

May—July 2006



## WCAS Happenings

Good presentations, good food, good weather and enthusiastic volunteers all combined to make WCAS's first Important Bird Area monitor training session a success. Over 50 volunteers attended the April 2 event at RRNC which included indoor and outdoor activities. See insert pages 3 and 4 for pictures and details.

Spring and early summer have many of our members out birding, wildflower hunting and participating in some of the other events WCAS has going on. We hope you will join us at a regular meeting, our annual picnic/plant exchange, a field trip or an invasive plant pull. Check out all the information you need on the inside pages. Have fun!

## Science Olympiad Hatches Future Birders

On February 25, Cleveland State Univ. hosted a Science Olympiad for students in 4th through 6th grades from the Cleveland area. Thanks to our own WCAS members Nancy Howell, Jan Holkenborg and Dave LeGaltee, these students were able to compete in the Bird Identification portion of this event. It had a variety of topics to challenge the students, from bird ID by sight, to bird ID by songs and calls. Bird behavior, bird anatomy and even

how to use field guides were all part of the test.



www.wcasohio.org

The Feathered Flyer

## Welcome New Members

Kathleen Bradley  
Carol & Raymond Burns  
June Cangey  
Karen Chaky  
Sally Eldermire

Barbara & Henry Fortlage  
George Goran  
JoAnne & Terry Gorges  
M J Lipka

## 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](http://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](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

Tom Romito, 216-741-2352

### Recording Secretary

Claudia Anders, 440-260-0351

### 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

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## May Program...Tuesday, May 2, 2006 ....7:30 PM



By carefully selecting native plants for your landscape and incorporating principles of ecology, you can create a landscape full of life and beauty. Dr. Nicole Cavender, Director of Restoration Ecology at The Wilds, will give suggestions on native plant selections for your landscape in order to attract wildlife such as birds and butterflies. Come and enjoy her program, "**Ecological Landscaping: Incorporating Native Plants and Ecological Principles Into Your Landscape.**"

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## May Field Trip...Sunday, May 7, 7:30 PM

Tim Krynak will lead us on our field trip to see spring migrants in this floodplain of the Cuyahoga River. We will meet at the **Leonard Krieger Canalway Center**.

Take I-77 to the Grant St. exit. Take Grant St. west to E 49 St. Turn left (or South) on E 49 St to Whittleys Way. Turn right onto Whittleys Way to parking lot. Please see map for this destination on P. 5 of the newsletter.



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## June Field Trip....Sat., June 3, 9:00 AM

We will have a joint field trip with Western Reserve Land Conservancy, Firelands Chapter, to **Wendtwood** in Columbia Station. This amazing place belongs to Dr. Wendt, who was the vet at the Cleveland Zoo and raised Trumpeter Swans for release. He is now raising Bobwhite quail, and may still have some Nene (Hawaiian Geese) that he had last year.

This land will be preserved in perpetuity with a conservation easement with both the WRLC-Firelands Chapter and the Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

David Kriska will lead us around the ponds and through the fields and woods in this rare opportunity to visit this privately owned land and learn about land trust options. \*Call Terri at 440-759-8220 to RSVP for this field trip; directions will be sent to participants.

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## June Program...Tues., June 6, 6:00 PM

Help us kick off the summer season by joining us at our original location, **South Mastick Picnic Area, Rocky River Reservation**, for our summer picnic, bird walk and plant exchange. Bring your own dinner; WCAS will provide the charcoal fire for cooking. We will follow the dinner with a bird walk along the river trail.

Bought more plants than you can use? Have any leftover divided perennials? Bring them along and exchange them for other plantings. There is always a good variety and assortment. You never know what you'll find here! \*Please refer to the map on P.5, or go to our web site for more detailed directions.

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## July Field Trip...Sunday, July 2, 8:00AM

Tom and Mary Anne Romito will lead our group as we try to spy Chats, Cerulean Warblers, White-eyed Vireos and others at **Bacon Woods** in Vermillion, Ohio. \*Please refer to the map on P.5, or go to our web site for more detailed directions.

