

# GETTING TO KNOW...

## **The Western Reserve Photographic Society**

The Western Reserve Photographic Society (WRPS) has been a community partner with Lake Metroparks since September 1988. Meetings are free, open to the public and held every second and fourth Tuesday of the month from 7 to 10 p.m. at Penitentiary Glen Nature Center. Over the years, the club has been instrumental in developing Lake Metroparks' Annual Amateur Photography Contest, now in its 24th year, as well as fostering an appreciation for nature photography through a variety of programming and activities within Lake Metroparks. Members lend their expertise in specific park sponsored programs like Spring Wildflower Photography, Bird Photography, Photo Affair and the popular Fall Mystery Photo Trip. So whether you're a novice with a new digital camera or a seasoned photographer looking to meet and share your knowledge with others, be sure to check out the

Western Reserve Photographic Society! Log on to [wrpsphoto.org](http://wrpsphoto.org) for more information.



*photo by Linda Terdan, member of WRPS*

## **Lake Shore Live Steamers**

Lake Shore Live Steamers (LSLS) has had a longstanding partnership with Lake Metroparks. This group of train enthusiasts has been meeting at Penitentiary Glen Reservation since 1983. In cooperation with the club, the park provides space for the steamers to hold their monthly meetings, have permanent train tracks set up on the property used for "open meets" for family and friends, and also for hosting other dinners and events. In exchange, the LSLS provide the very popular free public miniature train rides to park visitors at special events and every other Sunday from 1 to 3 p.m. throughout the spring, summer and fall seasons.

A recent addition has also included a December train run, weather permitting. They are always looking for new members to share in their passion for trains—if you are interested please ask the Nature Center staff for more information.



*photo by Steven M. Hale*

## **Blackbrook Audubon Society**

Blackbrook Audubon Society is a chapter of the National Audubon Society and serves members in Lake, Geauga and Ashtabula Counties. The club has a long history of involvement with Lake Metroparks and has been holding monthly meetings at Penitentiary Glen Nature Center for more than 20 years. The club lends its expertise and environmental stewardship to park events like Earth Day, International Migratory Bird Day and Wildlife Festival. In addition, the club hosts regular bird walks at Important Bird Areas including Veterans Park, Chagrin River Park and Beaty Landing and shares their sightings with Lake Metroparks' staff for biological inventories. For more information, contact Nature Center Staff.

## **Chagrin Valley Astronomical Society**

The Chagrin Valley Astronomical Society (CVAS) has partnered with Lake Metroparks for many years. This volunteer group of professional and amateur astronomers was founded in 1963 for the purposes of increasing the astronomical knowledge and technique of members and for public service in the community. The group's goals are to promote public education in astronomy, the continuation of useful research, and the preservation of unpolluted skies for future use of both the astronomer and the general public.

With their help, Lake Metroparks has been able to offer many programs that have the added bonus of telescopes! Monthly astronomy nights are a time to find Jupiter's moons or Saturn's rings as well as truly awe-inspiring galaxies and stars! The Super Star Party on August 14 at 8 p.m. at Penitentiary Glen, would not be the same without the help of CVAS. Ten to 15 telescopes explore the night sky as the public gets an up-close and personal look at what the universe has to offer! Many thanks go out to CVAS and all of the volunteer hours they put into helping out Lake Metroparks. For more information, visit [chagrinvalleyastronomy.org](http://chagrinvalleyastronomy.org).



*at Super Star Party*

# We value our partnerships!

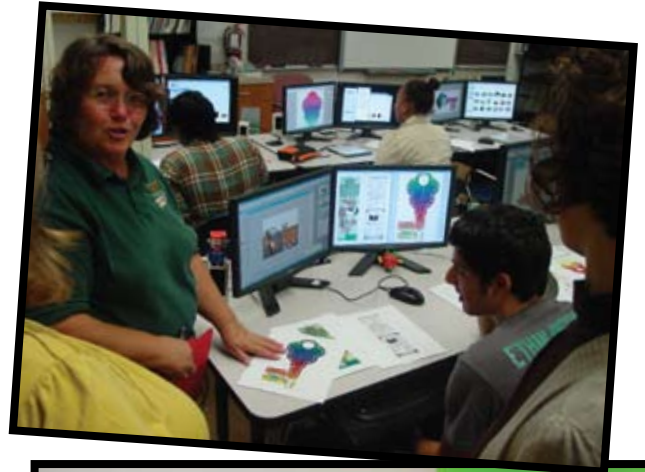
## Mayfield Excel TECC Interactive Media

Lake Metroparks' Marketing Department explored and entered into a creative partnership with Mayfield Excel TECC Interactive Media, a two-year career technical high school program that prepares students for careers in graphic design, videography, website design and related media arts. The senior class designs two exciting projects for Lake Metroparks each year in order to complete curriculum requirements for graduation. These "capstone" projects provide students with field experience to prepare them for their careers.

The students produce a Nature Center events card that lists special events, art shows and train schedules to be handed out throughout the year. Interpretive messages are included and focus on nature or history. The students also develop a souvenir holiday key to highlight Penitentiary Glen's winter exhibit, which runs for six weeks during the holiday season. All visitors take home a key that they can hang on their trees or put in a scrapbook (more than 16,000 keys and 16,000 events cards were distributed in 2009).

Lake Metroparks staff holds several meetings with the students, explaining the projects and providing the text and some of the artwork necessary. Each student works on the project and creates individual products. Lake Metroparks staff members choose the pieces that best represent the theme and they are printed and distributed to Nature Center visitors throughout the year. This is a "real world" work project for the students and gives them a chance to create items for their portfolios for future college or job opportunities.

Through this partnership, Lake Metroparks enhances the educational experience of high school seniors. At the same time, the park system benefits from the production of creative promotional materials. 2010 marks the seventh year for this win-win partnership.



Lake Metroparks staff members meet with seniors from Mayfield Excel TECC to discuss and offer feedback on their holiday key designs.

photos by Mike Caldwell

## Trees for Wildlife

2010 marked the 22nd year of the award-winning Trees for Wildlife program presented to all Lake County first graders. Presenters share information and a Power Point presentation highlighting how trees provide habitats for many types of wildlife while interacting with the students. Woody the Tree (the Trees for Wildlife mascot) shares a story, gives each student a white pine seedling and asks all students to pledge that they will take care of their new trees.

Through a partnership with Lubrizol Corporation, the Trees for Wildlife program provides white pine seedlings to all first grade students in Lake County. The seedlings are always a big hit with the students and teachers and provide a way for students to take their new knowledge home and put it into practice. This year, Lubrizol helped us purchase the white pine seedlings. In addition, 11 Lubrizol representatives were in attendance at presentations this year. Enthusiastic volunteers and staff assisted in providing this program at 46 schools for 2,867 students and 132 teachers.



Chris Lonsway from Lubrizol, Mark Evangelista from Lake Metroparks and volunteer Jane Krehel (Woody) at Orchard Hollow Elementary School in Mentor