

Welcome to Spring!



COLUMBUS OUTDOOR PURSUITS

Spring 2019

Newsletter #158

Update Letter from COP President, Jerry Rampelt

In April of 2018, the COP board president resigned, and I assumed the position of president being the VP at the time. In the past three years we have had large and small accomplishments, and in this update, I will highlight a few that are worth mentioning.

1. In mid-2016, COP was in a financial bind and some of us wondered if this great organization could survive. I am happy to report that we increased COP's financial reserves and closed the 2017-18 financial year with approximately \$150,000 in savings. As a charitable organization our mission is to provide outdoor activities and break even at the end of the year, but we do need a reserve as a cushion against fluctuations in event registrations.
2. TOSRV and GOBA Director Bill Gordon died a week before the 2016 GOBA while riding his bicycle. We still mourn his loss, his quick smile, and his dedication to COP. The staff and volunteers were able to put on the events that following year, but the time was difficult for all of us.
3. Three websites were created (TOSRV in 2017, GOBA in 2018, and COP in 2019) to provide a better and more attractive online experience. Lisa Daris created the GOBA and COP websites with input from board members and the GOBA director.
4. A new office was leased in 2018, and now all equipment is in one location. We were able to close four storage units. The office is now centrally located near the brewery district just south of downtown with trail and river access within 1/4 mile.



COP President, Jerry Rampelt

Hiking and Backpacking Program is Back!

by *Maryellen O'Shaughnessy, Board Member and Activity Leader*



Our efforts to restart the COP Hiking and Backpacking activities are beginning to bear fruit. We have six people including me and Tim, who have expressed interest in joining the program this season. Because it's more accessible, I expect more people on the Zaleski overnight "prep" outing (Sat. March 30 - Sun March 31), than on the Laurel Highlands outing (Wed. April 10 - Sunday April 14).

The Zaleski trip will focus on equipment, and trail miles will be 10-12 miles. The Laurel Highlands trip will have some big mile days, but with an easy, well-marked trail, light packs (no tents required as we have reserved shelters), and campsites with shelters, water, and vault toilets the days will be just challenging enough.

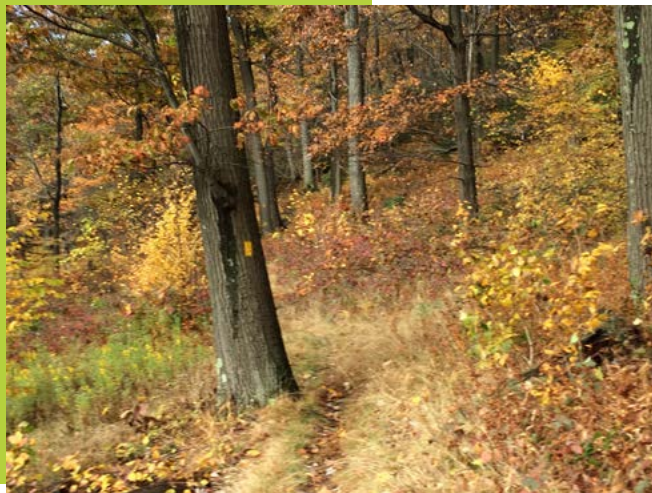
Day 1 = 13, Day 2 = 19,
Day 3 = 15, Day 4 = 17,
Day 5 = 6.3 into Ohiopyle,

where we will shower, and lunch before we head back to Columbus.

The Laurel Highlands trip is a great way to test your fitness required for some of our country's most iconic trails: the Appalachian Trail, Pacific Crest Trail, the Continental Divide Trail. Be sure to get your walking and running miles in now, as well as some gym time for squats and stairs, and the miles will be joyful, not painful.

I expect to be putting together some more outings this year. Spring and Fall are great for Ohio trails, but come summer, West Virginia and the Monongahela are better choices.

Stay tuned!



5. XOBA was resurrected through the tenacity of Maureen Capehart. In 2016 and 2017 XOBA was cancelled, and many of us felt it was gone forever. Maureen took it upon herself with some volunteers to keep it alive.
6. Three employees were hired in 2018 with a clear definition of roles along with backup responsibilities. Lisa Daris remains the TOSRV Director, serves as the GOBA backup, and has general COP responsibilities. Jeff Pierron is the GOBA Director and backup for TOSRV. Brian Peters serves part-time as an administrator.
7. The boating committee held its first swap meet at the office in October as COP surplus merchandise was sold along with the swap meet. They also had their second boating film fest in January 2019. You can read more about the film fest on page in this newsletter.
8. The bicycling and boating schedules were agreed upon at the end of the 2018 year, earlier than before and this major accomplishment allowed for a more robust marketing of our programs in the winter and spring when people are making plans.
9. GOBA added some new innovations. Each day riders will have a sanctioned shortcut. The first double layover day will be in Port Clinton, so riders can enjoy some time out of the saddle. In Port Clinton there will still be a 50 mile and century option. A GOBA advisory committee has been meeting via conference call since last fall offering advice about GOBA.
10. TOSRV added a gravel ride event during TOSRV weekend. Check tosrv.org for more information about the exciting new opportunities for fat tire riders to go anywhere they want to - including the



