



Ultrawalkers Kick Off 3rd Year of IBA Project

By Tom Romito, President, WCAS



Stan Searles, left, and Tom Romito enter the Emerald Necklace Marina following the Ultrawalk on May 24, 2008

www.wcasohio.org

The Feathered Flyer

Seven miles from the Emerald Necklace Marina, the end of the **31-mile Ultrawalk** through the Rocky River Important Bird Area on May 24, I said to Stan Searles, "My thighs are screaming with pain!" Fortunately, Stan's daughter Katie, who runs marathons and joined us for the last stretch, told me to take two aspirin, followed by two ibuprofen 20 minutes later. Within minutes, the pain vanished and I finished the walk with power to spare.

Eight people began the Ultrawalk at 6:00 A.M. in Hinckley Reservation. Of those, Stan, I and three other walkers entered the marina at 5:30 p.m., along with 26 other people whom Stan recruited to join us at Park Operations, five miles from the marina. Among these people were Bill Ryan, President, of the Cleveland Metroparks Board of Directors, and Bob Hinkle, Chief Naturalist of the Cleveland Metroparks. All of the walkers obtained pledges from their friends and associates as part of the fund-raiser for the IBA project.

Rocky River Mayor Pamela Bobst was on hand to greet us when we entered the marina. Mayor Bobst spoke to the walkers and our support team, made up of the WCAS board of directors and other volunteers. She thanked WCAS for

raising public awareness about the IBA and the importance of conserving the Rocky River watershed. This event kicked off the third year of the Rocky River IBA breeding bird survey. Our partnership with Cleveland Metroparks, Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, and Audubon Ohio continued this summer as observer-recorder teams identified and recorded breeding birds on their assigned points. We will provide Cleveland Metroparks with this data, which they will together use in our outreach efforts to influence stakeholders to make wise land use decisions in the Rocky River valley.

Inside this issue:

Field trips	page 2 & 3
Weeders in the Wild	Page 3
Programs	Page 4
Miscellaneous Tidbits	Page 4
Audubon Adventures	Page 5
Conservation News	Page 6
Election Information	Page 7
Application	Page 7

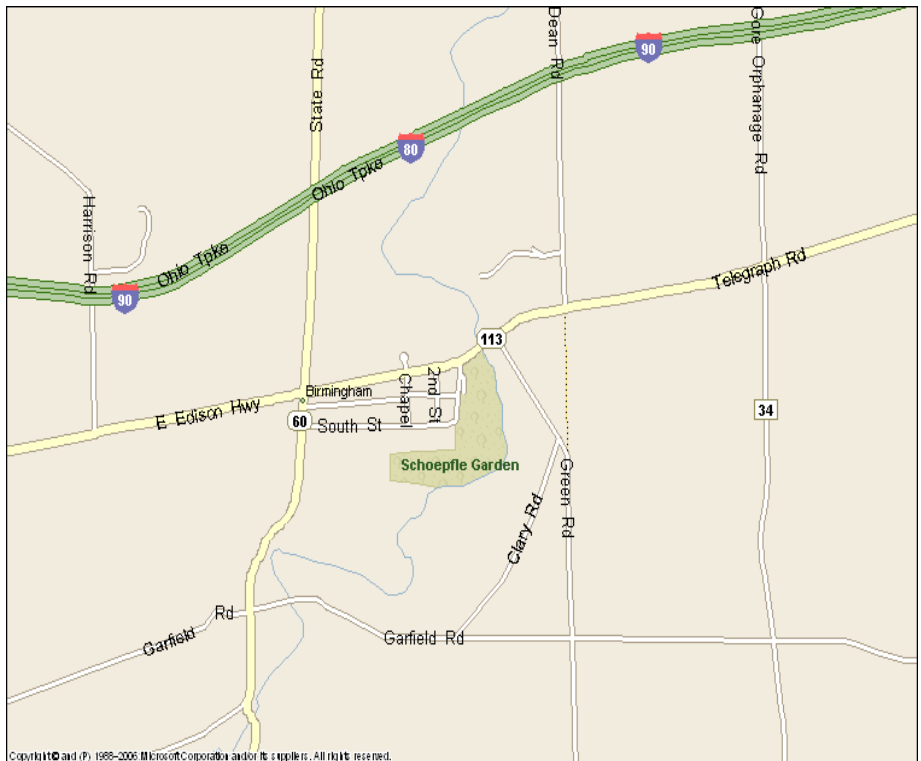
Field Trips

Sunday, August 17, 2008...8:15 AM...Schoepfle Garden

Natural woodlands cradle a lovely formal botanical garden with amazing trees and topiary at **Schoepfle Garden**. We will bird a short trail by the Vermilion River and a longer one in the woods above. Bill Deininger will be our leader.

