



Portage Park District

September 2018 Newsletter

In the parks

Tour des Trees

Author: Beth Buchanan

Towner's Woods was the site of a very special tree blessing on August 1st. Over 60 bicyclists from all over the country were on hand to dedicate and bless a Black Gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*) planted in memory of Richard (Dick) Abbott. Mr. Abbott is well known in the arboriculture industry as the founder of ACRT, Inc., a utility forestry consulting and training company. He also served as a Portage County Park District Commissioner for five years. The cyclists were participating in the TREE Fund's 26th annual Tour des Trees bicycle ride that raised over \$325,000 this year for arboriculture research, training and scholarships. The Tour des Trees riders started in Columbus and had a beautiful 580 mile route north through Mohican State Forest, Amish Country, Akron, Kent, Cleveland, and back to Columbus where many participated in the International Society of Arboriculture conference.



The TREE Fund (www.treefund.org) has outreach programs and events along the Tour des Trees route to celebrate trees with memorial plantings and blessings, as well as educational programs for children. Tour des Trees riders from Ohio arranged this special tree planting/blessing in memory of Dick Abbott and to showcase Towner's Woods, Portage Park District's most popular park.

This Issue

[Green Portage](#)

[Volunteers](#)

[Wild Hikes](#)

The Year of the Trail

"Turning Ohio Into a Web of Trails"

Author: Mark Urycki

In June, Ohio's General Assembly designated 2018 as "The Year of the Trail." Now that may sound like National Donut Day, but in this case the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) is doing something about it.

[Read the full article.](#)

Notable dates

Haymaker Farm Tour

September 15

[For more information click here](#)

Ravenna Balloon A-Fair

September 15-16th

Green Portage

Ten Miles of History

**Author: Emliss Ricks, steward of the Hiram College
James H. Barrow Field Station**

A pleasant walk along the Headwaters Trail, managed primarily by the Portage Park District, between Garrettsville and Mantua, in northern Portage County is both a lesson in natural and human history. These rolling hills are covered in a mantle of thick loose soils deposited here thousands of years ago following the advance of glacial ice during the Pleistocene period. Just below this till are much older rocks that date back over three hundred million years ago when lowlands, adjacent to shallow seas, made up much of this part of the world. Forty Foot Falls, lying between State Route 700 and Asbury Road, is an example of the numerous sandstone outcrops visible in northern Portage. In winter the falls display a marvelous ice sculpture for hikers.



[Click here to read the full article.](#)

Volunteering

Volunteers updates

This year has been a wonderful time for growing our volunteer program and learning how to use it to support the Portage Park District's needs. As we enter fall, we will be recruiting for additional volunteers and begin holding orientations again. Look for those dates soon!

Upcoming needs:

Ravenna Balloon A-Fair parade

Sept. 15, 8:30- 10:30 a.m.

15-20 volunteers needed to walk in parade

1 person for mascot costume

Bike and Pedestrian Count

Sept. 16, 2-4 p.m.

4 volunteers needed, 2 per site

Locations: Headwaters Trail, Mill St. Trailhead & Freedom St. Trailhead

Brimfest parade

Sept. 22, 8:30-11 a.m.

15-20 volunteers needed

1 person for mascot costume

If you are interested in any of these volunteer opportunities, email [Andrea](#) for additional information.

[For more information
click here](#)

A conversation about personal safety while walking, running, hiking and biking
September 18, 6 p.m.
Sequoia Wellness
The NEW Center Atrium
If you plan to attend, call Sequoia Wellness at 330-325-6102

Brimfest 2018

September 20-23rd

[For more information
click here](#)

National Public Lands Day

September 22nd

[For more information,
click here](#)

Bike Your Park Day

September 29th

[For more information,
click here](#)

Like us on Facebook



Follow on Twitter



Year of the American Beech



The theme for 2018 is the year of the American Beech to celebrate the role of this keystone species of our eastern Ohio forests, and to bring awareness to the leaf disease that has begun to affect the species in northeast Ohio.

To participate, just walk, hike, skip, jog, run or stroll on 8 of the following trails before December 31st to earn a hiking staff (1st year) and/or a 2018 Wild Hikes medallion. **Start your challenge today!**

Portage Park District | 330-297-7728 | admin@portageparkdistrict.org |
705 Oakwood Street, Suite G-4 | Ravenna, OH 44266

Visit our website | portageparkdistrict.org

Copyright © 2017. All Rights Reserved.