

Miami Group Happenings

Ohio



<http://www.sierraclub.org> (National)
<http://ohiosierraclub.org> (State)
<http://www.miamigroup.org> (Local)

www.miamigroup.org

INNINGS

Tuesday January 3, 2017 at 7:00 - 8:55 p.m.

The Un-Natural History Of The Mill Creek



Dr. Stanley Hedeem will review how pollution and flood control activities have degraded the urban stream.

A native of Evanston, Illinois, Dr. Hedeem received a B.A. in Biology at Augustana College and a Ph.D. in Zoology at the University of Minnesota. He taught ecology for over four decades at Xavier University, where he also variously served as Biology Department Chair and Dean of Arts and Sciences.

(Continued on page 2)

Monday February 6, 2017 at 7:00 - 8:55 p.m.

Open Forum Environmental Issues

This Innings will be an open discussion moderated by Marie Kocoshis and include Nathan Alley, Bob Park, Josh Clyde, Marilyn Wall and others. We'll be discussing the new administration and moving forward locally and nationally on a variety of issues.

The Miami Group has been deeply involved with local and national environmental issues. With the Duke Energy pipeline, our group has formed an alliance with NOPE (Neighbors Opposed to Pipeline Expansion), and

(Continued on page 2)

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About Innings

Innings is our general membership meeting, held on the first Monday of the month (Except Monday holiday)

Meeting Location:

Scouting Achievement Center: 10078 Reading Rd. Cinti., OH 45241 - in Evendale

Meeting Schedule:

miamigroup.org/sierra-club-meetings/
Information: Alvin Denenberg 513-508-7731; alvingden@gmail.com

Inclement weather cancellation message:

Scouting Achievement Center 513-577-7700

Meetup Events:

Meetup.com/SierraOutings/

Environmental Activism Meetup:

Meetup.com/Environmental-Activism-Miami-Group-Sierra-Club/

Miami Group website:

<http://www.miamigroup.org>

Facebook:

[Sierraclubmiamigroupohio](https://www.facebook.com/Sierraclubmiamigroupohio)

Twitter: @SierraClubSWOH

[@cleanupMSDGC](https://twitter.com/cleanupMSDGC)

General questions: 513-861-4001

Miamigroupsierraclub@gmail.com

Political:

Gail Lewin 513-729-2281 or gslewin1@fuse.net

Outings:

Jay Freeman 513-631-7642 or jhf@fuse.net

Transportation:

Chris Curran 513-232-4905 or currancp@gmail.com

Happenings Team:

Marie Kocoshis 513-233-0972 or pskocoshis@cinci.rr.com

Membership:

Karen Nagel 513-542-5259 or nagelkm817@yahoo.com

Excom Chair:

Marilyn Wall 513-226-9235 or marilyn.wall@sierraclub.org

See the last page or website miamigroup.org for complete list of committee contacts.

Change of Address:

address.changes@sierraclub.org or call Sierra Club National Membership Dept. 415-977-5653 (9:00-5:00 PST)

(Feb. Innings continued from page 1)

nationally, the Sierra Club is pro-active in the pipeline opposition at Standing Rock, North Dakota.

BY MICHAEL BRUNE:

Environmental Justice Program: At the Sierra Club, we are diligently working to explore the integration of social justice and environmental concerns. Our program seeks to provide an effective framework for addressing the damage, risk, and discrimination facing so many communities today. By encouraging, connecting, and advising grassroots and community organizations, we hope to foster the growth of the environmental justice movement so that oppressed communities will find justice and everyone can experience the benefits of a healthy and sustainable future.

(this statement is from Michael Brune, Executive Director, Sierra Club)

<http://sierraclub.org/michael-brune/2016/08/dakota-access-pipeline>

Announcements

Upcoming Inning Monday March 6, 2017 at 7:00 - 8:55 p.m.

“Trip to Madagascar”
by Randy and Jan Johnson

ExCom Congratulations And Thank Yous

Congratulations to our newly elected ExCom (Executive Committee) members:

Muslim Contractor, Josh Clyde, Marie Kocoshis, and Gail Lewin. Their term starts at our first January meeting. Many thanks to our two ExCom members who are departing: **Elizabeth Durrell and Bob Park.** We appreciate all their work and I’m sure we’ll see them engaged in other Sierra Club work.

(Jan. Innings continued from page 1)

Dr. Hedeem has published papers on such topics as population ecology, animal behavior, and water pollution, as well as books about the Little Miami River, the Mill Creek, Big Bone Lick, and the natural history of the Cincinnati region. He has served as a member of the Ohio Biological Survey Steering Committee, the Vice President of the Cincinnati Nature Center, and the Chair of the Hamilton County Environmental Action Commission. Since his retirement, Stan spends most of his time as a collections assistant at the Cincinnati Museum Center.

