



# MIAMI VALLEY OUTDOOR CLUB

March 2007

## *Cleaning Up Our Local Rivers*

### **Membership Meeting, March 6**

A representative of the Miami County Soil and Water Conservation District will give a presentation on local river clean up projects. The program will begin at 7:00 p.m., preceded by the business meeting at 6:30 p.m. Come at 6:00 p.m. for socializing and trip planning. The meeting will be at Wegerzyn Garden Center, 1301 E. Siebenthaler Ave., Dayton.

### **MVOC Elections This Month**

Prior to the presentation by our guest speaker, we will be electing a new slate of officers. The nominees/volunteers are listed below. We will also take additional nominations before the vote.

President: **Sandy Todd**

Vice President: **Gary Mount**

Secretary/Treasurer: **Dale Bockhorst**

Programs Director: **Dwight Gehring**

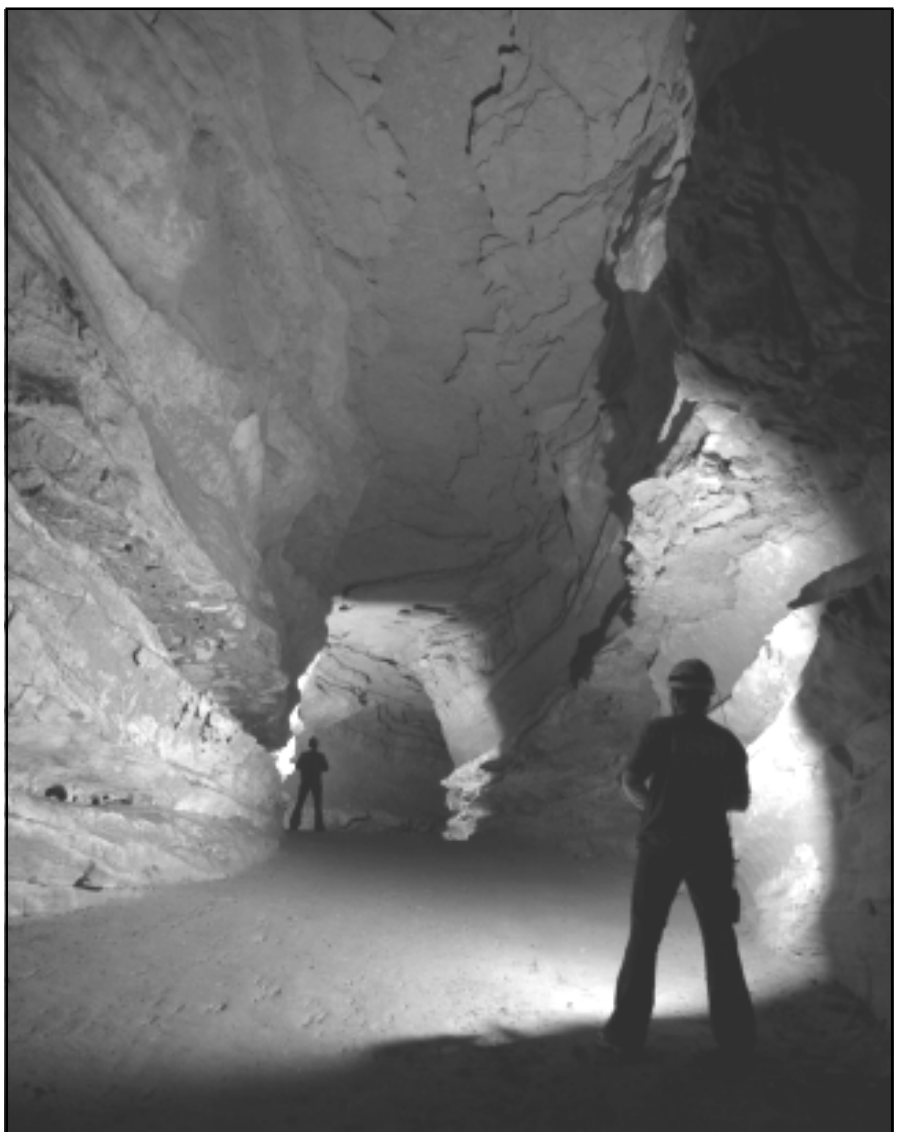
Activities Director: **Donna Gehring**

Newsletter Editor: **Lindy McDonough**

Publicity/Webmaster: **Shari Christy**

### **New Starting Time for Meetings at Wegerzyn**

MVOC is now required to be out of Wegerzyn Garden Center by 9:00 p.m. The doors will be open at 6:00, the business meeting will start at 6:30 and the guest speaker will start at 7:00



