



Plan It For the Planet

Winter/ Spring 2014 Volunteer Opportunities
 Preservation Parks of Delaware County

Volunteer of the Year Dean Hard



Preservation Parks is excited to honor Dean Hard, as our Volunteer of the Year. Since 2010, Dean has given 400 hours of service to Preservation Parks. He is a loyal Nature Center Attendant and Bird Box Monitor, and he supports numerous special events. Dean is someone we can call on and count on. For that, and many other reasons, we recognize his contributions and appreciate him.



Photo of Dean Hard.

Find more information about Dean Hard below:

Where do you live?

I live in the Wesleyan Woods neighborhood of Delaware with my wife, Barbara. We have been married 41 years and have one son, Brian, and one grandson, Brandt. Originally, I am from Upper Arlington. I moved to Delaware in 1976.

Your Occupation?

I am a retired dentist.

Favorite Preservation Park? Why?

The Lodge at Deer Haven is my favorite because of the variety of landscapes and the bird watching opportunities. Also, being a Nature Center Attendant there, where the naturalists are located, means you learn something new every day.

What is your favorite activity in the parks?

Hiking, photography and bird watching.

How did you get involved with The Park District?

Upon retiring, I was looking for a place to volunteer where I could be outdoors as much as possible. My wife and I hiked several of

the parks and we enjoyed visiting the new parks as they opened.

Why do you enjoy volunteering with Preservation Parks?

I originally volunteered at Stratford Ecological Center but found a greater variety of volunteer opportunities with Preservation Parks. I like working with a lot of different people, including volunteers and park staff.

How else do you spend your free time?

Since I am retired, most of my time is free. I enjoy golf, woodcarving, stained glass, mosaics, fishing and about ten other minor hobbies.

What else do you want people to know about you?

I really enjoy working with Preservation Parks. As a Delaware resident for more than thirty years, I am very impressed at how much park land has been conserved for future generations.

Preservation Parks of Delaware County

Volunteer Opportunities Winter/Spring 2014

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Cuisine Along the Ravine - A Valentines Dinner

The Friends of Preservation Parks' tenth annual "Cuisine along the Ravine" fund raising dinner will be on Saturday, Feb. 15, 6 p.m., at The Lodge at Deer Haven Preserve. Attendees will enjoy a multi-course gourmet Valentines dinner in a beautiful park setting, along with a silent auction where they can bid on a variety of gift baskets. **Volunteers can support this important fundraiser in the following ways:**

DONATE ITEMS TO THE SILENT AUCTION

Businesses and organizations, as well as individuals, can support the event by donating items, services or gift certificates for inclusion in the silent auction gift baskets. Would you or someone you know be willing to donate an item that might fit into one of the following package categories?

- Art Lover's Package
- Date Night Package
- Food Lover's Package
- Adventure Package
- Nature Package
- Sports Package

Donors will be listed in the "Cuisine Along the Ravine" bidding documents and auction packages, on the park district Web site, and on other promotional materials. Your help makes Cuisine Along the Ravine a success.



VOLUNTEER DURING THE EVENT

Teams of volunteers are needed during the following times before, during, and after the Cuisine Along the Ravine event:

Friday, February 14, noon-4:00, to set up The Lodge at Deer Haven Preserve and transform the space into our "restaurant."

Saturday, February 15, noon-4:00, to continue to set up the space and organize the silent auction items.

Saturday, February 15, 4:30-9:30, to greet and serve guests during the event.

Sunday, February 16, noon-4:00, to clean up the space and transform it back into a beautiful nature center.

BRING YOUR VALENTINE TO THE EVENT

Bring your date and enjoy an evening of romance while supporting a great cause. The cost is \$50 per person, and reservations are due February 3. Reservations can be made by mailing a check, made payable to the Friends of Preservation Parks, to: The Friends of Preservation Parks, 2656 Hogback Road, Sunbury, OH 43074. Reservations should include name, address, phone number and e-mail address; attendees will be contacted regarding their entrée choices.

For information about attending Cuisine Along the Ravine, donating to the silent auction, or volunteering, please call Sue Harle at (740) 417-3300.

Bluebird Box Monitor Training - January 11, 10:00-noon

Preservation Parks seeks volunteers to monitor trails of Bluebird Boxes within our Park Preserves this Spring and Summer.

Checking a trail of Bluebird Boxes is a great way to get face to face with nature. Volunteers say that their weekly "chick checks" are something they thoroughly enjoy. The experience of trekking off trail to witness a growing family of birds is as exciting as it is meaningful.



Bird Box Monitors check nest boxes weekly from April through September to record the

species found, and the number of eggs and young present. Volunteers are trained to identify cavity nesting birds, and to enter data into the online NESTWATCH database.

They also must be willing to trap and kill house sparrows.

If this volunteer opportunity interests you, then please attend the Bluebird Trail Monitor Workshop hosted at Deer Haven Preserve on Saturday, January 11, from 10:00 to noon.

Sign up online using the volunteer calendar, or contact Sandra at (740) 524-8600, ext. 6.

Build-a-Bluebird-Box Workshops- Wednesday, February 19 & 26



We are seeking volunteers to assist at two Build-a-Bluebird-Box workshops and help families make and take home their own birdhouse. If you can swing a hammer, then you are perfect for this opportunity.

