



The Park Bench



*Join us at our monthly Friends of the Park District Meetings, 7:30 p.m. at the Davidson Interpretive Center!
Monday, January 18 • Monday, February 15 • Monday, March 21*

Friends of the Clark County Park District 2015 Photo Contest

This year, local photographers entered outstanding images taken throughout our parks. The winning photographs display a variety of scenes from around the Clark County Park District.

Take time to pick up that camera you just got for Christmas and begin to explore our parks. Every season has much to offer. The winter-time gives you scenes of snow, the structure of trees, and forms of wildlife you do not normally get to see. Follow the woods as they wake from their slumber from early March into mid-May. Enjoy the flowers that April and May offer to the eyes of those who look for the beautiful details. As beautiful as the woods and wetlands are, the Prairie Grass Trail and the natural settings along the little Miami Scenic Trail offer sites to behold. Look for historical images as you attend the open house activities at the Daniel Hertzler House, the woodland native village in George Rogers Clark Park, and, of course, the annual Fair at New Boston.



First Place Historical: Backside of Freedom by James Freeland

See additional winning photograph entries on page 2

Index...

FCCPD Photo Contest	1, 2	Fireside Chats.....	5
Message from the President	2	Estel Wenrick Nature Preserve.....	5
Welcome, Carol Kennard, new Executive Director!.....	3	George Rogers Clark Park	6
Children's Programs.....	3	Little Miami & Prairie Grass Trails	6
George Rogers Clark Heritage Association	4	Join the Friends!.....	7
Hertzler House Museum	4	Calendar of Events.....	8
First Mad River Light Artillery	5		



2015 FCCPD Photo Contest... (continued from pg. 1)



First Place Landscape - The Bench by James Freeland



First Place People - Watermelon Lady by Barbara Lambert



Best of Show - Orange Blossom by James Freeland



First Place Open - Shadow at the Falls by James Freeland



Message from the President...

A new year brings new beginnings and celebrations of old; Thank you so much for a wonderful 2015 – our 25th year of existence. This is a good time to be a part of The Friends of the Clark County Park District. Without your support, our organization could not accomplish all that we do each year and for that, we are grateful. Consider renewing your membership today and begin another 25 years of fun in the park.

Stay tuned to our Park Bench for details of the many exciting things happening in 2016. Happy New Year! See you in the Park,

***Bradley Campbell, President
Friends of the Clark County Park District • friends@clarkcountyparks.org***



Park Board Names Executive Director

At their December meeting, the Board of Park Commissioners hired Carol Kennard as the district's part-time Executive Director. Carol has served as Interim Executive Director since May. "I really enjoyed getting to know the Park District community, volunteers and staff," said Carol. It was encouraging to see the support of our recent park levy, and I am excited to be a part of the future efforts of the Park District to bring quality parks, trails, and programs to the people of Clark County."



Carol has a degree in Parks & Recreation from Penn State University and recently retired from the Centerville-Washington Park District where she worked for 32 years, first as Program Manager and the final 17 years as Director. Carol welcomes your ideas and suggestions for how the Park District can meet your needs and can be reached at ckennard@clarkcountyparks.org or (937) 882-6000.



Clark County Park District - Davidson Interpretive Center CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Caterpillar Club - Ages 3-5 & adult - pre-registration required, limited to 15 preschoolers.

Our program is adapted from the Growing Up WILD guide, which builds on children's sense of wonder about nature.

- ***Hiding in Plain Sight:*** Tuesday, January 26, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Children play a game of hide-and-seek to learn about important adaptations.
- ***Tracks:*** Tuesday, February 23, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Children explore animal tracks.

Homeschool History Program - Ages 6-12 - pre-registration required

This historical program is designed for homeschoolers. Children are welcome to wear period-appropriate clothing.

- ***Customs of the Past:*** Wednesday, January 20, 1:30-3:00 p.m. Hear a first-person story from the Civil War Era. Practice the customs to see if you would be a proper gentleman or lady.
- ***18th Century Games:*** Wednesday, February 24, 1:30-3:00 p.m. Play 18th century colonial games, learn the story behind those games and make your own before the end of the program!

Wetland Warriors - Ages 7-12 - pre-registration is required and limited to 15 participants.

This year-round program encourages children to get outside, make new discoveries and foster new friendships while learning about nature, first-hand.

- ***Under the Microscope:*** Thursday, January 21, 4:00-6:00 p.m.
- ***Valentine's Day Program:*** Thursday, February 18, 4:00-6:00 p.m.

