



Birding Inside the Box!



Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society is partnering with Cleveland Metroparks Zoo to develop a trail of bird nest boxes at the Zoo. The project aims to enhance the Zoo's backyard wildlife habitat for native

birds and inspire Zoo staff, volunteers and guests to learn more about north-east Ohio's urban bird ecology. Plus, watching birds feather their nest box, lay eggs, and raise chicks is a **fun and interesting** experience!

The project began in March 2010 when WCAS members observed the zoo's old nest boxes, which were in need of replacement. WCAS members began helping to design a nest box trail plan based on the location of forests, ponds, and open grasslands at the Zoo. This past winter, Rick Ryan, a prospective Eagle Scout from Brooklyn, Ohio decided to earn his scouting wings by constructing nest boxes for the project. He built four basic designs that were specified by the Ohio Division of Wildlife. The nest boxes vary in dimension and cavity opening size so that target species of Ohio's cavity-nesting birds like wrens, tree swallows, chickadees, and

woodpeckers will be attracted to nest in them. Zoo Curator of Birds and Aquatics,

Stan Searles, worked with WildBirds Unlimited to outfit the Zoo with poles and predator guards for the project. Rick's Scout Troop then helped to mount twenty of the boxes this spring. It has been a rewarding local conservation effort with plenty of community involvement!



A team of certified volunteers—also known as citizen scientists—are already helping to monitor the nest

boxes in accordance with NestWatch, a project funded by the National Science Foundation and managed by Cornell Lab of Ornithology. In April, Jason Martin, Project Leader for the NestWatch program, Skyped with about 20 volunteers at the Zoo to teach the basics of bird nest monitoring. The Zoo's citizen scientists were thrilled to observe several of the boxes being used by tree swallows and other birds within weeks. The information volunteers collect as part of the Zoo's nest box project will contribute to a national avian database that helps biologists, natural resource managers and conservationists make informed decisions about wildlife management. Cornell researchers are also interested in learning more about how climate change impacts bird ecology, such as earlier egg laying and migration. By participating in long-term wildlife monitoring on a landscape-scale, we can better understand the science behind the birds and the bees!



Cleveland Metroparks Zoo is a Certified Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation and supports the work of the Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society. More opportunities to get involved in nest monitoring efforts will be available once the program is fully fledged. Stay "tweeted" to learn more about the Zoo's nest box project! If you have questions, please contact Gayle Albers, Conservation Coordinator, at gla@clevelandmetroparks.com.

