



# friends TALK news

## 2023-2024 Board of Trustees, Support Staff & Leaders

Board meetings: 3rd Monday of each month (except Dec.) at 7 pm at Carlisle Visitor Center. All members are welcome!

### 2023 Trustees

- Barb Fieger - *President*
- Char Kline - *Vice President*
- Mariah Deitz - *Park Liaison*
- Ruth Horvath - *Treasurer*
- Pamela Pastor - *Recording Secretary*
- Michael Robertson
- Gail Jones
- Donna Wolf
- Jason Sustar
- Sherry Lacko-Chutes
- Shirley Painter

### Corps Leaders

- Josie Rivera-Lough - *Lakeview Corps*
- Ruth Deveraux - *Wellington Corps*
- Lisa Fide - *French Creek*
- Maxine Miller - *Mill Hollow*
- Char Kline - *Columbia Station Corps & Miller Nature Preserve - Desk Corps*
- Pat Krutowskis - *Miller Nature Preserve Garden/Host Corps*
- Donna Azok - *Schoepfle Gardens*

### Support Staff

- Keith Krueger - *Membership Secretary*
- Pamela Pastor - *Hours Secretary*
- Karen Payne - *Friends Volunteer Coordinator*

### Volunteer Staff

- Michael Robertson, *Editor*

FRIENDS OF METRO PARKS



LORAIN COUNTY

12882 Diagonal Rd., LaGrange, OH 44050  
Contact: lcmp.friendstalk@gmail.com  
for news related ideas...

## Contact Information

If you have a question or concern, please use the following information:

### FOR GENERAL QUESTIONS:

Barb Fieger (Interim President) .....presidentoffriends@yahoo.com ..... 216-544-3865

### FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT MILLER, COLUMBIA STATION OR CORPS:

Char Kline (Vice President).....bossmare25@windstream.net..... 440-315-7192

### FOR QUESTION ABOUT THE "FRIENDS TALK" NEWSLETTER

Mike Robertson .....1stmickeymobile72@gmail.com

### FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT VOLUNTEER HOURS

Pam Pastor (Board/Hours Secretary).....friendsofmetroparks@hotmail.com

### FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT ENTERING HOURS

Keith Krueger...keithkrueger@gmail.com

### FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT THE FRIENDS TREASURY

Ruth Horvath (Treasurer).....rhorvath9@aol.com

### OUR PARK LIAISON

Mariah Deitz .....mdeitz@loraincountmetroparks.com..... 440-458-5121

## A Message from the President

What an amazing year! This year, we have had more opportunities to volunteer than ever before. Thank you to each volunteer for all your efforts to support Friends and ultimately the Metro Parks of Lorain County. With the profits from our Friends events (concessions for some small events, 2 Pancake Breakfasts, Halloween Fair, Miller Nature Nook, Holiday Lights refreshments, a garage sale, and the murder mystery) we will be able to donate to the Citizens Committee, Raptor Endowment Fund and the Metro Parks of Lorain County as well as offer grants to Park staff to fund special projects.

Our Friends year is drawing to a close and everyone needs to make sure they have turned in their volunteer hours by May 31, 2024. Additionally, the Annual Dinner is June 29th, 2024. The reservation form is included in this Friends Talk. Make your reservation and come enjoy a wonderful meal catered by Sterk's Catering of Oberlin and hear what's been happening in the Metro Parks. Also included in the edition of Friends Talk is the VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR Nomination Form. If you have someone you think has gone over and above, please be sure to nominate them. Some of the most recent Volunteers of the year have been: Cheryl June, Cheryl Gilgenmeister, Marge and Bob Holland, Ruth Horvath, Pamela Pastor, Char Kline, Dot MacIntrye, Donna Wolf, Phil Lyon, Gail Jones, Elaine Clark and tom and Eva Weber.. We look forward to seeing you at the Annual Dinner.

