

# Plan It For the Planet



## Volunteers of the Year- Ken, Kathy, & Amanda Varian



The Varian family - Ken, Kathy, and Amanda, were named Preservation Parks' Volunteers of Year 2009. Together they have given over 200 hours of volunteer service. Here is a bit about who they are!

### Where are you from originally?

Ken was born in Yonkers, New York, but moved to Columbus at age 11. Kathy is from Chicago, and moved to Columbus fifteen years ago. Amanda was born in Columbus. We moved to Delaware in 2006.

### Occupation?

Ken is a CPA, Kathy is a teacher, formerly an Accountant, and Amanda, a 1st grader.

### What is your favorite Preservation Park?

We love hiking the trails at all the parks. Our favorite is Gallant Woods Preserve. It is closest to us and we love the sledding hill.

### How did you get involved with the parks?

In the summer of 2008, Ken came across a volunteer newsletter at work that contained a request for volunteers for the Perseid Meteor Shower Campout. We had already registered to attend this event, so Ken jumped at the opportunity. Kathy took on leading Hound Hikes. Amanda got her start by cutting out butterflies for the Preservation Parks' booth at the Delaware County Fair.

### What do you do for fun?

We love hiking, camping, barbequing and visiting the Columbus Zoo. Amanda plays soccer, loves to dance and enjoys splashing around at the pool.

### What's the last book you read?

Ken just finished "The House of Dimon", about the CEO of his employer. Kathy currently takes courses at the University of Dayton, so she is reading textbooks. Amanda participated in the library's Summer Reading Program and read more than 50 books!

### What else do you want people to know?

We are honored to have been selected as Volunteers of the Year. We know there are many park volunteers who are worthy of that distinction. We love the parks and all the wonderful people we have met!!

Kathy also loves rescuing hurt animals. She has been known to pull over on the side of the road on any given day to help crows, bunnies, and even a possum. In fact, recently she saved a possum where she works. There were kids throwing things at it at school. She had a cat carrier in her car and she was able to get it to go into the carrier. She rushed it to the Ohio Wildlife Center in Dublin, and they fixed him all up and he was released back into his habitat. Thanks to Rita Au for her advice!

## Preservation Parks of Delaware County

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## A "New" Cuisine Along the Ravine

Don't miss the opportunity to wine and dine your valentine at **The 'New' Cuisine Along the Ravine!** This year we will host the elegant dinner party on Saturday, February 13, at The Lodge at Deer Haven Preserve. For a \$100 donation to Friends of Preservation Parks, you and your date will enjoy a dreamy night of fine dining, where "everything old is new again!"

Of course, this evening can only occur with the assistance of dedicated **volunteers** who are needed before, during, and after the event. Sign up to join a volunteer team for February 12, 13, or 14. Volunteers can solicit silent auction items, help decorate, greet, clean up, and much more.

**Sign up on-line to volunteer or contact Sandra at (740) 524-8600, ext. 6, to attend!**



## **Park Safari Challenge- Committee members wanted**

The Park Safari Challenge is an obstacle course through Preservation Parks. This year the event will occur on Saturday, May 8, 2010.

Volunteers are invited to get creative and help plan this fun-filled event! **Attend the first planning meeting which will take place at 3:00 on Friday, January 29 at Hogback Ridge Preserve.**

Last year, 50 participants, or eleven car-load teams, competed. They had a blast solving clues and performing tasks which provoked trail exploration, sled hill climbing, creek wading, and much more. For many participants, it was their first time visiting Preservation Parks!

Don't be shy, come out and help us create a great Park Safari Challenge 2010!



## **Assist with Build a Bird Box Workshops**

Families gather at Deer Haven Preserve on **Tuesday evenings, February 23 and March 9, from 7:00 -8:30**, to build and take home a bird nest box. Volunteers familiar with using power drills and other tools are

encouraged to assist with these sessions. Feel free to bring tools of your own to augment our supply. Sign up on-line to help or contact Sandra to find out more.



