

Get outside and help the community

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By **CHRISTA MYERS**

*Project Coordinator
Reclaiming Futures
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Looking for something to do over the summer to help the community but don't have much money? Well, there are a couple of local options for you...

First of all, the Logan-Hocking Community Center is sponsoring a Chinese Auction for various agencies and charities. Maybe you've just spring-cleaned your house and have a few gently used items that you could donate. Perhaps you are an artist and would be willing to donate one of your artistic creations. Just use your imagination!

The next step is to take your donations to the Logan-Hocking Community Center by June 12 at 4 p.m. for an auction. Donations for the auction can be designated for any public agency or charity. All money from tickets in the bag earmarked for a particular charity will be given to the designated organization.

Who do you want to support? If you don't have any idea, the main non-profit sponsors of the events are The Logan-Hocking Community Center and the Leukemia/Lymphoma Society of



Photo by Gretchen Gregory

Central Ohio.

Finally, encourage family and friends to join you at the event on June 13, from 1 to 3 p.m., at the Logan-Hocking Community Center, 1593 E. Front St., Logan.

Another option is to encourage a youth group to which you belong to join together and write a mini-grant for a community service project from the Hocking County Youth Board.

Youth need to be involved in writing the proposal, presenting

it to the youth board and completing the project. Funds may be used for the purchase of materials, supplies and other expenses directly related to the group's community service project.

Grants will be paid on a reimbursement basis. Grant applications will be accepted on an on-going basis until the allocated funds for each year are awarded.

For more information, please contact Joyce Shriner at The Ohio State University Extension, Hocking County at 740-385-3222.

Volunteer opportunities

Two big local events taking place this summer that we'll be looking for youth volunteers are: Washboard Festival, June 18 to 20, and Lilyfest, July 10 to 12.

Volunteering is a great way to show your support of the community, meet other people, assist a wonderful cause and increase your own pride in yourself.

Contact Christa Myers at 380-9644 or cmyers@co.hocking.oh.us if you are interested in volunteering to help with either event, and I will link you up with volunteer chairpersons.

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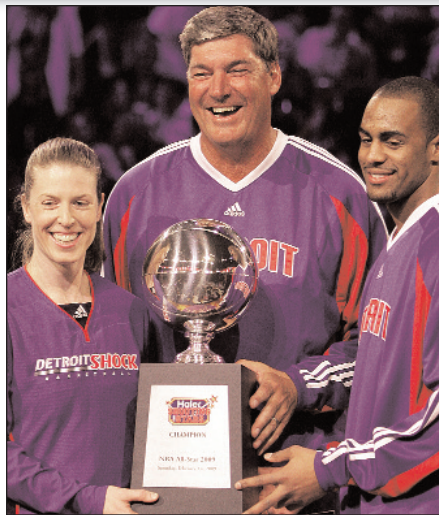
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When i was 15... (continued from page 3)

The whole community's lifestyle may have fostered the focus required for academic success and college careers for its young people. Parents didn't allow their teens to socialize on Sunday through Thursday each week. Those were nights when homework was to be done, which also had to be completed before the TV set was turned on. (In her senior year, Smith recalls, she and her classmates took rigorous Saturday classes to prepare for college entrance exams.)

A committed work ethic was also fostered. As she explains it, Smith had a strong family support system that emphasized the importance of self-reliance and of not blaming others for one's own mistakes or failings.

Smith, a member of the Booster Club who can still enthusiastically recite her high school's game-time cheers, remembers Friday nights with special fondness. Those were nights for football and basketball games. Throughout her high school career, Fridays were spent going to games, followed by dances at school, and then gatherings of forty or



AP photo

Logan native and Logan High School graduate Katie Smith (left), along with Bill Laimbeer (center) and Arron Afflalo, pose with a trophy after the Detroit team won the Haier Shooting Stars event during NBA All-Star Weekend festivities in Phoenix this past February. Smith, the all-time leading scorer in United States women's basketball history and the reigning WNBA finals MVP, along with her coach and former Pistons great Laimbeer and current Pistons player Afflalo, won the team event, which consisted of spot shooting and a half-court shot (made by Laimbeer), in 58.4 seconds to defeat the Phoenix team of Leandro Barbosa, Tangel Smith and Dan Majerle in the finals.

so classmates hosted by one of the families. Young people were driven to and from the events by their parents.

