



Good Reasons For Joining WCAS

By Tom Romito, President, WCAS

If you're interested in conservation and want to join something, WCAS is the group for you! There are several reasons I can make this statement. Our group is active, fun, educational and involved in the community. We don't just talk about it—we do it! Here's a summary of what we have done so far this year:

Each month we held a program meeting featuring an expert talking on some aspect of conservation. Also, each month we conducted a field trip to a pristine habitat in northeast Ohio to explore birds and other wildlife in the places where they live. Within the community, we participated in the Science Olympiad at Cleveland State University, NASA Earth Day, and School Days at Edgewater Park.

As if this wasn't enough, we conducted Year Four of our five-year survey of birds in the Rocky River Important Bird Area (IBA). This survey is helping Cleveland Metroparks acquire grant money to purchase private parcels of land in the Rocky River valley. These acquisitions, in turn, are helping Metroparks achieve its goal of making the Emerald Necklace a contiguous green space around Greater Cleveland.

These activities show how WCAS is active and involved. So what's the fun part? At each meeting and



WCAS at Medina Raptor Center © Mary Anne Romito

event, we try to recognize everyone's contribution, whether that's leading a field trip, speaking to the community, performing data entry, or bringing refreshments. Inclusion is the hallmark of our success in WCAS. We could not succeed without our members.

Activities, involvement, and fun.. Three good reasons to join WCAS. Here's one more: by joining WCAS as a Chapter Supporter, all of your dues stay with us to help defray the cost of what we do. If these things inspire you to join, please do so with the form in this newsletter or visit our website at www.wcasohio.org



Chili Luncheon and Compilation © Laurie Boylan



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2009 Field Trips

Friday, July 31...8:15 AM...Southerly Waste Water Treatment Plant Tour

We are hoping this newsletter gets to you a little before it's due date of August so you may register for this unique field trip to a Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District facility. This fits in with Audubon's interest in regional water quality. You must register by **Tuesday, July 28.**

The Plant is located in the village of Cuyahoga Heights on a 273 acre site. For more information or to register, please contact:

Penny O'Connor
1-216-676-4859
pjo@earthlink.net

Saturday, August 1, 2009...7:30 AM...Ohio Prairie Nursery

The Ohio Prairie Nursery has native plants which are used to restore native Ohio prairie landscapes. Bob Kehres has graciously agreed to lead us on a special tour of this beautiful farm. We will see prairie grasses and blooms, and some grassland birds too. Their website is:
<http://www.ohioprairienursery.com>

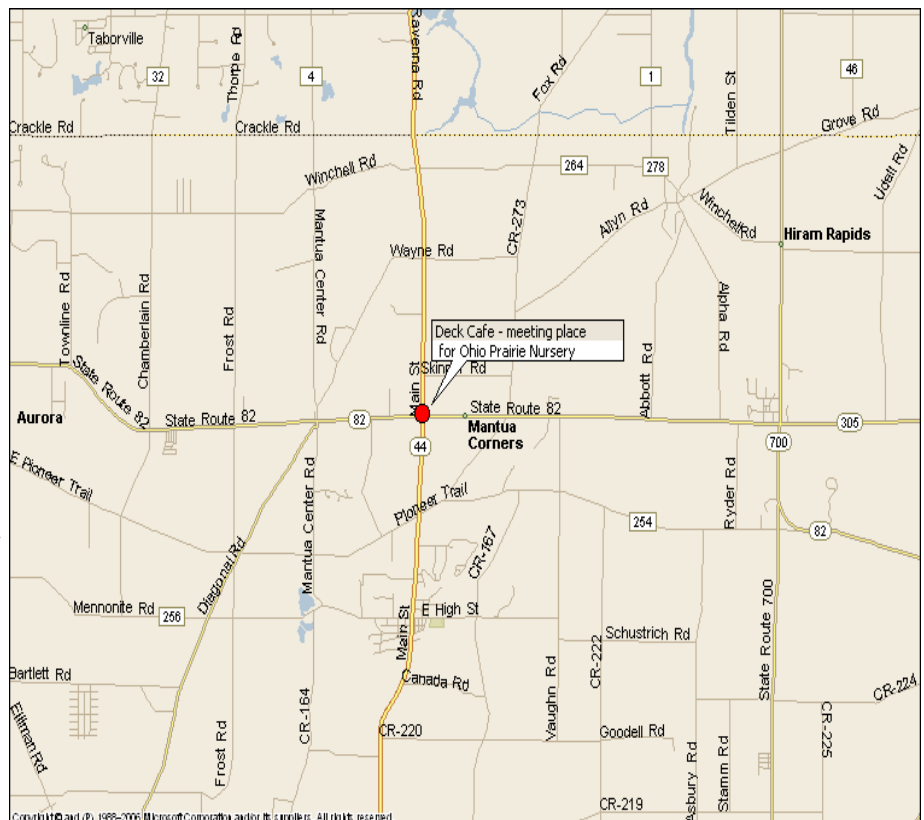
We will meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Deck Café in Mantua Corners. Park in the back lot. The Café opens at 6 a.m. if you wish to stop for coffee or breakfast.. Please see map and directions below. Travel note: the Deck Café is about 50 miles from the west side of Cleveland.