The entrance to Bacon Woods is on the right, just before the camel-back bridge that crosses the Vermillion River. Drive along the outer road to the farthest parking lot. We will meet in this parking lot:



## Rocky River IBA Open House Event a Great Success!

What a great kick-off to WCAS's adoption of the Rocky River Important Bird Area. Over 200 visitors attended this March 5 event in the Rocky River Nature Center Auditorium featuring activities and information geared to explaining what WCAS is all about, and what we are currently up to.

Dan Petit, Head of Natural Resources for the Cleveland Metroparks, gave the first power point presentation explaining what an IBA is and why it is important to our local community. He also described what point counts are, and how they supply scientific data to help protect habitat. Tom Romito gave two more presentations on this subject to interested audiences.



Mary Lou Hura and Mary Anne Romito had fun passing out door prizes and assisting wherever needed. Last, but not least, our very own "legal eagle", Pat Poole, dressed in an eagle costume and directed visitors our way.



After each presentation, the visitors were encouraged to circulate through the five stations set up and staffed by WCAS members. Nancy Howell ran her Forest Birds ID game and also explained our Shade Grown Coffee display. Terri Martincic was our Bird DJ at the bird song station. Laurie Boylan and Kit Birch were busy dispensing pine cone bird feeders, hand stamps and stickers. Diana Steel and Mary Jane White ran the membership/info station and signed up ten new chapter members! Liz Clingman kept everyone happy with delicious refreshments. Dave Lewis displayed his wonderful bird photos as well as taking many pictures of the event, some of which are shown on this page. Bill Deininger set up his excellent home-made video of birds to run throughout the event. The Medina Raptor Center displayed a live falcon all afternoon, much to the delight of everyone present.



Everyone had a great time mixing public education and advocacy with fun activities and camaraderie, and we signed up 72 new volunteers for our IBA project! Our sincere thanks to Ken Gober and RRNC for the use of the auditorium, and to all the great RRNC staff.





## Enthusiastic Monitors Train in Rocky River IBA



WCAS President, Tom Romito, gave the opening introduction to our April 2 IBA training session, followed by a power-point presentation by Dan Petit, Head of Natural Resources for the Cleveland Metroparks. Dan stated that our main goal is: "To accurately document the status of breeding bird populations in forested habitats in the Rocky River Valley, as well as the environmental and land-use practices that may affect those populations...." In order to do this we need trained volunteers to monitor randomly selected points in a prescribed manner to generate credible, scientific data.

First our dedicated volunteers went through an indoor bird identification testing and training session. Not too happy about being "tested", they all nevertheless survived and had a few laughs along the way.

After being fortified with a delicious buffet, they tramped outside to do some real "hands-on" field training. Six stations were set up outside the Rocky River Nature Center for this purpose.



Terri Martincic and Kit Birch put people through their paces learning how many steps they needed to reach both 25 and 50 meter targets in the woods at Station 1.

At Station 2, Tom Romito and Don Howell got to show off the new Garmen GPS 60 instruments for use in finding the point count locations.

Dan Petit explained how to record bird data on a special survey form at Station 3

At Station 4, Nancy Howell had the fun job of leading a bird identification "look and listen" time.

Bill Deininger helped each group learn how to estimate distances from a certain point to flags placed at 25 and 50+ meter distances at Station 5.

At Station 6, Liz Clingman, Rich Kassouf, Pat Poole and Dean Murad tested participants on their distance estimation skills with 20 flags placed at various locations 25 to more than 50 meters away.