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Field Trips

Saturday, August 27, 2011...8:00 am...Shorebirds

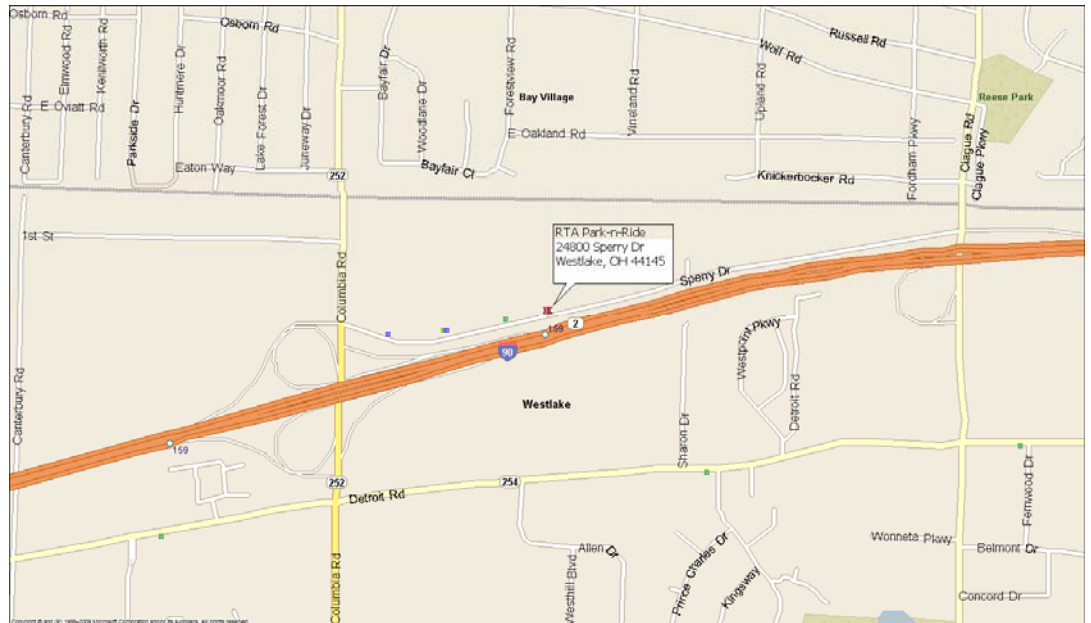
Leader: Craig Caldwell

Location: TBA. Meet at Sperry Dr. RTA Park-n-Ride (next to I-90 north of Detroit off Columbia Rd., Westlake OH)

Late summer is the time for shorebirds in Northern Ohio. Grab your binoculars and sunscreen as we join Craig Caldwell to see some of these magnificent mudflat migrants. Bring a scope if you have one. Our final destination depends on sightings during the last few days before the field trip. WCAS will supply maps. Participants may carpool from the meeting site.

We will meet at the RTA Westlake Park-n-Ride, at 24800 Sperry Dr. in Westlake. This is the same west-side Park-n-Ride used for some of the Metroparks Magee trips. It is located north of the Columbia/

Detroit Rd. intersection, and just north of I-90 in Westlake. If you are driving via I-90, exit at Columbia Rd. and go north. Sperry Dr. is on the right very close to I-90. There is another driveway leading to the Park-n-Ride just north of Sperry Rd.



Sunday, September 25, 2011...9:00 am...Lake Erie Nature & Science

Leaders: Bill Deininger (WCAS) and Christine Barnett (LENSC)

Bird Walk and Hawk Watch

We will meet at Lake Erie Nature and Science Center for a bird walk and hawk watch at Huntington Beach. Bring a lawn chair. Raptors from LENSAC may also be on the agenda...

Directions:

From the West, via Interstate 90 East:

- Exit 156, Crocker-Bassett Roads.
- Turn left on Crocker Road, which becomes Bassett Rd at the railroad tracks.
- Turn right on Wolf Road. Entrance will be .7 miles on the north (left) side of the road.

From the East, via Interstate 90 West:

- Exit 159, Columbia Road north.
- Turn right on Columbia Road.
- Turn left on Wolf Road. Entrance will be 1.9 miles on the right side of the road.

