



Bequest comes to WCAS as a big surprise!

By Tom Romito, WCAS president

Looking at my e-mail on November 13, I saw a notice that almost knocked me out of my chair. Christie Vargo, the new center manager of the Grange Insurance Audubon Center in Columbus, wrote to tell me that WCAS was getting a \$10,000 bequest from the Myron Owen Davies estate. My first reaction was "Thank you!" My next reaction was "Who was Myron Owen Davies, & why is WCAS getting a bequest from his estate?" These questions led me on an exciting search for information over the following five weeks.

Long-time WCAS supporter Paula Lozano was also excited about this news. "This is a wonderful bequest for WCAS," she said.

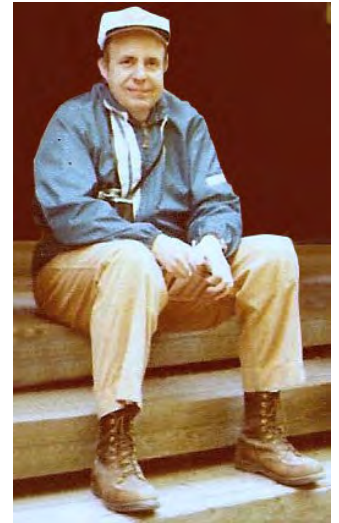
Paula met Owen (as Myron was known) in 1975 when WCAS was formed. She showed me evidence in the Cleveland Bird Calendar that Owen was watching birds as early as 1945. I also learned that Owen was a 1948 graduate of Lakewood High.

Past WCAS president Rich Kassouf remembers Owen as "a good birder & very knowledgeable." Rich pointed out that Roger Tory Peterson gave a nod to Owen in the 1980 Fourth Edition of "A Field Guide to the Birds East of the Rockies," by listing him as "one of many people who offered suggestions for this new edition."

I contacted Rose Tesone, the bequest manager for the National Audubon Society in New York City. Rose explained that the National Audubon Society (NAS) had been a beneficiary of Owen's pension plan since 1968. When his mother died, NAS became the sole beneficiary of the estate. "Owen was a passionate birder & nature lover," Rose told me. Owen died in 2009 & the estate was settled in 2011. NAS apportioned part of the estate to the Grange Insurance Audubon Center. Heather Starck, the former center manager & now executive director of the Audubon state office in N. Carolina, arranged for WCAS to also receive a portion, since Owen was a WCAS member at one time.

Mary Michaelis & her husband Pete have led the Audubon bird walks at the Rocky River Nature Center every spring for 30 years. Mary told me that they met Owen in May 1967 when they found a Yellow-crowned Night Heron on the future site of the nature center, encountered Owen along the trail, & brought him back to see the bird. Mary says Owen & his aunt Florence Gray "were both very patient with novice birders, helping them to see the birds & learn the field marks & remember them." Mary notes that Owen was a NASA engineer in chemistry, completing his doctorate in 1956 at Case Western Reserve University. Chemists! Feast your eyes on his scientific writings by "googling" Myron Owen Davies.

You might ask, "What is WCAS going to do with this bequest? Certainly, the WCAS board will deliberate on this question in the coming weeks & months. We will exercise our fiduciary responsibilities with the utmost care. This means we will plow these funds back into our mission. This newsletter will keep you informed of our progress!



