

LAKE METROPARKS



# volunteers

FALL 2011

## A Message from Executive Director Steve Madewell about Wildlife Management

Hello,  
I know that many of you have read the article in *The News-Herald* about my discussion with the Lake Metroparks Board of Park Commissioners about wildlife management.

For many years, our staff has been monitoring the effects of the growing deer population in our parks. We have a responsibility to manage our natural resources in a manner that keeps our park properties biologically healthy. We have determined that it is necessary to reduce the population of deer on certain park land. Working with the most current and best scientific principles on wildlife management, our staff has created a deer management plan that we intend to implement this fall.

I certainly recognize that this may be an emotional issue, and I recognize that nearly everyone loves wildlife. This is an action that has been carefully researched and we have made the decision to move forward.

Through ongoing, careful research and evaluation it has been determined that wildlife populations exceed the carrying capacity of certain park areas and are threatening or damaging park natural resources. Actively managing wildlife is necessary for the ecological health of these areas.

It is important to:

1. manage wildlife populations for conservation purposes
2. maintain and/or improve desirable biological diversity and ecological stability on parklands
3. use the most current conservation and best management practices
4. and do so in a safe manner following all park rules, local ordinances and state laws

As a Lake Metroparks volunteer you may be approached by a park patron or a member of the media regarding this topic. Let him/her know that you are not the best person to answer questions on this topic, yet assure him/her that Lake Metroparks does indeed want to answer questions and/or make comments. Then tell the caller/visitor to contact Steve Madewell or Sharon Sharpnack at the Lake Metroparks Administrative Offices at Concord Woods Nature Park (440-639-7275).

Thank you so much for all you do. Your support is appreciated.

Sincerely,  
Steve Madewell

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Following are some upcoming events where we need your help. Please contact the volunteer office for details.

**Perch Fest** September 9-11 (Friday 4 to 9 pm; Saturday 11 am to 9 pm; Sunday 11 am to 5 pm): t-shirt and soda sales, handicap parking attendants

**Bug Day** September 11 (11 am to 4 pm): game assistants, craft assistants and more

**Village Peddler** September 17 & 18: greeters, phone assistants, parking attendants

**Fall Harvest Festival** September 24 & 25: apple cider pressers, storytellers, potato harvesters, apple peelers, honey harvesters, soup makers, greeters and more

**Corn & Pumpkin Harvest Weekend** October 8 & 9: apple cider pressers, corn husk doll makers, pumpkin painters, corn grinders, soup makers and more

### Magical Whooloween: Whooo is living in that tree?

October 21 & 22 at Penitentiary Glen Reservation  
Come experience the magical night of this nonscary Halloween alternative. Visitors will enjoy the magic of a fall night with hikes, trailside stories, crafts and refreshments. Help is needed with set-up and ticket taking. We'll need front desk runners, hike station attendants, craft assistants, refreshment attendants, hike sweepers, parking attendants, game leaders, game assistants and more.

**Halloween Hayrides 2011** October 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29  
It's back! Its taken over Lake Metroparks Farmpark and now it wants...YOU! Volunteers must check in by 4:30 pm; event runs 6:30 to 10 pm (It is not necessary to work all dates in order to volunteer). Approximately 200 volunteers are needed each night. Groups are welcome! Help is needed in the following areas:

**Actors:** Dress up and be scary or silly. Costumes, make-up and site direction provided.

**Technicians:** Help with behind-the-scenes operation of sites, including lights and sound effects.

**Visitor Services:** Positions available include: ticket taking, line/crowd control, wagon loading, conducting surveys, distributing candy and more.

**Narrators** (16 years of age or older): Ride on a wagon with 30 to 35 visitors and tell a story to help create an appropriately fun and eerie mood for the ride. Script and corny Halloween jokes provided.

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: KARL LOSELY

In this edition, we talk with Karl Losely about his volunteer service and what he finds most rewarding.

### TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT YOURSELF.

I live in the Perry area and am a nurseryman by trade. But I consider myself a farmer/engineer as I've been building things my whole life.

### HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN VOLUNTEERING?

I've been a volunteer with the Lake Metroparks for 15 years and I'm the liaison between the train club and Lake Metroparks. I'm also president of the club.