Directions:

From west, take I-480 to Rt. 422 E. Follow Rt. 422 East to Rt. 44. Go south (right) on Rt. 44 toward Mantua and Ravenna. At intersection of Rt. 82, look for Deck Café on southwest corner; it is a rambling brown building. Entrance to back parking lot is on the right, just south of Rt. 82.

OR

From west on Ohio Turnpike (I-80), follow it to Rt.44, Exit 193. Take Rt. 44 North through town of Mantua to intersection of Rt. 82. Just before the intersection look on the left for the Deck Café on the southwest corner. It is a rambling brown building. The entrance to the back parking lot is on the left, just south of Rt. 82.



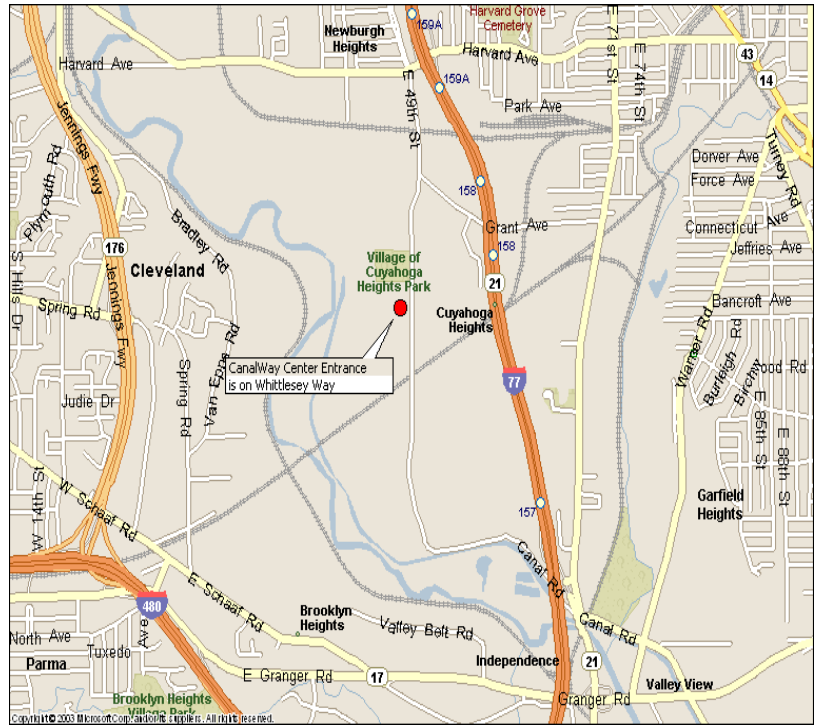
2009 Field Trips

Sunday, Sept. 13...8:00 AM...CanalWay Center, Cleveland Metroparks

Accessible birding! Our hosts at CanalWay have arranged for two golf carts, so invite your birding friends who could use a lift. Birders will have a choice to walk or ride. This field trip is for everyone, in spite of that steep hill! **To hold a seat in the cart, call or e-mail Penny O'Connor, at (216) 676-4859 or pjo@earthlink.net.** We will bird the top of the valley and the flood plain by the Cuyahoga River and the Erie Canal. Our trip leaders are JoAnn Kubicki and Joe Woyma.