See Map on page 3

Field Trips

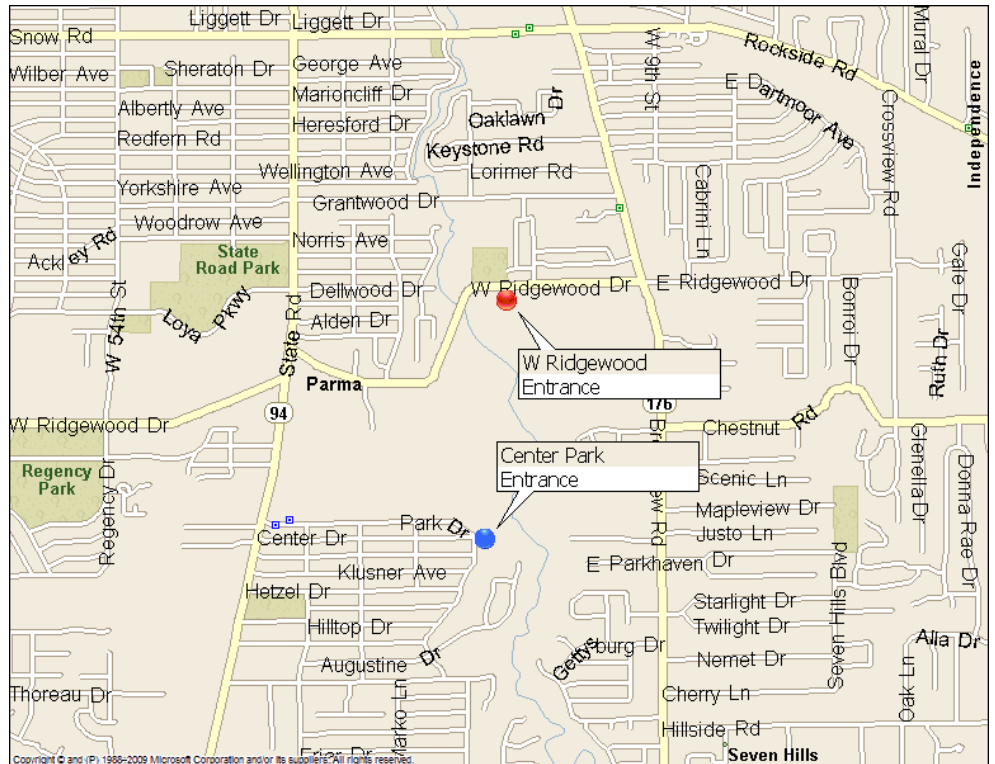
Sunday, October 9, 2011...9:00 am...West Creek Reservation

Leader: Rich Kassouf

Forested and hilly West Creek Reservation is one of the newest of the Cleveland Metroparks. These 278 acres around a tributary to the Cuyahoga River were reclaimed through a partnership of Cleveland Metroparks with the West Creek Preservation Committee and the City of Parma.

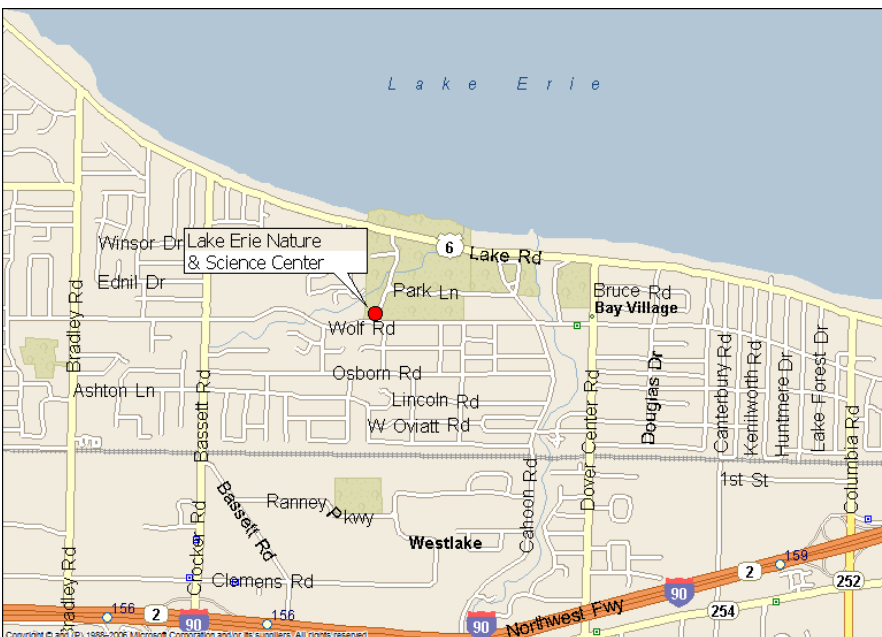
Rich Kassouf will lead our bird walk at 9 a.m. on Sunday October 9, 2011. Due to construction on the new stewardship center, **we will meet at Center Park, at the end of Park Dr. of State Rd./SR94 in Parma.**

To get to Center Park, take I-480 to State Rd. (SR94). Go south on State Rd. You will pass W. Ridgewood. Watch for Park Dr. on the left. Turn left on Park Dr. Center Park is at the end of Park Dr. Parking is on the side streets



