



FRIENDS OF WOOSTER MEMORIAL PARK

P.O. Box 1776, Wooster, OH 44691
www.friendsofWMP.com

MARCH 2016

ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO THE FWMP 16TH ANNUAL MEETING

Freedlander Park Chalet

Wednesday, April 13, 2016, at 7:00 PM



Fungi-expert Jim Chatfield doing a classic 'James Taylor' pose.

Please join us for the 16th Annual Meeting of the Friends of Wooster Memorial Park (FWMP) on Wednesday, April 13, at 7:00pm at the Freedlander Park Chalet. We will begin with finger foods and a photo show of Wooster Memorial Park (WMP), followed by a brief business meeting, election of the 2016-2017 Board of Directors, and our guest speaker.

This year's guest speaker is **Jim Chatfield**, Associate Professor of Plant Pathology and OSU Extension Specialist at the OARDC. Among other things, Jim is an expert in the bizarre world of fungi. In "**Tales of the Kingdom Fungi**", Jim will talk about: gourmet dining, bioremediation, organic matters, the key to every picnic, symbiosis-and-parasitism-and-antibiotics, and more. You are sure to come away with a totally new appreciation for the fungus among us!

Directions: The Freedlander Park Chalet is located at 400 Hillside Drive in Wooster. If heading north on Burbank Road, you'll cross Oldman Road, then turn right onto Buena Vista or Hillside Drive; both lead into the Chalet parking lot. RSVP's are not required.



Cedar apple rust fungus on juniper (J. Chatfield).

THE FIRST OF MANY EXCITING SPRING & SUMMER 2016 PROGRAMS!



The Education & Public Awareness Committee has planned a wonderful mix of events for 2016, beginning with: **Spring Wildflower Walk on Sunday, May 1st at 2:00pm** – *The spring wildflowers at WMP are second to none. Join us on this walk to see the best of the park's wildflowers and learn interesting tidbits about them. Nothing says spring like a stroll on the Trillium Trail!*

Other 2016 programs include a Search for Cicadas, a Fungi & Tree Hike, a WMP Trail Sampler, a Kenwood Acres Walk and a Members-Only Cookout & Potluck. **Please see the enclosed flyer for more details.** Thank you to Committee members John Abt (chair), Edith Swank (past chair), and Mary Hetrick.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Cathy Herms, 330-465-2725 ♦ Vice President: Dan Buehler, 330-465-7588
Secretary: Edith Swank, 330-263-6766 ♦ Treasurer: John Parker, 330-345-7511
Directors-at-Large: Shelley Schrier, 330-262-9307; Greg Wiles, 330-464-1067; John Abt, 330-464-7715

TIME TO ELECT THE 2016-2017 BOARD – At the Annual Meeting, you will vote on the following slate of nominees for the 2016-2017 Board of Directors (nominations may be made from the floor). Terms continue for Directors Greg Wiles (2017) and Shelley Schrier (2018).

- **President**, Cathy Herms (3rd term) – Cathy is from the Great Lakes State (go MSU!), but has lived in Wooster and worked at OARDC since 1997. From her first visit to WMP, she recognized the amazing natural resources in the park. Cathy does research on weeds and invasive plants and likes writing grants, and uses those talents to benefit the park.
- **Vice President**, Dan Buehler (2nd term) – Dan has lived in Wooster all his life. After graduating from OSU, he began working in the family business, Buehler Food Markets, where he is currently Director of Enterprise Operations. Dan’s hobbies include hiking with dog Bella, backpacking, and bird watching. He and his wife Lynn have three grown children in California, North Carolina and Alaska, and visit them whenever possible.
- **Secretary**, Edith Swank (15th term) – Edith has kindly served as Secretary since the FWMP Board was created in 2002, and is continually inspired by the wonders of the park. She is a recently retired middle school teacher of language arts in Holmes County.
- **Treasurer**, John Parker (11th term) – John has kindly served as treasurer for the past ten years. He is an independent agent for AFLAC Insurance, a board member for the Wooster Exchange Club, and hikes the Park every week with his dog, Buddy.
- **Director-at-Large (2019)**, Chuck Armbruster – Chuck is currently the Corporate Reliability Engineering Manager for the The J.M. Smucker Company. He has over 30 years of experience in engineering, maintenance, operations and construction, and has worked in the construction materials, pharmaceutical and food processing industries. He is a degreed engineer, a Certified Plant Engineer and a Certified Maintenance and Reliability Professional. In his spare time, Chuck supports The Performing Arts by mentoring students during set construction. He and his wife enjoy hiking, especially with their three “empty-nester” children when that luxury exists.



A huge thank you to Director-at-Large John Abt (2016), who will be going off the Board in April. John has contributed his leadership and energy to many important projects at the park, helping to make those projects a success! He has generously agreed to continue serving on the Membership Committee and is the new chair of the Education & Public Awareness Committee.