Meet by the Visitor Center.
Address: 11106 Market Street
Birmingham, Oh (south of St. Rt. 113)

From Cleveland Area:
Go West on I-90 or on I-480 to the Ohio Turnpike. Take the Turnpike west toward Toledo. Take Turnpike exit 135 to Baumhart Rd. Follow signs for Baumhart Road S, and turn right (south) on Baumhart Rd. Turn right (west) on Ohio 113 / Telegraph Road. Watch for white sign saying you are entering Birmingham. Immediately after you cross the Vermilion River, turn quick left onto Market Street. Schoepfle Garden is on the left.



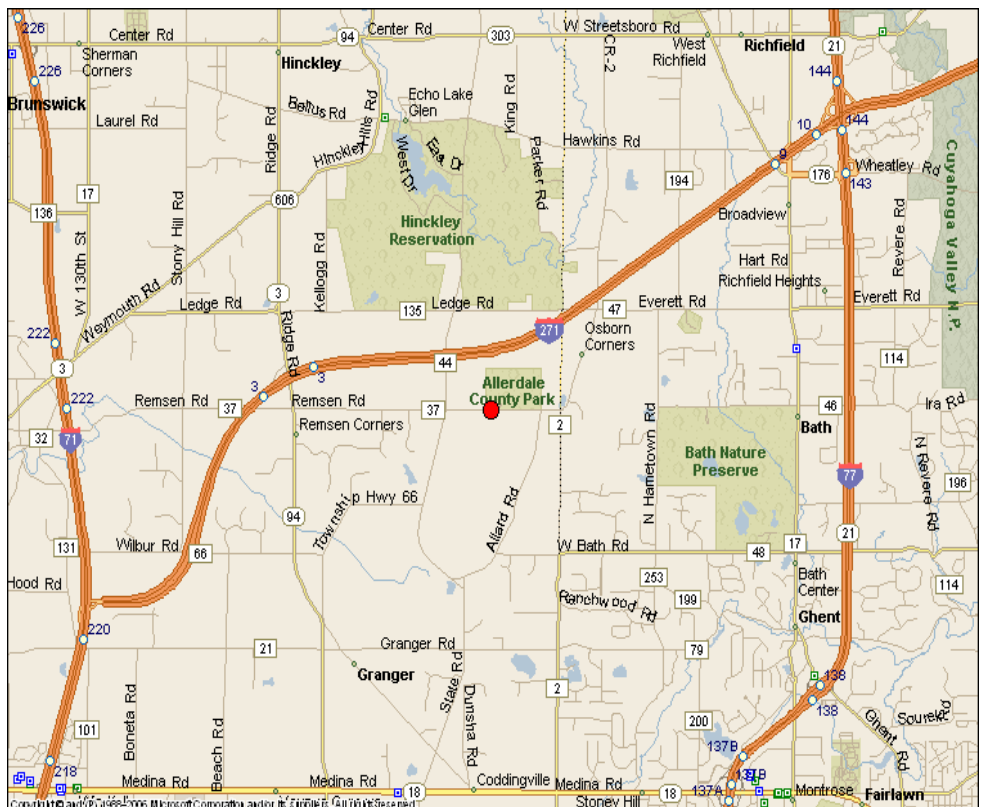
Sunday, September 7, 2008...8:00 AM...Allardale County Park

We will be visiting **Allardale**, part of the Medina Co. Park District, which boasts one of the finest reforestation areas in the State of Ohio. This rolling site offers a wide variety of habitats and scenic areas. Dan Bertsch will be our leader as we look for Bobolinks and fall migrants

Directions from Cleveland:

401 Remsen Rd.
Medina, Oh 44256

Take I 71 South to Exit 222, Rt.3 toward Hinckley/Medina. Turn left at Weymouth Rd. (1 mile)
Continue on Ledge Rd., Oh 3 (3.5 miles). Turn right at State Rd. (1 mile) Turn left at Remsen Rd. (one half mile).



