



FRIENDS OF WOOSTER MEMORIAL PARK

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

MARCH 2015

ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO THE FWMP 15th ANNUAL MEETING

Freedlander Park Chalet

Wednesday, April 8, 2015, at 7:00 PM

Please join us for the 15th Annual Membership Meeting of the Friends of Wooster Memorial Park (FWMP) on Wednesday, April 8, at 7:00 PM at the Freedlander Park Chalet. We will provide finger foods and a photo show of Wooster Memorial Park (WMP), followed by a brief business meeting and our guest speaker. *To celebrate this notable 15-year landmark, we will have a special and yummy sweet treat for you!*



John Holliger.

This year's guest speaker is **John Holliger**, a local nature photographer and retired Episcopal priest who has been hiking in WMP for years. John will present "**Elder trees, poets & mystics of the forest: What wisdom do the trees of the forest have to give to us humans?**".

Directions & parking: The Freedlander Park Chalet is located at 400 Hillside Drive, Wooster. If heading north on Burbank Road, go through the stop light at Oldman Road, and turn right onto Buena Vista or Hillside Drive; either go directly into the Chalet parking lot. RSVP's not required.

EXCITING KENWOOD ACRES UPDATES – TREES ARE COMING!

Volunteers Needed for Huge Tree Planting Project – We have great news. WE ARE PLANTING A FOREST!!! And we need volunteers! Tree seedlings (7,500 of them) will be arriving soon for planting on 18 acres of the new Kenwood Acres parcel of WMP. Planting will begin on Friday, April 10, and continue for 3 or 4 days, depending on the weather and how fast we go. Each day, we'll be planting from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM (or longer). Funding for the trees is provided by FWMP's USDA NRCS EQIP grant.



The 12-18" tree seedlings will be planted with a mechanical tree planter by Joel Berry of Twinsberry Tree Farm. At least 8-10 volunteers are needed at all times. Volunteer jobs include:

- feeding tree seedlings into the tree planter,
- following behind the planter to tamp down the soil around the planted trees,
- planting trees in spaces that are missed,
- preparing and organizing the bare-rooted tree seedlings for planting, and
- helping to prepare food for volunteers and take pictures of the action.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Cathy Herms, 330-465-2725 ♦ Vice President: Shelley Schrier, 330-262-9307

Secretary: Edith Swank, 330-263-6766 ♦ Treasurer: John Parker, 330-345-7511

Directors-at-Large: Greg Wiles, 330-464-1067; John Abt, 330-464-7715, Dan Buehler, 330-465-7588



Tree planter

We welcome anyone who wants to help with such a momentous event for the park – come out for a few hours to a full day. To help us plan, please let us know when you are able to help (contact Shelley Schrier, 330-262-9307; ssschrier@sssnet.com). Water, gloves (if you don't have them) and lunch will be provided. Again, the dates are Friday to Sunday, April 10 to 12.

Kenwood's Prairie to be Planted – In late March and early April, the area being planted with trees (described above) will first be planted with lower-growing native prairie grasses.

This will help to keep invasive plants at bay while the tree seedlings grow. In addition, 7 acres of the old corn field will be planted to a beautiful mix of native prairie wildflowers and grasses, to establish a permanent open habitat for various meadow-loving birds and other wildlife.

Community Foundation Grants – FWMP was generously awarded \$8,800 from the Wayne County Community Foundation (\$7,000 from an anonymous fund, \$1,000 from the Venkataraman Family Fund, and \$800 from the Klise Family Fund) and \$5,000 from the Laura B. Frick Charitable Trust. These grants will be used to develop the Kenwood entrance, including a parking area and kiosk, plant the prairie grasses in the old fescue field in the east portion of Kenwood, and other restorations on the property.

ODNR Handicap Trail Grant Submitted – In February 2015, FWMP submitted a grant for \$205,000 to the ODNR Recreational Trail Program for funds to construct a paved ADA parking lot and 1-mile trail on the new Kenwood Acres. We will be notified in October 2015.

AT THE PARK

Meet FWMP's New City Rep for WMP – FWMP's new City representative for WMP is Andrew Guidetti. Andrew was born and raised in Wayne and Ashland Counties, and worked on the family farm until it sold. From 1995-1997, he worked for Davey Tree while going to OSU/ATI for a landscape design degree. He then got into the electrical trade, working for Perram Electric Inc. in Wadsworth for 10 years and McClintock Electric for 6 years. In January 2014, Andrew started working for the City of Wooster under Daryl Decker, FWMP's previous Parks liason. Andrew is now a supervisor of Parks, Traffic Signal, Signage and Electrical in the Public Properties Maintenance Division. He's been married to his wonderful wife, Julie, for 16 years, and has three children, Dominic (11), Gino (8) and a little girl, Carmen (3).