hills of the Shawnee Forest.

- 11. Maryellen O'Shaughnessy is offering two backpack trips per year, and our hope is that others will step forward and expand the number of backpacking opportunities.
- 12. In 2018 we contracted with Dwaine Wheeler to mark all bicycle routes. In the past we had volunteers do this, and many times it was a struggle to find someone to drive and mark a 50- or 100-mile route. Dwaine does the marking with consistency and is fun to work with.

- 13. COP will be offering two new outdoor activities that we hope will generate a revenue stream and offer an outdoor experience. CBUS Bike Tours will be offered in downtown Columbus. We are taking over a company that was here several years ago, but the owner had to move out of town and gave COP five bicycles. We also will begin a kayak tour business. You will hear more about this when the weather turns warm.



- 14. We added three new COP board members in 2018: Maryellen O'Shaughnessy, Scott Brown, and Patricia Kovacs.

Ride Leaders needed for a Rails-to-Trails event on Camp Chase to reveal the route of the Great American Trail May 8, 2019. Group ride will leave from COP offices on S. Front Street at approximately 11:30 and ride to the Wilson Road Trailhead for the ceremony.

For details, email office@outdoor-pursuits.org.



Climbing Wall Update *by Mike Wadkowski, Board Member*

"On belay" - my knots are tied and double checked and I'm clicking onto your rope.

"Belay is on" - go ahead and click in, I'm ready to support you.

"Climbing" - here I go, I'm trusting you to catch me.

"Climb on" - go ahead, I will catch you if you fall.

Now it's me and the wall. It's not a conflict, but more of a mutual agreement. The wall provides just enough hand and toe holds to make a route to the top a challenge, not too hard or too easy. It's reassuring to know that if the wall and I miscommunicate, my belayer will keep me from falling and let me try again.

COP's climbing building saw this dialogue play itself out many times over the years, but it has outlived its usefulness.



The dismantling of our climbing building is not the end of an era, but the cleaning of the slate. When COP, then Columbus Council of the American Youth Hostels, lost access to their natural climbing area in Southern Ohio, they built an indoor facility in the Grandview area of Central Ohio. After several years the structure was reconstructed near Granville on land owned by long time members Tom and Marie Lester. After many years of service, the structure, seen here, was deemed unsafe and closed down in 2014. In 2018 a group of COP members volunteered to dismantle the building and dispose of the debris. Many thanks to Maureen Capehart, Justin Curtis, Jeff Indalecio, Karen Rinehart, Jim Roeger, Dave Seslar, Walt Taylor, Michael and Kitty Wadkowski for over 400 hours of volunteer effort. On January 6th, 2019 the building came down.

Anyone interested in salvaging scrap lumber or helping to cut - up and burn, contact Mike Wadkowski at 614 746 4700 or mwadkowski226@gmail.com.

Introduction to Moving Water

Have you spotted kayakers in the Columbus area, paddling on rivers as you drive over bridges? In the past four years, Columbus has removed two dams from the Clintonville and downtown areas, making it possible to kayak on urban waterways without portaging around dams.

*by Tony Skrabak,
2018 Recipient of
the Ron Eisele Award*

This class teaches the skills you need to paddle comfortably on slow moving rivers (Class I and Class II) which many consider to be the ideal way to enjoy birding, wildlife, and everything else that recreational kayaking offers.

You will learn how to take advantage of the moving current to go where you want to go and to recognize and avoid river hazards. You will learn forward ferries, eddy turns, peel outs, and back ferries.

You should be comfortable with performing a wet exit and have enough kayaking experience to make your kayak go where you want it to go.



Full day Intro to Moving Water Course

Reservation deadline: Sunday, May 12

Saturday, May 18 8:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Cost: \$65 for COP members, \$75 for Non-Members

All equipment, including kayaks, are provided as part of the course, or you can use your own kayak if it is appropriate for moving water.