### WHAT DO YOU DO WITH LAKE METROPARKS?

I'm part of the Lakeshore Live Steamers, a large-scale model train club. We build and operate trains 1/8 their full size. We have an agreement with Penitentiary Glen to operate and maintain the trains there. The 150-member volunteer group runs trains usually every other Sunday from 1 to 3 pm. We also run the trains at special events like the Wildlife Festival/Woodcarvers Show, Bug Day, etc. There are also a few night rides that we do in conjunction with events like the Super Star Party.

### WHAT'S MOST REWARDING?

We like to run our trains and share them with the public. It doesn't matter how old you are, everyone's a kid at heart. I love to show visitors the engines and explain how they work and do things like add coal to the fire. It's all a part of our history and very rewarding to share.



## CITIZENS FOR LAKE METROPARKS

Citizens play a vital role in supporting Lake Metroparks and ensuring that our natural, cultural and historical resources are protected for future generations. An opportunity for citizens to join forces exists through our Citizens for Lake Metroparks group.

Citizens for Lake Metroparks purpose is...

- To maintain an association of persons supporting the efforts of Lake Metroparks in the preservation of natural resources.
- To focus public attention on the uses and benefits of the Lake Metroparks.
- To promote and conduct activities that will enhance and foster the present and future park lands under the jurisdiction of the Lake Metroparks.
- To cooperate and assist in the preservation of open spaces and natural resources, and to inform the public and public officials of their importance.
- To encourage and stimulate gifts, endowments and bequests to support and improve the Lake Metroparks.

To learn more about Citizens for Lake Metroparks e-mail [info@citizensforlakemetroparks.org](mailto:info@citizensforlakemetroparks.org).

## AQUATICS PROGRAM WINS NATIONAL AWARD!

The NACPRO 2011 Class I Parks and Recreation Program Award (presented to agencies in counties with a population fewer than 500,000) was awarded in July to Lake Metroparks for its aquatics program.

The National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials (NACPRO) annually recognizes and honors excellence

in county-level parks and recreation agencies throughout the nation. Program awards are presented to recognize an exceptional program that other agencies could adopt or emulate. Thank you to all of the volunteers who help with this program!

## HALLOWEEN HAYRIDES

Volunteers are cordially invited to attend Halloween Hayrides any evening before 8 pm October 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29. This is your chance to attend this event at no cost! No tickets are necessary; just show your Lake Metroparks volunteer I.D.\* to admit you and your family (up to five admissions). Please note, this offer is limited to immediate family members (those living in your household).

*\*If you do not have 20 hours of service in you will not have a volunteer I.D., However, if you have put in 20 hours of volunteer service to Lake Metroparks and do not have a volunteer I.D. please call the Volunteer Office at 440-585-3418.*

# Condolences & Congratulations

CONDOLENCES To volunteer Katie Arthur and family on the loss of her husband and longtime park volunteer Don Arthur.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to all volunteers with birthdays in, September, October and November.

# ALMANACS: Helping People Navigate Stormy Skies for Hundreds of Years

by Tatiana Parker

**THIS YEAR, NORTHEAST OHIO** has seen record-setting 80+ degree weather, snow, sleet and frost. Imagine living in an agricultural era where the weather can really make or break a planting or harvest. Without Doppler radar, weather text alerts, interactive radar and online National Weather Service updates, we would be at a loss as to what to expect tomorrow and next week. So how did people in the past do it? Many relied on almanacs that offered weather forecasts, tide tables, planting charts, recipes and anecdotes.

Although many historians agree that the first printed almanac was in German and dates back to the fifteenth century, the first American-based almanac came out of Massachusetts in 1639. Since then many have cropped up, but only a few are household names.

Many of us have heard of Poor Richard's Almanac, which witnessed a successful 25-year-run starting in 1732. Published by Benjamin Franklin (who assumed the name of Richard Saunders for publishing reasons), this popular annual almanac offered seasonal weather forecasts and household tips, but is most well-known for its clever sayings, including: "hunger never saw bad bread"; "light purse, heavy heart"; "better slip with foot than tongue"; "one who relishes, nourishes"; and "necessity never made a good bargain."