Article from Toledo Blade: <http://www.toledoblade.com/Energy/2016/12/27/Ohio-governor-vetoes-bill-making-renewable-mandates-optional.html>

Kasich vetoes bill delaying renewable energy mandates

COLUMBUS — Gov. John Kasich today made good on his threat to veto a legislative effort to again delay enforcement of Ohio's requirement that utilities find more of their electricity from renewable sources.

Barring a legislative override of his veto, the mandates fought by the utilities and major industrial users of electricity will resume on Jan. 1, although now two years behind schedule.

By 2027, FirstEnergy, American Electric Power, and other utilities must find 12.5 percent of their power from true renewable sources like wind, solar, and hydroelectric.

They must also work with their customers to reduce electricity usage by customers by 22.2 percent by 2027. House Bill 554, sponsored by Rep. Ron Amstutz (R., Wooster), would have reduced that to 17.2 percent.

Governor Kasich said the legislation could hinder progress made over the last six years in expanding the state's economy to create and retain jobs.

"Job creators have attributed their reasons for expanding, growing and creating jobs in Ohio to, among other things, our state's stable fiscal health, jobs-friendly tax climate and sound regulatory policies — as well as our state's wide range of energy generation options," he said. "Sub. HB 554 risks undermining this progress by taking away some of those energy generation options, particularly the very options most prized by the companies poised to create many jobs in Ohio in the coming years, such as high technology firms."

The Senate had passed the bill 18-13 and the House by 56-34, margins that would not be large enough to override Mr. Kasich's vote. The Senate would have to pick up two more votes and the House four.

"I commend Governor Kasich for rejecting attempts by the legislature to protect dirty, outdated, and expensive energy sources, and we look to him to set a proactive clean-energy vision for our state," said Jen Miller, director of Sierra Club Ohio.

"Before the legislature gutted our energy efficiency and renewable energy standards in 2014, those programs were providing reduced energy costs, creating energy jobs, and improving air quality," she said.

She wasn't buying the argument of supporters of the freeze that the utilities were going to move in the direction of renewable energy even if specific mandates weren't etched into law.

"Even though energy efficiency, wind, and solar are cheaper than coal and nuclear power, we know that FirstEnergy still wants to buy from its own nuclear and coal plants.," Ms. Miller said. "The mandates need to make sure that Ohio remains part of the clean energy marketplace. The entire world is doubling down on energy efficiency, wind, and solar, and Ohio has opportunity to design, develop, and manufacture those technologies."

The mandates were put in place in 2008, and each year the incremental benchmark that utilities were expected to meet climbed on the way toward 12.5 percent.

Two years ago, Mr. Kasich signed a law freezing the benchmark at the 2014 level of 2.5 percent for two years. A legislative committee that studied the issue later recommended extending that freeze indefinitely, but Mr. Kasich insisted that freeze was just temporary to give lawmakers time to adjust, but not eliminate, the mandates.

Lawmakers tried to appease Mr. Kasich by passing House Bill 554 that would have

maintained the long-term goal and allow the benchmarks to resume their annual climb. But there would have been no penalties on the utilities for failing to meet those benchmarks until 2019.

"I think the energy standards bill that we passed, if you look at it, is a pretty fair bill that we were enacting upon the recommendations of the study committee....," House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R., Clarksville) said last week.

"We have a new federal administration coming in that could make a lot of different impacts," he said. "We shouldn't be stuck in a mandate."

While Republicans were more likely to support the bill, the issue crossed party and geographic lines. Some Republicans in northwest Ohio, where wind and solar industries have taken root, joined Democrats in opposition.

Mr. Kasich also vetoed a proposed expansion of an existing sales tax exemption for the oil and natural gas industry inserted into Senate Bill 235 and vetoed Senate Bill 329 that would have put expiration dates on the lives of state agencies.

The state has maintained that the tax exemption change could cost the state \$264 million at a time it can't afford it. The oil and natural gas industry, however, has disputed this.

Senate Bill 329 would have placed expiration dates on state agencies and forced them to return to lawmakers on a regular basis to justify their continued existence so lawmakers will renew them.

Contact Jim Provance at:
jprovance@theblade.com or 614-221-0496.

Reviews of Recent Events

Miami Group Member Vacation Slide Show at November Innings

By Alvin Denenberg

On Nov. 7, seven Miami Group members shared their amazing stories and slides from a recent trip in front of 40 attendees.

The presenters were: Carol Cohn (Colorado Rockies); Evan Denenberg (Hiking the French, Italian, and Swiss Alps); Doug Jose (Utah National Parks); David Ackerman (Birds and Wildlife of Ohio and Florida); Gwen Marshall (Mill Creek Paddling Trips); Marilyn Wall (Images of the White Mountains); Alvin Denenberg (Nature and Wildlife of Maui and Kauai)

Record Attendance at Miami Group Holiday Party

By Karen Nagel

Our annual holiday party on Saturday, Dec. 10, was a great success! (Well... after we set off the alarm and convinced the police we weren't dangerous!)

