

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Tracey Robbins

What is your favorite volunteer activity? In-Park Meeting Assistant. I attended regular park meetings at Shawnee Lookout with employees from different departments and took meeting minutes. I enjoyed getting to know the employees and hearing about the things that were going on behind-the-scenes.

What's your favorite outdoor activity? Hiking and kayaking. Years ago I took a Great Parks Quick Start class to brush up on my canoeing skills. When I arrived, they decided they were only going to do kayaking. I was scared to death, but finally gave in and then took the Kayaking Quick Start. I was hooked!

What might surprise us about you? I have been the Director of Finance at the Newport Aquarium for a little over a year. Before that, I was in banking for 14 years. For those of you who know me, it doesn't quite fit my personality, does it?

What are 3 things on your bucket list? Take a trip out west to explore national parks; take a hot air balloon ride, helicopter ride, or motorized parachute ride over a beautiful natural setting; buy a kayak.

Your specialty dessert? Brownie Trifle! Yum!

GREAT PARKS' HISTORY NOW AVAILABLE ON VIC

Jack Sutton, Chief Executive Officer

Have you ever wondered which was the first building constructed in the park district and where it was located? Who was the first employee hired and when? Well, thanks to the Marketing and Public Engagement team, these historical facts and many more are just a click away. A synopsis of Great Parks' history is now available on your [VIC homepage](#).

The original version of these historical facts was first published in 1990, then known as Hamilton County Park District, as it celebrated its 60th Anniversary. Over the past 28 years, paper copies of this publication circulated across the park district providing historical context for many stories and presentations. As the paper copies were fading, it became apparent that we needed to codify these facts in digital form. So, last year Executive Assistant Donna Weber converted the old paper version into a Word document and sent it on to our marketing team where Content Marketing Coordinator Becky Osinski and Graphic Designer Lindsey Combs reformatted the information. Facts and milestones between 1991 and 2017 were culled from the respective annual reports allowing us to have an up-to-date record of our 87 year history. This living document can now be expanded on an annual basis going forward.

For those inquiring minds- the first building constructed was the Pavilion Grove Shelter in Sharon Woods, which is still in use today. And the first employee hired was Albert M. Husted. Mr. Husted was named Engineer and Secretary on April 15, 1931 and served as the park district director for 28 years until his retirement in 1959.

Pictured above: The first building constructed at Great Parks was the Pavilion Grove Shelter in Sharon Woods, which is still in use today.



THIS MONTH'S BLOG

The Remarkable Lichen
blog.greatparks.org

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VOLUNTEER MEETINGS

Volunteer meetings are a great way to meet new people, hear about upcoming volunteer opportunities and learn something interesting from an exciting lineup of guest speakers. Meetings take place at 7 p.m. in the Winton Centre Auditorium, unless otherwise noted. Coffee and tea are provided. Bring in your favorite baked goods to share. No need to RSVP, just come and enjoy!

May, 15 2018— *You can't manage what you don't know, what you ignore becomes more, what you tolerate will take over and what you challenge will change.* Sound intriguing? Then join Pope Consulting, a leader in the field of Inclusive Leadership, as they walk us through fun activities and insightful conversations that are sure to get you asking questions about yourself and the world around you. Great Parks has embarked on a diversity and inclusion journey and we hope you will come along. Achieving a vibrant and welcoming culture that truly values all differences is the ultimate goal and we want you to be a part of it. You won't want to miss this eye-opening meeting!

Other upcoming meeting dates:

- July 17, 2018
- September 18, 2018
- November 20, 2018

When recording your hours in VIC for volunteer meetings, log them under [Volunteer Meeting \[Winton Woods\Volunteer Services\]](#). Training hours may be doubled. Drive time to and from the training may be included but not doubled.

Try Something New!

Please review the list of programs below. If you are able to assist with the activity, phone or email the event supervisor to volunteer. **NEW THIS ISSUE!** Click on any bolded assignment category in the newsletter and you will be hyperlinked to the VIC login portal.

FARBACH WERNER NATURE PRESERVE

Fri 5/25–Tue 5/29, 11 a.m.–3 p.m.:

Frog Week

Kick off our summer series of nature weeks with Frog Week! Children will learn about some of Ohio's favorite frogs and toads while you help with activities and crafts. We'll meet in Ellenwood Nature Barn. To volunteer, contact Interpreter Paul Seevers at pseevers@greatparks.org or phone 513-385-4811. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [Interpreter Programs \[Farbach Werner\Education & Events\]](#).

MIAMI WHITEWATER FOREST

Mon-Sun, ongoing,
many shifts available:

Program Animal Care

Turtles, frogs and snakes, oh my! Miami Whitewater Forest houses several animal ambassadors that are used to educate and engage the public. Volunteers are needed to feed, clean and interact with each program animal according to the animal's unique feeding and care schedule. Animals are located in the Visitor Center, so you must be available during Visitor Center hours, which fluctuate seasonally. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Luke Ogonek at logonek@greatparks.org. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [Animal Care \[Miami Whitewater\Education & Events\]](#).



