



## Carbon Offset WCAS Project

By Penny O'Connor

It has been said that if you drive 100 miles to see a rare bird, and you can actually identify that bird, you are a true birder!

Since we love traveling to look for birds, but at the same time, we care about our environment, Western Cuyahoga Audubon offers a way to offset the carbon impact of some of this driving. It is the Carbon Offset WCAS Project, modeled on the Carbon Offset Bird Project (COBP) effort launched at the 2011 Midwest Birding Symposium.

Here is how it works: Any time we have a field trip where more than 100 miles of travel may be involved (think Killdeer Plains or Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge), participants may voluntarily contribute to a fund, based on mileage. Money generated by carbon offset will go toward habitat preservation or restoration in our Rocky River Important Bird Area, or in another area of local interest. While there are many carbon offset models and calculators, we offer a simple formula.

**Compact car:** driver only - 10 cents per mile, additional passengers 5 cents each per mile. Multiply these amounts by the total miles and divide by 10.

**Mid-sized car:** driver only - 20 cents per mile, additional passengers 10 cents per mile. Multiply these amounts by the

total miles and divide by 10.

**Truck or larger van:** driver only - 25 cents per mile, additional passengers 15 cents per mile. Multiply these amounts by the total miles and divide by 10. For example, if I drive to Killdeer Plains, the round trip will be 250 miles. I usually have two passengers, so I will figure 10 plus 5 plus 5 cents per mile for a total of 20 cents per mile. Twenty

times 250 divided by 10 equals 500, so I will put in \$5.00 for carbon offset. Note that rounding to the nearest 50 miles when calculating your trip distance may produce an easier

payment amount.

This is completely voluntarily, just another way to help, and of course any additional donation to the fund is welcome.



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## Field Trips

### Saturday, Feb. 18, 2012...8:00 AM Gulls & Waterfowl

Meet at RTA Park-n-Ride lot, Sperry Rd., north of I-90 off Columbia Rd. Westlake, Ohio.

Leader: Craig Caldwell

Winter in Cleveland means Gulls and Waterfowl all along the Lake Erie shore. Bring a scope if you have one, and dress for icy blasts off the lake. We will visit the current winter "hot" spots.

We will meet at the RTA Park-and-Ride lot at 24800 Sperry Dr. in Westlake, OH. It is north of the intersection of Columbia and Detroit Roads, and also just north of I-90. It is the same one used for some of the Metroparks Magee trips. Participants may carpool from the RTA lot.

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. Turn right on Sperry and drive a short distance. The RTA lot will be on the left. From Columbia, there is another driveway leading to the Park-n-Ride just north of Sperry Rd. If you are taking I-480, exit at Great Northern Blvd. going north. Follow Great Northern to Lorain Rd. Turn right (east) on Lorain Rd. Turn left (north) on Columbia Rd. Follow Columbia past I-90 and turn right on Sperry Dr. Drive a short distance. The entrance to the RTA lot will be on the left.

### Sunday, March 25, 2012 8:30 AM Lake Erie Nature & Science Center

Birding at Huntington Lake Erie Nature and Science Center

Leaders: Mary Anne Romito & Gabe Leidy

Meet at Lake Erie Nature and Science Center, 28728 Wolf Rd. Bay Village, OH 44140

Head out to Huntington Reservation for a bird walk! The hike will begin at the Center and take us to the Lake Erie shore. Mary Anne Romito and Gabe Leidy from Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society will be our guides. Target species will be: Woodpeckers, Barred Owls, migrating waterfowl and gulls. Following the hike, be inspired by close encounters with the Lake Erie Nature and Science Center resident owl population.

### Saturday March 10, 2012...10:00 AM to dusk..Killdeer Plains

Car pool leaves at 7:30 a.m. (see below)

Leader: Tim Colborn

Target Species: Raptors, owls, winter finches, sparrows, waterfowl, and Northern Shrike

Killdeer Plains is about 125 miles from Cleveland. Allow 2:30 hours of drive time each way. We will meet at in Upper Sandusky at McDonald's on East Wyandot Ave. (Just off U.S. Rte. 30) at 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 10, 2012, and follow the leader 8 miles to Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area. We will break for lunch so bring food and snacks or plan to get lunch in Upper Sandusky.