Andrew Guidetti with sons, Dominic (left) and Gino (right).

Gotta' Love the Mud – WMP's trail are typically sloppy this time of year, but don't let a little mud stop you from enjoying the early season wonders of the park. To help prevent damage to the trails and to the delicate plants along trail edges, please remember to hike in the trail (and through the mud) rather than around. If trail conditions get really bad, the City may need to close the park temporarily. Check the FWMP website (www.friendsofwmp) or contact the Community Center (330-263-5207) for trail closure information.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT – At the 15th Annual Meeting, you will vote on the slate of nominees below for the 2015-2016 Board of Directors (nominations from the floor may also be made). Because of FWMP's current grant commitments, the Nominating Committee

recommended, and the Board approved, to keep the same members for the 2015-2016 term to maintain continuity through completion of the ongoing projects.

- **President**, Cathy Herms (2nd term) – Cathy is completing her first year as President, and previously served as Director-at-Large and Vice-President. She studies weeds and invasive plants at OARDC, and appreciates the WMP’s amazing natural resources.
- **Vice President**, Dan Buehler (1st 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 his dog Bella, backpacking, and bird watching. He and his wife Lynn have three grown children, who reside in California, North Carolina and Alaska, and they visit them whenever they get a chance.
- **Secretary**, Edith Swank (14th 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 middle school teacher of language arts in Holmes County.
- **Treasurer**, John Parker (10th term) – John has served as treasurer for the past seven 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 (2018)**, Shelley Schrier – Shelley is completing one year as Vice-President, and has previously served as President and Director-at-Large. He is a retired school psychologist for the Buckeye Schools in Medina County, and loves to take long hikes in WMP every weekend.

Terms continue for Directors-at-Large John Abt (2016) and Greg Wiles (2017). During the annual meeting, nominations from the floor may also be made.



GREAT SPRING & SUMMER 2015 PROGRAMS – The Education & Public Awareness Committee is offering a diversity of public events for 2015, *including*: Education Ravine Walk, Spring Wildflower Walk, Birding at WMP, Walk the New Kenwood Property, Walk (in) Rathburn Run, Salamanders of WMP, plus a members-only Meteor Watch and Star Watch (date TBD).

Please see the enclosed flyer for more details. Thank you to Committee members, Edith Swank and Marty Griffith (co-chairs), John Abt and Mary Hetrick.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR WMP TRAIL PROJECTS – The FWMP Trail Committee has several projects planned for this spring and summer:

- 1) Build railings for both approaches to the Holtman bridge,
- 2) Repair vandalized trail signs, and
- 3) Help with clearing tree falls along trails.

We need volunteers for these important projects. Please sign up at the Annual Meeting or contact Shelley Schrier (330-262-9307; sschrier@sssnet.com).



Garlic mustard

JOIN THE ‘INVASIVE PLANT PATROL’ THIS SPRING – Please join the FWMP Plant Committee this spring to help combat invasive species in WMP and the new 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 most nefarious, garlic mustard.

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



2015 TRAIL RUNNING EVENTS IN WMP – 2015 is proving to be an exciting year for running activities at Wooster Memorial Park! For more information, please contact **Brian Polen** of Vertical Runner (www.verticalrunner.com), or Jason Burgett of the Wooster Sweaters Running Club (woostersweaters@gmail.com).



- June 13 – Together we’ll Trample ALS 5k-10k-15k team or solo trail runs. A 3rd-year event benefiting ALS Northern Ohio Chapter.
- June/July – Run Unplugged 5k Trail Series. A 4-week trail series benefiting WMP.
- July/August – Running is Fun, Kids Running Camp. A 6-week training camp for little runners ages 5-12.
- August 8 – Trail Monster Mini Series Season Finale; 15k, 5k, 1 Mile Kids Run. This 2nd-year event benefiting WMP takes participants to a private farm in Beach City in June, Camp Nuhop in July, and finishes at WMP in August. The Trail Monster Mini Series is quickly becoming the ‘can’t miss’ trail series in our area!
- August 29 – Vertical Runner Trail Running Festival. Test trail shoes from over a half dozen shoe vendors and enjoy a cookout, music, prizes, and trail running fun! FREE event and open to anyone!
- Thursday night Trails! Every Thursday night at 6:30pm from the Silver Road trail head, the Wooster Running Club hosts a FREE and informal trail run. Usually between 4-5 miles and the course is marked. All paces welcome!