Due to construction on the new stewardship center, **we will meet at Center Park, at the end of Park Dr. of State Rd./SR94 in Parma.**

Map for September 25, 2011 LENS field trip



Time to re-new your support

Yes, time flies when there is so much going on and Western Cuyahoga Audubon has a lot happening all of the time. Please consider renewing your chapter membership which begins at \$20.00. Remember that ALL of the chapter membership funds stay within the chapter to enhance our programs in conservation, education and advocacy. The enclosed membership renewal form is easy to fill out. Consider a gift membership or passing along the newsletter and membership form to someone who is not currently a member.

If you didn't receive the insert in this newsletter, please call Nancy Howell, our membership chair at 213-231-4600x3225 and she will mail you an application promptly.

Programs

All WCAS programs are free and open to the public. Our monthly programs are held the first Tuesday of each month, September through May, at Rocky River Nature Center, 24000 Valley Parkway, North Olmsted, Ohio. For a map and directions see www.wcasohio.org.

Tuesday, September 6, 2011 at 7:30 pm...Birding Newfoundland

"In the Footsteps of Roger Tory Peterson – Birding Newfoundland". In 1953 Roger Tory Peterson and his British colleague, James Fisher, began a legendary journey around North America to see as many different birds and landscapes as possible in a single year. Their journey began at Cape St. Mary's in Newfoundland. This presentation by Casey Tucker, founder and director of the American Avian Conservation Association, is an examination of Cape St. Mary's Eco-Reserve and its wildlife 50 years after Peterson & Fisher's expedition.

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Tuesday, October 4, 2011 at 7:30 pm...Bugs Unlimited



What could be better than creepy crawlies in October? How about learning that things are not as creepy (they still are crawly) as they seem. Entomologist, James Smolka, will share his collection of mounted and LIVE insects, scorpions, millipedes and tarantulas from around the world in his program, *"Bugs Unlimited."* We know insects and other invertebrates are important in the environment so now is our chance to see them up close and personal!

Contact Us

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WCAS Chapter Newsletter

Published 4 times per year in
January, April, July and
October by the Western
Cuyahoga Audubon Society
www.wcasohio.org is the
official Chapter Web Site.



WCAS Board Meetings held
at 6:30 pm prior to each
program at Rocky River
Nature Center. General
public and WCAS members
welcome.