Myron Owen Davies
Photo by Marian Krause, 1978

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Field Trips

Sunday, February 3, 9 AM Winter Gulls & Waterfowl Perkins Beach, Edgewater Park

Trip Leader: Tim Krynak

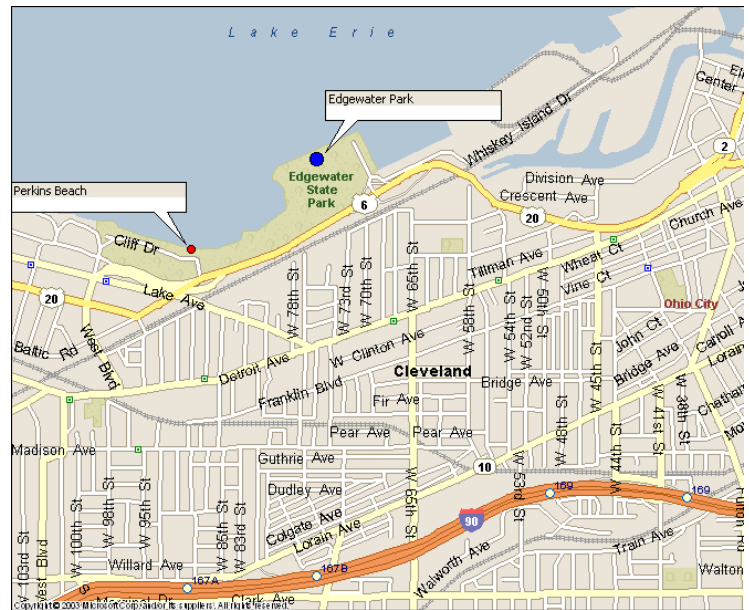
Winter birding can be wonderful on Lake Erie. Join us at **Perkins Beach**. We will bird there, then follow birds to Wendy Park, then to hotspots along the west side, as weather & sightings dictate. Western Cuyahoga Audubon will bird with Kirtland Bird Club.

Directions: **From Cleveland** take West 25 St (Route 42) north to the intersection of Detroit Ave. Go past Detroit Ave & turn left or west on Route 2, the Shoreway. Take 2 west to the end of the Shoreway, & stay right for the Lake Rd. exit. Turn right at the end of the ramp (north) into the parking lot.

From east: Take I-90 toward downtown Cleveland. Stay toward the right near downtown & follow Route 2 Memorial Shoreway. Follow the Shoreway to the end, & stay right for the Lake Rd. exit. Turn right at the end of the ramp (north) to the parking lot.

From west: Follow I-90 toward Cleveland. Exit at W. 117th Street, & go north to Clifton. Turn right (east) on Clifton. At West Blvd turn left (north) into Edgewater Park. Look on the left for parking by the lake.

Note that there are no facilities at Edgewater in the winter. There is a Starbuck's at W.115 & Clifton Ave. The map (above right) is also at: http://wcasohio.org/edgewater_park__perkins_beach.htm



Sunday, February 17, 9 AM Great Backyard Bird Count Field Trip

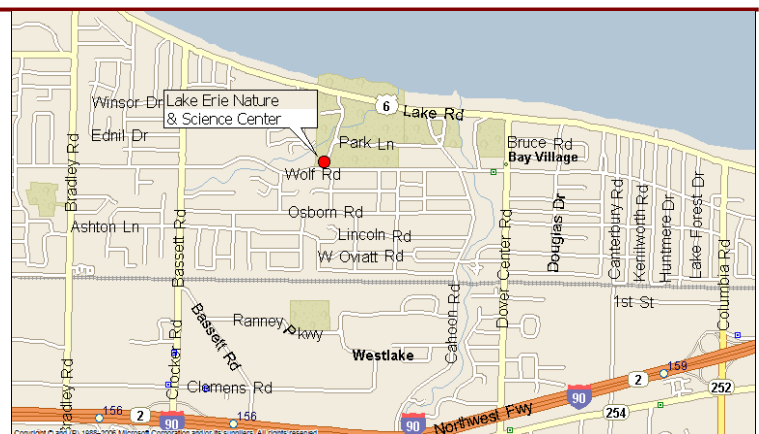
In conjunction with Lake Erie Nature & Science Center, 28728 Wolf Road, Bay Village.

The Great Backyard Bird Count is a joint project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, National Audubon Society & Bird Studies Canada. Join us at Lake Erie Nature & Science Center for a walk through the Huntington Reservation to Lake Erie. At the end of our walk we will gather by the bird feeders at LENSOC to pick up a few more species & tally our bird list. The results will be entered on the Great Backyard Bird Count site at <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc>

Lake Erie Science & Nature Center is located on Wolf Road, at the corner of Porter Creek Drive in the Cleveland Metroparks Huntington. The above map is also accessible at www.wcasohio.org/Lake_Erie_Nature_Science_Center.htm

You can also enjoy the fun of GBBC on your own. Watch your feeders, go birding during lunch time at work or bird your local area, for 15 minutes or longer February 15-18, 2013.

(Continued, see GBBC, page 3)



Field Trips

(GBBC, continued from page 2)

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.

