

A New Look for WCAS?

Editorial

Spring is a good time to refresh and reorganize our homes, yards, wardrobe, etc., so why not WCAS? We on the board have been brainstorming on ways to go forward in a new way. Maybe we don't need to have a president or one group of board members. Maybe it would be fun and energizing to have various small groups "doing their own thing" comprised of people who are interested in a certain aspect of our WCAS activities.

How about small groups formed around such topics as:

Publications Development **Education Outreach** Monthly Programs Planning Field Trips Conservation Projects Fund Raising Birding Skills Development **Environmental Activism** Computer Projects



Can you think of others you might be interested in taking part in? An organization is only as good as its members, and since WCAS has great members we know we can do great things. We just need you to step up and join in the adventure. Send in your emails, give a current board member a call, or talk to us at a monthly meeting. Many hands make light work, so don't be afraid of taking this on. Your involvement can be as big or little as you wish, and every little bit helps.



Fundraising News



For the fourth year in a row, Stan Searles and company are going to do a 32 mile **Ultrawalk** on May 28, from Buzzard Roost in Hinckley Reservation to the Emerald Necklace Marina in Rocky River Reservation. We will also be doing another Ultrabird survey on May 26, 27, and 28. These events are fund-raisers for the IBA. If anyone wants to walk or bird, or knows someone who is and wants to support that person with a pledge, please contact any member of the board. Their names and phone numbers are inside this newsletter. You may also download forms from our website, www.wcasohio.org. See the May calendar.

You don't have to walk all 32 miles either. By about 3:30 p.m. on May 28, the Ultrawalkers will pass the Ranger Headquarters on 4600 Valley Parkway in Fairview Park. There, we expect a large group of supporters to join the walkers and accompany us on the last five miles of the trek to the Emerald Necklace Marina. Hope to see you there!

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Field Trips

Saturday, May 7, 2011...8 AM...South Mastick Picnic Area

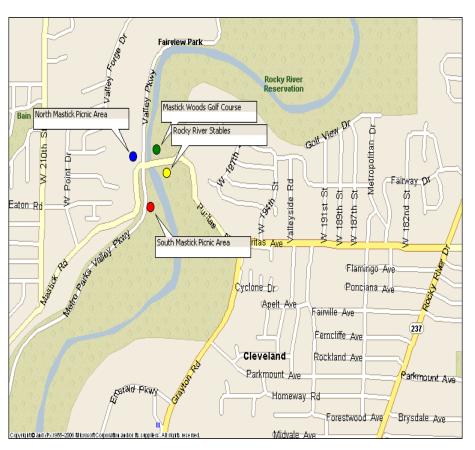
Located in the Cleveland Metroparks, this beautiful spot in the Rocky River Important Bird Area is a great place to see Bald Eagles, Pileated Woodpeckers, Eastern Bluebirds and many spring migrants. <u>Dave Graskemper</u> will be our leader for this field trip.

Directions:

From North Olmsted or Berea, take Valley Parkway north. Pass the Rocky River Nature Center, and go under the huge bridges for Brookpark Rd. and I-480. Follow the winding road.

South Mastick Picnic Area is on the right, opposite the Spring Wild Flower trail. Meet in the parking area near the sign.

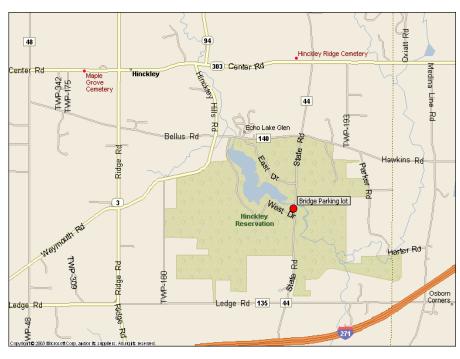
From Lakewood, follow Valley Parkway south. Go past Big Met and Mastick Woods Golf Courses. After passing Mastick Rd., watch for South Mastick Picnic Area sign on the left. Meet in the parking area near the sign.



Sunday, June 19, 2011...7:30 AM...Hinckley Reservation

Hinckley reservation offers a huge block of undeveloped habitat, perfect for birds in our Rocky River Important Bird Area. Join our leader, Mary Anne Romito, for a walk to look for Louisiana Waterthrush and other Hinckley specialties. This is prime nesting season for our summerbreeding birds. We will meet at the bridge parking lot on State Rd.