A record number of 51 folks attended the event. The evening was spent visiting with old friends and meeting new ones, enjoying a huge variety of tasty appetizers and desserts, playing a carol puzzle, and joining in a sing-a-long.

This happens every December, and so far, always at Avon Wood Nature Preserve. Look for it next year and join us.



The Miami Group Singers in action, with Doug Jose leading the group with his karaoke set-up

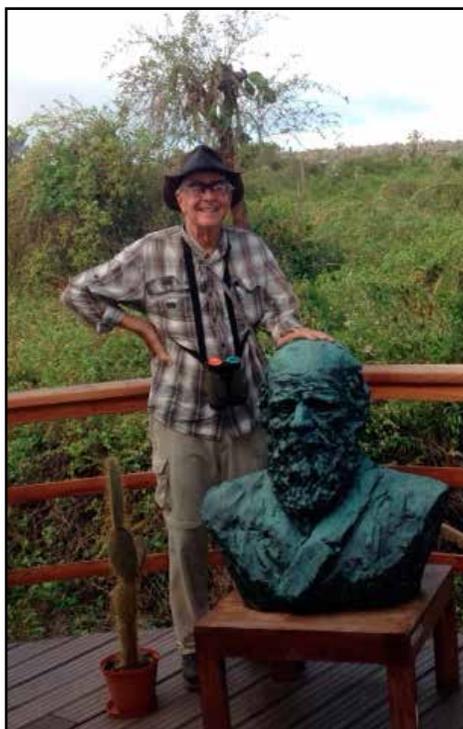


"Galapagos Adventures" by Jack Berninger at December Innings

By Alvin Denenberg

On Tue. Dec. 6, 2016, Jack Berninger shared his recent trip to the Galapagos Islands in front of 38 members of the Miami Group.

Jack did a wonderful job of presenting the geology, natural history, trip details, and amazing photos of the endemic wildlife. He is a retired biology teacher, but never stopped teaching. He does presentations to local groups including the Sierra Club, Audubon, Fernald, and to nature groups in the Everglades region in Florida. Everyone in the audience was very interested in planning a trip to the Galapagos after the lecture was complete. Jack's previous presentations to our group were the Fakahatchee Swamp, and Geology of the TriState.



Photos by Alvin Denenberg

A Great Annual Membership Appreciation Dinner!

By Karen Nagel

On Sat., Nov. 19, about 65 Miami Group members and friends gathered at Garden Park Unity Church on Galbraith for our annual Member Appreciation Dinner. One of our classic potluck dinners was followed by a brief update from each committee and the distribution of special awards: Melissa English and Rachel Belz from Ohio Citizen Action presented Marilyn Wall and the Miami Group with their Metzenbaum Award for our work to get MSD to correct the sewer/stormwater system in Cincinnati. (When Howard M. Metzenbaum retired from the U.S. Senate in 1994, Ohio Citizen Action decided to honor him by presenting an award in his name, synonymous with principled tenacity.)

This year we decided to honor those who've been members of the Sierra Club for 50+ years. With National Sierra Club's help we found 11 such member! Only a few were able to join us: Katherine and Thomas Cruse from Dayton, and Mike Fremont from Cincinnati.

The Executive Committee honored Elizabeth Durrell, retiring after her many years with ex-com. Tim Hershey is also retiring as the club's treasurer and was honored for his decade plus of service to our group.

Three New Activist Awards were given: Cailey Radcliffe with the Wild and Scenic committee, Amelia Mengon with Outings, and Monroe Trombly with Communications.

The Outings committee honored Alvin Denenberg with the Above and



Top left to right: Record attendance; Alvin Denenberg, Jay Freeman & Doug Jose. Second row: Marilyn Wall receiving Metzenbaum Award presented by Rachel Belz; Elizabeth Durrell receiving award; Marie Kocoshis.

Beyond award for his work in outings (especially the Thursday Morning Walks) and Beyond that, his work on our monthly innings. Jose was honored as "the person who keeps on giving," again for his work in outings, but also his role as chair of our communications committee.

Recipients of several other awards were not present and received their awards at the December Innings, committee meetings, and the Holiday Party: The Membership Committee honored Carol Cohn with an Old Faithful Award for her help at the Innings' table, setting up for group functions and staffing Earth Day Booths. Scott Bushbaum, our ex com member from Dayton, received

an Above & Beyond Award. It can't be easy traveling back and forth to meetings & events and being the main contact for Dayton folks. Pat Frock was honored as she steps away from many years as Paddleschool Chair. And the Super Cup this year was given to Sandy Wood. Sandy is a member of the Executive Committee, works regularly with the Outings Committee and the Paddleschool program. Read her "letter" in the Nov/Dec newsletter, page 10, where she shares how she became involved in politics, conservation and the Sierra club.