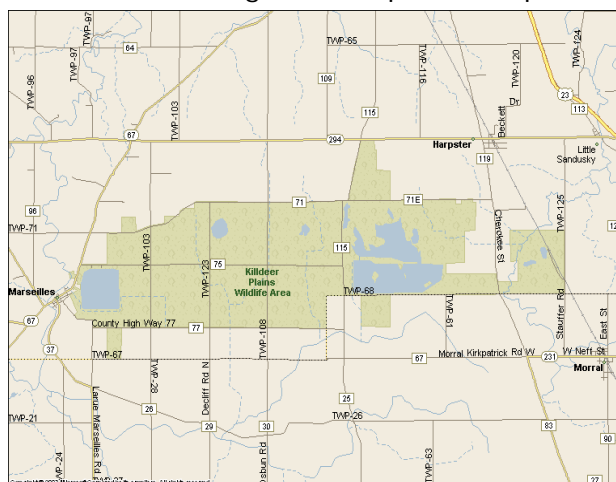
Due to the distance from Cleveland, this will be part of our Carbon Offset project. You can donate for habitat preservation based on your mileage.

Car-pooling is encouraged. If you would like to car-pool (as driver or passenger) contact Penny O'Connor (216)676-4859 or e-mail [pjo@earthlink.net](mailto:pjo@earthlink.net). Car pool will leave at 7:30 a.m. from RTA Park and Ride lot at 5575

Great Northern Blvd. North Olmsted, OH 44070 (by I-480 and Great Northern)

Directions to Upper Sandusky McDonald's: Take I-71 to Exit 176 U.S. 30 West toward Mansfield/MidOhio. Follow U.S. 30 west for 47.2 miles to the E. Wyandot Ave./CH330 exit in Upper Sandusky. Turn left as you exit and watch for McDonald's on the right. Killdeer Plains is only about 8 miles south of Upper Sandusky.

General directions to Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area are at: [http://www.wcasohio.org/killdeer\\_plains\\_map.htm](http://www.wcasohio.org/killdeer_plains_map.htm)



# Field Trips

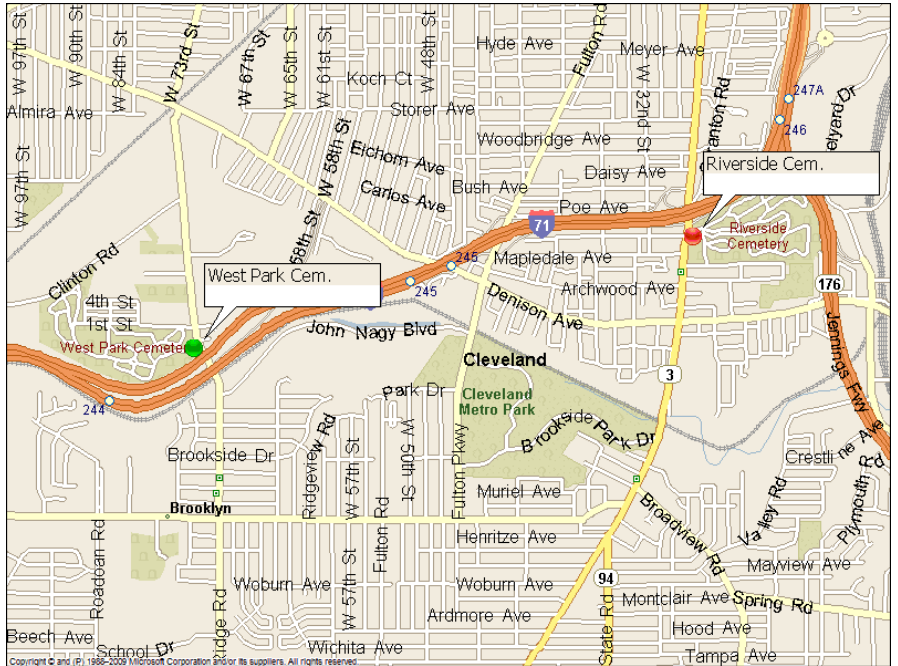
## Saturday, April 21, 2012 8 AM Riverside Cemetery

**Spring Migrants**  
**Leader: Mary Anne Romito**

Join us at historic Riverside Cemetery, off Pearl Rd. in Cleveland's Brooklyn Centre neighborhood. Riverside Cemetery, founded 1876, is 90 tree-lined acres, overlooking the Cuyahoga Valley.

