



## FPOSP Membership and Friends Groups

We hope that this e-mail finds you healthy and safe. After a full year of Coronavirus issues, we can only hope that 2021 will be a better year for our Ohio State Parks Friends Groups. We are sure that ODNR, Ohio State Parks and Watercraft will do their best in making sure to a safe year ahead for State Parks staff, Friends Groups and Visitors.

The FPOSP has not gone away. Even though we were not working out front, we were behind the scenes, most times virtually, doing what we could to promote and assist our groups.

- We shared answers to current questions with groups with the best up-to-date information.
- We assisted new groups in answering question on the formation of a new Friends group in their park.
- Answered questions to help re-ignite the interest in groups to help maintain their history.
- Maintained contact with ODNR and Ohio State Parks management and staff, meeting virtually to stay up to date with current issues and sharing information.

We strongly believe that you will continue to benefit from your FPOSP membership, and that you'll receive our ongoing support and representation at the state level to help you succeed into the future.

- **Receive 501(c)(3) Support.** If you don't already have your 501(c)(3), we can help you navigate through the application process. We can also advise which events may require your organization to have this standing.
- **Get Fundraising Ideas.** Because we network across all of Ohio's state parks, we can share best practices and ideas for projects and events along with templates to help you get started.
- **Use our Matching Grants.** As a FPOSP member with a 501(c)(3) and good standing, you will be eligible to apply for our matching grants to support your funding for events and projects. For those members that don't have their 501(c)(3), we have a grant opportunity where you may receive up to \$250 towards your 501(c)(3) filing fees.
- **Attend our Fall Symposium.** (TBD in 2021) You'll receive updates from ODNR leadership on the state of Ohio State Parks and what they're planning in the future. You'll also be able to network among other Friends groups to learn what the best of the best are doing to help their parks succeed.

We encourage you to renew your FPOSP membership to continue access to the benefits. Any group that has joined in 2020, your membership will carry over to 2021. We've simplified the renewal process by including a link on our Website: [Join/Renew FPOSP Membership](#).

Because of the level of activity that we're experiencing, we're looking to add new board members to help us work more closely with member Friends organizations to achieve our goals. If you're interested or know someone who may be interested, visit our Website for further details and complete the [Board of Directors](#) interest form.

If you have any questions, please reach out to any of our officers or trustees.

Bill Martin, President

Cindy Hartman, Secretary

Dave McDiffitt, Trustee

Alan LaDuke, Vice President

Hobie Woods, Treasurer