Folks received an engagement calendar as a thank you gift. It was a delightful evening; we hope you join us next year.



Top left to right: Long-time members Katherine & Thomas Cruse; Ben Kaufman. Second row: Gail Lewin; Intern Josh Clyde; Melissa English from Ohio Citizen Action; Nathan Alley; Mike Fremont and Karen Nagel. Thank you for photos: Alvin, Carolyn and Even Denenberg and Doug Jose.

Outings

Ault Park Hikes

By Doug Jose

For several years now I've been leading hikes at Ault Park on Friday mornings. This park has a surprising number of good trails, mostly through secluded woods. The main trail system spans two ridges, with a valley between them. Overall, there are more than five miles of trails, most of them interconnected. The trail system includes about 10 small wooden bridges over washes, several switchbacks, and dozens of places where wooden steps have been added to assist with steep ascents.

Usually 4-8 people attend; several are there on a regular basis. We meet at 10 AM and finish by noon, covering 3-4 miles at a moderate pace. We usually start by enjoying the view from the Heekin Overlook. We then take the Shattuk Trail past the crumbling walls of an old vineyard. We then make a big loop by following part of the Forest Loop, combined with the Ridge Trail. See the trail map, and the photo from the December 2nd hike.

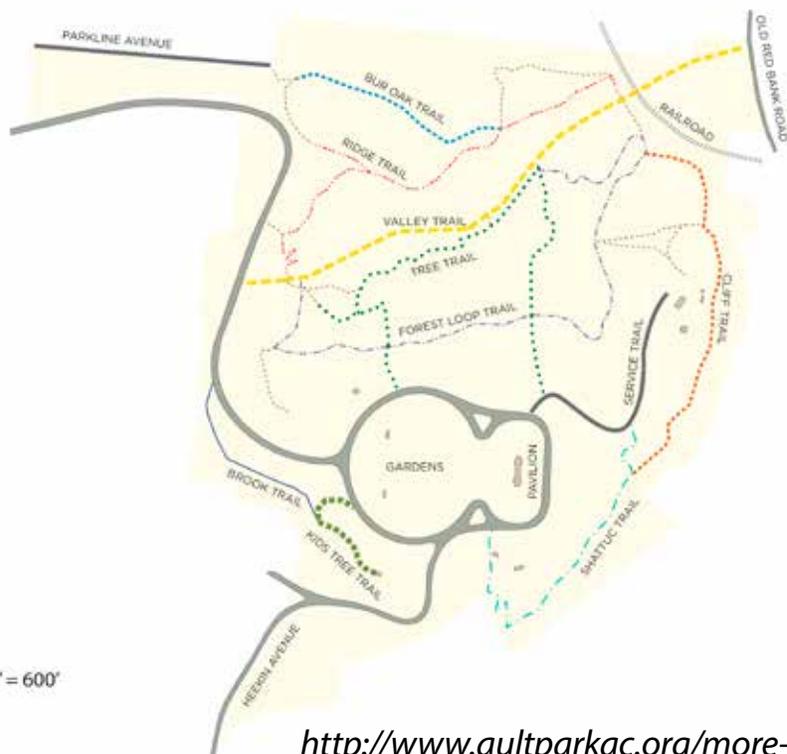
There are numerous wildflowers to be seen in the spring, and a variety of vegetation. Deer and other small animals are occasionally encountered. The Wasson Way Line (soon to be Hike/Bike Trail) passes very close to the Ridge Trail, including a trestle over the Valley Trail. That trail has an information board about the stream restoration project that was implemented there a few years ago. Unfortunately, there are scores of downed Ash trees due to the Emerald Ash Borer invasion of the last several years.

Anyone is welcome to participate in these hikes. The best way to get up-to-



date information on any of our outings is to join our Outings Meetup Group at <http://www.meetup.com/SierraOutings/>.

Photo caption: On the Shattuck Trail; left to right: Mike Bailo, Mich Parker, Dan Schneider, Jim Curry, and Jennifer Jose



<http://www.aultparkac.org/more-trail-info/>

Fellow Miami Group Sierrans and
"Dayton Connections" followers,

Look to the letter below from Sierra Club member, Thomas Tweed about the issue of Nestle and plastic bottle pollution. I learned a lot about the Michigan Chapter of the Sierra Club's stance on plastic pollution at the Michigan Chapter Retreat in late August 2016 at Stony Lake. The State of Michigan is now working on legislation that would stop communities from banning plastic. The Michigan Chapter of the Sierra Club and Mike Berkowitz, Michigan Chapter Political Director are fighting the legislation by testifying to the dangers of plastic packaging to landfill expansions and land preservation, wildlife mitigation and water conservation.