HELPING THE LOST BE FOUND – Ever lose (or find) something while hiking in WMP? Thanks to FWMP member, Jeanne Durkalski, a ‘Lost & Found’ protocol is in place. If you find an orphaned item in the park, please leave it by the Silver Road kiosk. Items of value should be left in the care of the Community Center (241 South Bever Street). If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact the Community Center (330-263-5207) or any FWMP Board member.

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).

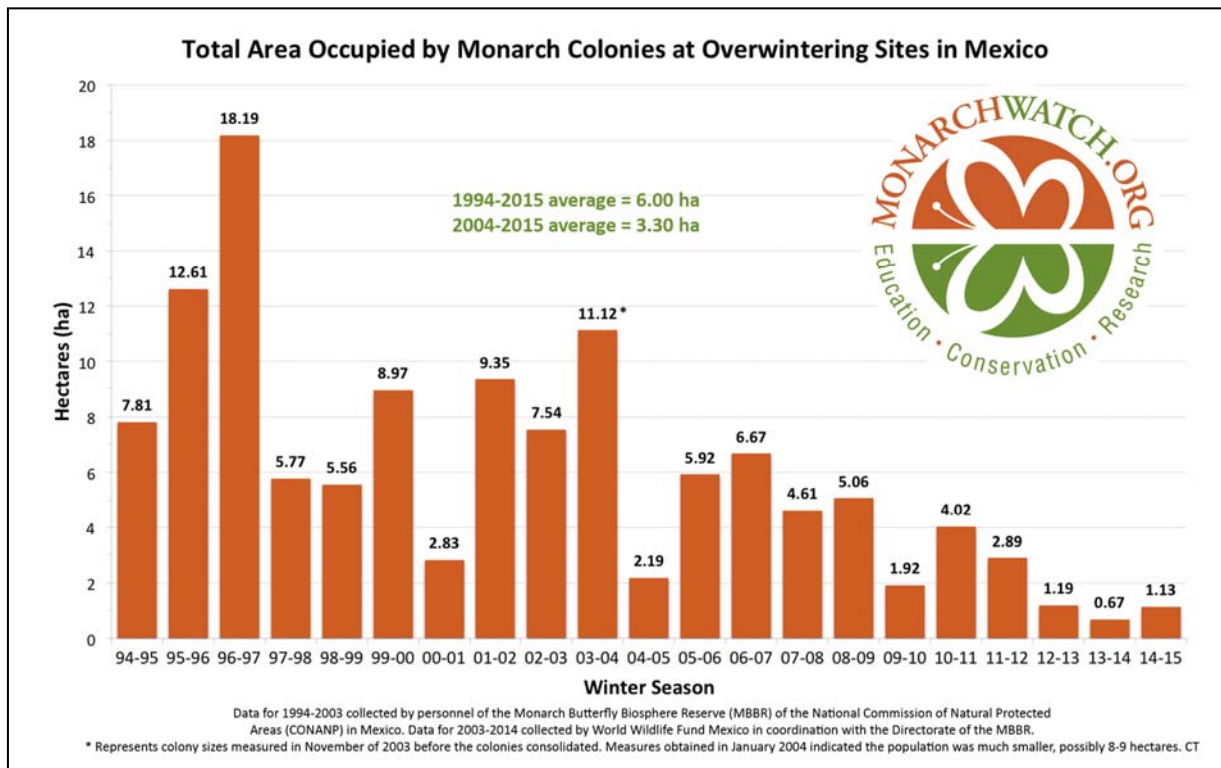
Monarch Wings Across Ohio

By Roger Downer



The monarch (*Danaus plexippus*) is one of the best known butterflies in North America. The monarch population in the eastern U.S. and southern Canada is notable for its southward migration to Mexico in late-summer/autumn and its return migration over several generations in spring/summer – millions of butterflies covering thousands of miles. The western U.S. population most often migrates to sites in California.

The number of monarch butterflies in the eastern U.S. has declined alarmingly over the last several years from a peak in 1996-1997 to an all-time low in 2013-2014 (see the figure below). While there have been some signs of recovery this past winter, only time will tell whether this trend will continue. These extremely low numbers make the eastern monarch population highly vulnerable to any stressors, such as inclement weather in the overwintering sites in Mexico. The western population has also shown declines, but according to recent data from the Xerces Society, it is holding its own.



