



Friends of Erie MetroParks Update

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Sue Stum

EMP Staff

Melissa Price
Mark Malone
Mike Hensley

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20th Annual Gathering – April 21, 2024 12:30 – 2:00 Gardening for Pollinators: What You Choose To Plant in Your Yard Matters

Great Food
Great Fellowship

Chelsea Gottfried works as a naturalist for the Crawford Park District, which is located in North Central Ohio. In 2020, she started Forest Friends, a nature-based preschool where young children can learn, develop, and discover in a nature setting rather than in a traditional classroom. She also does environmental education outreach for public schools, various organizations, and throughout her community. Chelsea graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University in 2007, studying early childhood education, biology, and psychology. She is a self-taught entomologist whose areas of expertise are native bees, moths, dragonflies, and damselflies. Chelsea's passions include native plant gardening (she is currently planning a conversion of



her three-acre lawn to a pollinator prairie) and nature macrophotography. Her first book *Gardening for Moths: A Regional Guide*, which she co-authored with Jim McCormac, was released in February 2023 and features many of her photos.

The Roger Johnson Nature Center



Roger and his wife Diane have volunteered at EMP since 1999 as butterfly monitors. In the ensuing years, they have served as trail markers, pumpkin painting organizers, tractor drivers and helped with nature camp and many special events. We lost Roger in 2015 and wish to thank his family for their generous contribution and remember him with this honor.



Amy Bowman-Moore

We will miss you ...



After 20 years of public service, with 15 of those years at Erie MetroParks, Amy is retiring as Executive Director of Erie MetroParks. Amy worked hard to improve community relations, stabilize the budget, and pass a replacement levy. In Erie MetroParks 2019

levy cycle, a renewal levy passed in all precincts by an astounding 78%! She secured outside funding to acquire Hoffman Forest MetroPark and an additional 74 acres at Wyandot Wetland MetroPark. This critical green space is now protected forever.

In Amy's last few years, she served on many local boards. Throughout her career, Amy chaired committees for the statewide Ohio Parks and Recreation Association (OPRA), and in 2021 served as President of OPRA.

And finally, when it would have been easy to coast towards retirement, Amy began the project of funding and building new state-of-the-art nature center for the people of Erie County. We are grateful for Amy's impact in our community and a legacy that will outlast her years at Erie MetroParks.

Congratulations and enjoy your retirement!

(Melissa Price)

Melissa Price

Our new Director



Melissa has over 25 years of overall work experience within the public sector, and this December marked 21 years with the park district. As the Deputy Director, Melissa assisted the Executive Director in administration of the park district, served as Acting Executive Director when necessary, and operated as the Fiscal Agent of the Board of Park Commissioners from 2010 through 2022. Melissa is a member of Ohio Parks and Recreation Association and over the years has served on their statewide sign and education committees.



Melissa encourages teamwork, supports staff, and motivates others in life and work. She was recently an invited speaker at OPRA's Women in Leadership Conference where she spoke about the importance of mental health.

Outside of the office, she loves spending time with family, enjoying nature, and reading. Not many know, but Melissa's love of others took her to Jamaica on a missionary trip. (Beth Ferback)



Sue Daniel, Melissa Price, Mike Hensley, and Tara Kauffman

Family Nature Area

The Deering Family Nature Area sponsored by Joyce & Daryl Deering features a Window on Wildlife, a live turtle environment, a children's library, and a large hollow tree for children and adults to enjoy.

