



FRIENDS OF PORTAGE LAKES STATE PARK

Summit County, Ohio

Volume 1, Issue 1

FriendsOfPortageLakes.com

Summer 2010

From the President by Larry Hunter

What an exciting time to be a member of Friends of the Portage Lakes State Park! We had our first annual "Chase Your Shadow" Walk/Race. Jerry Davis and his committee did an excellent job. Everyone thought it was great and are looking forward to participating next year.

Plans are in the works for the new DOG PARK. We have been allocated several acres in the New State Park (Manchester Road) to build a world class facility for exercising dogs. Plans include dividing dogs into groups according to weight, an agility course, and a bathing area. Fundraising is underway for this worthwhile project. Hopefully, construction can begin this fall.

Another great addition to Portage Lakes State Park is a planned a BUTTERFLY TRAIL, located around the perimeter of the DOG PARK. This is a big project requiring about 250 people to Adopt-A-Site. The plan is to use both sides of the trail. (Perennials on one side, annuals on the other) 50% of the plants must be indigenous to OHIO. All plant groups must be labeled. We want this to be an educational adventure as well as beautiful addition to the Park.

Being stewards of the land at this time in the history of the Portage Lakes State Park, we must somehow balance the recreational needs of people and the habitat requirements of our wildlife. As our few remaining woodlots are destroyed and farms become subdivisions and shopping centers, our parks are going to be the only place left for any wildlife in urban areas. We must remember this as we plan for the future.

Looking forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

**Portage Lakes Advisory Council
&
Friends of Portage Lakes State Park**
Covered Dish/Picnic & Meeting

Join us for
good food, a short business meeting,
and a special program on wildlife.
Thursday, July 15 at 6:30 p.m.

Turkeyfoot Commons Association, Inc.
4737 Bickford Avenue
Akron, Ohio 44319

Table service, hot dogs, and drinks will be provided.
R.S.V.P. 330-644-1540 by July 14, 2010

Do  Something Wild

Adopt-a-Site on the

Friends of
Portage Lakes State Park
Bird and Butterfly Trail

News from the Portage Lakes State Park, by Todd Metz, CPM, Assistant Park Manager

It has been a year now since I was asked to help with the re-organization and leadership of the Friends of Portage Lakes State Parks. At that time I could see the potential of this group. They had great ideas, enthusiasm and most of all a desire to help Portage Lakes State Park. They just needed some positive reinforcement and very little direction. They basically had the crew but needed someone to set the ship on the right bearing. Within the first month they had their governed body or officers, their 501C-3 application started and their draft bylaws. But, most off all, their first special event was planned. That first event, the Chase Your Shadow 5k Walk/Run really showed me how efficient they were as a team. I have been involved with many 5k runs and this was the best organized and advertised one thus far. Even as 20 inches of snow fell on the day of the race, the volunteers were there in full force and ready for the participants. However, at the last minute due to safety, the event was rescheduled for another day. The event came and went and was a huge success. I knew at that time that only good things would come of this group.

As I see this group continue to grow with new ideas and enthusiasm I can't wait to see what's to come for Portage Lakes State Park and the surrounding communities. As our parks continue to endure budget cuts and personnel shortfalls, it is groups like this that will continue to assist us in providing outdoor recreational opportunities for our visitors. However, this group needs help just as we do. I encourage the citizens of the Portage Lakes Areas to possibly consider being a member of the Friends Group and give back to what has given to you for so many years. Regardless of your talents or expertise, there is a spot for you. These are exciting times at the park and with this group. I look forward to working with all of you as we continue to provide great things for not only the citizens of the Portage Lakes Area but also for all of Ohio to enjoy. Keep up the good work and lets keep this ship headed in a positive direction.

2011 Membership Campaign Begins

As we look forward to the new year a new membership campaign begins. Membership in the Friends of the Portage Lakes State Park provides financial support to our growing organization. Not everyone wants to participate in the same way. We offer a variety of volunteer options so you can get involved and support the park. Areas where assistance is needed included, **Kids Zone, Disc Golf, Park Clean-up, Dog Park, Blue Bird Boxes, Bird and Butterfly Trail**. To learn of these and other projects email us at friends@friendsofportagelakes.com.

A friendly reminder that all 2010 membership dues should be paid by your next meeting!

Annual Membership Information	
Name	_____
Address	_____
City	_____ State _____
Phone	_____ Zip _____
Email	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> Family \$25 <input type="checkbox"/> Donor \$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> Optional Donation \$ _____
Check made payable to Friends of Portage Lakes State Park 5031 Manchester Road Akron, Ohio 44319 Membership is tax deductible and good for one calendar year.	

Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife to Host Event!

The ODNR Division of Wildlife will host our August 19th meeting of The Friends of Portage Lakes State Park Meeting, at their headquarters on Portage Lakes Drive. This event is open to the public and will cover two wild life biologists (fish & birds) about their work here in the Portage Lakes, followed by a Q&A and a tour of the island.