— To Register —

On-Line: www.clarkcountyparks.org. Go to "Program Registration"

Phone: 937-882-6000

In Person: Park Headquarters are located at the Davidson Interpretive Center, 5638 Lower Valley Pike, Springfield



George Rogers Clark Heritage Association

The George Rogers Clark Heritage Association is pleased to announce that the 2015 Fair at New Boston was a great success. Nearly 10,000 people visited this annual event providing the unique experience of being able to visit the most authentic 18th-century market fair in the country. Plans are already underway for the 2016 Fair at New Boston.

In the meantime, mark your spring calendars for the 2016 Night at the Museum at the Clark County Heritage Center coming soon in mid-March.

This is an opportunity to tour the Clark County Heritage Center which is brought to life by persons from the past along the entire timeline beginning with the pioneer days of flat boats and Conestoga wagons. This trip through time will allow you to experience the history of Clark County through the 1800s, the early days of the 20th century, clear into the 1950s.

For more information about the George Rogers Clark Heritage Association, visit their website at www.grcha.org



Daniel Hertzler House Museum

Getting to the Hearth of It:

Saturday, January 30, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

George Rogers Clark Park, Hertzler House Museum,

\$5.00 per person - please pre-register (limit 10)

Receive a cooking demonstration, 1850's style! Discover how families prepared meals at the Hertzler House, including how to cook over a fire, the clothes to wear while cooking and the types of food enjoyed during this time period. After the demonstration, try a sample of the food cooked that day.



Photograph by James Campbell

Historical Day Camp: Watch the Clark County Park District website (clarkcountyparks.org) for information regarding the Annual Historical Day Camp, which will be held in June. This camp offers a wonderful opportunity for your children and grandchildren in the fifth or sixth grades to spend a day living the life of a youth in the 1850s. They will have an opportunity to play games, make toys, perform a few chores, and other activities including helping to prepare their own lunch over an open fire in the hearth. Activities common to life in this time period will fill their day with fun and, if they are not careful, something to learn. Registration will be opening soon. Scholarships are available to make this opportunity open to all.

As always, The Hertzler House committee has been working hard throughout this past year to host events to bring your attention to the wonders of this well-preserved treasure. The winter months are a time for maintenance, inventory, and making plans for the coming year. Special tours can be arranged for special groups or occasions by contacting the offices of the Clark County Park District (937-882-6000).



First Mad River Light Artillery

The First Mad River Light Artillery is a dedicated group of volunteers teaching modern day society about the proper handling, use, and history behind field artillery in the late 18th century. Their demonstrations of a Revolutionary war era 6 pound cannon will provide your group or event with a way to start things with a boom. First and foremost is the teaching of safety followed by an understanding about the role such field pieces played in the settling of Clark County.



The Estel Wenrick Wetland Preserve

The Estel Wenrick Wetlands is a nature preserve that allows many endangered animals and plants to have a safe refuge from the hazards of modern-day development. This sanctuary protects important habitats and provides the public an opportunity to explore nature in its finest. Take your time, walk slowly, capture some important images, and “unplug” during your stroll through this valuable natural resource.



Ohio Hopewell Earthworks - Tuesday, January 12, 7:00 p.m.

Ohio is home to the most spectacular concentration of ancient earthworks in the world. Aaron Rourke, the presenter of this program is a board member of Heartland Earthwork Conservancy, dedicated to saving remaining Hopewell and Adena earthworks and president of Rivers Unlimited, the nation's oldest statewide river conservation organization.

The Road to Freedom - Tuesday, February 9, 7:00 p.m.

George and Sara were conductors on the Underground Railroad helping people of color to escape slavery by hiding them in their home. This presentation tells their story and the dangers they experienced during this time period. This is an important piece of Springfield history that was unknown until 1998.

History By the Pint - Tuesday, March 8, 7:00 p.m., \$5/person

Tonya Brock, brew master with the Carillon Brewing Company, will enlighten the crowd on the history of making beer. Sample some of the historic brews that our forefathers drank themselves! You must be 21 or over to attend this program.

***For more information about our Parks, Events
or Park Organizations, visit our website at
www.clarkcountyparks.org***



George Rogers Clark Park

Photograph by Michelle Nau

The Calling of the Owls - All Ages - FREE

Friday, February 19, 6:30-8:00 p.m., George Rogers Clark Park, 930 S. Tecumseh Rd.

