



Plan It For the Planet

Autumn/Winter 2015 Volunteer Opportunities
 Preservation Parks of Delaware County



Archie Ristau Volunteer of the Year 2015

Clearly, Archie Ristau enjoys volunteering and exploring Preservation Parks. He serves with an eye for excellence, and we are fortunate that he and his wife, Bonnie, volunteer on our team. Serving more than 100 hours annually, Archie has been a loyal Nature Center Attendant and Trail Patroller since 2012. We celebrate Archie for his welcoming and dependable character, and recognize him as Preservation Parks' 2015 Volunteer of the year. *Discover more below.*

Where do you live?
 Delaware City since 1985.

Tell us about your family?
 My wife, Bonnie, and I were married in August 1971. We have two grown children, and five grandchildren.

What is your occupation?
 I retired from Safelite in 2011. I was Director of

Credit Services, responsible for their national commercial and wholesale credit operations.

What is your favorite Preservation Park?
 They are all unique and have their special charm. I like hiking at Char-Mar, stream exploring at Shale Hollow, visiting the nature centers at Hogback and Deer Haven, and sledding at Gallant. Blues Creek was the first Preservation Park I hiked in, and has a bench dedicated to a dear friend, Sydney Long.

What is your favorite park activity? Once a week, Bonnie and I hike, and I also volunteer for a shift at Deer Haven. I like interacting with visitors and the naturalists, Kim and Liz.

How did you get involved with the parks?
 When I retired, I looked for something I could do to keep busy and spend time out in nature. There are so many ways to get involved at Preservation Parks.

Share a favorite volunteer moment.

I observed the Monarch butterfly life cycle over several weeks while serving at Deer Haven. Kim and Liz collected the eggs and we watched them hatch into caterpillars, form chrysalises, and then emerge as Monarch butterflies. They tagged the butterflies with little stickers before releasing them for their winter journey to Mexico. It was fascinating.

How else do you spend your free time? Bonnie and I take day trips in my Saturn Sky to visit wineries and hike around Ohio. Watching the grandkids grow and become active in sports is such a joy. I also volunteer at Stratford Ecological Center, serve as treasurer at William Street United Methodist Church, and participate in mission projects.

What else do you want people to know?

I enjoy home improvement projects. I am a home brewer and wine maker. I like crossword and jigsaw puzzles and afternoon naps.

**Volunteer Opportunities
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Prairie Seed Collection on October 7

Lunch and Prairie Seed Collection

October 7, 11:30 a.m.- 3 p.m. Sign-up by October 5

Enjoy an afternoon at beautiful Blues Creek Preserve! Volunteers will team with Natural Resources staff to collect and categorize prairie seeds. October is the time to collect seeds, which will be used to expand Preservation Parks prairies as part of our effort to improve wildlife habitat.



Wear long pants, closed toe shoes, and a hat. Bring garden gloves, bug spray, and lunch money.

11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Lunch at **Horsey Hall Café** located at 9716 Fontanelle Road, across from Blues Creek
1 - 3 p.m. Seed collection at Blues Creek Preserve

Litter Clean Up and Lunch on October 21 and 28

Volunteers teams are wanted on two consecutive **Wednesday mornings, from 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**, to pick up litter lining our entrance road and multi-use trail. After the dirty work, we will applaud our accomplishments by going out to lunch together.

Volunteers are needed to make this task quick, easy, and fun. Wear closed toe shoes or boots that can get wet, and bring clean clothes to change into, and lunch money.

10 - 11:30 a.m. Clean up

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Lunch

Locations below:

October 21 at Emily Traphagen Preserve. Meet in the parking lot. We will have lunch at Iocono's.

October 28 at Hoover Scenic Trail. Meet in the parking lot on Plumb Road. We will have lunch at Mudflats Grill.

Trick-or-Treat Trail on October 24 and 25



Volunteer at our annual Trick or Treat Trail event. Help is needed both Saturday and Sunday, October 24 and 25.

Saturday, 9:30 a.m. - noon Volunteers will decorate the half mile treat trail in preparation for the event the next day.

Sunday, 11:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Volunteers assist during the event, interacting with hundreds of children. Wear a kid-friendly Halloween costume, be part of the enchanted forested treat trail, and assist with hay rides, pumpkin decorating, concessions, cider pressing, and more.

Nature Attendant Safety Training on November 4

Nature Center Attendants play a vital role in the daily operation of The Park District, and we rely on these volunteers to open and close the nature centers securely. We want Nature Center Attendants to feel supported, safe, and competent around responsibilities at the nature center.

This safety training is a mandatory session for Nature Center Attendants who did not already participate in June. The training will take place on **Wednesday, November 4, 2 - 4 p.m.** at Deer Haven Preserve. If you have a scheduling conflict, contact Sandra to make arrangements to meet with her at another time.

During the **Volunteer Safety Training**, park staff will address:

- ◆ Tips for providing excellent guest service
- ◆ Security procedures designed to make sure doors and windows are locked each night
- ◆ How to handle emergencies

There will also be an opportunity for you to share your ideas and concerns.

Nature Center Attendants play an essential role for Preservation Parks, and we thank you for volunteering on our team. We look forward to seeing you at the training.

Nature Center Attendants Needed!

We are always looking to grow our team of Nature Center Attendants at Deer Haven Preserve. We encourage you to consider volunteering in this role.