Directions: From Cleveland, take I -71 south to Rt. 303. Turn left (east) on Rt. 303 to Rt. 606. Turn right (south) on Rt. 606 to Bellus Rd. Turn left (east) onto Bellus Rd. Go to State Rd and turn right (south) on State Rd. Go past East Dr. The parking lot is just past the bridge over the river that feeds Hinckley Lake.



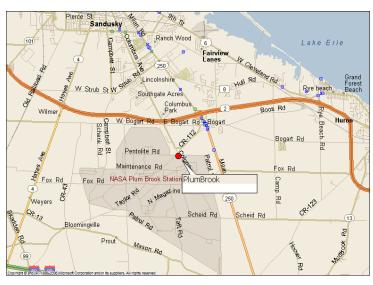
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Field Trips

Saturday, July 9, 2011...11 am ... NASA Plum Brook Station

Notice: You must register by Wed., June 29, in order to be part of this field trip! All attendees must be US citizens, and adults must bring a photo ID. Binoculars, scopes and cameras are allowed. To register please contact: Penny O'Connor, pjo@earthlink.net; (216) 676-4859; 4534 Grayton Rd., Cleveland, 44135. Be sure to include your full name, address and telephone number.





NASA Plum Brook Station covers about ten square miles, with the greatest part dedicated to nature. Expect to see native pre-settlement prairie land-scapes and a cathedral like oak-hickory forest. Our leader, John Blakeman (a falconer), dedicates his time to restoring and maintaining the plant diversity. As the land was converted from farm to arsenal before herbicides were used, the plant life is quite diverse. Dare we hope to see an endangered Sedge Wren or a Dickcissel? We will caravan 7 to 8 miles, with 4 to 7 stops in significant habitats.

*Bring a lunch, as we will stop to bird and picnic along the way (sorry, no grills).

DIRECTIONS:

- 1. Go west on I-90/SR 2 and stay on SR 2 (do not enter Ohio Turnpike).
- 2. Exit SR 2 at Sandusky/Norwalk exit at US 250. Go south on 250.
- 3. Exit US 250 at next intersection, Bogart Rd., to the right (west).
- 4. Go west on Bogart Rd. about a quarter mile, and exit to left (south) onto Botay Rd. (at NASA Blum Brook sign).
- 5. Proceed south on Botay Rd., which becomes Taylor Rd. Go about a mile on Taylor and turn at first left. Entrance gate will be just ahead.

OR

- 1. Travel west on Ohio Turnpike.
- 2. Exit at Sandusky/Norwalk exit.
- 3. Turn left (west) on Bogart Rd., go quarter mile.
- 4. Exit left (south) onto Botay Rd. at NASA sign.
- 5. Proceed on Botay Rd. which becomes Taylor Rd.
- 6. Go about a mile on Taylor and turn at first left.
- 7. Plum Brook Station gate will be just ahead.

Spring Bird Walks

See the spring migrants during the Audubon spring bird walks. The walks will be held each **Sunday from April 10 to May 15, 2011, at 7:30 a.m.** A full list of walk locations can be found on our web site:

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. Huntington Beach off Lake Rd. in Bay Village CanalWay Center in Cuyahoga Hts. Rocky River Nature Center, North Olmsted

Station Rd. Bridge Trailhead, Brecksville
Hemlock Creek Picnic Area, Bedford

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, May 3, 2011 at 7:30 PM "Get Out and Bird!!"



Birders © Mary Anne Romito

Itching to get out this spring? Tuesday, May 3 at 7:30 PM the Western Cuyahoga Audubon meeting will be, "Get Out and BIRD!!" Hone your birding skills, both sight and sound, while walking the trails around the Rocky River Nature Center with the members and terrific birders of the Audubon group. The trails go through many habitats which increases your number of species. Tips on what to look for when sighting a bird and songs and calls will also increase your skill level. Bring your binoculars, walking shoes and dress for the weather. We will initially meet indoors then out on the trails, returning for refreshments. Let's see what we can tally!

Notice! June event NOT at Rocky River Nature Center!

Tuesday, June 7, 2011 at 6:00 PM Bonnie Park Picnic Shelter

Summer Picnic and Plant Exchange

Join us for our Summer Picnic at Bonnie Park Picnic Shelter in Strongsville, about ¼ mile east of Pearl Rd. (Rt. 42) on Valley Parkway in the Metroparks. Bring your own dinner. WCAS will provide the charcoal fire for cooking. We will follow the dinner with a bird walk on a lovely June evening.