So, I hear you ask, why are the monarchs declining and what can be done? Well, scientists are trying to figure that out, but the leading theories point to human activity that has resulted in habitat destruction in overwintering sites in Mexico (deforestation has reduced the amount of suitably protected areas for aggregation, resulting in an increase in vulnerability to winter storms), and habitat alterations in summer sites that destroy the native plants essential to monarch survival. Milkweed (*Asclepias* spp.) is the exclusive food plant for monarch larvae, but is considered a noxious weed by many people. And both milkweed and other flowering plants



Common milkweed

used by monarch adults for nectar are also often regarded as weeds by landscapers, farmers, gardeners, and others. These plants are destroyed by herbicides, with unintended consequences for monarchs. In addition, monarchs themselves can be killed accidentally by many insecticides.

Fortunately, the monarch butterfly is held in high regard by many people and this has resulted in the birth of several programs, ranging from Federal to state to private agencies and foundations, targeted at figuring out what can most easily be done to improve the monarch's situation. In Ohio, the Pollinator Partnership is working to create a network of monarch habitat through a new project called **Monarch Wings Across Ohio** (MWAO) (pollinator.org/monarchs.htm). The goal of MWAO is to scientifically test monarch habitat plantings (both adult nectar sources and larval food plant sources) in urban ecosystems, gardens, corporate lands and agricultural systems. Once planting recommendations have been established for Ohio, MWAO hopes to launch Monarch Wings Across America, which will then focus on establishing habitat and food plants across the entire range of the monarch's spectacular migration.

In early March, we hope to be visited by Mary Byrne, who is heading up the MWAO program for the Pollinator Partnership. Mary is looking for local partners for this project. We plan to show her two potential sites in the Wooster area, one of which is the proposed prairie planting at the newly acquired Kenwood Acres.



Monarch caterpillar feeding on milkweed

What can you do! Some of the things that you can do to help the monarch include: planting native milkweed, planting butterfly nectar plants, encouraging public land managers to create monarch habitat, joining citizen-science efforts to track monarch populations and supporting monarch conservation efforts. For more great information, check out the monarch page of the Pollinator Partnership, pollinator.org/monarchs.htm.



Also check out this interesting article by the National Geographic on the new federal initiative to help monarchs:

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2015/02/150209-monarch-butterfly-milkweed-habitat-conservation-insect-science/>

2015 Public Events in Wooster Memorial Park

Friends of Wooster Memorial Park invites you to enjoy the beauty of Wooster Memorial Park. These public events are sponsored by the Wooster Parks and 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. Bring water, insect repellent, and anything else you need for the event. No pets, please.

*Please note the Meteor Watch in August is **for members and their friends only.***

Education Ravine Walk on Saturday, April 18th at 2:00PM

Rathburn Run has a number of deep side ravines and tributaries. We will hike mostly on trails, but a little off-trail, to get a nice view of the “Education Area” creek. We should get a good un-obstructed look into the ravine because trees will not be leafed out yet. *Meet for this 1.5mile hike at the Education Area parking lot.*



Spring Wildflower Walk on Sunday, May 2nd at 2:00PM

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

Birding at WMP on Saturday, May 16th at 8:00AM

This early morning hike will have us looking for resident birds and those birds that are passing through. Bring along binoculars. *Meet at the Education Area parking lot.*

Walk the New Kenwood Property on Sunday, June 14th at 2:00PM

This new addition to the landholdings protects the boundaries of WMP and provides some easier hiking. See what changes have already been made to the property and enjoy the fantastic views into the Rathburn ravine. *Meet at Kenwood Acres. (There is parking on the property.)*



Walk (in) Rathburn Run on Saturday, July 11th at 10:00AM.

WMP looks a bit different when you're actually “in” Rathburn Run. On a hot day the cool water is also a treat. We will see the ledges from below, catch some critters in the run, and see what else there is to see, including the upper section of the run that we did not see last year. Wear footwear than can be 100% wet.

Meteor Watch, Wednesday, August 12th at 4:00A.M. - Members and Friends only **(rain/cloud date is Thursday, August 13th)**

This year we are meeting early to see the showers that are always the best in the wee hours of the morning. Bring comfortable chairs and enjoy the show. As usual we will meet in the Education Area. The area will be open all night for those who wish to start the watch earlier. There will be a campfire for fixing breakfast for those so inclined.



Salamanders of WMP on Sunday, September 27th at 2:00PM

It is always a treat when our resident expert leads a hike to find different species of salamanders in WMP. This is a catch and release event. We will keep the salamanders long enough for everyone to get a good look and then we will return the critters to their homes in WMP.