Thank you all,

Barbara Fieger  
*President of Friends*

## BOARD MEMBER SOUGHT

The Friends of Metro Parks of Lorain County has an opening on the Board. This is a great way to see the inner workings of our volunteer organization. If you are interested, please contact presidentoffriends@yahoo.com

# Miller Nature Preserve's main facility has REOPENED!

Following a two month closure at the start of the year for renovations throughout the facility, MNP has resumed regular operation with a full offering of nature, arts, and cooking programs for all ages to enjoy daily 10 am-5 pm. New programs include 'Family Cooking Classes' with Chef Alex of the Orchid Cafe in the demonstration kitchen and 'ConservaSTORIES' with Park Naturalist Jennifer, a family-oriented story time program within the Conservatory. For a full list of programming opportunities, check out our online program catalog.

Visitors to the Conservatory will find a variety of newly acquired plants in reconfigured collections and an assortment of interpretive brochures to help guide each experience. An admission fee of \$2 per person is required for non-Miller Members 3 years of age and up; FREE for those 2 and under.

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**2024 'Music on the Patio' Summer Concert Series returns to Miller Nature Preserve!** Looking for a Volunteer opportunity and would like to enjoy a FREE outdoor concert at the same time? Join us for the following options on select Thursday evenings in June (13 and 27), July (11 and 25) and August (8 and 22):

Front Desk support - 5:00 -7:15 pm

Butterfly House docent - 5:30-7:15 pm (must attend a Butterfly House Volunteer Training to be eligible - see related article)

Tram Driver - 5:30 - 8:00 pm (with a break between pick-up and drop-off)

Food and beverages will be available for purchase, courtesy of the Orchid Café. Concerts are held rain (indoors) or shine (outdoors, preferred), 6:00-7:30 pm. Seating and parking are limited - so consider arriving early and carpooling with friends!

If you have questions about volunteer options during the 'Music on the Patio' events, contact Jennifer at [jbreehl@loraincountymetroparks.com](mailto:jbreehl@loraincountymetroparks.com) or (440)865-7751. To sign up for available shifts, please contact Char Kline at (440)315-7192 or [bossmare25@windstream.net](mailto:bossmare25@windstream.net)

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**Miller Nature Preserve's Butterfly House opens Father's Day, June 16th!** Mandatory BH Volunteer Training Opportunities have been scheduled for those interested in serving as docents within the Butterfly House this summer. Updates on permit requirements, safe practices and current operating procedures, butterfly and host plant natural history information, and answers to frequently asked questions will be provided! Please contact Jennifer at (440)865-7751 or [jbreehl@loraincountymetroparks.com](mailto:jbreehl@loraincountymetroparks.com) to register to attend either of the following mandatory BH Volunteer training options:

**Wednesday 5/22/2024, 10-11 am**

**Thursday 5/30/2024, 2-3 pm**

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Calling all Green Thumbs, new gardeners and seasoned masters - there are plenty of volunteer opportunities for those interested in Plant Care at Miller! As the Conservatory welcomes visitors year-round, plant care follows suit, requiring continuous volunteer support throughout the year. Following an initial training session to get familiar with plant collections and their care needs, volunteers can lend support in watering and fertilizing, assessing condition and inspecting for pests, and other tasks within the controlled environment of the greenhouse. In the warmer months, Outdoor Garden projects focused around planting, mulching, weeding and deadheading, pruning, and more and will be designed as group efforts as well as independent seasonal volunteering opportunities. Those interested in assisting with plant care should reach out to MNP Greenhouse Technician Jerico at (440)865-7719 or [jcastillo@loraincountymetroparks.com](mailto:jcastillo@loraincountymetroparks.com)

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**Miller Nature Preserve summer display teaser** - Explore 'Nature's Palette' this summer at MNP through themed seasonal displays inside the Conservatory and among the gardens outdoors beginning in June 2024. Lots of volunteer opportunities to be announced as we prep for and program throughout the summer display period. Reach out to MNP Park Manager Aimee at [aharrell@loraincountymetroparks.com](mailto:aharrell@loraincountymetroparks.com) if you have interest in helping with display feature fabrication, general decoration, or assisting with display-themed programming, activities and events!

## Membership Renewal

You will be receiving information about Membership Renewal for the 2024-2025 Membership Year in the coming months. If you volunteered at least 40 hours in the 2023-2024 Membership Year, next year's membership fee will be waived as a thank you for your hard work during the year!