We will also have our **annual plant exchange** so please bring any orphan plants, seeds, bulbs, cuttings (outdoor or indoor plants are welcome) to share.









Contact Us

WESTERN CUYAHOGA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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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

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

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Volunteer News

Weeders In The Wild

Saturday, May 7, 2011 1:00 - 4:00 pm Wendtwood, Lorain County Along the west branch of the Rocky River

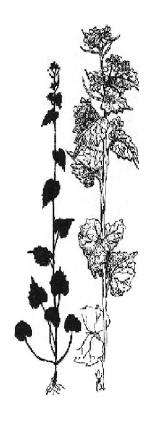
RSVP by calling: 440-759-8220, or email Terri Martincic at naturenut@wowway.com; a map will be forwarded to participants. Western Reserve Land Conservancy and Cleveland Museum of Natural History staff will join us on this privately owned conservation easement property. Enjoy a wonderful hike as we scout for Garlic Mustard. Hopefully, we'll see the Trumpeter Swans.

Other Events:

Saturday, May 7, 2011 2:00—4:00 pm Garlic Mustard Pull Elmwood Park, Rocky River

Save the date for our 10th annual community pull! Grab your garden gloves and boots and join the volunteer effort to round up the invasive Garlic Mustard weed. This "alien" species is spreading through our natural areas and competing with the native spring wildflowers for space and nutrients. Hand pulling before the seeds are set is necessary to control the spread of Garlic Mustard and must be continued each year until the seed bank is depleted. Meet at the trail head behind the baseball fields to receive instructions and coordinate efforts. Many hands make light work: recruit your friends, family and neighbors.

Parking may be tight. Be earth-friendly and walk or ride your bike.



Northeast Ohio Science and Engineering Fair (NEOSEF)

March 15, 2011

by Penny OConnor

The Oil Spill in the Gulf of Mexico inspired many science projects at the 2011 Northeastern Ohio Science and Engineering Fair. More than 600 students in grades 7-12 from eighty-plus schools in seven counties competed this year. The overall winners will go on to the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair. Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society awarded 3 special awards.

Elena Paparizos analyzed several methods of removing oil from bird feathers. Her project "The Oil spill effect: The Removal of oil from bird feathers using household solvents" won one of our top prizes." Elena is from St. Michael Elementary School. Erich Pocker likewise took up the





Penny O'Connor & Dave LeGallee

challenge of oiled wildlife. His project was entitled, "Finding formulas for fixing fouled fur and feathers." He is a student at St. Angela Merici Elementary.

Non-point pollution was the theme of Emmanuel Garcia's project. He sampled water in the Rainforest at Cleveland Metroparks Zoo. Emmanuel is a student at Lincoln-West High School.

Other projects explored light pollution, genetically modified crops and bird song.

Pictures courtesy of Penny OConnor

National Audubon Society: Audubon Advisory

March 17, 2011 Volume 2011 Issue 3

Senator Cardin Introduces Bird Conservation Act

Last week, Audubon filled the great hall at the Organization of American States, joining conservation leaders from the U.S. and beyond to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act. Senior Interior Department officials were in attendance, as were Ambassadors from Brazil, Panama, the Bahamas, and the Dominican Republic. Both the Interior Department and our international partners recognized the important contributions of this seminal act to hemispheric conservation and called for its continued support. Meanwhile,

Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD), one of the most steadfast and outspoken champions for bird and wildlife conservation in the U.S. Senate, introduced his bill aiming to reauthorize the Act and increase funding. Look for an opportunity to voice your support for international bird conservation soon through our alert system

You can follow Audubon Advisory alerts from our website: www.wcasohio.org
Click on "Take Action" button to see links page.

Audubon Praises Formation of House Gulf Caucus

Last week, Audubon celebrated the news that Reps. Kathy Castor (D-FL) and Steve Scalise (R-LA) had formed a bipartisan <u>House Gulf Caucus</u> to support restoration of the region's environment and economy following the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

Over the next several weeks and months, the House Gulf Caucus will work with Audubon and partner groups to recruit Members of Congress to join the caucus and support legislation that directs Clean Water Act Penalties to the restoration of the Gulf Region. These penalties would be paid directly by BP and other responsible parties to help in restoration as well as regional economic recovery.

If Congress does not pass legislation directing the penalties towards restoration, they would be automatically deposited into the general Federal Treasury. The Gulf Caucus will play a key role in ensuring that the people, the economies, and the ecosystems of the Gulf Region get the help they need to recover from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill and decades of Mississippi River mismanagement.

