

Karen Leonetti
Event Coordinator, Sauers Farm Park
1590 US Highway 224 E
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Leonetti Strives for Family Friendly Environment

Angelo Leonetti, park manager of Sauers Farm Park and Crall Woods at Pine Hill Park, is a long time sportsman and outdoorsman. Born in Pennsylvania, he enjoyed the back woods offered up by that beautiful state. He moved to Ohio in the early 1970s where he met and married Karen. Angelo has 4 children and 4 grandchildren. He continued his career in the steel industry, retiring as plant manager and welding engineer in 2011 after 56 years.

Angelo is an Army veteran. He has been a scout leader, competitive shooter, an NRA certified firearms instructor, avid hunter and fisherman, and conservator of the outdoors. Somewhat outdoor related, Angelo enjoys cruising in his 1953 Ford. A comprehensive background, indeed, qualifying him to step into a park manager's position. This is a position he takes very seriously. All this began after meeting a friend, Harold Zager, at a local sale in 2010. Harold introduced Angelo to the North Ashland County Conservation League where he became a member. Through the NACCL, Angelo was introduced to Tom Kruse, Ashland County Parks commissioner. Angelo volunteered his efforts at Hurdle Waterfowl Park and other parks as needed. Sauers Farm Park at Pine Hill was opened in the summer 2010. A manager was needed and Angelo was asked to fill that position in the early fall. After the passing of Adelaid Sauers in September 2010 and settling of her estate, Angelo and his wife moved into the house located on the property.

Part of Angelo's responsibilities include maintaining and overseeing repairs to the house. The house was originally built as a log cabin. Part of the old basement contains the original stone foundation and hand-hewn beams can still be seen in the attic. Additions were built onto the house beginning in 1926 and into the early 1980s. Both parks, Sauers and Crall, are always beckoning Angelo to "mow me", which he does nearly every day there is no rain. Trails are continually in need of over-growth maintenance and downed trees cut and removed from the trails. A century old barn located at Sauers Farm Park is used for wedding receptions, graduation parties, class reunions, church and civic functions, as well as a mini-museum of antique farm equipment. Many times you will find Angelo on the roof of this barn patching the metal roof for leaks, on ladders installing outdoor and indoor lighting, adding gravel to the parking area, maintaining the playground and picnic areas, weeding the memorial garden and pond, and sweeping and power-washing the barn floor, all to prepare for the next scheduled event. Angelo says, "Families enjoy coming to our park to picnic, fish, walk the trails, and just be together as a family. I want to maintain this as a family friendly environment." Personally, I've seen Angelo put in long tiring days to achieve that goal. Winter time adds plowing of the parking lots to his list of duties.

I haven't yet mentioned that all this is done as a park volunteer. Park managers, commissioners, and those who assist with the variety of work needed are all volunteers. The county does not

fund the park system. Ashland County Park District is not part of the city park system. All means of financial assistance is through fund raisers, grants, and donations. With 16 total parks to maintain, money gets stretched rather tightly at times. These parks are open 7 days a week, rain or shine, dawn to dusk. Families can enjoy everything from paved trails at Freer Field to near-primitive nature at Cool Springs Wildlife Conservation Park. The 14 parks in between offer a diverse hiking adventure for every skill level and a closeness to nature not experienced anywhere else in the county.

Angelo would be the first to encourage you to explore the Ashland County Park District system. There is something for everyone to enjoy. Each park has a unique ñnature personality.ö He personally invites you to visit Sauers Farm Park and Crall Woods at Pine Hill. If the grass is green, you will find him on the mower.

For more information about the Ashland County Park District, visit our website at ashlandcountyparks.com. There you will find information about each park, maps, events, and volunteer information. To inquire about using the century barn at Sauers Farm Park, contact Karen Leonetti at 330-590-0720 or email phpsfb@gmail.com. The barn is presently booked through the 2017 season. For other inquiries, contact Angelo Leonetti at 330-590-0721.