If you have any questions, please contact the Membership Secretary, Keith Krueger, by emailing him: [keithkrueger@gmail.com](mailto:keithkrueger@gmail.com)

## Code of regulations changes

At the Annual meeting, the Friends Board is proposing several Code of Regulation Changes. Please watch your mail and email for these changes in the beginning of June.

## Chip-a-Gram

The Friends of the Metro Parks of Lorain County has slightly revamped the Chip-a-gram program to make it easier for recipients to redeem their chip-a-gram.

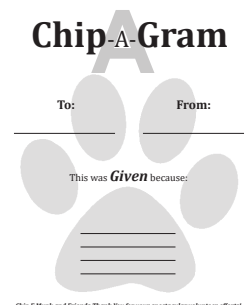
A Chip-a-gram is a Gift certificate worth \$10 issued to someone who has gone above and beyond when volunteering or working with Metro Parks events.

Anyone can nominate another person for a chip-a-gram. Recipients are selected at the Friends Board Meeting each month.

As of our February Board Meeting, anyone in possession of a chip-a-gram can redeem it in the following ways:

It may be redeemed for \$10 toward merchandise at the Miller Nature Nook; Halloween Fair Nook; Halloween Fair Friends Concession Stand; Santa Shop; Holiday Lights concession stand;; Murder Mystery Discount ticket: Garage Sale; or Friends Apparel.

The \$10 will be used in its entirety and therefore no change will be given. For clarification or questions, please contact [presidentoffriends@yahoo.com](mailto:presidentoffriends@yahoo.com)



Chip & Mink and Friends Thank You for your spectacular volunteer effort!

# Volunteer of the Year Nomination Form

**Nomination for Friends of the Metro Parks Member Mail to or drop off at:**

Carlisle Visitors Center 12882 Diagonal Rd. Lagrange OH 44050

1. Must be a member in good standing with Friends of Metro Parks
2. Must have been a volunteer for more than one year
3. Must have volunteered over 40 recorded hours total for the year.
4. Must not have already received the Award.

*(Previous recent recipients include Cheryl June, Cheryl Gildeneister, Marge and Bob Holland, Ruth Horvath Char Kline, Pamela Pastor, Dot McIntyre, Donna Wolf, Phil Lyon, Gail Jones, and Elaine Clark, Tom and Eva Weber)*

Nominee Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Member of Friends since: \_\_\_\_\_ (If you know)

Where you have worked or seen Volunteer In park events: \_\_\_\_\_ Halloween Fair \_\_\_\_\_ Holiday Lights  
\_\_\_\_\_ Maple Sugaring \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Involved with Friends Events: \_\_\_\_\_ Nature Nook \_\_\_\_\_ Hiking Stick \_\_\_\_\_ Pancake Breakfast \_\_\_\_\_  
Food Concession \_\_\_\_\_ other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Volunteer will help when and where needed: \_\_\_\_\_ when asked \_\_\_\_\_ without being asked \_\_\_\_\_  
volunteers readily

When dealing with the public \_\_\_\_\_ promotes Friends of Metro Parks \_\_\_\_\_ Promotes their corps  
\_\_\_\_\_ Promotes Lorain County Metro Parks District

Please explain why you are nominating this volunteer or the VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR award:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Nominee will be recognized at the Friends annual dinner/meeting in June

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ OH Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Member

# Miller Nature Preserve & Conservatory

After 2 months of being closed Miller Nature Preserve has reopened! Stop by to see the fresh paint, scraped and resealed floors, and the new moveable center bed. There are many new plants as well as the former plants pruned and reconfigured giving a more open look and a chance to view more individual plants. Thanks to those who helped out with a few shifts during this time.

The staff had an open house for MNP volunteers to see the renovations, ask questions, and enjoy some light refreshments. A Friends Volunteer Survey was available to volunteers to help update existing resources to support volunteer experiences. A folder with helpful information regarding various areas of concerns while volunteering at Miller was provided and will be given to any new volunteers.