From Interstate 480, Exit 3, Stearns Road. North on Stearns, which will become Bassett Road at the railroad tracks after passing over I-90. Turn right on Wolf Road. Entrance will be .7 miles on the left side of the road.

Sunday, March 10, 9 AM Carlisle Reservation, Lorain Metro Parks

Leaders: Terri Martincic & Harry Spencer

Target Species: Winter Residents & Early Migrants

Bird the largest of Lorain County Metro Parks properties. We will meet at the Equestrian Area, 13630 Diagonal Rd. LaGrange, Ohio. If you have a bit of time following the walk, stop to see the Raptor Center & bird feeders located at the Carlisle main visitor center on Diagonal Road just a bit northeast of the Equestrian Area. Another nearby birding spot is the Oberlin Reservoir.

This is the first day of Daylight Saving Time for 2013. Spring your clock forward & come out birding with WCAS.

Directions from Cleveland - Take I-480 west to Rt. 10/20. Take Rt. 10/20 west to Rt. 301 South/ LaGrange Rd. exit. Turn left onto Rt. 301 South. Drive a short distance to the second intersection on your right, Nickle Plate - Diagonal Rd., which is right after the Carlisle Township Fire Department. Follow Nickle Plate - Diagonal Rd 2.3 miles, past the Duck Pond Picnic Area & the Carlisle Visitor Center. The entrance to the Equestrian Center will be on your right. Maps & more directions are at: <http://metroparks.cc/maps.php?park=carlisle>

Sunday, April 14, 7:30 AM Brookside Reservation

Trip Leader: Mary Anne Romito

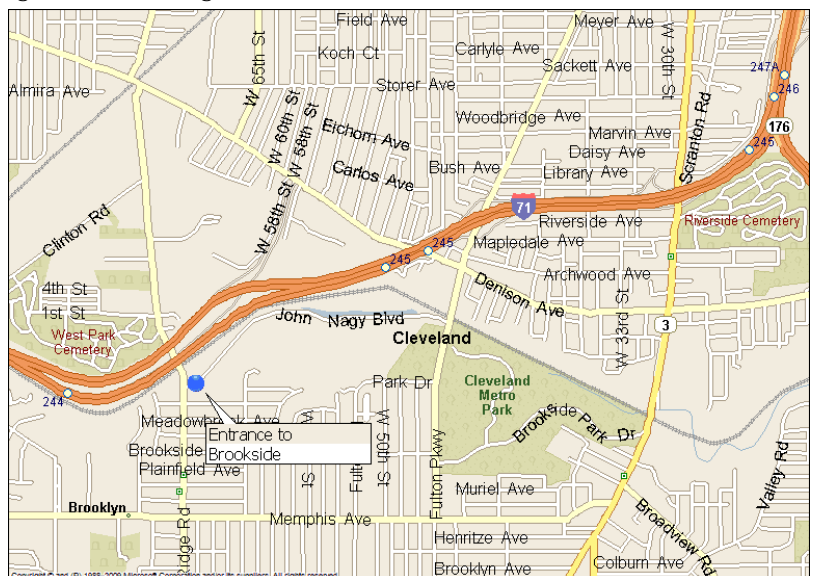
We will join the Brooklyn Centre Naturalists to bird Brookside Reservation of Cleveland Metroparks, & possibly West Park Cemetery. Will we see mockingbirds or one of the Peregrine Falcons? Mockingbirds nest at Brookside. The Peregrines were checking out the bridge in 2012.

Directions: **From the south**, take I-71 North to Denison Ave/W. 65th St. exit. Turn left onto Denison Ave. At Ridge Rd. turn left (south). Turn left onto John Nagy Blvd. We will meet at the first parking spot along John Nagy Blvd.

From the north, take I-71 South to Fulton Rd. exit. Turn left (south) onto Fulton Rd. to Denison Rd. Turn right (west) onto Denison. At Ridge Rd. turn left (south). Turn left onto John Nagy Blvd. We will meet at the first parking spot along John Nagy Blvd.

Want coffee or a rest stop on the way? There is a Burger King at 6710 Denison Ave. which opens at 7 a.m.