In addition to the letter from Mr. Tweed, the "Dayton Connections" has

been busy reporting news of the Stony Hollow Waste Management landfill in Moraine Ohio. The OEPA filed a cease and desist order against the landfill on October 27, 2016. Workers at the landfill complained of illness from foul odors and sewage overflows. A strong odor from the Moraine landfill has been reported some 300 times since April 2015. More on this story on miamigroup.org.

Look to the miamigroup.org webpage for new information about two energy initiatives in the Ohio General Assembly. Take action by writing a letter to the editor of your newspaper and call your Representative and Senator to vote NO on SB 320 and HB 554! Both these bills are working against energy emission standards and energy efficiency for

Ohio. With the Office of the Governor pledging support for the Sierra Club on these two issues, members of the Sierra Club who speak against these two bills will help forward renewable energy projects in the Buckeye State!

I hope to see you folks in the Miami Valley at our Dayton meetings at the Brixx Ice Co. on the third Monday of the month at 7 pm. The address is 500 E. First St. Dayton OH 45402. We'll talk more over cold ones and a burger!

Scott Bushbaum
Sierra Club Miami Group Executive
Committee
Ohio Chapter Executive Committee
"Dayton Connections"
scott.bushbaum@ohio.sierraclub.org

Good Morning Keith,

I just read your article via my Yahoo news page, and found it very interesting, but lacking in a few relevant details.

First, Nestle apparently pays nothing for all that water, they only invested in the giant well, pumps, and of course the huge bottling and warehouse operation. Are there no mining or mineral or other rights involved, to pay the citizens of Michigan for the sale of their resource ?

Second, the un-mentioned elephant in the room is the many thousands of little plastic bottles and acres of plastic stretch-wrap that are used in the packaging of all that water. Nestle is really in the plastic trash selling business, under the sheepskin of clean water. Michigan has a 10-cent bottle deposit on many retail drinks -- but NOT on water. Why ? Who do you suppose "helped" to write that into State law ??

I live in the Dayton, Ohio area but have spent many days and dollars on vacation in your beautiful state, including the Canadian Lakes resort area near the Stanwood bottling plant. You may notice that there are no mountains, of Ice or anything else, in that area. There are many fresh-water lakes, ponds, and swamps, though. You should ask Nestle, Why didn't they name their bottled water "Frozen Swamp" instead of "Ice Mountain" ??

From my perspective, as an Ohioan, the main issue is not the water itself, important as that is, but the billions of worthless, blow-away plastic bottles and umpteen square miles of worthless plastic packaging, which is trash to the retail customer. The actual cash value of the post-retail plastic bottles is LESS THAN NOTHING around here. We must PAY to have the trash-haulers / recyclers take it away. Nearly all post-consumer plastics are like that. You pay to buy it, and then pay again to get rid of it, even in the best scenario. The trash-haulers / recyclers and the plastic manufacturers and marketing weasels (like Nestle) are feeding their business to each other, and it all comes out of the retail customer's pocket !!

Obviously, the simple answer is, Don't buy the plastic junk, but lazy convenience always sells, you know. Nestle would sell bottles with only "Clean Air" inside if they could.

Trading a few jobs for more mountains of worthless plastic trash is a bad deal, and while it is certainly not illegal, it is surely stupid, but Hey, it's not illegal to be stupid, or lazy...and those are the main sales attractions that Nestle is taking to the bank.

Thank you for your attention, and you have my permission to forward this letter to any / all who may find it of interest, especially the marketing weasels at Nestle Waters N.A.

Sincerely,

Tom Tweed

West Milton, Ohio

long time Sierra Club member



W I N T E R R E T R E A T

February 4, 2017

NOTICE: The retreat will be held at **The Schott Pavilion at Jesuit Spiritual Center in Milford**

Visit with old friends & make new ones. Learn a lot & have fun. Enjoy a great winter get-away.

Saturday, Feb. 4: The Schott Pavilion at Jesuit Spiritual Center in Milford	
8:00 – 9:00	Breakfast & Registration
9:00 – 9:15	Housekeeping & Ice Breaker
9:15 – 10:30	Back to Our Roots: 2017 Conservation Initiatives (MSD- Marilyn Wall, Water-Matt Trokan, Transportation-Nathen Alley) Panel
10:45– 12:15	What Can We Do Now??? –Panel & discussion including: Political - Michelle Young, City - Larry Falkin, Group - Marilyn Wall, Moderator - Melissa English.
12:15 – 1:15	Lunch
1:15 – 2:15	Free time: Visit a local nature preserve, small group discussion, learn how to test water, shop in nearby Old Milford
2:15 – 3:30	Cincinnati Bike Paths: Plans & Prospects with Frank Henson.
3:45 – 5:00	Sharpening the Edge: Planning the future of the Edge of Appalachia Preserve - Martin McAllister
5:00 – 6:00	Happy Hour
6:00 – 7:00	Dinner
7:00 – 8:00	Culture, Conservation, and Beautiful Places in Israel with Marci Taylor

Information and directions will be sent after registration.