Highlights from the Buckeye MartinFest by Margaret Frost

The Buckeye MartinFest took place on Sunday, June 20th at the Kiwanis Civic Center on Portage Lakes Drive. This is the 2nd year this state wide special event has been held here. The Portage Lake Purple Martin Association presented the day long activities in partnership with the Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources-Division of Wildlife, Division of Parks and Recreation and Metro Parks-serving Summit County. They had table top displays at the Civic Center along with the Greater Akron Audubon Society, Friends of the Park, PLAC, Kiwanis, and others.

Sammie Frost and Latté Bergholz acted as "Good Will Ambassadors" for the new dog park to be built in Portage Lakes Park. They did a tail-wagging job of charming all the spectators.

At 2:00 in the afternoon, activities began at the State Mill Road Launch Ramp next to the parking lot. Everyone was welcome to participate in feeding the Martins scrambled eggs. Paul Toth, president of the PLPMA, demonstrated the technique.

This year we have approximately 140 nesting pair and hopefully about 500 will fledge. Larry Hunter, Chief Advisor of the group, is hoping that the Portage Lakes area will soon be designated Purple Martin Capital of Ohio.

Portage Lakes Disc Golf Association Update by Steve Godar

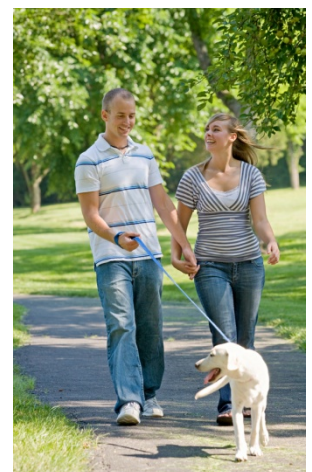
We are continuing to tweak the front nine with removal of trees and shrubs. There is poison ivy around and I was informed by Bruce Carpenter that the state would spray. Work on the back nine is slowly continuing and there is much still left to clear. The state is focused on getting Wingfoot ready and that leaves us without much help from them at the moment. Again, I was just assured by Bruce Carpenter that we will be able to have the state come in with some heavy equipment to help clear on the back nine. This will happen soon after Wingfoot is ready. We have a scramble set up on some Saturdays with some work detail included in the day. Temporary signage should be posted sometime soon. Concrete tee pads are in our future plans. These are not cheap, but we hope to find ways to raise funds and possible solicit help and donations from local people with connections. The web site is under constant update. A course map has just been added as well as an on line disc golf shopping store.

We have a Facebook presence and we encourage everyone to become a fan! We are making headway and the course is getting play with good reviews. And of course, we are always looking for volunteers to assist with our efforts. For more information please contact Steve Godar, League Administrator, at (330) 644-0544 or by e-mail at steve@pldga.com, or visit website at www.portagelakesdiscgolf.com.

Wondering How To Get Involved? by Peg Bergholz

The Friends of Portage Lakes State Parks in conjunction with park officials on developing a new dog park surrounded by a butterfly and hummingbird trail. The new park will be located closer to the park entrance and would be accessible year round. It is going to take a lot of hard work to make this dream happen but if we all pull together I know it can happen.

We are working on receiving grant money from all sources. If anyone is aware of a possible grant sources please feel free to contact the Friends. The new dog park will accommodate dogs of all sizes and make it more comfortable for their humans to relax and get to know new people. We are excited about this project and will keep everyone updated on its progress, for more information please contact Peg Bergholz at (330) 794-5823 or by email at peggybrgh@hotmail.com.





Make A Donation Every Time You Shop Online!

Shop at the over 600 stores at the Mall at <http://www.iGive.com/foplsp>, like Barnes & Noble, Eddie Bauer, Lands' End and Expedia. Up to 26% of each purchase will go to the Friends group! Go to <http://www.iGive.com/foplsp> and register for free, no extra costs or obligations. Just enter your information and hit "Join Here." Think of online shopping at iGive.com as another way to raise money for the Friends, only it doesn't cost you an extra penny!



Save the Date!

The 2nd Annual Chase Your Shadow Race a 5K will be held on Saturday, February 5, 2011. Mark your calendar to enjoy a 5K Run/Walk on a scenic closed course in the Portage Lakes State Park, 5031 Manchester Road, Akron, OH 44319, a \$20.00 entry fee if required, there is a free T-shirt to all pre-registered entrants with age-group awards and prizes. For more details contact Race Chairman Jerry Davis at (330) 644-1841 or FriendsOfPortageLakes.com. All proceeds go to the Friends of the Portage Lakes State Park.



Mark Your Calendar! New Members Are Always Welcome!

The Friends of the Portage Lakes State Park meets the third Thursday of every month.

Thursday, 7/15/2010, 6:30 PM, Covered Dish Picnic the Turkeyfoot East Shore Association Commons.

Thursday, 8/19/2010, 7 PM, Division of Wildlife District Three Office, 912 Portage Lakes Drive.

Thursday, 09/16/10, 7 PM, Portage Lakes Kiwanis Civic Center, 725 Portage Lakes Drive.



Find Us on Facebook!

Want to stay connected with the Friends of the Portage Lakes State Park follow us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/PortageLakesStatePark>.



Contact Us

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 Tom Fry, Vice President
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