Directions:

Take I-77 to Grant Ave. Take Grant west to E.49 St. Turn south (left) on E. 49th to Whittlesey Way. Turn right on Whittlesey and follow it to CanalWay's parking lot. Map on line at: <http://www.wcasohio.org/canalwaycenterinohioeriec.htm>

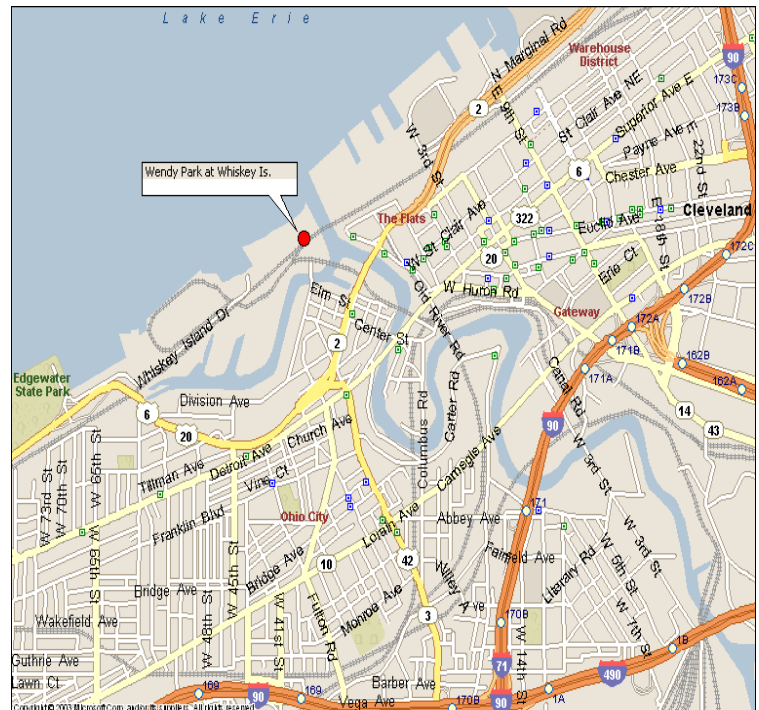


Sunday, October 4...8:30 AM...Wendy Park at Whiskey Island, Cleveland

Bill Deininger will lead us on this trip to Wendy Park and Whiskey Island which is located on the immediate western shore of the Cuyahoga River where it empties into Lake Erie. It has trees and grass and trails that are part gravel, part paved. The terrain is mostly flat. We hope to see fall migrants and perhaps a few waterfowl.

Directions:

Head to the lower part of Edgewater State Park located directly off of Ohio Rt. 2 between the Clifton Blvd. Exit and the West 45 St. Exit. Get off Rt.2 at the Edgewater Park Exit and head north towards Lake Erie. Turn right on the first and only road on your right (east) Keep veering to the right and follow the road past the Sewer District Plant Operations (on your left). The road will end at the Whiskey Island Marina guard gate and the entrance to Wendy Park. For a map online: <http://www.wcasohio.org/wendyparkatwhiskeyisland.htm>.



WCAS Lecture Series for 2009

Our free 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). Guests are always welcome to come and learn about the Audubon mission.

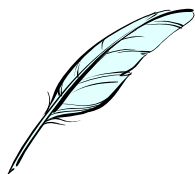


Goldfinch photo by Dave Lewis

Tuesday, September 1, at 7:30 PM

American Goldfinch, we enjoy them coming to thistle feeders in winter and watch as the males molt from the dull winter plumage to bright yellow, black and white. Do female goldfinch "appreciate" these colors as well?

Dr. Keith Tarvin's studies of the American Goldfinch have found that females do look for "quality" in males ... but how? Join us for his program, ***"This Bill Means Business: The Function of Ornamental Bill Color in American Goldfinches."***



Tuesday, October 6, at 7:30 PM

Birds have evolved an astonishing diversity of coloration in their feathers, but where do the colors come from? In his program, ***"Birds of a Feather"***, Dr. Matthew Shawkey has been researching feather structure and color on the microscopic and molecular levels. His work has led to looking into the antimicrobial defenses of birds and their feathers. Is there a relationship between plumage color and microbes?



Tuesday, November 3, at 7:30 PM

Enjoy the beauty of South-west Texas and New Mexico's spring and winter birding hotspots with naturalist, writer, and photographer David Dvorak Jr. His program, ***"The Chihuahuan Desert: Just Add Water"***, will include a variety of wetland habitats in this unique desert environment and at the edge of western mountain ranges.