Field Trips

Sunday, October 5, 2008...8:00 AM...Dike 14, Cleveland Lakefront

Nancy Howell will lead our October field trip to **Dike 14** on Cleveland's lakefront, a great birding area. Waivers will be available and must be signed before entering Dike 14. The terrain is very rough and there are no established signage, walks or trails. We'll take it slow, but it is a wild place, so be prepared and wear good shoes and socks for hiking, as well as long pants. There are ticks on site so you may want to use bug spray and/or tuck pants into socks prior to this walk. Bathrooms are available near, but not on, the site.

Directions:

Take I 90 to Martin Luther King Blvd. Turn north on MLKB, then left (west) on N. Marginal Rd. Turn right into the Cleveland Lakefront State Park-Gordon Boat Ramp parking area. Park in the far northeast end of the parking lot. This is the end of the parking lot closest to the gate that surrounds Dike 14.



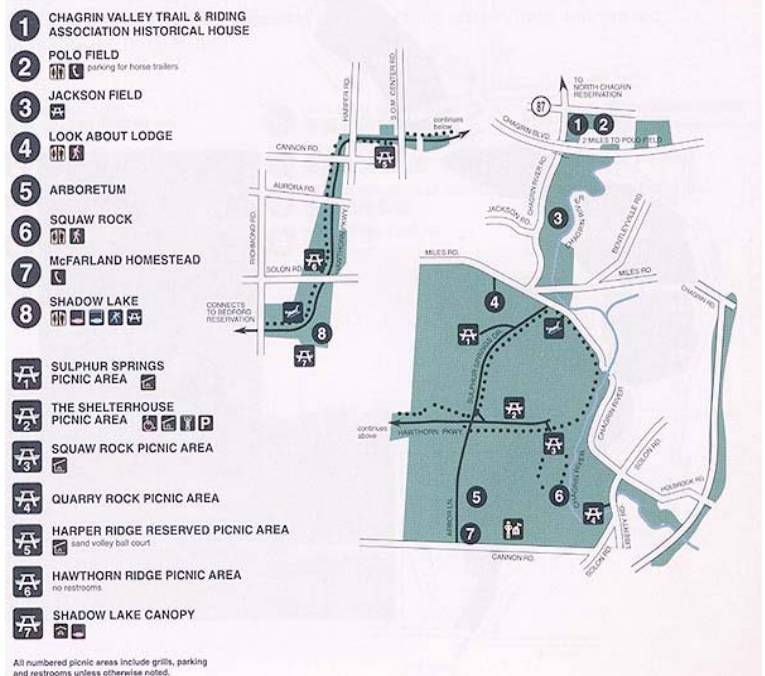
Weeders in the Wild

Sunday, August 17, 10:00 to Noon South Chagrin Arboretum Cleveland Metroparks

Join Terri Martincic and others at the "Third Annual Cranberry Liberation Pull" as they remove the invasive Buckthorn that is trying to crowd out the native Cranberry. Meet at the Arboretum parking lot.

Directions:

Take I 480 east to 422 (near I 271). Quickly exit at Miles Rd. Turn right (east) onto Miles. Go past Look About Lodge, turn right (south) on Sulphur Springs Dr. Turn right on Hawthorn and then a quick left onto Arbor Lane. The Arboretum parking lot is on the left.

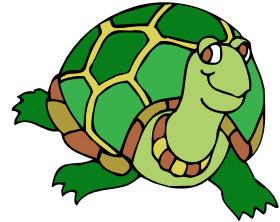


Programs

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 2, 2008 at 7:30 PM

Dr. Marin Rosenberg, recently retired biology instructor from CWRU, loves reptiles. And who doesn't love turtles? His presentation, "**Let's Talk Turtles**" will cover a bit about turtle biology, then go into the different species of turtle that may be found in Ohio. Some hands-on items will be available to explore and perhaps a live visitor or two will make an appearance.



Tuesday, October 7, 2008 at 7:30 PM

Rain, rain, go away? Maybe not. Bob Kehres of Ohio Prairie Nursery wants the rain, and so will you, to keep your Rain Garden growing. Join us for the program, "**The Care and Feeding of a Rain Garden.**" Instead of rainwater from your house or garage roof pouring into the sewer system, why not let the water flow into a garden with plants that can tolerate "wet feet". Not only will this reduce the amount of water going into sewers, but soil, like a sponge, will allow water to percolate slowly. PLUS you could have the benefit of a yard with beautiful plants and not much work!