AT THE PARK

New Kiosk in the Education Area – Check out the new kiosk in the Education Area, thanks to Mike Rossitter with Boy Scout Troop 922. Mike designed and built the kiosk for his Eagle Scout project. This is an awesome addition to the park!



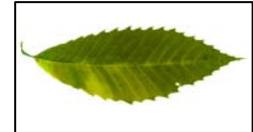
Pavilion & Kiosks to Get New Bases – The City will use some new-found WMP funds in the Wayne County Community Foundation for concrete improvements to the Silver Road pavilion and park kiosks. The pavilion’s concrete foundation is cracking due to erosion underneath the pad. And while the City is at it, FWMP thought it would be a great improvement to pour a concrete pad for both the Silver Road and Education Area kiosks.

Gotta’ Love the Mud – WMP trails can be sloppy this time of year, but don’t let a little mud stop you from enjoying spring in the park. To prevent damage to wildflowers along trail edges, please hike in the trail (and through the mud) rather than around. Check the FWMP website (www.friendsofwmp) or contact the Community Center (330-263-5207) for trail updates.

UPDATES ON THE KENWOOD ACRES

Design Phase for ADA Lot & Trails to Start Soon – After having two environmental impact assessments done this winter, FWMP’s Recreational Trails Program grant is soon to get final approval, allowing the design phase to begin. FWMP will contract with an environmental engineering design firm to plan the ADA parking lot and 1-mile trail loop on the Kenwood, as well as possible locations of potential future structures such as restrooms and a pavilion. If all goes well, installation of the parking lot will start this summer.

Chestnuts Coming – This spring, FWMP will be adding 15 American chestnut seedlings to the other trees planted on Kenwood Acres. The American chestnut tree was wiped out by chestnut blight in the early 1900’s, and since then, efforts have been under way to identify blight-resistant trees. These chestnut seedlings come from a healthy stand of mature, reproducing trees in Michigan, so there is a strong chance that they are blight-resistant (though that is not guaranteed).



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SPRING/SUMMER TRAIL PROJECTS – The FWMP Trail Committee has several projects planned for this spring and summer in WMP, including:

- 1) Level two bridges that are leaning (one each on the Education and Spangler Trails),
- 2) Build steps at the side ravine crossing on the upper Trillium Trail reroute,
- 3) Help to survey ash trees along the trails,
- 4) Install tree guards on the tree saplings planted last spring on Kenwood Acres,
- 5) Assist with clearing tree falls along trails.

The Board is also considering how best to create a crossing over the gully forming across the upper Trillium Trail. We need volunteers for these important projects. Please sign up at the Annual Meeting or contact Shelley Schrier (Chair, Trail Committee) (330-262-9307; sschrier@sssnet.com). **REMINDER:** WMP is under a conservation easement, which states that no projects can be completed without the consent of the Board, City and Killbuck Watershed Land Trust. If there are trail projects that you think need to be considered, please contact Shelley.

ANNOUNCING THE FORMATION OF THE ‘WOOSTER SALAMANDER SQUAD’! – Are you interested in wildlife, being outdoors and making a contribution to scientific knowledge? Consider joining



the ‘Wooster Salamander Squad’, a group that will assist with field studies on salamanders at WMP. Dr. Rick Lehtinen (College of Wooster) is seeking volunteers to help sample long-term research plots periodically between April and November. The only qualification is enthusiasm! All ages are welcome, though children under 12 should be accompanied by an adult. If you’d like to participate, contact Dr. Lehtinen at rlehtinen@wooster.edu for upcoming dates and times.

JOIN THE ‘INVASIVE PLANT PATROL’ THIS SPRING – Please join the Plant Committee this spring to combat invasive plants in WMP and Kenwood Acres. ‘Invasive Plant Patrol’ volunteers will learn to identify the various species of invasive plants that threaten WMP’s native wildflowers, and control one of the park’s most nefarious, garlic mustard.



Workdays will be held on weekdays in April and May, starting at 5:30 PM (dates to be determined). It’s a great way to enjoy spring in the park, meet people and learn about plants! If you would like to help, please sign up at the Annual Meeting or contact Cathy Herms (330-465-2725; herms.3@osu.edu).

EXOTIC BEETLE ATTACKING ASH TREES IN WMP – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SURVEYS –



Ash bark has been removed by hungry woodpeckers going after EAB larvae.

The ash trees in WMP are now showing obvious signs of infestation by the exotic emerald ash borer (EAB). This wood-boring beetle, originally from Asia, has been working its way across the Eastern U.S., killing millions of ash trees as it goes. Unfortunately, with no easy control methods for EAB, we expect the practical extinction of ash in WMP.



EAB larva feeding under the outer bark.

Our main mode of response over the next few years will be to fell dead ash trees that are along the trails before those trees fall on their own, perhaps over the trail and on a hiker. Volunteers are needed this summer to develop a map of the ash trees close to the trails, so the City and FWMP can start planning for the future work. If you are interested in helping, please contact Cathy Herms (330-465-2725; herms.3@osu.edu).