Nature Center Attendants host this wonderful facility for the public and are vital to Preservation Parks' daily operations. By spending a few hours each month hosting a nature center, and providing excellent guest services to our visitors, Nature Center Attendants makes a huge contribution to the park district.

Daily shifts run from noon - 2:30 p.m. and 2:30 - 5 p.m. Nature Center Attendants are trained to open and close the building securely, record visitation, and provide information about park trails, programs, volunteering, and other opportunities. Training is provided.

Scheduling shifts as a Nature Center Attendant is easy. Utilizing the on-line calendar to schedule shifts makes this opportunity flexible enough to fit into any schedule. Contact Sandra for more information and training.

Contact Volunteer Coordinator Sandra McBrearty, at sandras@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>

A Holiday Evening On The Farm on December 5

Volunteer to bring the holiday spirit to the farm during this festive special event!

Decorate the Farm House for the holidays using items appropriate to the time period. This activity will be done the week before the event.

Donate cookies. Cookies can be homemade or store bought (no peanut butter cookies, please). Please deliver cookies to Gallant Farm on Friday or Saturday, Dec. 4 or 5, noon - 5 p.m.

Assist Saturday evening 5 - 9 p.m. Bake or serve cookies and hot wassail, facilitate craft stations, roast chestnuts around the fire, and assist various choirs coming to sing.

Bring forth the 1930s/40s look:

Women should wear a simple cotton dress or skirt with stockings. Feel free to cover up with a sweater or apron. Bring what you have that you think might work. We have extra dresses and aprons at the farm and can pull together a period look.

Men should wear bib overalls or clothes with the farm hand look. Men will assist with the camp fire outside, so dress for the weather.

2016 Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist Program

Participate in the upcoming Central Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist (OCVN) program this Spring 2016! The training will run from April 5 to May 31, 2016. Preservation Parks is a key partner in this OCVN program, and we encourage park volunteers to participate. 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.
- Classes will be Tuesday evenings and some Saturdays from April 5 to May 31, 2016.
- Each participant must commit to 40 hours of approved volunteer service projects within the first year leading up to certification.
- 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.

Application information coming this December...

Delaware County Bird Club

The Delaware County Bird Club now meets monthly at Deer Haven Preserve. We are excited about this new partnership and invite park volunteers to come and learn about birds and all the great work being done.

The Delaware County Bird Club is an informal organization of individuals who appreciate birds and the natural environment. The club was started by Dr. Jed Burt, of the Zoology

Department at Ohio Wesleyan University. In addition to holding regular meetings, the group conducts the annual Delaware Reservoir Christmas Bird Count.

Bird Club meetings are usually the 4th Monday each month (unless indicated otherwise), from 7 - 9 p.m. Each meeting includes a program along with time for conversation. Come and enjoy the interesting and informative programs listed below.

Bird Club Schedule

| | | |
|----------|-------------------------------|--|
| Sept 28 | Blake Mathys, PhD ODU | Strangers in Paradise: How birds change in new homes |
| Oct 26 | Chris Tonra, PhD OSU | Full annual cycle research in the birds of Ohio |
| Nov 16 | Kyle Davis & Stephen Bischoff | Teen birders share field work and research |
| Dec 14 | Richard Bradley | Delaware Reservoir Christmas Bird Count Preview |
| Jan 25 | Jason Larson | January 100 contest |
| Feb 22 | Preservation Parks staff | Program to be announced |
| March 28 | Tom Sheley | Warblers |
| April 25 | Dick Tuttle | Conservation species |

Christmas Bird Counts

Consider taking part in one or more. Contact the facilitator listed for the date you wish to participate.

| | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Sunday, Dec 20, 2015 | Columbus | Rob Thorn | robthorn@earthlink.net |
| Sunday, Dec 20, 2015 | Delaware County | Rich Bradley | bradley.10@osu.edu |
| Saturday, Dec 19, 2015 | Hoover | Lee McBride | leemcbride50@yahoo.com |
| Sunday, Dec 27, 2015 | Killdeer Plains | Ed Lux | luxea22@msn.com |
| Thursday, Dec 31, 2015 | Preservation Parks | Darlene Sillick | azuretrails@columbus.rr.com |
| Friday, Jan 1, 2016 | Kingston | Brad Sparks | birdmansparks@yahoo.com |



Red-headed Woodpecker
Photo by Walter Elsner

Volunteer Opportunities, Training & Events

| | | |
|------------------|--|---------------------|
| October 7 | Prairie Seed Collection and Lunch | Blues Creek |
| October 21 | Litter Clean Up and Lunch | Emily Traphagen |
| October 24 | Trick or Treat Trail set up | Gallant Woods |
| October 25 | Trick or Treat Trail event | Gallant Woods |
| October 26 | Delaware Bird Club meeting | Deer Haven |
| October 28 | Litter Clean Up and Lunch | Hoover Scenic Trail |
| November 4 | Nature Center Safety Training | Deer Haven |
| November 16 | Delaware Bird Club meeting | Deer Haven |
| December 5 | Holiday Evening On the Farm | Gallant Farm |
| December 14 | Delaware Bird Club meeting | Deer Haven |
| Dec 20 - Jan 1 | Christmas Bird Counts | Various locations |
| January 25 | Delaware Bird Club meeting | Deer Haven |
| April 5 - May 31 | Ohio Certified Vol. Naturalist Program | Various locations |



Photo by Christel Mattern



Contact Volunteer Coordinator Sandra McBrearty, at saundras@preservationparks.com or (740) 524-8600, ext. 6

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