If you have questions, please contact: Karen Nagel (nagelkm817@yahoo.com) 513-542-5259, or Marci Taylor (mmtaylor@cinci.rr.com) 513-769-1810.

We need meal numbers before January 27!

----- ✂ ----- Please fill out and return the form below. -----

Name: _____ Address _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Home phone (____) _____

E-mail: _____ or Fax: (____) _____

Saturday all day (Lunch & Dinner included) \$30 X _____ people = \$ _____

Half day Saturday-Please indicate Lunch OR Dinner here _____ \$15 X _____ people = \$ _____

Please place an X here if you want all vegetarian meals _____

Send full payment (payable to Miami Group Sierra Club) and registration to: Martha Walker, 6234 Englewood, Cincinnati, OH 45237. walkermart76@yahoo.com

January 2017 Outings

Outings Information

Chair:

Jay Freeman 513-631-7642

Sub-chairs:

Backpacking
Barry Randall 513-607-4515

Bicycling
Doug Jose 513-470-5473

Day hikes
Elizabeth Durrell 513-481-1926

Canoe/Kayaking
Sandy Wood 513-731-9809

Cross-country skiing
Elizabeth Durrell 513-481-1926

Inspiring Connections Outdoors (ICO)

Lara Guttadauro 859-380-2062

Who may join us:

Outings are for Sierra Club members, and interested others on a space-available basis, subject to acceptance by the outing leader. Please be considerate of the leaders and call before 9:30 p.m. except in a dire emergency. If you make a reservation, you are obligated to arrive promptly or to advise the leader in advance if you are unable to attend. Don't leave others waiting for you!

Ratings:

(1-easy to 4-strenuous) Indicate, roughly, how difficult an outing is likely to be. If in doubt about your skills or endurance, explore plans with the leader first.

Last Minute Outings Information:

Following is the outing list at the time the Happenings was put together. Please check the Miami Group website at <http://www.MiamiGroup.org> for any additions since this was published.

INCLEMENT WEATHER may cancel an Outing. Be sure to check with a leader before heading out to an Outing if you question the weather.

Outings Calendar:

The Outing Committee has worked to find better ways to reach out to interested people regarding scheduled Outings or last-minute ones. We have a Meetup site at <http://www.meetup.com/SierraOutings/>. Join now to learn the latest in Outings and other events. The Miami Group website will also have up-to-date activities but the Yahoo Group will let you know on a weekly or even daily basis.

Sierra Club Important Announcement

In order to participate on one of the Sierra Club's outings, you will need to sign a liability waiver. If you would like to read a copy of the waiver prior to the outing, please see <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/> or call 415-977-5630. In the interests of facilitating the logistics of some outings, it is customary that participants make carpooling arrangements. The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Carpooling, ride sharing or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

Fri. Jan. 6, Hike the trails at Ault

Park 2. Join me for a two-hour, moderate-fitness hike of 3-4 miles. There will be some steep (but short) climbs; it can be very muddy and slippery at times. Meet at 10 a.m.; park on the big outer circle drive directly behind the pavilion. Dress for the weather; wear decent hiking boots and socks; bring plenty of water and snacks; poles are recommended. Call Doug Jose at 513-470-5473 to confirm your attendance. Check for last-minute changes at <http://www.meetup.com/SierraOutings/>.

Sat. Jan. 7; Bike the Roads of

Clermont County 2. We will bike the flat roads of Clermont County for about 30 miles. Meet behind Goshen Middle School at 11 a.m. Bring a lunch, and helmets are required. This is very weather-dependent, a nice day and we go. Call Jay Freeman at 513-631-7642 or 513-910-5288 or visit the Meetup site.

Mon. Jan. 9; Service Outing on the Little Mia.m.i Bike Path 2.

We meet at Avoca Trailhead at 3 p.m. and work for a couple of hours maintaining the right of way of the bike path. Wear sturdy shoes and bring gloves. Call Jay Freeman at 513-631-7642 or 513-910-5288 or visit the Meetup site.

Miami Group Outings

Thurs. Jan 12, Day Hike 1-2.

Meet at a Frisch's at 9 a.m. for an optional breakfast followed by a one- two hour hike at a near-by park or hiking area at 10 a.m. We are usually off the trail by about Noon. We decide where to hike usually Tuesday afternoon before the hike depending on the weather then send around an e-mail with the details. NOTE: Participants will need to RSVP and leave a contact number and email in case of cancellation due to sudden weather change. If you want to be put on this e-mail list, send an e-mail to Alvin Denenberg at alvingden@gmail.com.