When she was fifteen, Smith met her husband-to-be and they began to date. Double-dating, with parents once again

providing rides to and from evenings that usually included movies and dinner, was the norm. In fact, Smith says, she never was in a car without her parents. (Smith would marry seven years later her high school beau, after they completed their college educations.)

Smith says that she was "a pool rat" and swam competitively until she was fifteen. At that time, she worked with the handicapped as a YMCA volunteer. At school, she was also involved in Y-Teens and, because these were the years before young women had varsity sports, the Girls Athletic Association.

On Sundays, Smith was involved in Youth Fellowship at church.

A highlight of her high school years was the Brown and Gold Revue, a silly musical for which groups had to audition. Students would compose funny lyrics to popular songs.

Musically, Smith was in the high school choir. But, in spite of trying out, she was never able to make any of the ensembles.

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Her neighbors were religiously diverse, with folks representing Protestant, Roman Catholic, and Jewish faith traditions. Smith, who grew up Methodist, remembers going with friends to Mass at the Catholic Church and to services at the local synagogue.

There are two teachers Smith remembers with particular fondness. One is Mr. Sharp, an immigrant from Germany who taught biology, one of Smith's favorite classes. "He was demanding," she remembers, "and I enjoyed learning from him." Another teacher she especially recalls is Mr. Purcella, who taught Latin. He spoke with students about his homeland of Croatia. "It opened up the world to us," Smith remembers.

When asked, during our recent interview, who her mentors were

when she was fifteen, Smith said that she really didn't have any. Her family was a tight-knit group and she was most influenced by her parents.

But then, laughing, Smith said that maybe her brother, five years her senior, served as her "anti-mentor." He didn't want to work hard in school and sometimes got into trouble with their parents for it. She didn't want that to happen to her, Smith says, before pointing out that's not all to be said about her brother. For one thing, she remembers that for her, he was always "loving and supportive." For another, the family and community emphasis on hard work and academic achievement finally sunk in with him as well: Smith's brother became a successful railroad executive whose expertise is so respected that he

has been asked to testify before committees of the U.S. Senate.

When she first became a teacher, Smith says, she would tell students that their expectations were unrealistically high. But there has been a change in high school students over the course of Smith's career, she believes. "Today," Smith says, "I tell students that their expectations are unrealistically low." She's shocked by how many think that they can't go to college or have happy, successful lives. Through her teaching at Logan High School, Smith tries to convince students who may not be blessed with the idyllic youth she enjoyed, that they can be successful in life.

Rev. Mark Daniels is the pastor of Saint Matthew Lutheran Church in Logan.

Continue your education over the summer months

Learn how by contacting Hocking County Job & Family Services at 385-5663.

May: *Starting Fresh for Juvenile Offenders*, 5/27, 9:30-11:30 a.m.; *Money Smart*, budgeting class, 5/29, 9-11 a.m.

June: *Job Club*, 6/1-6/5, 9-2:30 p.m.; *Intro to Computers*, 6/9, 9-noon; *Intro to Internet*, 6/11, 9-noon; *Inter-*

mediate Word, 6/16, 18 and 23 (must attend each day), 9-noon; *Starting Fresh for Juvenile Offenders*, 6/10 or 24, 9:30-11:30 a.m.; *Money Smart*, 6/12 or 6/26, 9-11 a.m.

July: *Job Club*, 7/6 to 7/10, 9-2:30 p.m.; *Intro to Computers*, 7/14 from 9-noon; *Intro to Internet*, 7/16, 9-noon; *Intermediate Word*, 7/21, 7/23

and 7/28 (must attend each day) from 9-noon; *Money Smart*, 7/24 or 31 from 9-11 a.m.