Join our Park District volunteer to learn and search for owls in the park. Learn the mysteries of the different owls in Ohio, where they live and why they are important to the Ohio environment. We will also try to get them to check us out by making their “call” sound. Each participant will receive a free “Owls of Ohio” guide and “Owl Sounds” CD. This program takes place as long as the temperature is over 20°.



Thursday Morning Hike - All Ages - FREE - 9:00 a.m., George Rogers Clark Park

Join Park District Volunteers for an enjoyable walk through the woods. Meet at the parking lot below the dam. Hikes will be canceled if the wind chill is below 20°.

George Rogers Clark Park offers visitors a chance to explore old-growth forests giving the patient explorer a chance to see Ohio as it was 250 years ago. Ancient trees, rocky ledges, and interesting flora and fauna can be found throughout the park. Walk slow, pause frequently, and carefully observe the world around you, while you discover many of the animals that live in this habitat.

Little Miami & Prairie Grass Trails



The Beatty Station is getting a new resident! In the spring of 2016, the Clark County Park District will be installing a self-service bicycle repair station. This self-service center, sponsored by the Friends of the Clark County Park District, will serve the needs of bicyclists who may have troubles before they start on their trip on the Little Miami Scenic Trail or as a way of repairing problems that crop up while on their ride.

This self-service repair station will be located near the parking lot and will provide important tools to help you maintain and repair your bicycle in an emergency situation. There will be arms located to hang your bike at a comfortable level for maintenance, tools including screwdrivers, wrenches, allen wrenches, and an air pump with a universal fitting to connect with most valve stems. A QR code will be provided to take you to a comprehensive bicycle repair website. For more information, contact the Park District offices.



Become a Friend!

By becoming a Friend of the Clark County Park District, you are helping support your local Clark County Park District.

Who are The Friends of the Clark County Park District? We are a group of members that are dedicated to growing and enhancing the parks in the Clark County (Ohio) Park District. Our non-profit organization was founded in 1990 with the singular goal of assisting the Clark County Park District with programs, restoration, and more.



Your membership helps support important programs such as The Gantlet 5K Race, Old Fashioned 4th of July, the Fishing Derby, and also provides support for maintenance and repair at your Clark County Parks.

The Friends of the Clark County Park District meet the 3rd Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Davidson Interpretive Center near George Rogers Clark Park. We invite everyone to attend! Our meetings are a great way to learn more about upcoming activities and events in our parks.

It's easy to renew your membership or join the Friends of the Clark County Park District!

Friends of the Clark County Park District **2016 Membership Form**

Please make checks payable to: Friends of the Clark County Park District

Please print this form and mail with your check to:
Friends of the Clark County Park District • P.O. Box 1832 • Springfield, Ohio 45501

☐ Single: \$10.00

☐ Ranger: \$50.00

☐ Life Member: \$500.00

☐ Supporting: \$25.00

☐ Commissioner: \$100.00

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City/State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____



CALENDAR *Of* EVENTS

Monthly Meetings:

The Friends of the Clark County Park District
3rd Monday of each month, 7:30 p.m.
Davidson Interpretive Center.

The George Rogers Clark Heritage Assoc.
1st Wednesday of each month, 7:00 p.m.
The Gathering House located in GRC Park

Clark Co. Park Dist. Board of Commissioner
2nd Monday of each month, 7:00 p.m.
Davidson Interpretive Center.

The Hertzler House Committee
4th Thursday of each month, 7:00 p.m.
The Hertzler House

Special Events:

Tuesday, January 12, 7:00 p.m.
Fireside History Chat
Ohio Hopewell Earthworks, Free

Saturday, January 30, 10:00 a.m. - noon
Hertzler House - Getting to the Hearth of It
\$5 per person

Tuesday, February 9, 7:00 p.m.
Fireside History Chat
The Road to Freedom

Friday, February 19, 6:30-8:00 p.m.
The Calling of the Owls
Demint Shelter, George Rogers Clark Park, Free

Tuesday, March 8, 7:00 p.m.
Fireside History Chat
History by the Pint

For an up-to-date listing of all Programs & Events, please visit the Clark County Park District website at www.clarkcountyparks.org



To subscribe to this electronic newsletter please send an e-mail to: newsletter@clarkcountyparks.org.

Please feel free to forward this newsletter to everyone you know who is interested in the Clark County Park District and shares your vision that this is a valuable resource in our community that demands our support.

Layout & design of The Park Bench provided by Julie Nau, Nau Graphics.