Fri. Jan. 13, Hike the trails at

Ault Park 2. Join me for a two-hour, moderate-fitness hike of 3-4 miles. There will be some steep (but short) climbs; it can be very muddy and slippery at times. Meet at 10 a.m.; park on the big outer circle drive directly behind the pavilion. Dress for the weather; wear decent hiking boots and socks; bring plenty of water and snacks; poles are recommended. Call Doug Jose at 513-470-5473 to confirm your attendance. Check for last-minute changes at <http://www.meetup.com/SierraOutings/>.

Sat.-Mon., Jan 14-16 (MLK

Weekend) Backpack Burke's Garden, VA 3. Take a 21 mile winter backpack trip along the Appalachian Trail near Burke's Garden, Virginia's highest valley known as God's Thumbprint. Experienced hikers only. Check <http://www.meetup.com/SierraOutings/> for details, or contact Barry Randall at 513-607-4515.

Wed. Jan. 18; Service Outing on the Little Mia.m.i Bike Path 2.

We meet at Avoca Trailhead at 3 p.m. and work for a couple of hours maintaining the right of way of the bike path. Wear sturdy shoes and bring gloves. Call Jay Freeman at 513-631-7642 or 513-910-5288 or visit the Meetup site.

Fri. Jan. 20, Hike the trails at

Ault Park 2. Join me for a two-hour, moderate-fitness hike of 3-4 miles. There will be some steep (but short) climbs; it can be very muddy and slippery at times. Meet at 10 a.m.; park on the big outer circle drive directly behind the pavilion. Dress for the weather; wear decent hiking boots and socks; bring plenty of water and snacks; poles are recommended. Call Doug Jose at 513-470-5473 to confirm your attendance. Check for last-minute changes at <http://www.meetup.com/SierraOutings/>.

Thurs. Jan 26, Day Hike 1-2. Meet at a Frisch's at 9 a.m. for an optional breakfast followed by a one - two hour hike at a near-by park or hiking area at

10 a.m.. We are usually off the trail by about Noon. We decide where to hike usually Tuesday afternoon before the hike depending on the weather then send around an e-mail with the details. NOTE: Participants will need to RSVP and leave a contact number and email in case of cancellation due to sudden weather change. If you want to be put on this e-mail list, send an e-mail to Alvin Denenberg at alvingden@gmail.com.

Fri. Jan. 27, Hike the trails at

Ault Park 2. Join me for a two-hour, moderate-fitness hike of 3-4 miles. There will be some steep (but short) climbs; it can be very muddy and slippery at times. Meet at 10 a.m.; park on the big outer circle drive directly behind the pavilion. Dress for the weather; wear decent hiking boots and socks; bring plenty of water and snacks; poles are recommended. Call Doug Jose at 513-470-5473 to confirm your attendance. Check for last-minute changes at <http://www.meetup.com/SierraOutings/>.

Miami Group Outings

February 2017 Outings

Saturday January 28, ICO/AWL invites you to join us for "Who's been here?" at Glenwood Gardens. Meet at Glenwood Gardens at 10:30 a.m. Call, text or email Roberta Shawhan at 812-204-7921 or RLSHAWHAN@hotmail.com to RSVP by January 23.

Fri. Feb. 3, Hike the trails at Ault Park 2. Join me for a two-hour, moderate-fitness hike of 3-4 miles. There will be some steep (but short) climbs; it can be very muddy and slippery at times. Meet at 10 a.m.; park on the big outer circle drive directly behind the pavilion. Dress for the weather; wear decent hiking boots and socks; bring plenty of water and snacks; poles are recommended. Call Doug Jose at 513-470-5473 to confirm your attendance. Check for last-minute changes at <http://www.meetup.com/SierraOutings/>.

Fri.-Sun., Feb 3-5, Backpack Yahoo and Princess Falls, Big South Fork 2. Take an intermediate-level 12 mile winter backpack trip with highlights of the (hopefully frozen) Princess and Yahoo Falls. Check <http://www.meetup.com/SierraOutings/> for details, or contact Barry Randall at 513-607-4515.

Saturday February 4, ICO/AWL invites you to join us for "Oh Groundhog" at Sharon Woods. Meet at Sharon Woods at 3 p.m. Call, text or email Roberta Shawhan at 812-204-7921 or RLSHAWHAN@hotmail.com to RSVP by January 30.

Tues. Feb. 7, Service Outing on the Little Mia.m.i Bike Path 2. We meet at Avoca Trailhead at 3 P.m. and work for a couple of hours maintaining the right of way of the bike path. Wear sturdy shoes and bring gloves. Call Jay Freeman at 513-631-7642 or 513-910-5288 or visit the Meetup site.

Thurs. Feb 9, Day Hike 1-2. Meet at a Frisch's at 9 a.m. for an optional breakfast followed by a one - two hour hike at a near-by park or hiking area at 10 a.m. We are usually off the trail by about Noon. We decide where to hike usually Tuesday afternoon before the hike depending on the weather then send around an e-mail with the details. NOTE: Participants will need to RSVP and leave a contact number and email in case of cancellation due to sudden weather change. If you want to be put on this e-mail list, send an e-mail to Alvin Denenberg at alvingden@gmail.com.