The health of the Gulf ecosystem and the health of our national economy are directly linked. Congress must act this year to make good on promises made to ensure the region gets the help it deserves. The Gulf region is a vital part of the nation's economy and <u>one of our most important ecosystems for birds and wildlife.</u>

Birdiful Reading

Birdology, by Sy Montgomery. **Publisher:** Free Press (April 6, 2010),

ISBN-10: 9781416569848, ISBN-13: 978-1416569848 Sy Montgomery really appreciates birds, and that is what makes her latest book so appealing. The subtitle is: Adventures with a Pack of Hens, a Peck of Pigeons, Cantankerous Crows, Fierce Falcons, Hip Hop Parrots, Baby Hummingbirds, and One Murderously Big Living Dinosaur. The evolutionary lines for humans and birds diverged more than 300 million years ago. In some ways we have converged to communicate. In some ways they are quite alien; they are made of air, and they can sense so much more of the electromagnetic spectrum than our own senses permit, Montgomery observes. This book is a way to absorb some of the amazing qualities of these creatures who are the only wild animals that most of us see every day.

Cleveland Lakefront State Park

Migration Mania

2011 Spring Open House **Saturday, May 21** 7:30 am - 2:00 pm Start and park at the Cleveland Lakefront State park office (www.dike14.org)

Become a steward of the Nature Preserve - help pull the invasive alien biennial herb, **garlic mustard**, on site from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Please bring along your gloves and a trash bag to help

A free **Rain Garden workshop** will be held from 11:00 am to noon at the Cleveland Lakefront State Park office. All workshop participants will be eligible to win a rain garden kit from Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District.

International Migratory Bird Day is Saturday, May 14, 2011

<u>Environment for the Americas</u> (EFTA) is a non-profit organization that provides information and materials about birds conservation and education from Canada to South America. Every year it sponsors **International Migratory Bird Day** (**IMBD**) to celebrate and bring attention to one of the most important and spectacular events in the Americas—bird migration.

Go Wild, Go Birding! is the 2011 theme chosen to highlight its focus on reaching out to involve new youth and adults in learning everything involving birds, bird watching, and bird conservation.

GO WITED GO BIRDING!

Local Events:

Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge 14000 West State Rt. 2 Oak Harbor, Ohio Magee Marsh Wildlife Area 13229 West State Rt. 2 Oak Harbor, Ohio

The Friends of Magee Marsh, ODNR Division of Wildlife, Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, and the Black Swamp Bird Observatory team up to make your visit very memorable on this day.

Cuyahoga Valley National Park

www.nps.gov/cuva Annual Spring Bird Census:

Birders of all experience levels are invited to participate in this annual spring outing to compile vital population records used in natural resources studies. Census participants will be sent out in small groups to record different species and count numbers of individuals. Bring binoculars and a field guide. NPS headquarters, 7:00 a.m. Prairie Land Birds: The prairies at the former Coliseum site are prime habitat for migrating and nesting birds. Join Park Ranger Paul Motts to search for bobolinks, Henslow's sparrows, and eastern meadowlarks. Come prepared to carpool and hike in tall grasses. Meet at Lock 29 Trailhead at 1:30—3 pm.

WCAS Members Reach Out to Youth

Science Olympiad A Success

Thank you to **Jan Holkenborg, Nancy Howell** and **Dave LeGallee** for preparing, staffing and judging the Science Olympiad at Cleveland State University on Saturday, March 26. Elementary school students from 13 schools or school districts - urban, parochial, private and suburban - took part in the Bird Identification part of Science Olympiad. Calls and songs, parts of a bird, bird behavior and plain and simple identification of birds that are found in northeast Ohio were all fair game as part of their "test".

Thanks go out to the parents, chaperones, teachers and others working with Science Olympiad to make the event fun and exciting for the students.

Here are the schools that participated ... have to make birders out of some of these students!





Saint Richard
Birchwood School
Parkside Intermediate School
Parma Park Elementary School
RidgeBrook School (Parma)
Mayfield City Schools
Woodbury School
Olmsted Falls Schools
St. Raphael School
Hawken School
South Suburban Montessori
Smith School (Berea)
Orchard Middle School (Solon)



Chapter Supporter Application

Why wait! Join WCAS as a chapter supporter.

Chapter Dues give you our Cho newsletter, a nametag and		heck one:		1 or 2 people		Family
a window cling.	Dues		\$20			\$35
Additional Donation (Ch	neck one) \$5		\$10 \$20 Other \$		Total enclosed \$	
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