Help Needed!

WCAS could sure use a **Hospitality Coordinator** for the 2009-10 program year! Here's what is involved:

- _Assistance with setting up refreshments for monthly meetings
 - _Supplying cookies or pastries (store-bought is fine and you will be reimbursed).
 - _Getting others involved in case you are absent.
- Please contact Nancy Howell at 216-231-4600 ext. 3225, or 440-891-1710 or nhowell@cmnh.org

The 19th annual **Berea Arts Fest** will be held on Sunday, Sept. 13, from 10 AM to 5 PM. This is a FREE event held at the Coe Lake just south of the Berea center triangle. Food, music and non-profit organizations will be there. WCAS would like to have assistance with our tent display working shifts from 9 AM until 1 PM or from 1 to 5 PM, with take down of materials at the end of the day. Please contact Tom Romito 216-741-2352 if you would like to help out.

Education Outreach

Lifelong Learning With Audubon Adventures!

Audubon Adventures, a set of publications for educators and students, will be available FREE through Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society for the 2009-2010 school year. Audubon Adventures is a set of 4 tabloid style newspapers, each with a natural history theme and best used with students from Third through Fifth grades. Educators may request a class kit which includes 30 newspapers on each theme for students and Ohio standards-based educator materials. For homeschools, an individual kit may be ordered, but will have one



newspaper per theme as well as educator materials. WCAS will provide kits to educators, free of charge, until our budgeted funds run out.

Please contact Nancy Howell at 216-231-4600 ext. 3225 (work), 440-891-1710 (home) or nhowell@cmnh.org to order your **Audubon Adventures** kit.

School Days at Edgewater Park

Thanks go out to Dave LeGallee for staffing the WCAS display at the School Days event on Wednesday, May 20 at Edgewater Park. About

300 youngsters and their teachers stopped by the display on Bird Identification...and the students received stickers.

Weeders In The Wild

August 8, 2009, Saturday, 1 to 3 PM
[South Chagrin Arboretum](#)
Cleveland Metroparks

Fourth Annual Cranberry Liberation Pull! Join us as we remove the invasive Buckthorn that is trying to crowd out the native Cranberry.

Directions:

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

Conservation News

The effort to restore the Great Lakes advanced in the U.S. Congress on 6/26/09, as the House of Representatives approved \$475 million to fund a new Great Lakes Restoration Initiative first pro-

posed in President Obama's budget. The Senate will take up this spending bill after July 4 break. Excerpt from "Health Lakes, Healthy Lives" Website: www.healthylakes.org

Contact Us

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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

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Terri Martincic, 440-243-4536

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Liz Clingman, 440-234-7784

Penny O' Connor

Kathleen Tiburzi

Thanks To All IBA UltraWalk Participants



UltraWalk Pledges

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Debbie | Mueller |
| Cathy | Dougherty |
| Fran | Zielaskiewicz |
| Marian | Zehnder |
| Rocky River | Kiwanis |
| Dave & Laurie | Lewis |
| Kim | Langley |
| Anonymous | |
| Rob and Peg | Bobel |
| Terry & Joanne | Gorges |
| Davis | |
| Robin | Tener |
| Dean & Robin | Tener |
| Craig | Caldwell |
| Mary | Stoffiere |
| Parma Area Morning | Kiwanis |
| Independence | Kiwanis |
| Marveta | Morman |
| Patty | Emery |
| Ron | Beatty |
| Petra | Zerbian |
| Jackie | Spencer |
| Nurse | Cindy |
| Andrea | Sullivan |
| Joann | Kubicki |
| Carol | Heywood |
| Marge | Hornbrook |
| Chris | Larsen-McKenzie |
| Maria | Boyer |
| Donna | Rakes |
| Mary | Grycan |
| Nancy | Heywood |
| Arna | Stennett |
| Chris | Carter |
| Nancy | Howell |
| Dwight & Ann | Chasar |
| Joe | Reardon |
| Karen | Kannenberger |
| Jean | Bartoo |
| Mary Lou | Hura |
| Mary Jane | Christyson |
| Anonymous | |
| Thomas | Robatin |
| Geoffrey SE | Hall |
| Mike | Durkalec |
| Nidia | Arguedas |
| Peter | Fashing |
| Joel & Linda | Howson |
| Joanne | Clemens |
| Chlondra | Hunter |
| Stan | Searles |
| Penny | O'Connor |

