Hiking: 2020 Women’s Exchange Hiking

We celebrate our 20th year of WEX hiking this fall! Although we are living in crazy times, our recent survey results indicate that at least 24 of our members are interested in hiking. So, we have put together our fall hiking schedule. . (Although it shows no lunches, we hope to consult with hikers to determine that interest ahead of time. We do have a few places in mind, too!) As in past years, we continue to look forward to sharing another year of walking and talking and enjoying the colors of the fall. This is a great way to get to know one another better and make some new friends.

For first time hikers, the Fall Hiking Spree is a series of hikes throughout the Summit County Metro Parks. If 8 designated hikes are completed by the end of November, then you earn a staff and/or a shield from the park system. The line up of specific trails is designated by the Metro Parks and we have developed our schedule from those. (In a normal year, we also pair the hikes with lunch spots convenient to their locations.) You may view the Fall Hiking Spree at summitmetroparks.com and even download your hiking spree form. We enjoy the Summit Metro Parks trails due to the varied and interesting terrain.

As in other years, we have scheduled more than enough hiking dates to insure we are able to complete all required 8 hikes before the Ohio weather throws us for a loop (by the end of October).   We will be consulting with interested hikers about options of carpooling (masks to be worn in cars) or meeting at the trails. If carpooling, we will meet at 9:00 a.m. at church parking lot. If we have to reschedule because of rain (fair weather hikers, you know!) or you need to do make-up hikes, there is usually someone willing to hike through the fall foliage on other days with you! And, remember that we will let you know of cancellations due to inclement weather by 8:00 a.m. on the day of the hike.

We will be hiking on Thursdays.  **Our first hike is Thursday, September 10, the day AFTER the first Women's Exchange meeting on 9/9.** Donna Paola and Alison Rollins will be working together to keep everything "on the right path" for this season. We will be organizing weekly details. (Also, please remember that we ask each hiker in a carpool to pay the driver $1 each week.)

 Remember: **We have an email address for WEX hiking: wexhiking@gmail.com**. This will be where you respond weekly by Tuesday at 9 p.m. if you plan on hiking on Thursday of that week. We are asking you to let us know if you plan on being part of this group as soon as possible so that we can get a good start on keeping you included in everything.

We plan on having a brief “pre-season” gathering on Thursday, September 3 at 9:30 a.m. at Donna’s home. (We will wear masks, socially distance, and meet on her screened porch with fans circulating air.) **Please let us know if you will be joining us by emailing us at** **Donnajlpaola@gmail.com**.

This year’s WEX Hiking Schedule

**Date (Thurs.) Trail(s) with difficulty level, length(miles) Lunch**

9/10 Wood Hollow Downy Loop 1, 1.2 / Munroe Falls Meadow Tr 1, 2.0 Sack lunch Wood Hollow

**Date (Thurs.) Trail(s) with difficulty level, length(miles) Lunch**

9/17 Furnace Run Rock Creek 1, 1.3 / Deep Lock Quarry\* 2, 1.4) Fishers Peninsula

9/24 Hampton Hills Spring Hollow 3, 1.6 / Firestone Redwing 1,1.1 The Ramp Portage Lakes

10/1 Deep Lock Quarry 2, 1.4 / O’Neil Woods 3, 1.8 Szalay’s farm market

10/8 Goodyear Piney Woods 2, 2.0 / Springfield Bog 1, 1.6 TBD

10/15 Silver Creek Chippewa 1, 2.0 / Towpath at Clinton Trailhead 1, 2.3 TBD

10/22 Make up hikes TBD

10/29 Seiberling Seneca Trail 2, 1.4

Get shields/staffs, Banquet?

\*Having learned that Ohio Mart at Stan Hywet was cancelled just this past Thursday, we are going to change two hikes so that we do Deep Lock Quarry on 9/17 and O’Neil Woods (level 3, 1.8 mi) followed by a stop at Szalay’s farm market which will be in full fall festival mode on 10/1.  Lunch to be decided closer to that date