Mon-Sun, 11 a.m.–2 p.m., 2-5 p.m. & 5-9 p.m.:

Visitor Center and Gift Shop

Opportunities to serve our wonderful park guests are now available at Miami Whitewater Forest Visitor Center. Volunteers are needed to help answer phones, assist guests with purchases, run the cash register, answer questions and do some light housekeeping. If you enjoy meeting people and providing outstanding customer service, then this is the job for you. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Stephanie Ellis at sellis@greatparks.org or phone 513-367-9632. For volunteers ages 18 and up. [Visitor Center \[Miami Whitewater\Guest Exp West\]](#).

Mon-Fri, beginning April 26
Times are variable due to bookings:

Window into Wetlands

From bugs to birds, volunteers will assist students with macro identification, birding and more as we explore the wonders of our wetland habitats. For more information or to volunteer, contact Luke Ogonek at logonek@greatparks.org or phone 513-367-4774. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [Interpreter Programs \[Miami Whitewater\Education & Events\]](#).



Our animal ambassadors need your loving care. Species vary from location to location. From hairy spiders to cute bunnies, one's just as beautiful as the other.

MITCHELL MEMORIAL FOREST

First & Third Tue starting in May,
8 a.m.-11 a.m.:

Invasive Plant Removal, Landscaping, Maintenance & More

Lots of opportunities are available to keep Mitchell Memorial Forest in tip top shape! Volunteers are needed to help with weeding and mulching, brush & limb removal, clearing invasive plants, painting, staining, small repairs and more. If you love Mitchell Memorial Forest and like getting your hands dirty, contact Ben Braeutigam at bbraeutigam@greatparks.org or phone 513-941-9034. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [Conservation Crew \[Mitchell Memorial\C&P West\]](#) or [Maintenance Crew \[Mitchell Memorial\C&P West\]](#).

SHARON WOODS

Mon-Sun, 9 a.m.-9 p.m.,
many shifts available:

Boat House Help Needed

This opportunity puts you steps away from Sharon Lake. Volunteers will work along side staff maintaining watercraft and helping park guests on and off kayaks, canoes, motor boats, paddleboats, paddleboards and pontoon boats. This role is very customer focused, so be prepared to answer lots of questions! Volunteers will also ring up purchases so you must be willing to learn to use a cash register. Regular lifting of boats (50 lbs.) is also part of the job. For more information or to volunteer, contact Ryan Dunn at rdunn@greatparks.org or phone 513-769-4326. For volunteers ages 18 and up. [Harbor \[Sharon Woods\Guest Experiences East\]](#)

Mon, Thu & Fri, 2-6 p.m.,
Wed, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. & 2-6 p.m.,
Sat & Sun, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. & 3-6 p.m.:

Visitor Center and Gift Shop

The Sharon Centre is now open on Mondays year round, which means there are more opportunities to serve our wonderful park guests! Volunteers are needed to help answer phones, assist guests with purchases, run the cash register, answer questions, do some light housekeeping and help with Adventure Station. If you enjoy meeting people

and providing outstanding customer service to park visitors, then this is the job for you. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Julie Shaw at jshaw@greatparks.org or phone 513-563-4513. For volunteers ages 18 and up. [Visitor Center \[Sharon Woods\Guest Experiences East\]](#).

WINTON WOODS

Mon 3/5-Sat 5/26,
Mon 6:15-7:15 p.m.,
Wed 6:15-7:15 p.m.,
Sat 10:15-11:15 a.m.:

Special Riders Program

Volunteers are needed to lead or walk beside horses ridden by Special Rider students during this therapeutic riding class. Training is provided at the Riding Center. For more information or to volunteer, contact Margie Rennie at mrennie1@icloud.com or phone 513-931-3057. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [SRP \[Winton Woods\Guest Experiences Central\]](#).

Fri 4/13, 5/4, 6/15, 7/20 & 8/3, evenings:

First Tee Fridays

Meadow Links and Golf Academy will be hosting its first ever First Tee Fridays! First Tee students in any level (Player, Par, Birdie, Eagle and Ace) are invited to participate and play as many holes as they can get in for only \$5. Volunteers will be assigned to a group of golfers and monitor safety, pace of play and help students along on the golf course. If you can help with any of the dates, contact Mike Deiters at mdeiters@greatparks.org or phone 513-825-3701. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [First Tee & Inreach \[Meadow Links\Golf\]](#).

Wed 5/2, 11 a.m.:

Little Tykes

Children ages 3-6 will explore butterflies, birds and other creatures that take to the air. Volunteers will join the kids doing fun activities and games in the Winton Centre. To volunteer, contact Susan Sumner at ssumner@greatparks.org or phone 513-521-7275, ext. 243. For volunteers ages 18 and up. [Interpreter Programs \[Winton Woods\Education & Events\]](#).