UltraWalk Registrants

| | |
|-----------|--------------|
| Patricia | Potter |
| Trish | Myers |
| Liz | Clingman |
| Dave | Lewis |
| Jennie | DeChant |
| Kit | Birch |
| Tom | Romito |
| Caroline | Rohan |
| Stan | Searles |
| Susan | Light |
| Mary | Stoffiere |
| Julie | Light |
| Courtenay | Gregory |
| Mary Anne | Romito |
| Kathleen | Tiburzi |
| Mary | Gill |
| M. Jane | Christyson |
| Bridget | Mahoney |
| Karen | Kannenberger |
| Vicki | Searles |
| Gayle | Albers |
| Chris | Kuhar |
| Geoff | Hall |



Waiting for the UltraWalkers
© Penny O'Connor



UltraBirders hard at work
© Mary Anne Romito

Audubon Ohio is offering the first and limited edition of **The Important Bird Areas of Ohio** book by John Ritzenthaler. It catalogues birdlife at dozens of sites throughout Ohio and has been touted as the premier guide for Ohio birders, wildlife scientists and environmental educators. Reserve your copy now by e-mail: ohio@audubon.org List your name, area code, phone number and e-mail address. The cost is \$19.95 plus shipping and handling. Happy Birding!

Community Action and Outreach

Our talented web master, Mary Anne, has thought up a new page for our website aimed at show-casing the many ways Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society is getting out there! Following are some excerpts from that page; read on and be motivated to join in the future fun.



Photo courtesy of Laurie Boylan



Photo courtesy of Penny O'Connor



Photo courtesy of Laurie Boylan

Thanks to Terry, Joanne, Barb, Penny, Kit, Dave & Laurie for manning the WCAS display board at the April 2009 **North Coast Nature Festival** at the Rocky River Nature Center. Dave Lewis's beautiful display board really helps us get our message out about who we are and what we do.

Penny, Barb and Nancy represented us during **International Migratory Bird Day** at the Zoo on May 9, 2009. The migration game was a big hit, as was the Zoo's screech owl. Lots of families got to learn more about birds and their habitats as well as what WCAS is all about.

The July 19, 2008 **Summer-fest** of the Fairview Garden Club was a good place for Dave, Laurie, Terry and Joanne to talk up WCAS activities and goals.

WCAS members also participated in the following:

Public Library outreach
Dike 14 Public Events
Science Olympiad
Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds Wind Turbine Project
Surveying the 303 Hinckley property

Surveying Rising Valley
Surveying the DB Midwest property
Outreach to Emerald Necklace Inn
School Days at Edgewater Park
Northeastern Ohio Science & Engineering Fair, Special Award

The following list of community groups represents the 2007 through 2009 outreach efforts of WCAS members Tom Romito and Stan Searles (of Cleveland Metroparks Zoo) during which they made presentations about how the Rocky River IBA project is helping to conserve land along the east branch of Rocky River. As a result of these talks, many more citizens are aware that they live in the Rocky River watershed and that WCAS is playing a vital role in its preservation.

Town & Country Co-Op
North Olmsted Kiwanis Club
Berea Kiwanis Club
Broadview Heights Lions Club
Renaissance Retirement Home

Cuyahoga County Soil and Water Conservation District
Cleveland Metroparks Board of Commissioners
Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society
North Royalton Rotary Club
Westlake Community Service Department



WESTERN CUYAHOGA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Fall Open House Tour of Dike 14 Nature Preserve

Save the date: **Saturday, September 26, 2009.** Experience the city of Cleveland's only nature preserve along the shore of Lake Erie. You will have a chance to look for native Ohio plants, trees and animals.

The soil testing and risk assessment for Dike 14 found that the site is safe for environmental education usage. The Dike 14 Environmental Education Collaborative installed an informational kiosk at Cleveland Lakefront State Park near the Preserve gate.

Visit the kiosk to learn more about the history and plans for the site.

Directions:

Exit #177 from I-90. Parking is available at Gordon State Park. Entrances from North Marginal at E. 72 St., from North Marginal between E. 72 St. and MLK, and park office entrance from Lakeshore Boulevard east of MLK. Additional space at E. 55th State Park (Exit SR 2).

