

# Newsletter of the Friends of Portage Lakes State Park



Volume 1, Issue 4

Special Edition

Winter 2010

## Recycle Your Christmas Tree After The Holidays

**Recycled trees can become mulch, compost, or wildlife habitat** by Marti Kolb, ODNR

Columbus, Ohio – Before sending your live-cut Christmas tree to the trash, remember that it can find new life after the holidays. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) reminds Ohioans that their trees can be recycled for a variety of uses including mulch, compost and wildlife habitat.

Many local park districts and communities shred Christmas trees for mulch and compost. Trees can even be transformed into wildlife habitat, providing shelter for some creatures during the winter months.

Individuals living in communities without recycling programs might consider chipping and composting their holiday trees. Adding compost to home gardens improves soil quality, stores moisture and reduces weeds. Using Christmas trees to create outdoor brush piles makes ideal homes for wildlife. Trees can also be weighted down and sunk in farm ponds to attract fish and increase habitat.

Before disposing of a live-cut Christmas tree, remember to remove all trimmings including tinsel, garland, lights and ornaments. Be sure you have proper permission before discarding your tree on public land, private land or in ponds. Discarding trees without permission could result in a litter violation.

Call your local solid waste management district at (330) 374-0383 for information on where to recycle live-cut Christmas trees in your area.

## Online registration now opens for 2011 Chase Your Shadow 5K Race

**Register now to reserve your spot** by Mark Snyder



Kickoff the 2011 race season by registering for the Second Annual Chase Your Shadow 5K race/walk on February 5, 2011 today at <http://ohiochallengeseries.com/>. The race will take place in the scenic Portage Lakes State Park on a closed course.

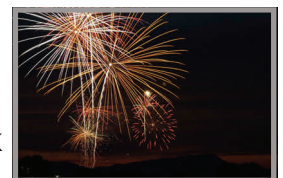
Proceeds from the Second Annual Chase Your Shadow 5K Race will benefit the Friends of Portage Lakes State Park, [www.friendsofportagelakes.org](http://www.friendsofportagelakes.org), a 501(c)3 organization. Founded in 2008, our mission works to preserve for future generations the truly unique natural attributes found in the Portage Lakes. For more information, contact Jerry Davis at (330) 644-1841.

## Welcome New Members

Russel & Betty Friess  
Denise Moore



*Happy New Year*  
from  
Friends of Portage Lakes State Park





Photos by Lew Stamp

## Second Annual Chase Your Shadow 5K Race Is On

Whether there are signs of more **winter** or an early **spring** by Lynn Stamp

Imagine that Karen, a 30-year-old resident of Stow, is an active runner with osteoarthritis. Yep, she's 30 and has arthritis. She believes in living a healthy lifestyle and is deter-

mined to stay active and fit despite the obstacle of arthritis in both knees.

She demonstrates her belief in all of this by running in the Chase Your Shadow 5K Run/Walk for Friends of Portage Lakes State Park last year. **The second annual event is scheduled for 10 a.m. Saturday, February 5, 2011, at Portage Lakes State Park.**

conditions, Karen makes it there, and runs the course with a few others.

She enjoys that same course five weeks later, during the rescheduled race, this time without snow, and

ready to breakout and run or walk. Another definite reason to run/walk is to help preserve gems like Portage Lakes State Park.

**To learn more about the Chase**



with 180 additional runners joining her. Both runs are wonderful, but the snow run is one for the memory book.

The Chase Your Shadow 5K, was specifically designed as a spinoff on the Punxsutawney Groundhog Day frenzy. By the first of February, many are suffering from cabin fever, and are



The race has a huge impact on her. It forces her out of the house and on to the snow-covered park roads. Winter is for running too. The park is stunningly beautiful, decked out in 16 inches of fresh fallen snow, with a well plowed race course to guide her on her run. While the race organizers cancel the race because of driving

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**Your Shadow 5K Run/Walk visit [www.friendsofportagelakes.org](http://www.friendsofportagelakes.org).**

*Top: Runner on snow covered course. Center: 180 runners at rescheduled race.*

*Bottom left: Ohio State Representative elect Todd McKenney and Friends member Cinda Klatil.*

*Bottom right: Mayor of New Franklin, Al Bollas presents trophy to Teresa Ferguson.*

## FoPLSP 2011 Election Results by Mark Snyder

Friends of Portage Lakes State Park are pleased to announce the following results of the 2011 election:

<b>President</b>	<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Director</b>
Larry Hunter	Thomas Fry	Thomas Burge	Mark Snyder	Lynn Stamp

## Let's Try This Again! Name Our Newsletter Contest by Mark Snyder



We need a catchy name for your newsletter and are looking to you for help. Our newsletter is a tool we use to communicate with our members and the community on upcoming events and much more. This newsletter belongs to you and we want your help in naming it! **Please submit your idea to:** [secretary@friendsofportagelakes.org](mailto:secretary@friendsofportagelakes.org). Please have submission in by January 14, 2011 for consideration. A wonderful prize of 4 movies tickets will be given to the winner!

## Mark Your Calendar! New Members are Always Welcome!

**Thursday, January 13, 2011 7 PM, Chase Your Shadow Committee Meeting and Board Meeting**, Portage Lakes Kiwanis Civic Center, 725 Portage Lakes Drive, Akron, Ohio 44319.

**Thursday, January 20, 2011, 7 PM, General Membership Meeting**, Portage Lakes Kiwanis Civic Center, 725 Portage Lakes Drive, Akron, Ohio 44319.

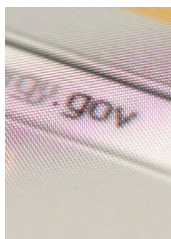
**Saturday, February 5, 2011, 10 AM, Second Annual Chase Your Shadow Race**, Portage Lakes State Park, 5031 Manchester Road, Akron, Ohio, 44319.

**Thursday, February 10, 2011, 7 PM, Board Meeting**, Location to be determined.

**Thursday, February 17, 2011, 7 PM, General Membership Meeting**, Portage Lakes Kiwanis Civic Center, 725 Portage Lakes Drive, Akron, Ohio 44319.

**Thursday, March 10, 2011, Board Meeting**, 7 PM, Location to be determined.

**Thursday, March 17, 2011, 7 PM, General Membership Meeting**, Portage Lakes Kiwanis Civic Center, 725 Portage Lakes Drive, Akron, Ohio 44319.



## Friends of Portage Lakes State Park Launching New Website!

During the first few weeks of January 2011 the groups website [www.friendsofportagelakes.org](http://www.friendsofportagelakes.org) will go live to coordinate with the logo. If you have any questions or comments, please submit them to Mark Snyder at [secretary@friendsofportagelakes.org](mailto:secretary@friendsofportagelakes.org).

## Portage Lakes Calendars Make Wonderful Gifts

Now available from members of the Friends of Portage Lakes State Park the 2011 Portage Lakes Calendar. The third annual 13-month calendar hopes to establish a new Portage Lakes tradition and is dedicated to promoting the Portage Lakes area.





FRIENDS OF PORTAGE LAKES STATE PARK

PO BOX 26463

AKRON OH 44319-6463

**Larry Hunter**, President

**Tom Fry**, Vice President

**Tom Burge**, Treasurer

**Mark Snyder**, Secretary

**Lynn Stamp**, Director

**Mark Snyder**, Newsletter Editor

*We encourage anyone with an idea, suggestions, or submittal to send it to Mark Snyder at [secretary@friendsofportagelakes.org](mailto:secretary@friendsofportagelakes.org) by January 14, 2011.*