The map on the right is also accessible at: http://www.wcasohio.org/brookside_reservation.htm



Programs

All WCAS programs are free & 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 & directions see www.wcasohio.org.

Tuesday, February 5, 7:30 PM

The Accidental Photographer

Chuck Slusarczyk Jr. demonstrates that one does not have to have technical training in photography to get good bird photos in the field. A good eye, patience, & a few simple tricks can help with photographing birds. Chuck will present his photographs, & probably a few stories, in his program, "**The Accidental Photographer**". Many of his photos have been featured in the Cleveland Plain Dealer's weekly "Aerial View" column. In addition, there will be a brief discussion of using photos as diagnostic & documentary tools. "I'm told I'm a photographer, but honestly, I just take pictures!"



By Chuck Slusarczyk Jr.

Tuesday, March 5, 7:30 PM

Bird Migration & Its' Ecology

Migration, a mystery that fascinates, enralls, & captivates mankind. But what is it? This program will delve into what makes up "migration". It appears to be much more than the great south to north & north to south movements each spring & fall. Come hear about reverse, dispersal, molt migrations as well as the many strategies the bird world employs under what we think of as "true" migration. Get a better understanding of how migration has evolved & how you can predict it in the presentation, "**Bird Migration & Its' Ecology**" by Mark Shieldcastle of the Black Swamp Bird Observatory. Kim Kaufman, Executive Director of BSBO, writes, "The name Mark Shieldcastle has become synonymous with bird migration in Ohio, & rightfully so. Mark's knowledge & understanding of migration in the Lake Erie Marshes is unprecedented, & his accomplishments vast." In 2009, BSBO banded its 500,000th bird, a Blackpoll Warbler. While truly an astounding number, adding to the feat is that they were all banded under one Master Banding permit, which belongs to our speaker, Mark Shieldcastle. Mark & his wife, Julie, are 2 of 5 founding members of BSBO.

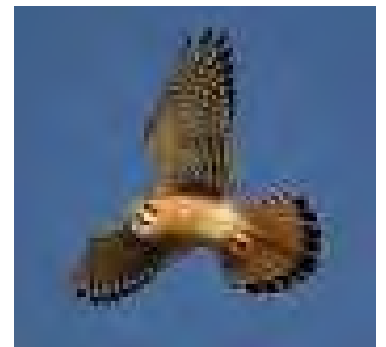


Tuesday, April 2, 7:30 PM

Helping American Kestrels, Our Smallest Falcon



The American Kestrel Nestbox Project was started in 1991 when the Delaware County Bird Club partnered with school children to erect ten nestboxes to highway signs. Today, 18 nestboxes are available for use by American Kestrels. From these boxes more than 780 kestrels have fledged since 1995. Retired school teacher, Dick Tuttle, will share with us what he has learned over the past 21 seasons of nesting in his program, "**Helping American Kestrels, Our Smallest Falcon**".



Volunteer Section

How are you with Social Media?

WCAS is looking to expand our presence on social media. If you are knowledgeable about Facebook and perhaps other sites and would like to volunteer to help, please contact the board member of your choice!

Metroparks Monthly Morning with the Birds at Rocky River Nature Center

Want to learn more about birds in the Rocky River Valley? Attend Rocky River Nature Center's Monthly Morning with the Birds. See the WCAS calendar [<http://www.wcasohio.org>] or check the Emerald Necklace [<http://www.clemetparks.com/aboutus/info/EmeraldNecklace.asp>]

Saturday, February 9, 9 a.m.

Saturday, March 16, 9 a.m.

Saturday, April 27, 8 a.m. (note earlier time)

Enjoy a walk with Naturalist Ken Gober along wetlands & through forest. Rocky River Nature Center is located at 24000 Valley Parkway in Rocky River Reservation, north of Cedar Point Road in North Olmsted.

Annual Appeals Donations Help Western Cuyahoga Audubon

Our generous Western Cuyahoga Audubon members, National Audubon Society members, families and friends helped to make the 2012 Annual Appeal for Western Cuyahoga Audubon very successful. These donations help the mission of WCAS through the protection of habitat that is needed by wildlife and appreciated by people. As of January 7, 2013 a total of \$2275.00 had been raised.

We send our deepest thanks to these donors some of whom chose to have their donations placed into the Carbon Offset Bird Project.