Workshops take place at Deer Haven Preserve, on Wednesday, February 19 and 26. Volunteers are needed from 5:45 to 8:30 p.m. Sign up to volunteer on line, or contact Sandra to find out more.

Timberdoodle Time- Thursday, March 20 at 7:30 p.m.

Take part in a special adventure with a Naturalist and witness the amazing breeding behaviors of the American Woodcock. Enjoy a brief talk on their natural history and what we will be looking and listening for during their elaborate Woodcock courtship display.

The hike takes place at Gallant Woods Preserve at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 20. Depending on where the birds are, we may take a hike. Bring a lawn chair in case the birds stay in one area.

Just for volunteers!



Invasive Plant Removal Training- Saturday, March 29

Preservation Parks protects wildlife diversity and natural habitats throughout the Park District. However, we battle invasive plants such as garlic mustard, multiflora rose, and honeysuckle which grow aggressively in the parks. These invasive plants take over the forest floor, choking out desirable wildflowers and native plants. With less plant variety growing within the habitat, a chain reaction is started which limits the ability of other plants and wildlife to flourish.

Preservation Parks has launched a campaign to remove invasive plants, and volunteers are needed to help.

Volunteers are invited to attend an **Invasive Plant Removal Training** and be part of this team which will help eradicate these unwanted plants from the parks. Volunteers interested in continuing to pull invasive plants throughout the spring and summer may apply for an off-trail permit and may visit the parks on their free time to remove these weeds.

The Invasive Plant Removal Training will take place at **Shale Hollow Preserve from 10:00-noon on Saturday, March 29**. Please wear long sleeves and boots, and bring a pair of garden gloves.

Register for the training online using the volunteer calendar.



Contact Volunteer Coordinator Sandra McBrearty, at saundras@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>

Fundraising Ideas for Friends of Preservation Parks

Each year volunteers help raise money for the Friends of Preservation Parks to support Preservation Parks' 10-year tax levy campaign. The tax levy is the primary source of funding for Preservation Parks, and funds nearly every aspect of the Park District, including programs, parks and trail development, and maintenance. Fundraisers, including Cuisine Along the Ravine, concession sales, and photo calendars, raise important proceeds that will support the next levy campaign.



This year we encourage The Friends of Preservation Parks to add some fresh fundraising events and programs. Since proceeds will support the levy campaign, volunteers are the people to make it happen.

Being part of this Fundraising Committee will be exciting. In fact:

I promise that the committee can shape a new Friends of Preservation Parks fundraiser...

I promise that the committee will meet no more than 5 times...

I promise that a good deal of the work will be done between meetings by email...

I promise that each meeting will last no longer than an hour...

I promise that the committee will go "out of business" after its work is done...

Here are some fundraising ideas volunteers have suggested:

- A Karaoke Night or Talent Show Fundraiser
- A Pancake Breakfast
- Host Community Night at Bob Evans (restaurant gives a percentage of proceeds back to The Friends)
- Use a Crowd funding website like U-wish.com
- Provide hot tea and cocoa at Deer Haven for a donation
- Sell ball caps with Park District logo

CALL TO ACTION:

Email Sandra by January 31, if you have other fundraising ideas for Friends of Preservation Parks. Be sure to let us know if you want to be part of this dynamic Fundraising Committee, which will choose a fundraiser to do and get it launched.

saundras@preservationparks.com

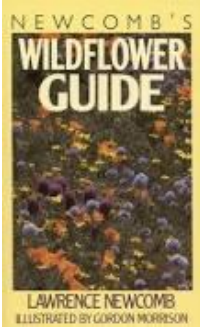


Osprey Homecoming- Sunday, April 13



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

Osprey Homecoming takes place from 1:00-4:00 on Sunday, April 13 at Hogback Ridge Preserve and the Osprey observation area on Alum Creek.



Wildflower ID and Folklore - Thursday, April 24 at 4:00 p.m.

Just for Volunteers! Learn to identify woodland wildflowers using the Newcomb's field guide. Enjoy a wildflower hike along the trail with a Naturalist at Shale Hollow Preserve. We will even go off trail for a bit.



Participate in the Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist Program

The Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist (OCVN) program is coming to our area this Fall! Preservation Parks is a key partner in this new Central Ohio OCVN Chapter, and we encourage park volunteers to participate in this incredible training. Details are still being finalized, but here is what we know now...

What is involved?

- There will be a registration fee and an application process.
- The training involves 40 hours of combined classroom and field instruction, covering a wide variety of natural history topics, over a two-month time span.
- Each participant commits to 40 hours of approved volunteer service projects.
- After certification, 20 hours of volunteer service and 8 hours of advanced training are required annually.
- New and exciting leadership opportunities will be available to OCVN graduates.

More information and registration instructions are coming soon!

Volunteer Opportunities, Training & Events

February 14,15,16	Cuisine Along the Ravine set up, event, and clean up
February 19 & 26	Build-a-Bluebird-Box Workshops
March 29	Invasive Plant Removal Team Training
April 13	Osprey Homecoming
July 10, 17, 24, 31	Thursday Evening Concerts in the Parks
Aug 7, 14	Thursday Evening Concerts in the Parks
August 9	Perseid Meteor Shower Campout
August 24	Green-Wise Fair
September 13 - 20	Delaware County Fair
October 26	Trick or Treat Trail
December 6	Holiday Evening on the Farm



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