Much thanks and appreciation to those who helped with the Shamrock Search, the St. Patty's & Easter displays, and the Bunny lunch. Your time and effort helps make these events enjoyable to all. Thanks also to those who attended the mandatory meeting for Plant Care in the conservatory. Hopefully questions and concerns were considered and answered. Your assistance helps make the conservatory a marvelous place to visit. And thanks to those who attended the mandatory meeting for Butterfly House volunteers. The Butterfly House is a huge draw for the summer months at Miller and couldn't exist without your support.

*There are many opportunities to volunteer at Miller this summer.*

There will be Music on the Patio on Thursday evenings (June 13 & 27, July 11 & 25, August 8 & 22). Help will be needed for these at the front desk, the butterfly house, and tram drivers.

The Butterfly House will be open daily and must be manned as per government regulations. So if you're interested and missed the mandatory training, please contact Char at 440-315-7192.

Help is needed for seasonal displays with this summer's being "Explore Nature's Palette". Thanks if you have already given a hand with this. You can check with staff to see if more needs to be done.

There are many opportunities for plant care at Miller both indoors and outdoors. If you are interested in using your green thumb, contact the Conservatory Technician, Jerico, at 440-865-7719 or [jcastillo@loraincounty metroparks.com](mailto:jcastillo@loraincounty metroparks.com).

As always, your time, effort, and support are truly valued and greatly appreciated. You help to make Miller and all of the Lorain County Parks a wonderful place to visit and enjoy!

Char Kline  
Miller Corps Leader

# Chip-A-Gram

To:

From:

This was *Given* because:

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*Chip E Munk and Friends Thank You for your spectacular volunteer efforts!*

# UPCOMING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**Murder Mystery Dinner theater** – servers need.

Show dates are April 26, 27, May 3, 4, 5, 2024.

Contact [presidentoffriends@yahoo.com](mailto:presidentoffriends@yahoo.com) for more details

**Butterfly House** – Miller Nature Preserve in June, July and August 2024.

Orientation dates are 5/20/2024 2PM to 3PM or 5/22/2024 10AM – 11AM.

See related article in Friends Talk

**Trucks, Tractors and Trains** – June 22, 2024 - details for volunteers will be forthcoming, but will include concession help as well as program assistance.

## hours

**PLEASE HAVE ALL HOURS ENTERED BY MAY 31, 2024.**

There are 3 ways to enter hours:

1. You may email hours to [friendsofmetroparks@hotmail.com](mailto:friendsofmetroparks@hotmail.com) Please include the date volunteered, the park, the activity and the hours
2. You may drop off or send them via U.S. Mail to Friends of Metro Parks 12882 Diagonal Rd. Lagrange, OH 44050
3. You may enter your own hours in our Better Impact Volunteer system. To receive your username and password as well as instructions, please email Membership Secretary Keith Krueger at [keithkrueger@gmail.com](mailto:keithkrueger@gmail.com)

## WOW! WHAT A SUCCESS!

The 2024 Garage/Rummage Sale made a whopping \$11,290.80. And, it could not have been done without the wonderful volunteers who worked tirelessly on drop off days, set-up day, day of sale and clean up Sunday. Also, the many donors who collected their treasures and donated them to us. And, finally, the very generous community who came out and supported the event. What a tremendous success in 2024.

Save your “treasures”, clear your calendar because we will be back for year number 11 in 2025.

Thank you to everyone. We truly appreciate you!

Josie & Phil

# TIME FOR THE ANNUAL DINNER

With the April, May and June issue of FRIENDS TALK, it's time to mark your calendars and send in your reservations for the FRIENDS ANNUAL DINNER. The Annual Dinner will be held Saturday, June 29, in the Black River Room at the Carlisle Visitors Center in LaGrange. The meeting will begin at 2:00 p.m. with the business meeting. Dinner will be served following the meeting and is by Sterk's Catering of Oberlin with Mama Jo's pies for dessert. Cost is \$10.00 for Friends members and \$20.00 per guest. Prepaid reservations are required and must be received no later than June 15th. If you have never been to the Annual Dinner, I urge you to come. We not only discuss and vote on Friends' business, such as the election of Board of Trustee members, but you get to meet our Board members, the nominating committee members and any Corp leaders that are able to come. You also hear about the latest happenings from the Park Director, Jim Ziemnik. Additionally, we hand out the hours pins, name tags, and recognize the VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR. Please fill out the reservation form and mail to:

Friends of the Metro Parks Attn: Barb Fieger 12882 Diagonal Rd. LaGrange , OH 44050

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## ANNUAL DINNER RESERVATIONS CARLISLE VISITOR CENTER

Saturday, June 29th DINNER/MEETING from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00p.m.