2016 TRAIL RUNNING EVENTS IN WMP – 2016 is proving to be an exciting year for running activities at the park! For more information, please contact **Brian Polen** of Vertical Runner (www.verticalrunner.com).

- **Thursday night trail runs:** These free runs organized by the Wooster Running Club take place every Thursday night at 6:30pm, starting from the Silver Road Trail Head. Just show up and run!
- **Tuesday Night Trail Series:** June 7, 14, 21, 28 and July 5, at 6:30pm each night. \$5/race for a 5k race with Chip Timing. All proceeds to benefit FWMP. Walk-up registration available each night.
- **Kid's Camp:** Every Tuesday and Thursday from July 12 to August 18 at 6:30-7:30pm. Over 100 kids, ages 5-12, will be using WMP to get ready to show the adults what they are made of at a series of 5k races in the late summer. Must be pre-registered to participate.
- **Trail Monster Mini Series, Season Finale:** August 27 at 8:00am. This final event of a 3-race series is in WMP, with proceeds to benefit the park. 5k, 15k, and kids 1 mile distances mean that anyone can participate. Pre-registration and race day registration available.
- **Together We'll Trample ALS, Tethered 5k-10k-15k:** September 10 at 8:00am. Back for its 3rd year, this team event is used to raise funds and awareness for ALS. All proceeds benefit the Northern Ohio ALS Chapter. Pre-registration and race day registration available.



A runner on the Farm Field Trail during a 5k race (Jason Burgett).

SHOPPING ON AMAZONSMILE CAN HELP PARK – Do you shop on Amazon? If so, you can



support FWMP by simply using AmazonSmile instead. The same products and pricing are available, but every purchase you make supports the park. Shop at smile.amazon.com, select FWMP as your charity, and a portion of the purchase price goes to FWMP. It costs you nothing and is easy to do. Please take the time to explore this!

IF THIS LINE IS HIGHLIGHTED, WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED YOUR RENEWAL – PLEASE RENEW – Your membership is critical to FWMP. Renewal forms will be available at the Annual Meeting, and can also be found on our website (www.friendsofwmp.com).

Friends of Wooster Memorial Park
...invites you to enjoy the beauty of Wooster Memorial Park

Upcoming Events at WMP in Spring & Summer 2016

◆ **Spring Wildflower Walk, Sunday, May 1st at 2:00PM**



The spring wildflowers at WMP are second to none! Come join us on this walk to see the best of the park's wildflowers and learn about them. Nothing says spring like a stroll on the Trillium Trail.

◆ **Search for 17-Year Cicadas, Sunday, May 22nd at 2:00PM**

Will the periodical cicada make an appearance at WMP? Once every 17 years, Brood V matures into adulthood and delights, or frightens, those who happen upon it. Meet at the **Education Area** and join us in the search.



◆ **Fungi and Tree Hike, Sunday, June 12th at 2:00PM**



On this hike, we will be searching for mushrooms and other members of the Fungi Kingdom. And you'll learn how trees can help you find fungi. NOTE: We will **NOT** eat any of the fungi we find.

◆ **WMP Trail Sampler Hike, Sunday, July 10th at 2:00PM**

Enjoy a beautiful summer afternoon hike at the park, led by an avid WMP hiker. This challenging 4-mile trek will take you on parts of all the park's trails. This is a great event for those interested in learning more about WMP.



◆ **Members-Only Cookout and Potluck, Friday, August 12th at 6:00PM**



Hot dogs will be grilling in the **Education Area**. Bring a favorite dish to share along with your own table service and beverage. The **Perseid Meteor Showers** will peak from late Friday night into early Saturday. Feel free to stay as long as you want on Friday or return to the Education Area early Saturday (4:00AM).

◆ **Kenwood Acres (by WMP) Walk, Sunday, August 28th at 2:00PM**

Check out the latest updates on **Kenwood Acres!** You'll see the trees and prairie flowers planted last spring. And the first of two overlooks is ready to enjoy. Also in the works – a paved parking lot and 1-mile ADA trail, thanks to an ODNR grant. *You can park on the Kenwood.*



◆ **Our FALL EVENTS will begin with a Geology Hike on Sunday, September 18th at 2:00PM. We will hike along and in Rathburn Run. The erosion along the Run the past few years is impressive.**

Wooster Memorial Park is located west of Wooster at the junction of Jefferson and Silver Roads. These public events are sponsored by Wooster's Parks & Recreation Department and led by Friends of Wooster Memorial Park volunteers. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Events begin at the Silver Road parking lot unless otherwise noted. Registration is not required, but groups should contact the Community Center ahead of time (330-263-5207). Participants should wear sturdy footwear, and bring water, insect repellent, and anything else you need for the event. No pets, please.