## **Rounding up 2010 Bluebird Monitors**

Calling all Bluebird Monitors. It's time to start gearing up for the 2010 nesting season! If you were a monitor last year please let naturalist Kim Banks know if you would like to continue (or not) to monitor this year. E-mail or call her at [kimb@preservationparks.com](mailto:kimb@preservationparks.com) or (614) 202-0967 by **February 20**.

Previous monitors will have first choice of park location and number of boxes on the larger trails. Please contact Kim so she can find new monitors to fill any gaps we may have. Of course, first time monitors are always welcome to join in the fun. Thanks for your efforts!

## **Osprey Homecoming— April 18**

Help us welcome the celebrated Ospreys on Alum Creek from their long migration home to us from South America. These threatened birds of prey have successfully raised young on the nesting platforms on Alum Creek for the past six years!

The Osprey Homecoming event takes place from 1:00-4:00 on Sunday, April 18, 2010 at Hogback Ridge Preserve, with trips to the observation area on Alum Creek. In honor of Earth Day, we will also conduct a roadside cleanup along Hogback Road.



## **Ecological Surveyor—New Volunteer Opportunity**

A new volunteer role is available for qualified park volunteers - the role of *Ecological Surveyor!* Preservation Parks is home to more than 200 volunteers all from diverse backgrounds and professions.

Let us know if you are an expert, enthusiast, hobbyist, or just a plain die-hard in a specific subject relating to ecology. We want to utilize your knowledge and experience, and we

invite you to help us fulfill the Park District's mission.

Let Sandra know if you have experience conducting surveys for bats, birds, fish, insects, plants, soils, etc. You can help us survey our resources on present and future park land.

Dates and places for 2010 are currently being scheduled.



## ***Photo Club*– Lessons in Photoshop on Feb. 7**

Calling all photographers! Preservation Parks has a new Photography Club with a great agenda in store for both novice and experienced photographers. The Photo Club is just getting started, so jump in and be part of this great new community where you can both learn and contribute.

Attend the group's second meeting on Sunday, February 7, at 1:00. The meeting will take place at Hogback Ridge Preserve.

Bring your laptop computer and digital camera to the meeting so you can learn some great tricks using **Photoshop** to enhance your pictures.

## **Become a Nature Center Attendant**

Peaceful afternoons greeting hikers and hosting a lovely nature center could be in your future. Nature Center Attendants are needed each afternoon to volunteer at The Lodge at Deer Haven Preserve and on weekends at the McCoy Nature Center at Hogback Ridge Preserve. Winter shifts are from noon –2:45 and 2:30 –5:00. Volunteers are encouraged to host the nature center

at least once per month.

Nature Center Attendants build their own schedules using our on-line volunteer information system.

This opportunity is a great way to make a difference for Preservation Parks! Call Sandra to schedule your training to become a Nature Center Attendant today!



Contact Volunteer Coordinator, Sandra McBrearty, at

[saudras@preservationparks.com](mailto:saudras@preservationparks.com) or (740) 524-8600, ext. 6

Sign up for these opportunities by logging in on-line at the following link:

<https://www.volgistics.com/ex/portal.dll/?FROM=14855>

## Special Events Calendar 2010

January 29	Park Safari Challenge planning meeting at Hogback
February 7	Photo Club meets at Hogback– 1pm
February 12, 13, 14	Cuisine Along the Ravine setup, clean up & event
February 23	Build A Wren nest box workshop
March 9	Build A Robin nesting shelf workshop
April 18	Osprey Homecoming
May 8	Park Safari Challenge event
June 13	Art In the Park
July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, & Aug 5	Thursday nights Summer Concert Series
July 17	Bark At the Blues– 5K Walk/Jog with your Dog!
August 14	Perseid Meteor Shower Camp Out
August 29	Green-Wise Fair
October 10	Pioneer Day
October 24	Trick or Treat Trail
November 14	Volunteer Recognition



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