Miscellaneous Tidbits

Audubon Ohio is publishing a new book entitled "**Important Bird Areas of Ohio**," that will provide detailed information on Ohio's 66 **Important Bird Areas**. The book is due out in late summer and they are maintaining a list of people who want to receive notice as soon as it is available for sale. If you are interested in being added to this mailing list, please send a message to ohio@audubon.org, or call Ellen Armstrong at [614-224-3303](tel:614-224-3303). Be sure to provide your address and phone number.

You may visit Audubon Ohio's web site for more information on the book, as well as many other interesting activities going on at: www.audubonohio.org

WCAS member **Dave Lewis** will have his photo show entitled "*Birds of the World*" displayed at CanalWay Center in the Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation, Cuyahoga Hts. Dave has traveled to some wonderful birding areas world-wide, and the resulting pictures are sure to be worth a visit to see. The show runs from July 1 through August 31, 2008



A trail that will link Lakes Isaac and Abram, *The Lake to Lake Trail*, is expected to be completed in spring 2009. According to Jane Christyson of the Cleveland Metroparks, it will stretch 2.3 miles and will cost approx. \$4.5 million. Funding came from grants from the Clean Ohio Trail Fund (of the State of Ohio Nature Works Grant), the City of Cleveland, the Abram Creek/Airport Mitigation Fund, and Cleveland Metroparks. This trail will give people the opportunity to access Lake Abram, which is the largest wetland in Cuyahoga County. A boardwalk is being built so people can actually walk or bike through the wetlands.

Education Outreach

LIFELONG LEARNING WITH AUDUBON ADVENTURES!

AUDUBON ADVENTURES is a nationally acclaimed classroom resource kit for educators of grades 3 through 6. **AUDUBON ADVENTURES** covers topics and themes that are pertinent to today's environment. The theme for the 2008 -2009 school year is **"FEATS OF NATURE"** with the units covering, Migration, Animal Builders, Animal Defenses and Plants.

Each **AUDUBON ADVENTURES** Classroom Resource kit contains:

4 different editions of **AUDUBON ADVENTURES**, the tabloid-style paper for students - 32 copies per edition

AUDUBON ADVENTURES Classroom Resource Manual complete with background information on the four themes, detailed lesson plans, tips for outdoor study, assessment tools, hands-on activities, research material, duplicating masters, links to websites and more.

A *Guide for a Healthy Schoolyard* poster that links with web-based content helping schools take action to make their school or community healthier for people ... and birds.

Classroom subscription to Audubon magazine and affiliation with your local Audubon chapter.

National standards alignment chart showing how **Audubon Adventures** meets the national and state language arts and science standards.

Participation in Audubon's 2009 Citizen Science Programs
Individual kits (to serve one student) are available too!

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 email at: nhowell@cmnh.org**



Contact Us

**WESTERN CUYAHOGA
AUDUBON SOCIETY**
4310 Bush Ave.
Cleveland, OH 44109

Phone: 216-741-2352
Fax: 216-741-1879
Email: info@wcasohio.org

*Visit our website
www.wcasohio.org*



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.

President

Tom Romito, 216-741-2352

Treasurer

Nancy Howell, 440-891-1710

Newsletter Editor

Kit Birch, 440-238-0153

Webmaster

Mary Anne Romito, 216-741-2352

Conservation Chair

Terri Martincic, 440-243-4536

Directors at Large

Liz Clingman, 440-234-7784

Penny O' Connor

Kathleen Tiburzi

Conservation News

New Environmental Hero



WCAS's very own president, Tom Romito, has been recognized on the new "Together Green" web site as a bona fide Environmental Hero. Tom, who also serves on the Audubon Ohio Advisory Board, was recognized for being a leader in organizing

and conducting a 31 mile "Ultrawalk" to raise funds to benefit the Rocky River Important Bird Area.

Together Green is a joint initiative of the National Audubon Society and Toyota. You can find Tom's hero profile at: www.togethergreen.org/People/HeroDetails.aspx?heroID=115

Ohio Ratifies Great Lakes Compact

On July 7, Ohio Governor Ted Strickland signed legislation confirming Ohio's ratification of the **Great Lakes Basin Water Resources Compact**. Audubon Ohio was an active participant in a coalition effort to win ratification, generating 20 published letters to the editor in Ohio, and over 1,600 postcards to state legislative leaders urging strong action to protect the Great Lakes. Audubon Ohio was the only conservation group to recruit and train two citizen activists to testify in the General Assembly in support of ratification. Executive Director, Jerry Tinianow, also

testified twice on the ratification bill. Audubon Ohio was also the only conservation group to enlist Lieutenant Governor, Lee Fisher to testify in favor of the Compact. His highly effective testimony in April may well have been a turning point in the ratification effort.