Number of Friends members attending \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Guests attending \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Member's Name \_\_\_\_\_ PH # \_\_\_\_\_

Member's Name \_\_\_\_\_ PH # \_\_\_\_\_

Guest's Name \_\_\_\_\_ PH # \_\_\_\_\_

Guest's Name \_\_\_\_\_ PH # \_\_\_\_\_

***Please Make Checks Payable to: FRIENDS OF METRO PARKS***

Here is the label maker/embosser purchased for Schoepfle Garden through a Friends grant in the fall of 2023. The volunteer corps will start making labels for trees this spring so each new plant in the garden has a way to be identified and linked to our records, a common botanical garden practice. It uses a metal tape that will be attached to a branch with a wire. The volunteers will be helping label the garden and build their biceps at the same time!





Orders for Volunteer Apparel can be placed by calling Char at (440) 315-7192

**Blue Volunteer T-shirts**



Back

**T-shirt**

Size	Quantity	Price
Small	_____ x =	15.00
Medium	_____ x =	15.00
Large	_____ x =	15.00
X-Large	_____ x =	15.00
2X-Large	_____ x =	17.00
3X-Large	_____ x =	19.00

**Long Sleeve**

Size	Quantity	Price
Small	_____ x =	17.00
Medium	_____ x =	17.00
Large	_____ x =	17.00
X-Large	_____ x =	17.00
2X-Large	_____ x =	19.00
3X-Large	_____ x =	21.00

Total (to be paid upon pickup)

\_\_\_\_\_

**Fleece jackets (Pre-paid orders are placed once a month. You will be called when your order is ready - Approx. 4 weeks)**

**Light Weight (available in Pearl Grey, Light Royal, and True Navy)**

Size	Quantity	Color	Total
Small	_____ x =	_____	_____
Medium	_____ x =	_____	
Large	_____ x =	_____	
X-Large	_____ x =	_____	
2X-Large	_____ x =	_____	
3X-Large	_____ x =	_____	

**Heavy Weight (available in Iron Grey, Royal Blue, Maroon, Red and True Navy)**

Size	Quantity	Color	Total
Small	_____ x =	_____	_____
Medium	_____ x =	_____	
Large	_____ x =	_____	
X-Large	_____ x =	_____	
2X-Large	_____ x =	_____	
3X-Large	_____ x =	_____	

There are a limited amount of **Grey Polo shirts** Left-  
 These shirts are by JERZEES. 90% cotton, Ring-Spun, 10% polyester and are for **Friends of Metro Parks Volunteers ONLY**. Sizes are limited



**NOTE: Once our current stock of shirts is gone, the prices will increase as the company has increased their prices. Jacket Prices are upon request.**

Size	QTY	Price	Total (Payable upon pick up)
Small	_____ x \$10.00 =	_____	
Medium	_____ x \$10.00 =	_____	
Large	_____ x \$10.00 =	_____	_____

# friends**TALK**news

12882 Diagonal Road  
LaGrange, OH 44050

## Friends of Metro Parks Hours

Send to:

Friends of Metro Parks

Attn: Hours

12882 Diagonal Rd

LaGrange, OH 44050

Email address

**friendsofmetroparks@hotmail.com**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact phone \_\_\_\_\_

Circle One only:

JAN

MAR

MAY

JUL

SEP

NOV

YEAR \_\_\_\_\_

FEB

APR

JUN

AUG

OCT

DEC

DATE	PARK	ACTIVITY (BE SPECIFIC)	HOURS

PLEASE turn in hours on a monthly basis