Take this course if you have already taken Introduction to Kayaking, or already have enough kayaking experience to be comfortably in control of a kayak. After this class, you should be comfortable paddling Class II moving water, such as the Mad River, Kokosing, Darby Creek, or most other Ohio rivers.



FILMS FEST FUN & LOCAL BREWS

COP held its 2nd Annual Paddlesports Film Fest along with the TOSRV Kick-off this past January at DogTap, BrewDogs headquarters in Canal Winchester.

Ten films were shown over two hours, showcasing canoeing, kayaking, SUP and rafting, from the sublime to the ever popular "carnage" collection. Proceeds benefited COP and American White-water Association's river conservation efforts in honor of the 50th Anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

We're already looking toward 2020's Cabin Fever

Social. A donation goal of \$400 would elevate COP to Supporting Affiliate Club and show that much more grass roots support when AW negotiates with the Powers-That-Be.

Event possibilities might include a chili cook-off and competition, micro-brewery selections, a more leisurely late afternoon/evening social event featuring 5 hours of films, dinner break and silent auction.

If anyone is interested in volunteering with the planning committee, has ideas to share, or cool venues to consider, please share with Janice Hogrefe.



MAY 18-19, 2019

The year of gravel and more!

This year for the first time, riders have OPTIONS for:

- Gravel ride options in the Shawnee forest
- A short hop-back from the north or south to the first food stop and return.

- A south start to enjoy the arts fest and overnight in Canal Winchester.

Register for the American Spring Classic today at www.tosrv.org!

Member Feature - Mitzy Noisette

I moved to Columbus

the winter of 2001 from sunny Jacksonville, Florida leaving my adult children and a lifetime of friends behind. It took a few years to learn how to layer my clothing and get used to the cooler weather. In Florida I had played tennis for fun and fitness for 25 years and finding outdoor activities was initially a challenge.

Initially I hiked alone in the Metro parks then added riding my mountain bike on the Three Creeks Trail. A chance meeting of a woman cyclist at a friend's birthday party with an invite to group biking opened a whole new world for me. She introduced me to road riding and COP.

Through the biking community, I have made many friends and gone on many adventures. I have stayed active going kayaking, hiking, biking, backpacking and cross country skiing. Many

of those adventures have been through COP. Friends I made through that initial meeting, invited me along on backpacking trips in North Carolina & West Virginia.

In 2013 friends invited me to bikepacking the GAP/C&O trail. We did it self-contained from Pittsburgh to Washington DC. I fell in love with the whole process of planning the trip/routes, pulling together gear and food, and camping in beautiful forests. I have been bikepacking ever since and now I get to enjoy it with my husband, Roger. Some of our favorite bikepacking trips have been on segments of the

Great Divide Mountain bike trail, the Oregon Cascades and The Grand Staircase Escalante in Utah.

I do like mixing it up so I am really looking forward to the COP Laurel



Highlands backpack trip in April. Staying active and challenging myself is going to be even more a pursuit now that I have retired. (41 years in cardiac & trauma nursing).

Next up is COMBO Dirt school to improve my ability as a coach for the Gator bike park race team. These are Grandby Elementary age children learning to Mountain bike through structured and child centered encouragement to challenge themselves.

Looking Towards Summer...



Register now to Come Sail Away for a fun-filled, family-friendly voyage on the Great Ohio Bicycle Adventure!

The 31st annual GOBA, on June 15-22, begins and ends at Bowling

Green, with ports of call in Fremont, Port Clinton and Oregon. We'll explore the history, attractions and scenery of Ohio's North Coast on this camping/cycling journey for all ages.

Sign up at goba.com by April 30 at the \$300 adult rate before the price increases. Registration ends May 15 or when we reach 1,500 people, so don't miss the boat!

Introduction to Kayaking

Reservation deadline: Sunday, June 9

Saturday, June 15
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Alum Creek State Park

Are you interested in learning to kayak? Have you tried it and found it hard to go straight or turn when you want to?

Instruction will include:

- How to properly fitting your life jacket
- Paddle strokes

- Getting your boat to go where you want it to go

You will learn how to paddle on lakes, ponds, and reservoirs.

Cost: \$40.00/Members - \$50.00/Non-Members

The cost of the class includes use of COP equipment, including kayaks. If you own kayak and equipment that you would like to use for the class, you are welcome to do that. If you will be using your own equipment, please indicate that when you register.



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www.outdoor-pursuits.org

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#COPandme



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Post your photos with this hashtag and you might see your photo shared on our site or in our newsletter!



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