\$500.00 Donation

Anonymous (1)

\$100.00 Pileated Woodpecker Donation

Anonymous (1)

Valerie and Lars Carlson -in
memory of Ruth Klebow

Rich and Julie Jerdonek

Ann Hollis Walker

Barry Wolfe

\$50.00 Cerulean Warbler Donation

Anonymous (2)

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Heather Hodges

Nancy and Donald Howell

Barbara Miske

Carol Petersen

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Lee and Scott Swierkosz

\$30.00 Donation

Thomas Farkas

\$25.00 Donation

Anonymous (2)

Barb and Rich Sanders - in
memory of Ruth Klebow

Marjorie Vanek

Marianne Wagner

\$20.00 Cliff Swallow Donation

Anonymous (4)

Ken and Lois Ballas

Chuck and Bonnie Erickson

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Carrie Griffith

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John and Marlene Phillips

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Jan C. Snow

Adrian L. Staeven

Wendy Weirich

\$15.00 Donation

Anonymous (1)

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Kathleen Tiburzi

\$10.00 Ovenbird Donation

Anonymous (2)

Donna S. Dell

Rudolph & Josephine Heckelmoser

Luretta Holanda

Irene Kozak

Judy McCarty

Mary Beth Uhr

Article prepared by Nancy Howell

Reports of Past Field Trips

Reports with pictures of recent (and not so recent) field trip and other activities are on the website. From the home page, click on the 'Pictures and Reports' icon in the list on the left. Field trip reports include bird lists as well as trip highlights and more!

Welcome New Members

Frank Comodeca
Barbara Cromer
Debra Jesionowski
John Wincek



2012 Christmas Bird Count News

By Nancy Howell

The 2012 Christmas Bird Count for the Lakewood Circle was so different – weather wise – as compared with 2011. The snow that began on Christmas day did not let up so by CBC day, Sunday, December 30, snow depth in many places reached 12 inches ... sometimes more. Rather heavy flurries continued on the morning of December 30, but cleared around noon. By 4:30 PM the sun was peeking from behind clouds & a lovely sunset closed the day. Visibility was difficult for those looking long distances, such as over Lake Erie or when a huge flake crashed into your eye. Temperatures were in the mid 20's & climbed a degree or two higher. Depending on where one was the winds were either gusty or non-existent.

Lake Erie was wide open as were moving waters such as rivers & streams. Many smaller lakes & ponds had iced over or had little open water. Birdfeeders seemed to be a good place to watch birds since plentiful food means a variety of birds.



Northern Harrier

The initial lists & tallies from Sunday, December 30 seem rather normal as to species seen in our circle. Some species that are almost always found were missing this year despite increasing numbers over the past years. Then again several surprises that just are not expected in our area at this time of year did crop up. The prediction of a winter finch irruption came true. Following is the list of **80** species (78 species on count day & 2 during count week) as of January 2, 2013 with perhaps a report or two due in. Looking at the list it is one of the *BEST* lists in a long time.

Here's the list: Count Week species are in *italics*, rare or unusual species are **bold**. Remember, this list is not the finalized list due to having to get information to the WCAS newsletter editor quickly. A complete & final listing of species, numbers & participants will be on the WCAS website by the end of January.