### ***Experience the Labyrinth!***

*Another caving adventure coming up in April. Above is the Bunker Hill section of the Great Saltpetre Cave in Rockcastle County, Kentucky. (photo by Nathan Williams) See details page 3.*

## March Activities

### Urban Krag Wednesdays

**March 7, 14, 21 & 28**

Whether seasoned or green, you can join us for indoor rock climbing, where you can meet other enthusiasts and “learn the ropes.” We meet at the Urban Krag, 125 Clay St. in the Oregon District, downtown Dayton at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesdays. Please let contact person Donna Gehring know in advance if you plan to attend 836-8515.

### Board Meeting, Thursday, March 15

This month’s board meeting will be at Marion’s Pizza Restaurant, 3443 N. Dixie Dr., 6:00 p.m. All club members are welcome.

### Skunk Cabbage Hike, Brukner Nature Center, Sunday, March 11

Join Jim and Connie Steele on a hike at Brukner Nature Center on Sunday, March 11. The goal is to search for signs of early spring in the forest, especially the Skunk Cabbage.

The center features 6 miles of trails running through a variety of ecological areas and terrain that go from steep and rugged to flat and wandering. We plan to start hiking at 2 pm. Afterwards, for those interested, we will travel to nearby Troy for dinner. Note that there is a trail use fee on Sunday for non-members: \$1.00 per adult, \$0.25 per child, and/or \$2.00 per family. Dogs are not allowed on the trails. Brukner Nature Center is located just 5 miles west of Troy, Ohio, off of State Route 55. To reach the center, take exit # 73 off of I-75 and travel west on State Route 55 for approximately 2.4 miles. Turn right onto Horseshoe Bend Rd. and the entrance to the Brukner Nature Center will be 2.1 mi. down on the right. Call the Steeles at 698-5397 if interested or email connsteele@msn.com.

### Fort Hill Day Trip, Saturday, March 31

Fort Hill State Memorial is a nature preserve containing one of the best preserved Indian hilltop enclosures in North America. The Hopewell Indians (100 B.C.-A.D. 500) constructed the 1.5 mile long earthwork hilltop enclosure as well as at least two ceremonial buildings and probably a village in the Brush Creek Valley.

Lying at the western edge of the Allegheny Plateau, immediately south of the glacial boundary, this hilly area contains an impressive diversity of

bedrock, soils, flora, and fauna. There are 11 miles of hiking trails at the 1,200 acre preserve as well as a picnic area.

Fort Hill is located off of State Route 41 on Township Road 256, five miles north of Sinking Springs and three miles south of Cynthiana in Highland County.

Sign up at the March meeting or e-mail/call dalebockhorst@yahoo.com/433-5533. We will organize car pools.

## Activity Reports

### Third Annual Chili Cook-Off & Hike at Sycamore State Park, Feb. 4

*By Sandy Todd*

On a cold and blustery day 20 hearty MVOC’ers met at Sycamore State daybarn to partake of seven different varieties of chili and finish with rich, wonderful desserts. Some participants hiked and everyone ate. This year, Sandy Todd was the winner of the best chili and took home the coveted GOLDEN SPOON. A good day was had by all.

### North to Snowy Canada, Feb. 12 - 17

*by Jeanne Boeke,*

*Donna Gehring and Sue Vanage*

Eight snow deprived MVOC’ers packed up our warmest clothes and arctic play equipment and headed north on I-75 through Michigan to Sault Ste. Marie and eventually to the Stokely Creek world class cross-country ski resort.

The two nights and one day we spent in Sault Ste. Marie enabled us to experience the Bon Soo Winter Festival. The highlights were: the snow sculptures, the polar bear plunge, snowmobile rides, snow shoeing along a creek, and witnessing an arctic style campout by the Canadian Forces recruitment team. The bum slide and the snow canoe race provided big fun as well.

Virginia Wood and Bob Kelley were probably the only ones to escape Canada without a snowmobile ride. On the way to Stokely Dave and Virginia Wood enjoyed skiing some nice trails in the Upper Peninsula. Long time MVOC’er Emma Pleasant mostly enjoyed the scenery and the food from the cozy comfort of the lodge.

At Stokely Creek this year we had rooms at the lodge rather than cabins. It was much nicer because we didn’t have to go outside to get to the dining room. Every morning after a hearty sumptuous breakfast we skied from the lodge to a variety

of adventurous destinations in the Algoma Highland Conservancy area.