Riverside Cemetery is located west of downtown Cleveland at Pearl Road and I-71 exit 245.

We will meet near the cemetery office, by the entrance at 3607 Pearl Road Cleveland, Ohio 44109.



## Audubon Spring Bird Walks

See the spring migrants during the Audubon spring bird walks. The walks will be held each **Sunday from April 15 to May 20, 2012, at 7:30 a.m.** A full list of locations can be found on our web site: [www.wcasohio.org/spring\\_bird\\_walks.htm](http://www.wcasohio.org/spring_bird_walks.htm)

The following is a partial list of local walks: Lake Isaac in Middleburg Hts. Hinckley Reservation at bridge on State Rd. Canal Way Center in Cuyahoga Hts. Rocky River Nature Center, North Olmsted, Station Rd. Bridge Trailhead, Brecksville.

For all birders, this is a wonderful opportunity to sample the waves of birds moving through some of the top birding spots around Cleveland. New birders, be sure to be out on each of these six Sundays. It is a great way to start birding.

Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland conducts these walks in cooperation with the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, local park districts and the Holden Arboretum. Walks are led by expert volunteers and are free to all.

## Welcome New Members

- Linda Arida
- Brian Forsgren
- Susan Forsgren
- Mary Jo Marshall
- Wendy Miller
- Chuck Slusarczyk, Jr.
- Barry Wolfe



\*\*\*\*\*  
★ WCAS received a payment of \$2583 from National Audubon Chapter Services in January.  
★ This came to us because of Tom Romito's efforts in submitting the WCAS Chapter Annual Report. Thanks Tom!  
★  
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# Programs

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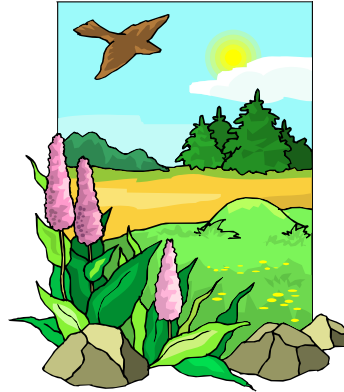
All WCAS programs are free and open to the public. Our monthly programs are held the first Tuesday of each month, September through May, at Rocky River Nature Center, 24000 Valley Parkway, North Olmsted, Ohio. For a map and directions see [www.wcasohio.org](http://www.wcasohio.org).

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**Tuesday, February 7, 2012 at 7:30 PM**

## El Chocó , Columbia

El Chocó is the northwestern-most part of Colombia sharing a border with Panama. An area of low tropical rain forest and mountain foothills, it is home to immense biodiversity with over 800 species of birds and 1500 butterfly species, natural marvels and indigenous cultures. Documentarian and activist, Steve Cagan, will take us into this rich area in his presentation, *"El Chocó, Colombia: An Unknown Natural Treasure."*



**For the March program meeting only:**

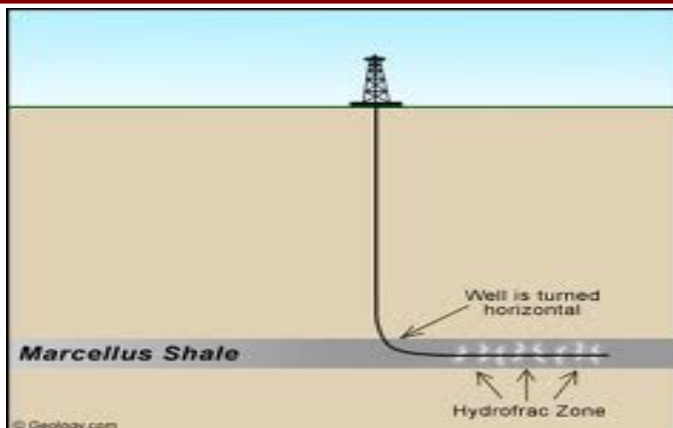
**To get to the Rocky River Nature Center you must enter via Shepard Lane off Mastic Road. The entrance off Valley Parkway will be closed.**