August: *Job Club*, 8/3-8/7, 9-2:30 p.m.; *Intro to Computers*, 8/11, 9-noon; *Intro to Internet*, 8/13, 9-noon; *Intermediate Excel*, Aug. 18, 20 and 25 (must attend each day) from 9-noon

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Q and A with Pat Quackenbush, Hocking Hills Naturalist

We recently interviewed Pat Quackenbush, a naturalist with the Hocking Hills State Park who frequently leads visitors through various attractions located within Hocking County. This is what he had to say:

Q: Youth throughout the community often say there is nothing to do in this region, despite the hiking opportunities which surround them each day. Any ideas on how to get the youth more involved in hiking?

A: That is what we are all about, and we deal with that very same question every day. Believe it or not, once you get them out there and give them some guidance in the woods, keeping their interest is easy. We have found that getting the whole family involved is the key in many cases. We realized that we were encouraging the kids, and raising a whole gener-

ation of parents that knew, or cared, very little about the outdoors. Kids emulate their parents and want to be included, so we develop programs like "Family Nature Adventures," or "Survival Ohio Style," which strongly encourage interaction with not only me, but with nature and each other. Besides, we found the parents can be more into it than the kids once you get them out there.

Q: What is so unique about the Hocking Hills region, in comparison with other state parks?

A: Part of what makes us unique is the sense of wildness or adventure that just seems to permeate the region. There is always something new to discover or explore, but plenty of opportunity to just slow your life down and enjoy the sights, sounds, and smells in the outdoors; not to mention the absolute spectacular scenery

doesn't hurt a bit.

Q: What do you enjoy about your job the most?

A: Well, obviously if you love the outdoors, this is your kind of job since I spend more than half my work hours outside. But more than that, in my job, I get the opportunity to share something new with visitors every day. To me, it is really cool to watch a visitors face light up when you show them something they have never seen before. Of course a little background of how it got there makes it all come to life, and that's where I come in.

Q: Where did you go to school?

A: I am a graduate of both wildlife management and wildlife interpretation from Hocking College. I have been a naturalist for 28 years, and with Ohio State Parks for 18 years.

Forget your troubles and dance...

Anyone familiar with the music of Bob Marley knows how the song to the above headline goes, but should you really forget about your troubles? In some instances yes, but what about after being in trouble, perhaps with the juvenile justice system?

Using his troubles as a jumping off point for a learning experience, one student is talking about his drug and/or alcohol addiction.

Jason X, as the student wished to be named, wants to say to his fellow

peers, "There's so much time and you can be doing much better things."

After continuing through the juvenile drug court program, Jason X said he realized that "using" was not worth the hassle of being caught and placed on probation.

Realizing the error of his ways, Jason has buckled down - even obtaining a place on the honor roll. "I've always wanted to be on the honor roll, and this grading period I

have 4 B's and 2 A's, so I have done that!"

Getting along with his mother was also one of his goals, Jason admits.

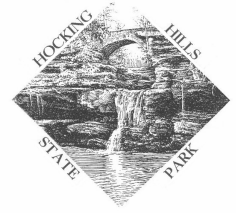
Since being involved with the local juvenile drug court, his mother has noticed a significant change as well. "His attitude has improved," she said. "He is more helpful around the house and less argumentative."

"Now I feel hopeful and like I can actually go somewhere," Jason said.

HOCKING HILLS STATE PARK

Naturalist Events & Nature Programs

May 2009



Hocking Valley Birding Trail Presents:

International Migratory Bird Weekend May 8-10

Times and locations will vary...see the flier or the back of this schedule or www.birdhocking.com for details.

Join with several area naturalist and birders along the Hocking Valley Birding Trail route for a variety of programs, hikes and events to celebrate the return of our avian friends.

*CB - Attend any 3 birding programs (marked with a *CB) this spring/summer and receive a certified birder patch (While supplies last).