Modern-day almanacs, as we know them, have been available since the late 1700s, and two are still in publication. The Farmers' Almanac was first published in 1818 and includes astronomy information and weather forecasts. This periodical reportedly has become guarded with its famous weather predicting formula and created Caleb Weatherbee, a pseudonym that is used by any Farmers' Almanac past, present or future weather forecaster (they won't actually say who the person is). Founded in New Jersey but later moving to Maine, the Almanac Publishing Company usually predicted two years in advance. It is said that this almanac's weather forecasts are compiled by tidal action, planetary position and sunspot activity, among other factors. This almanac even branched into TV in the mid 2000s, but went bankrupt a few years later. The print edition is still going strong.

The Old Farmer's Almanac, available at many large chain stores, has been in print since 1792 when George Washington was president. The Old Farmer's Almanac has survived when many have failed, and historians believe it could be because the forecasts are more accurate and the advice more entertaining and useful. Even today, the first publisher's weather formulas are kept locked away in the publication's offices in Dublin, New Hampshire.

Below are a few examples of sayings and their meanings from previous Old Farmer's Almanac editions regarding the weather (not to be confused with the actual weather forecasts they offer):

**Rainbow in the morning gives you fair warning:** A rainbow in the morning points out that rain is west of us and we will probably see it soon.

**The higher the clouds, the finer the weather:** If you spot wispy, thin clouds in the sky, expect a spell of pleasing weather.

**Clear moon, frost soon:** When the sky is clear at night, Earth's surface cools rapidly because there isn't cloud cover present to keep the heat in. If the night is clear enough to see the moon and the temperature drops enough, frost will form.

**When clouds appear like towers, the Earth is refreshed by frequent showers:** When you see large, cauliflower-like clouds, there is probably dynamic weather going on inside. Innocent clouds look like billowy cotton, not towers.

**Ring around the moon? Rain real soon:** A ring around the moon usually indicates an oncoming warm front, which means precipitation. Under those conditions, high, thin clouds get lower and thicker as they pass over the moon. Ice crystals are reflected by the moon's light, causing a halo to appear.

**Rain foretold, long last. Short notice, soon will pass:** If you find yourself toting an umbrella around for days "just in case," rain will stick around for several hours when it finally comes. The gray overcast dominating the horizon means a large area is affected. Conversely, if you get caught in a surprise shower, it's likely to be short-lived.

**Red sky at night, sailors delight. Red sky in morning, sailors take warning:** A reddish sunset means that the air is dusty and dry. Since weather in North American latitudes usually moves from west to east, a red sky at sunset means drive weather—good for sailing—is moving east. Conversely, a reddish sunrise means that dry air from the west has already passed over us on the way east, clearing the way for a storm to move in.

But are these old adages really accurate? Almanacs claim to be 80 to 85% accurate. Whatever the case, it's undisputable that these almanacs offer a lot of American history and perhaps some accurate advice as to when to plant the corn or bring that umbrella.



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 30525 Lake Shore Blvd.  
 Willowick, Ohio 44095  
 lakemetroparks.com

Standard Mail  
 U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
 Willoughby, Ohio  
 Permit No.10

## KEEP US INFORMED

To help keep our records updated, please send us any changes to your address, telephone numbers or e-mail. Keep in touch! If you would like to receive information from us via e-mail, please forward your e-mail address to Merle.



*Bug Day volunteers*

## LAKE METROPARKS VOLUNTEER DEPARTMENT

Merle Walker	440-585-3418	<a href="mailto:mwalker@lakemetroparks.com">mwalker@lakemetroparks.com</a>
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## THE VOLUNTEER DEPARTMENT MISSION

The Volunteer Department supports the Lake Metroparks' mission by providing a substantial resource of volunteers to enrich and expand Lake Metroparks services and programs as well as generate goodwill through citizen participation in Lake Metroparks.

## THE MISSION OF LAKE METROPARKS

To conserve and preserve the natural resources of Lake County while providing a variety of safe, affordable and enjoyable educational and recreational programs and activities that enhance the quality of life in Lake County now and for generations to follow.

### LAKE COUNTY PROBATE JUDGE

Ted Klammer

### BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

Ellen Foley Kessler • Mark P. Oesterle • Frank J. Polivka

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Stephen W. Madewell

Lake Metroparks does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, age, nationality or disability in employment, services, programs or activities. Should special assistance be required in visiting facilities and/or participating in programs or activities of the Lake Metroparks, please call 440-358-7275 at least 48 hours in advance.