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**Tuesday, March 6, 2012 at 7:30 PM**

## Birdsong Ear Training Techniques

Learning bird songs can feel a little overwhelming at times – especially during spring migration! Bird song is music and the techniques used in ear training and music appreciation classes can provide valuable tools for identification of avian musicians and their repertoire. Lisa Rainsong, Music Theory faculty member of the Cleveland Institute of Music, will help you sort out the singers and their songs through an approach that can be applied to many of the birds we hear in the presentation, *"Birdsong Ear Training Techniques: Sorting out the Singers in the Chorus!"*



**Tuesday, April 3, 2012 at 7:30 PM**

## Natural Gas—The Basics

Natural gas is a cleaner fuel than burning coal, but the extraction process is controversial. Chris Perry Supervisor, Energy Resources Group of the Ohio Division of Natural Resources-Geological Survey will discuss the basics of natural gas, how it was formed, where it is underground and the extraction process. His discussion will provide you with information. This is NOT a debate on whether or not to drill.



## Citizen Science Events



Join thousands of other birders, families and "citizen scientists" participating in the GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT on February 17 through 20, 2012. The Great Backyard Bird Count, sponsored by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, is just one way in which anyone, anywhere can help collect data on bird populations right in one's own backyard or neighborhood. It is incredibly easy even for those who say they don't know their local birds very well. The website, [www.birdsource.org/gbbc](http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc) has all of the information anyone needs including how to participate, learning about local birds, how to enter data, maps of results and much, much more. Still not sure about participating on your own in the Great Backyard Bird Count, then join friends on

*The Great Backyard Bird Count is led by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society. Sponsors are Wild Birds Unlimited, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Cornell Information Technologies, and the National Science Foundation.*

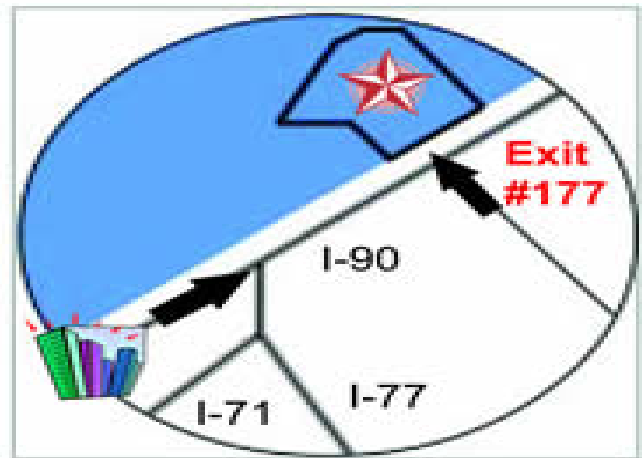
**Sunday, February 19 from 1:00 to 4:00 PM at the Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve (formerly Dike 14)** right on Lake Erie's coast to participate in a count. (See below for directions to reach the Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve). Members of the CLNP Environmental Education Collaborative, including Western Cuyahoga Audubon, will lead groups in and around the Nature Preserve. Not only will the bird count take place, but it is also an opportunity to learn more about the Nature Preserve. Dress for the weather ... then add another layer! Warm, waterproof boots are recommended. Bring binoculars, but if you don't own any, binoculars may be borrowed from the Collaborative that day. Please park at the Cleveland Lakefront State Park Office off of North Marginal Dr. headed toward Bratenahl.