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Volunteer News

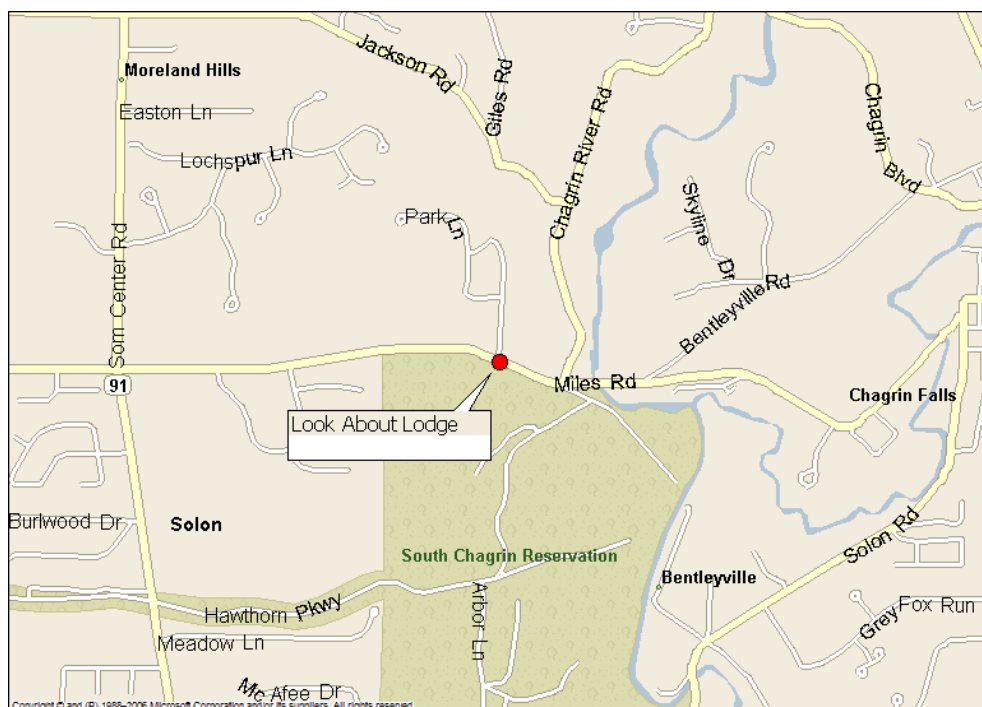
Weeders In The Wild

August 6, 2011, Saturday
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

**[Look-about Lodge](#), Cleveland
Metroparks**

Remove Japanese barberry.

Take 480 east to 422 (near 271). Quickly exit at Miles Road. Turn right (east) onto Miles. Look About Lodge will be on the right.



Dave LeGallee, WCAS's dear Friend

By Karen & Rich Kassouf

It is with great sadness we report that David LeGallee passed away April 28, 2011.

David was President of WCAS from 1985-87. Always an active member, he served as an Officer, on the Board & several Committees. He was an enthusiastic participant of meetings & field trips and was a good friend to many.

Two things dear to his heart were preserving West Creek in Parma and sharing his joy of birding with the younger generation by volunteering his time & expertise to many projects Audubon sponsored.

David's smile and gentle demeanor will be missed, but his contributions to WCAS and West Creek Preserve will live on for years.



Dave LeGallee (photo courtesy of Marian Kraus)

New Members

Patricia Gravalos and Robert Yanacsek
The Innamorato Family
Susan and Charles Legree
Kurt Miske
Ursula Ryan

House Gulf Caucus Moves to Secure Gulf Restoration

A bi-partisan group of legislators has come together as the new House Gulf Coast Caucus. The group of eleven lawmakers from the Gulf Coast region is co-chaired by Reps. Steve Scalise (R-LA) and Kathy Castor (D-FL). The group met for the first time last week to discuss how to best secure Clean Water Act penalty money for the Gulf of Mexico region.

Currently in the House of Representatives there are several legislative proposals aimed at directing the billions of dollars BP is expected to pay in penalties. Gulf Coast lawmakers are concerned that unless they act, the penalty money—perhaps as much as \$21 billion, given the size of the

spill—will flow into the U.S. Treasury and be spent elsewhere.

Although its first priority is securing the oil spill penalty money, the caucus is sure to find a variety of other issues to tackle in short order. Over the past decade, the Gulf Coast has withstood a battery of hurricanes, suffered a massive oil spill, served as center-stage in a nationwide controversy over offshore oil drilling, and is the stage for some of the largest environmental restoration projects in the world, including efforts to bring back the River of Grass in the Everglades, and more recently, the Mississippi River Delta.

Lake Erie Update

As you may already know, legislation has been introduced in the Ohio House and Senate to implement the Great Lakes Compact. This near-sighted legislation, sponsored by Senator Grendell and Representative Wachtmann, falls far short of the comprehensive, science-based approach required, and necessary to protect the surface and ground water that sustain Lake Erie. .

The Great Lakes Compact protects waters of the Great Lakes basin from new or increased large water withdrawals, consumptive uses and diversions. The Compact was created through the legislative action of its eight US member states, adopted by Congress and signed into law by President George W. Bush. The Compact went into effect December 8, 2008 and requires each Great Lakes state to develop and implement conservation and water management programs grounded in science by 2010 and 2013.

This piece of proposed legislation by Grendell and Wachtmann, seeks to re-write the Great Lakes Compact. The approach places the drinking water, jobs, and recreational opportunities of nearly 3 million Ohioans at risk.