1. Canada Goose
2. Tundra Swan
3. Mallard
4. American Black Duck
5. Northern Shoveler
6. Gadwall
7. Redhead
8. Greater Scaup
9. Lesser Scaup
10. *White-winged Scoter*
- 11. Black Scoter**
12. Bufflehead
13. Common Goldeneye
14. Red-breasted Merganser
15. Hooded Merganser
16. Common Merganser
17. Ruddy Duck
18. Common Loon
19. Horned Grebe
20. Pied-billed Grebe
21. Great Blue Heron
22. Bald Eagle
- 23. Northern Harrier**
24. Sharp-shinned Hawk
25. Cooper's Hawk
26. Red-tailed Hawk
27. Red-shouldered Hawk
28. American Kestrel
29. *Merlin – count week*
30. Peregrine Falcon
31. American Coot
32. Ring-billed Gull
33. Herring Gull
34. Great Black-backed Gull
35. Bonaparte's Gull
36. Rock Pigeon
37. Mourning Dove
38. Barred Owl
39. Eastern Screech Owl
40. Belted Kingfisher
- 41. Rufous Hummingbird**
42. Red-headed Woodpecker
43. Red-bellied Woodpecker
44. Downy Woodpecker
45. Hairy Woodpecker
46. Northern Flicker
47. Pileated Woodpecker
48. American Crow
49. Blue Jay
50. Black-capped Chickadee
51. Tufted Titmouse
52. White-breasted Nuthatch
53. Red-breasted Nuthatch
54. Brown Creeper
55. Carolina Wren
56. American Robin
57. Northern Mockingbird
58. European Starling
- 59. American Pipit**
60. Cedar Waxwing
- 61. Ovenbird**
62. American Tree Sparrow
63. Song Sparrow
64. Swamp Sparrow
65. White-throated Sparrow
66. White-crowned Sparrow
67. Dark-eyed Junco
- 68. Snow Bunting**
69. Northern Cardinal
- 70. Red-winged Blackbird**
- 71. Common Grackle**
- 72. Rusty Blackbird**
- 73. Brown-headed Cowbird**
74. House Finch
- 75. Red Crossbill**
- 76. White-winged Crossbill**
- 77. Common Redpoll**
- 78. Pine Siskin**
79. American Goldfinch
80. House Sparrow



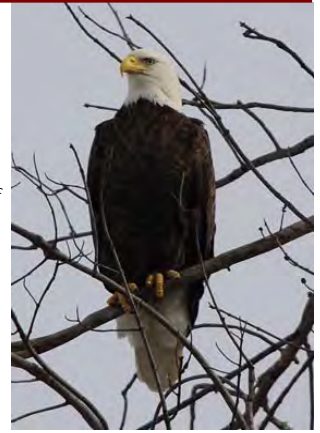
Ovenbird

The Feathered Flyer

Carbon Offset Project Update

Modeled after the Carbon Offset Bird Project launched at the 2011 Midwest Birding Symposium, Western Cuyahoga Audubon has begun a project to offset the carbon impact of some of the driving done during our field trips. The process involves participants voluntarily contributing toward the fund based on mileage & the size of vehicle driven. The WCAS website has more information & a handy form to calculate the amount you wish to donate. Click on Field Trip then Carbon Offset Project. Money generated will go toward habitat preservation & restoration in the Rocky River Important Bird Area or other area within the range of the Western Cuyahoga Chapter. Consider contributing to the Carbon Offset Project when you take a birding trip. The birds say, "Thank you".

Total collected to date - \$565.48



Bald Eagle © John Sims

Audubon Spring Bird Walks

See the spring migrants during the Audubon spring bird walks. The walks will be held each Sunday from April 14 to May 19, 2013, at 7:30 a.m. A full list of locations can be found on our web site: www.wcasohio.org/spring_bird_walks.htm

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.

This is a wonderful opportunity to sample the waves of birds moving through northeast Ohio. New birders, be sure to be out on each of these six Sundays. It is a great way to start birding. The Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland conducts these walks in cooperation with the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, local park districts & the Holden Arboretum. Walks are led by expert volunteers and are free to all.

Support Nature Preserves on Your Ohio Income Tax Return

From Bob McCance, volunteer, the Ohio Division of Natural Areas & Preserves

The nature preserves check-off on the Ohio personal income tax return started in 1983; since then the Ohio Division of Natural Areas & Preserves (DNAP) has received over two million donations! Clearly Ohioans care about natural area protection; they have given almost \$16 million & have made a huge improvement in the quality of nature protection in Ohio. Check-off donations represent about one-fourth of all monies available for DNAP's work, & have been used for land protection, public use facility development, endangered species & natural community research, & special projects. Your donation on line 25 of the 2012 Personal Income Tax Return will help protect our most significant natural areas & the endangered species they contain. Visit <http://ohiodnr.com/dnap/>



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www.wcasohio.org**



WCAS Chapter Newsletter

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www.wcasohio is the official
Chapter Web Site

WCAS Board Meetings are held
at 6:30 pm prior to each pro-
gram at Rocky River Nature
Center. General Public & WCAS
members welcome.

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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 & a window cling.

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