted throughout the parks. Now some maintenance of the smaller trees is needed. We will be picking up protective tubes that are laying on the ground and re-staking them if the tree seedling is alive, or removing the tube if the seedling is dead.

When: February 28 from noon–3 p.m.

Where: Meet at the Shaker Trace Nursery
8667 New Haven Rd.

Register: RSVP by February 27th to Scott Peak at speak@greatparks.org



*“Climb the mountains and get their good tidings.
Nature’s peace will flow into you as sunshine flows
into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness
into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will
drop away from you like the leaves of Autumn.”*

—John Muir