The Fourth Annual Great Lakes Restoration Conference entitled "*Healthy Lakes 2009-New Leadership, Real Success*" will be held in Milwaukee, Wis. From September 10-12, 2008. For more info: www.healthylakes.org/08conference

Bird Population Declines

Recently in Washington, **National Audubon Society's** Director of Science, Dr. Tom Bancroft, testified before the House Natural Resources Committee during an oversight hearing on "*Going, Going, Gone. An Assessment of the Global Decline in Bird Populations.*" Here is an excerpt from that testimony: "Audubon has documented a truly alarming trend. More than 100 of America's most common birds have declined significantly over the last 40 years. Last year, it issued a *State of the Birds*

report that focused on the 20 common bird species that have lost more than 50% of their population in the last 40 years. Almost half of the common species for which population trends are known are in decline. This result is surprising. We know that there are rare and endangered species, but most of us think of the common birds we see so often in our backyards and local parks as invulnerable. We now know that is not the case". For more information go to: www.audubon.org

Ontario Announces 55 Million Acres of Boreal Forest Protection

The Boreal Songbird Initiative (Borealbirds.org) reported that on July 14, 2008, Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty announced a landmark commitment to protect 55 million acres of Boreal Forest in the northern area of the province. Ontario's Boreal Forest is home to hundreds of millions of birds, among them Gray Jays, Boreal Chickadees,

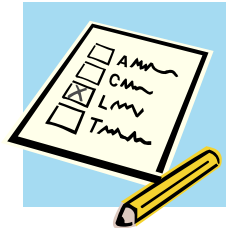
Dark-eyed Juncos, Tennessee Warblers, Swainson's Thrushes and the White-throated Sparrow, to name just a few. This is one of the most significant conservation commitments on Earth, and serves as a great example to the rest of Canada and the world. Wonderful news for birders who live for migration time!

Election Year Information

How Does Your Congressman/woman rank on Conservation Issues?

In order to make informed decisions as to what candidates best reflect your conservation priorities, you may want to do some research of your own.

Take a look at the League of Conservation Voters website at: <http://www.lcv.org>. All you have to do is enter your zip code to see who your representatives are. Then you can click on "Scorecard" to see their environmental conservation score for the current session. You may also click on their name for detailed information on specific issues. Remember that a quick visit to your local library can make the internet available to you...just ask the librarian for help if you need it. You may also do a search using the League of Conservation Voters as subject.



Want to contact your state and federal elected officials?

Your state representative can be found at:
www.house.state.oh.us/

Your state senator can be found at:
www.senate.state.oh.us/

Your federal representative is found at:
www.house.gov

Your federal senators can be found at:
www.senate.gov

The Ohio Environmental Council has also produced a handy directory of state and federal elected officials with pertinent information. You may view a copy at <http://www.theoec.org> and click on "Resources" or call them at 1-614-487-7506.

Chapter Supporter Application

Why wait? Join WCAS as a chapter supporter now!

Chapter Membership year: September 1 through August 31 (adjustment made for mid-year)

Chapter Dues give you our newsletter, a nametag and a window cling.

Check one:	1 or 2 people	Family
Dues	\$20	\$35

Additional Donation (Check one)	\$5	\$10	\$20	Other	Total enclosed
				\$ _____	\$ _____

NAME
ADDRESS
CITY/STATE/ZIP
TELEPHONE
EMAIL ADDRESS

**Make your check payable to WCAS. Mail to Nancy Howell, treasurer,
19340 Fowles Rd., Middleburg Hts. Ohio, 44130**



WESTERN CUYAHOGA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Membership Renewal Time!

Encourage your friends and family to renew or join the WCAS chapter. A chapter membership is good for one year, September 1, 2008 through August 31, 2009. Below are just 10 reasons to join...bet you can think of many more:

1. Supports conservation in our area
2. Terrific field trips year "round"
3. Great programs from September through May
4. Nice people who share your interests
5. Rocky River Important Bird Area citizen-science projects
6. Informative website and newsletter
7. Bird-friendly, shade-grown coffee at all our meetings
8. Networking with other conservation organizations
9. Fun at WCAS events and fund-raisers
10. Because it is YOUR chapter and you help to direct us toward our mission

Please use the form in this newsletter or off our website and send it in soon.