**From downtown Cleveland**, take I-90 East to the University Circle/Martin Luther King Jr. Drive exit (#177) and turn left (north) on to Martin Luther King Jr. Drive. Go under the 1-90 overpass and immediately turn left (west) onto the North Marginal.

**From the south**, take I-71 or I-77 north to downtown Cleveland and follow route sign to I-90 East.

**From the east**, take I-90 west to the University Circle/Martin Luther King Jr. Drive exit (#177) and turn right (west) onto the North Marginal.



### Want to be a WCAS Board Member?

Remember that opportunities abound in WCAS. How about considering these:

Data Entry/Spreadsheet Development  
Presentation/Teaching Outreach  
Contact Development  
Hospitality for Meetings  
Fundraising

Planning  
Arranging Field Trips  
Leading Tours or Field Trips  
Event Participation  
Record Keeping

# 2011 Christmas Bird Count News

**Compiler: Nancy Howell**

## 2011 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT RESULTS\*

**\*(Since this information needed to get into the Feathered Flyer newsletter before all of the results were tallied what is shown is the list of species seen that day and count week. More species may be added if they come in. The numbers of each species and the names of all participants will all be on the WCAS website, [www.wcasohio.org](http://www.wcasohio.org) in the next couple of weeks.)**

The Lakewood (west side) Christmas Bird Count took place on Friday, December 30. A Friday may have been an odd day for some but with the way the holidays fell the Friday seemed to be one of the better days to do the Count. Sixty-seven (67) species were tallied that day and two were seen during the count week (italicized and bold below). This is around our average number of species.

The weather was an oddity as well with the day was just too ... uh, "nice". When one thinks of a Christmas Count one might think cold temperatures and at least a little snow, not this year. Temperatures were in the high 30's and low 40's, mostly cloudy, the sun peeped out periodically and then there were periodic drizzles to light showers. All waters, Lake Erie, ponds, rivers and streams were wide open. The birds knew that too so were not concentrated at feeders, or in openings of frozen lakes or really anywhere. Was this summer and fall's exceedingly wet weather a factor in the lack of some species? Fruits on trees and shrubs seemed a bit lacking this year did that cause some fruit feeders to depart? So many questions ...

A huge thank you goes out to those who participated, beat the bushes, watched feeders, walked, got cold or wet, went out owling and more. We also thank **Kit Birch, Nancy Howell, Penny O'Connor** and **Tom and MaryAnne Romito** for providing the chili for lunch. Many others brought treats ranging from bread to cookies, cheeses and crackers, salads ... yum.

The following is a list of species seen on count day and, in bold, during Count Week:

Canada Goose	Downy Woodpecker
Wood Duck	Hairy Woodpecker
Mallard	Northern Flicker
American Black Duck	Pileated Woodpecker
American Wigeon	American Crow
Redhead	Blue Jay
Greater Scaup	Black-capped Chickadee
Bufflehead	Tufted Titmouse
Common Goldeneye	White-breasted Nuthatch
Hooded Merganser	Red-breasted Nuthatch
Red-breasted Merganser	Carolina Wren
Common Loon	Winter Wren
Horned Grebe	Golden-crowned Kinglet
Double-breasted Cormorant	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Great Blue Heron	Eastern Bluebird
Bald Eagle	American Robin
Cooper's Hawk	Northern Mockingbird
Red-tailed Hawk	European Starling
Red-shouldered Hawk	Cedar Waxwing
Rough-legged Hawk	American Tree Sparrow
American Kestrel	Field Sparrow
Merlin	Song Sparrow
Peregrine Falcon	Swamp Sparrow
American Coot	White-throated Sparrow
Ring-billed Gull	White-crowned Sparrow
Herring Gull	Dark-eyed Junco
Great Black-backed Gull	Northern Cardinal
Bonaparte's Gull	Red-winged Blackbird
Rock Pigeon	House Finch
Mourning Dove	Pine Siskin
Eastern Screech Owl	American Goldfinch
Snowy Owl	House Sparrow
Belted Kingfisher	<b><u>Count Week Sightings</u></b>
Red-headed Woodpecker	<b>Purple Finch</b>
Red-bellied Woodpecker	<b>Pied-billed Grebe</b>