Fri. Feb. 10, Hike the trails at Ault Park 2. Join me for a two-hour, moderate-fitness hike of 3-4 miles. There will be some steep (but short) climbs; it can be very muddy and slippery at times. Meet at 10 a.m.; park on the big outer circle drive directly behind the pavilion. Dress for the weather; wear decent hiking boots and socks; bring plenty of water and snacks; poles are recommended. Call Doug Jose at 513-470-5473 to confirm your attendance. Check for last-minute changes at <http://www.meetup.com/SierraOutings/>.

Sun. Feb. 12, Bike the roads from Mia.m.i Whitewater Forest for about 30 miles 2. Meet at 11 a.m. Bring a lunch and helmets are required. This is very weather dependent, a nice day and we go. Call Jay Freeman at 513-631-7642 or 513-910-5288 or visit the Meetup site.

Fri. Feb. 17, Hike the trails at Ault Park 2. Join me for a two-hour, moderate-fitness hike of 3-4 miles. There will be some steep (but short) climbs; it can be very muddy and slippery at times. Meet at 10 a.m.; park on the big outer circle drive directly behind the pavilion. Dress for the weather; wear decent hiking boots and socks; bring plenty of water and snacks; poles are recommended. Call Doug Jose at 513-470-5473 to confirm your attendance. Check for last-minute changes at <http://www.meetup.com/SierraOutings/>.

Miami Group Outings

Thurs. Feb 23, Day Hike 1-2. Meet at a Frisch's at 9 A.m. for an optional breakfast followed by a one - two hour hike at a nearby park or hiking area at 10 a.m. We are usually off the trail by about Noon. We decide where to hike usually Tuesday afternoon before the hike depending on the weather then send around an e-mail with the details. NOTE: Participants will need to RSVP and leave a contact number and email in case of cancellation due to sudden weather change. If you want to be put on this e-mail list, send an e-mail to Alvin Denenberg at alvingden@gmail.com.

Fri. Feb. 24 - Sun. Feb. 26;

Backpack Wildcat Hollow 2. We will leave from my house (7291 Ridge Rd.) at 7 a.m. on Friday and drive to the trailhead and hike in 4-5 miles and ca.m.p. We hike 7-8 miles Sat. and 4 miles out on Sun. for an afternoon return. This trail is near Athens and is an easy hike. This would be a good chance for a winter backpack experience for those who have never tried it. Call Jay Freeman at 513-631-7642 or 513-910-5288 or visit the Meetup site.

Miami Group Happenings

Ohio

Mailing Address:

PO Box 8068
Cincinnati, OH 45208-0068

Committee Contacts

Call or email the committee chair for date, time and/or location of meeting.

Conservation Committee Chair:

Marie Kocoshis 513-233-0972
pskocoshis@cinci.rr.com

Wild & Scenic Subcommittee**(Transportation and Little Miami River)**

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Sierra Club National Membership Dept. at 415-977-5653 (9:00-5:00 PST)

**For general questions or to
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miamigroupsierraclub@gmail.com
513-861-4001

**If you have questions or comments,
please e-mail us at**
pskocoshis@cinci.rr.com
The Happenings Team

<https://twitter.com/cleanupmsdgc>
[facebook.com/StopTheEC](https://www.facebook.com/StopTheEC)
<http://www.meetup.com/SierraOutings/>
<http://www.miamigroup.org>
[facebook.com/sierraclubmiamigroupohio](https://www.facebook.com/sierraclubmiamigroupohio)

Blue Green Alliance

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Position open

Service Projects

Position Open

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Paddlesports WebMaster

Donna Loughry 513-961-7331
Kayaks@CincinnatiKayaks.org

Innings Meetings

INNINGS (general membership meeting):
First Monday of the Month

7:00 p.m. to 8:55 p.m.

Scouting Achievement Center
10078 Reading Rd.,
Cincinnati, OH 45241

If Monday is a holiday, see page 1 for more information.

Alvin Denenberg 513-508-7731

alvingden@gmail.com

Meeting Schedule:

<http://miamigroup.org/sierra-club-meetings/>

If inclement weather causes the (Scouting Achievement Center) to be closed, there will be an ongoing message after the welcome message at 513-577-7700

If we cancel an Inning, then the (Scouting Achievement Center) will not give a message. Members would have to check emails and meetup.

ExCom**Chair**

Marilyn Wall 513-226-9235
marilyn.wall@sierraclub.org

Vice-Chair

Marie Kocoshis 513-233-0972
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APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
Regular	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior, Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
Introductory	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	

Dues include subscription to Sierra (\$7.50) and chapter publications (\$1.00) and other member-only benefits.

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Miami Group

OH Chapter of Sierra Club

P.O. Box 8068

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