Friday May 15

2:00 PM *SCALAWAGS & RENEGADES - The Ohio Frontier was full of heroes and shady characters. Meet at the Shelter House at the Rock House to hike and explore our local history.

7:00 PM *ROSE LAKE CANOE EXCURSION - Join the naturalist and the 'HOCKING HILLS CANOE LIVERY' for a naturalist guided trip around Rose Lake. The trip will take approx. 1 hour and will cover many aspects of canoeing safely while we search the lake for wildlife. Space is limited so you **must pre-register** at the camp office prior to the event! We will meet at the dam at Rose Lake.

Saturday May 16

10:00 AM *50th ANNIVERSARY BUCKEYE TRAIL HIKE - Join the Hocking Hills State Park Naturalist and Robert Pond with the Buckeye Trail Association as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Buckeye Trail with a spring hike through the gorge at Old Man's Cave. The naturalist will lead the first leg through the gorge and Robert will lead hikers that wish a longer hike to Cedar Falls and back (6 miles). So bring along a cool drink and join us for the fun.

2:00 PM *STREAM STOMPIN' - Bring along your wading shoes and meet the naturalist at the shelter house at Ash Cave for a closer look at some of our aquatic residents.

Friday May 22

9:00 PM STAR SEEKERS - Like Hollywood? "Not!" But come on down to the field at Conkle's Hollow and spend a little time with the real stars...and the planets, and the comets, and the moon... (Weather Permitting)

Saturday May 23

1:00 PM *THE WONDERS of OLD MAN'S CAVE - Meet the naturalist at the Naturalist Cabin for a short hike and discover some facts about the history of the area and the rock formations that are found throughout the park.

4:00 PM *CB HOCKING'S BIRDS OF PREY - Join the naturalist at the Naturalist Cabin for a closer look at Ohio's hawks, owls, eagles and vultures. Naturalist Cabin will remain "OPEN" to explore and ask questions.

9:00 PM *HAUNTED HOCKING: Spirits of Old Man's Cave - Is Hocking Hills really haunted or could it be something else? Join the naturalist to explore the history, our natural world and the possibilities. Meet at the Old Man's Cave Visitor Center

(This program does contain ghost stories...parents, you know your children best and should decide if it is appropriate. Please, no pets at Haunted Hocking.)

Friday May 29

2:00 PM *JEWELLED DRAGONS - Join the naturalist for a closer look at Hocking's not so mythical dragonflies & damselflies. These flying, crawling & swimming insects lead an amazing life that we can peak in on. Meet at the main playground in the camp (near site# 143) for a short stroll down to Rose Lake.

9:00 PM *HISTORIC LANTERN TOUR of ASH CAVE - The mystery of Ash Cave is special as far back as the last Ice Age and beyond. Join the naturalist in the parking lot area to explore Ash Cave by lantern light and learn this special history first hand. We supply the lights...you supply the imagination. (Please no pets at the lantern tour)

Saturday May 30

9:00 AM *TRAIL TROLLS PROJECT DAY - We will meet at Rock House shelter house. Bring a sack lunch and a drink and dress for the weather. For more information about the Trail Trolls contact the naturalist office at (740) 385-8003.



www.ohiostateparks.org

*Scheduled hikes that will go towards fulfilling requirements for the '5 STAR HIKING EMBLEM'...Details at gift shop, park office or at the hike. When you attend 5 hikes and receive 5 signatures you may then purchase a special hiking emblem at the gift shop.

Children 16 years of age and under must be accompanied by an adult at all programs unless otherwise stated.

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Take this schedule with you on the next hike(*) that you attend from the regular program schedule here at Hocking Hills State Park. When you join the naturalist for a hike and get this slip signed 5 times at different hikes you will then be eligible to purchase this emblem to show how avid a hiking fan you really are. Any hike that appears on the Hocking Hills State Park program and activity schedule is eligible. Have fun and we'll see you at the next hike!