Earlier this week, Representative Dennis Murray (D-Sandusky) and Senator Mike Skindell (D-Lakewood), submitted a counter proposal that would protect the rivers and ground water that feed Lake Erie by balancing the needs of intensive users, including manufacturers, farmers and bottlers, with the needs of public drinking water systems, the travel and tourism industry and wildlife. S.B. 186 and H.B. 257 uses sound science, recognizes that all of the waters in the Great Lakes Basin are connected, and ensures that water withdrawals are consistent with the Compact.

Lifelong Learning with Audubon Adventures

The folks at the National Audubon Society have a great new set of educational materials available through their "Audubon Adventures" program and Western Cuyahoga Audubon will obtain them for your classroom – FREE of charge!

Audubon Adventures helps 3rd through 6th graders form positive attitudes about nature with topics and themes that are important to Audubon's mission. The series of **Audubon Adventures** for the 2011 – 2012 school year is called, "**Feathers, Fur, Fins and You**" which focus on the diversity of wildlife, their habitats and conservation efforts we all can accomplish. The information provided is a standards-based classroom curriculum and is rooted in elementary science, language arts, and social studies.

Audubon Adventures Classrooms receive all of this:

- * Audubon Adventures Resource Kit with four sets of student newsmagazines and an educator's manual with background information and hands-on activities for inside and outside of the classroom.

- * *Pennies for the Planet* an educational fundraising project from TogetherGreen which focuses on protecting habitats for migrating animals.

- * Student assessment questions and answers that evaluate students' language arts and science skills.



- * Information on how Audubon Adventures meet national and state learning standards.
- * Opportunity to participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count in February 2012
- * Gift of Audubon membership and Western Cuyahoga chapter membership in the teacher's name

Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society has limited funds to provide **FREE** kits to schools (public, private, parochial or home-school). To spread the educational benefits even more consider sponsoring an **AUDUBON ADVENTURES** kit for the school's library or media center so many educators may benefit from this program. To order contact Nancy Howell at 440-891-1710 or 216-231-4600 ext. 3225 or by e-mail at nhowell@cmnh.org

Midwest Birding Symposium... Sept 15-18, 2011



Bird Watcher's Digest, The Ohio Ornithological Society, and The Lakeside Association will host this premier birding event in September 2011 along the shores of Lake Erie. The 2011 MBS will feature birding in the area's best birding spots, programs and performances by some of North America's leading bird watchers, a huge vendor area with nature products and services, and, of course, the opportunity to enjoy the company of hundreds of your fellow birders.

Register at:

Phone: 1-800-879-2473 x314

Mail: P.O. Box 110, Marietta, Ohio 45750

Web: www.midwestbirding.org

Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve tour coming up soon!

Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve will once again host its semi-annual open house on **Saturday, September 24 from 7:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** This fall's event is being billed as "Nature in the Neighborhood." Plan on attending this rare opportunity to see birds and other wildlife in their natural habitat!

The preserve is located on an old dredge disposal site formerly known as Dike 14 and is adjacent to the East 72d Street Marina in Cleveland. Since 2003, the Environmental Educational Collaborative (EEC), an agency comprised of 11 conservation non-profit organizations in Greater Cleveland, has planned and conducted an open house on the preserve each spring and fall.

The event will feature two workshops for teachers to tell them about opportunities in the near future to bring their classes to the preserve. EEC members will also display the backpacks they have assembled

containing educational materials about various aspects of the natural world. The backpacks are ideal for teachers to use in their classrooms to prepare students for a tour of the preserve.

Be sure to park at the Cleveland Lakefront State Park office, not the E.72d Street Marina parking lot. The park office is located at 8701 Lake Shore Blvd. Get there by taking the MLK exit off of I-90, turn north toward Lake Erie, and follow Lakeshore Blvd. to the top of the hill and turn left into the park office parking lot.

For a map see our Birding Hotspots page on www.wcasohio.org. Click on Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve.