Ray Kutnar and David Dvorak

## Volunteer Opportunities

### Buzzard Sunday March 18, 2012 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

WCAS would like to have a display table set up at Hinckley Township's annual Buzzard Sunday event held at Hinckley Elementary School. This is a very popular event and would allow us to reach out to the general public with our message of protecting the Rocky River Important Bird Area, as well as educating people on the joys of birding and habitat preservation. Materials and handouts will be provided. Contact Liz Clingman at: 440-799-1881 or [eclingman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:eclingman@sbcglobal.net).

### WCAS UltraWalk May 26, 2012 and UltraBird May 24, 25 & 26, 2012

As most of WCAS members know, Important Bird Areas (IBA) are tracts of land that the National Audubon Society determined in 2000 to be critical to the existence of birds and other wildlife because of their habitat. WCAS has been and continues to be very supportive of East Branch of the Rocky River IBA, which extends from Hinckley to North Olmsted, and north to the mouth of the river in Lake Erie. This watershed contains valuable forests and wetlands, such as the Rocky River Reservation, Mill Stream Run Reservation, and Hinckley Reservation. To this end, WCAS will hold its sixth annual UltraWalk and UltraBird events.

The UltraWalk will be on Saturday, May 26. Stan Searles will lead the 31-mile trek through the IBA. As in previous years, Stan and other walkers (care to join?) will begin at 6:00 a.m. at Buzzards Roost in Hinckley Reservation. The group will pass by Cleveland Metroparks Ranger Headquarters and Park Operations, located on the Valley Parkway in Fairview Park, about 3:30 p.m. There, people wishing to join in walking the last five miles to Emerald Necklace Marine may do so. The walk will conclude about 5:30 p.m. WCAS asks walkers to register for the event using forms on our website. WCAS will benefit if walkers seek pledges from sponsors for the miles they walk or obtain a flat-rate donation from each sponsor. Details on how to submit pledges are on the forms.

The companion event, the UltraBird, will make its fifth appearance in the IBA. The UltraBird will be a three-day event on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, May 26-28. On Thursday starting at 6:00 a.m. at Johnson's Picnic Area, Mary Anne Romito is going to walk portions of Hinckley Reservation and keep a tally of her bird observations. Mary Anne will do the same thing in Mill Stream Reservation on Friday and in Rocky River Reservation on Saturday. Anyone who wants to bird any of these areas with Mary Anne should also register. Walkers may also call Mary Anne for details at 216-741-2352. Birders should get pledges from sponsors for the number of birds they identify during the event or get a flat-rate donation. Registration forms and donations forms can be found on our website at [www.wcasohio.org](http://www.wcasohio.org). Other volunteers are also needed. Possibilities include (but are not limited to) banner carriers, set-up people for the finish line and area, volunteers to man the registration tables for the 5 mile walkers and a political representative coordinator. Please contact Tom Romito if you can assist.

## Contact Us

**WESTERN CUYAHOGA  
AUDUBON SOCIETY**  
4310 Bush Ave.  
Cleveland, OH 44109  
Phone: 216-741-2352  
Fax: 216-741-1879  
Email: [info@wcasohio.org](mailto:info@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](http://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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Stan Searles

Scott Rush

*Visit our website*  
[www.wcasohio.org](http://www.wcasohio.org)



# WESTERN CUYAHOGA AUDUBON SOCIETY

## Chapter Supporter Application

**Why wait! Join WCAS as a chapter supporter.**

Chapter Membership year: September 1 through August 31

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

<b>Check one:</b>	<b>1 or 2 people</b>	<b>Family</b>	<b>Corporate or Organization</b>
<b>Dues</b>	<b>\$20</b>	<b>\$35</b>	<b>\$55</b>
<b>Additional Donation (Check one)</b>	<b>\$5</b>	<b>\$10</b>	<b>\$20</b>
		<b>Other</b>	<b>Total enclosed</b>
		\$ _____	\$ _____

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EMAIL ADDRESS

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