Sun 5/13, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.:

Mother's Day Brunch in the Park

Families will be treating mom to a scrumptious all-you-can-eat buffet at the Mill Race Banquet Center! Volunteers are needed to help roll silverware, refill coffee, cleanup and reset the room after individual brunch seatings. If interested in helping with this Mother's Day favorite, contact the Banquet Center at 513-825-6467 and ask for Mike, Adam or Kathleen. For volunteers ages 18 and up. [Banquet Assistant \[Winton Woods\Guest Experiences Central\]](#).

Tue 5/15, 11 a.m.:

Homeschool Science (Central): All Things Wings

Home-schooled students, ages 5-12, and parents are invited to explore interactive learning stations, take part in lessons and enjoy an investigative hike as they learn about things with wings. Volunteers will become part of the learning team, assisting the children and families with the stations. This program will take place in the Winton Centre. To volunteer, contact Susan Sumner at ssumner@greatparks.org or phone 513-521-7275, ext. 243. For volunteers ages 18 and up. [Interpreter Programs \[Winton Woods\Education & Events\]](#).

Sun 5/27, 2-4 p.m.:

Memorial Day Celebration

Volunteers will meet and greet guests at the Winton Woods Harbor and invite them to participate in nature themed activities during this festive open house. We'll showcase native Ohio animals and discover a few unique surprises of the live animal variety. To volunteer, contact Susan Sumner at ssumner@greatparks.org or phone 513-521-7275, ext. 243. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [Interpreter Programs \[Winton Woods\Education & Events\]](#).

FIRST AID CPR TRAINING

Sign up for National Safety Council First Aid CPR classes. All programs will be held in the Employee Training Center at Sharon Woods. First Aid CPR is an **optional** training, free and open to all Great Parks volunteers and employees. Certification cards will be mailed to you approximately 4-6 weeks after completion of training. Upcoming training dates are: Wed, May 9, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. & Wed, Jun 13, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Register on line at: <https://volunteers-greatparks.bridgeapp.com/login>. **If you register for this training and can no longer attend, please cancel or reschedule by logging into your Bridge account using the link above.** Not able to log into Bridge? Contact the Volunteer Services Department at volunteer@greatparks.org or phone 513-521-7275 and ask for Kris or Niki.

Please record these training hours under [Training \[Sharon Woods\Risk Management\]](#). Training hours may be doubled. Drive time to and from the training may be included but not doubled.

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

From Susan Sumner, Interpreter, Central Region -

Wow! That about sums up the wonderful experience that was provided for our guests during our annual Great Blue Heron Viewing. A BIG THANK YOU to everyone that contributed, including volunteers Donna Wagner and Lucy Goodkin, who extended their expertise and professionalism to each and every guest they encountered. Over 150 guests really enjoyed the opportunity to learn, visit and connect with nature. The positive energy and excitement was contagious. Thank you for making Great Blues at Great Parks a wonderful success!

From Kris Roselle and Niki Marengo, Volunteer Services -

Kudos to Emily Hartnett for the terrific interview and Harrison Press Article about volunteering for Great Parks. The article made front page news and drew so much attention, we can barely keep up with all the phone and email inquiries about volunteering. Thank you, Emily, for shining a spotlight on the Great Parks Volunteer Program! Click [here](#) to read the full article.

From Mike Deiters & Matt Starr, PGA Golf Professionals, Meadow Links & Golf Academy -

We had a dedicated group of volunteers and staff brave the rain and wind to help unplug range balls at Meadow Links on March 27. Fourteen volunteers and four staff were able to recover roughly 15,000 range balls which were plugged in the ground. Not only is this a recovery of \$5,250 in park assets, it also helped us sleep much better at night knowing we have a better inventory of range balls going into the season. Thank you to Paul & Mary Kay Luckey, Mike Mulcahey, Dave Carter, Bob Elkins, Jim & Phyllis Doerger, Dale & Marianne Hoffmann, Don Beinke, Bill & Gail Curtis, Craig Montgomery and Harriet Schierenbeck.

From Mike Uffman, PGA Golf Professional, Miami Whitewater Forest -

I am conservatively estimating that volunteers popped 5K-6K golf balls on March 20, which filled our ball machine to capacity! Thank you to these volunteers that helped make a lot of golfers and park staff happy: Dale Hoffmann, Dave Carter, Den & Barb Rebennack, Paul & Mary Kay Luckey, Craig Montgomery, Cliff Zepf, Gary Bourgraff, Don Beinke and Sarah Hartley.

From Bob Frey, Special Events Manager -

I would like to give a huge thank you to all the volunteers who made this year's Easter Spectacular truly SPECTACULAR. Every single one of you went way above and beyond to make sure our guests had the best possible experience in the midst of a winter snow storm. You rose to the challenge, fought through the difficulties and made sure that each and every guest left Parky's Farm happy. I sincerely appreciate all of your efforts and help.