Some of us returned for a hot, delicious, plentiful lunch and some stayed out for the whole day and carried a bag lunches. After lunch, we set out for an afternoon ski or walk through the woods and delighted ourselves viewing snow-topped trees. We transversed up and down hills throughout several pine forests. The rugged cliffs and frozen waterfalls provided breathtaking views. One adventurous group took a day trip up to the Sam Lake Lookout for a beautiful view of Batchawanna Bay of Lake Superior. It was almost a "Take your skis for a walk," day.

Part of every trip, of course in the research for the next big adventure. While the Woods were skiing through the UP to Stokely Creek, their scouting efforts proved invaluable toward that end. A good time was had by all. We're looking forward to BIG WINTER FUN in 2008.

## Other Items of Interest

### **MVOC Photo Exhibit thru March 29**

MVOC members have over 70 photos of club and personal trips in the out-of-doors on display at the Dayton Metro Library, 215 E. 3rd St. in downtown Dayton. The images span the 1970's to 2006 and range from local scenes to overseas.

### **Camping, Hiking and Caving at the Great Saltpetre Cave Preserve in Kentucky, April 27-29**

Enjoy the spring wildflower season with some car camping, hiking and possibly wild caving. Join Andy Niekamp on a trip to the 305 acre Great Saltpetre Cave Preserve in the rugged foothills of the Appalachian Mountains near Mount Vernon, Kentucky in Rockcastle County, an area riddled with hundreds of caves.

The Great Saltpetre Cave is within walking distance of the camping area and is accessible to all ages. During the War of 1812 the cave was used for the production of gunpowder. Later it was used for barn dances and commercial tours and more recently the location of a feature film. No special equipment is required. It has flat floors, electric lights and artifacts from the mining days. The cave is approximately one mile long and Andy will be leading several tours through it.

Andy will also be leading a beginners trip to the Sinks of The Roundstone Cave on Saturday for

both seasoned and new cavers. The 3-4 hour trip is mainly walking passages but some crawling, climbing and stooping is required. Plan on getting a bit wet and muddy. The cave contains the largest known cave passage in the region and has a very scenic entrance. Andy will help outfit those without the required gear.

There are also several hiking trails in the Preserve, if you prefer.

The Preserve has primitive, RV, electrified and level campsites with city water, a picnic shelter, shower house, a pay phone, port-a-johns and outhouses. Although the Preserve and cave are closed to the public, special arrangements have been made to allow MVOC members stay there for the weekend. Camping is \$4/person/night. The Preserve is located nine miles east of I-75 exit #59 on SR-1004.

For the tourist in you, there are many nearby attractions including a state park, a national forest, Civil War sites and country music venues, to name a few.

There is something for every outdoor enthusiast this weekend. Interested? Email Andy Niekamp at andyniekamp@gmail.com or call 937-296-0245.

### **This Could Be Your Last Newsletter!**

You don't want to stop getting your MVOC newsletter, do you? Be sure to renew your membership this month, so you won't miss out on any MVOC activities in 2007. A membership gets you the monthly MVOC newsletter, email notices and lots of outdoor opportunities. Don't forget to send a membership response form along with the 2007 dues. This is your final newsletter without a renewal.

### **Coming Up**

- April 3..... Monthly Meeting, Andy Niekamp, Caving
- April 21..... Trail Maintenance, Wildcat Hollow
- Apr. 27-29.. Great Saltpetre Cave Outing
- May 1..... Monthly Meeting at Gander Mountain - Larry Budd - 7,000 miles on the Pacific Crest, Continental Divide and Appalachian Trails
- May 5..... SunWatch Sleepover \$25

## April Newsletter Deadline

March 16, 2007

## Membership Response Form

Annual dues are \$16 for singles or \$24 for families. New members joining after July 1 may pay half a year's dues.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ I'd like to join \_\_\_\_\_ I'd like to renew \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ I'd like more information \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle one: (Include) (Do not include) my name and information on the annual roster sent to all MVOC members.

I hereby declare that I am at least 18 years of age and agree to abide by the rules and regulations of the Miami Valley Outdoor Club. I do hereby relieve the Miami Valley Outdoor Club and/or its officers and members from all responsibility and liability regarding any loss, injury, or accidents incurred at, or related to, any club activity or function.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### *MVOC Officers*

President:	Connie Steele	698-5397	connsteele@msn.com
Vice President:	Gary Mount	367-6702	glmount@yahoo.com
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### **Miami Valley Outdoor Club**

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