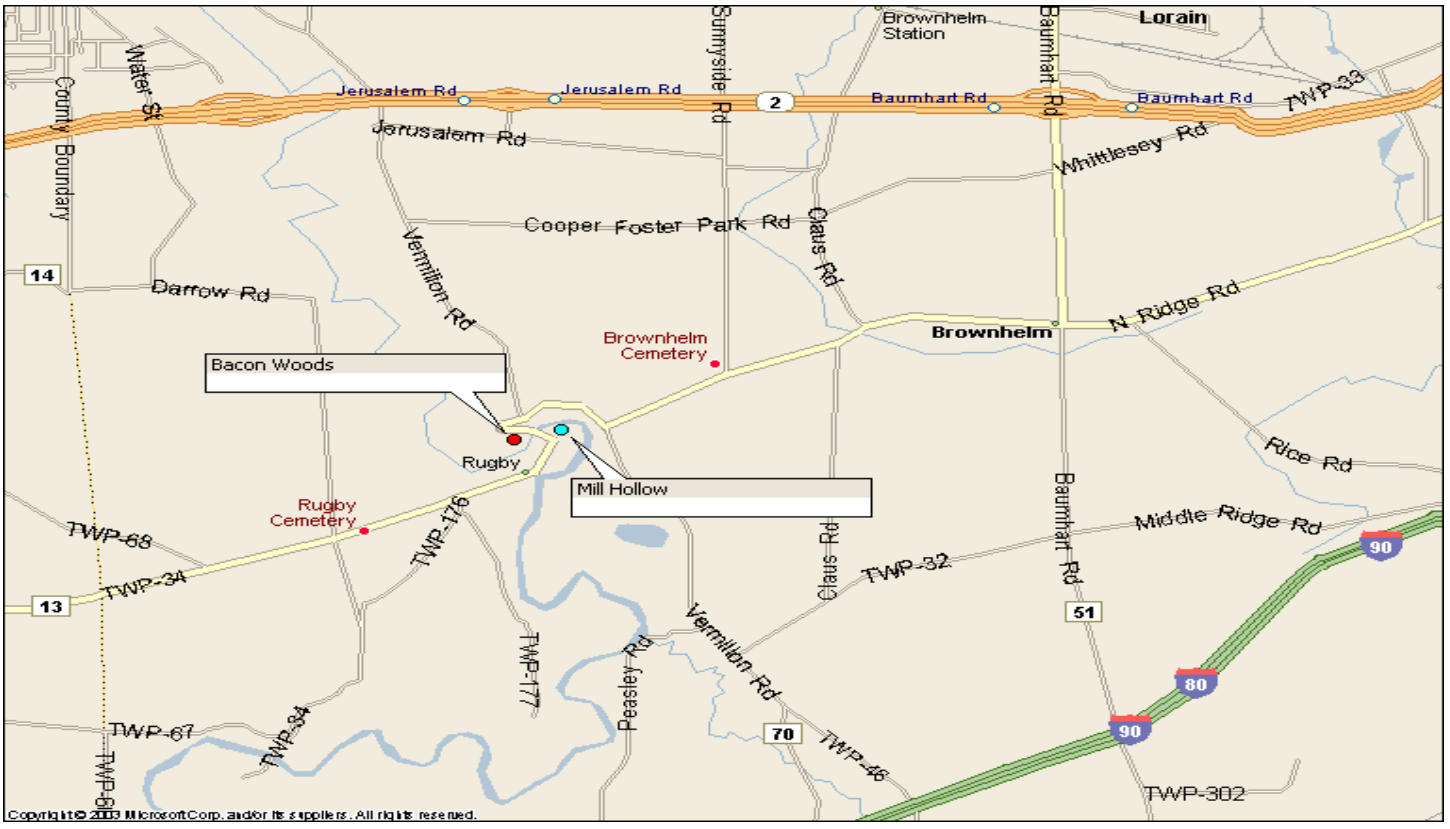


Acting as guides and coordinators for all this were Mary Anne Romito, Laurie Boylan and Claudia Anders. Last, but not least, Dave Lewis valiantly hauled his heavy equipment all over the place to take awesome pictures documenting our event.

WCAS thanks all the great volunteer monitors who came to this first training event. Those who are not ready to be observers now can be recorders and learn in the field as part of a team. They can eventually become point counters themselves, which will give us an ever widening pool of talent so we can monitor more and more points. Good job!



## Map for July Field Trip to Bacon Woods



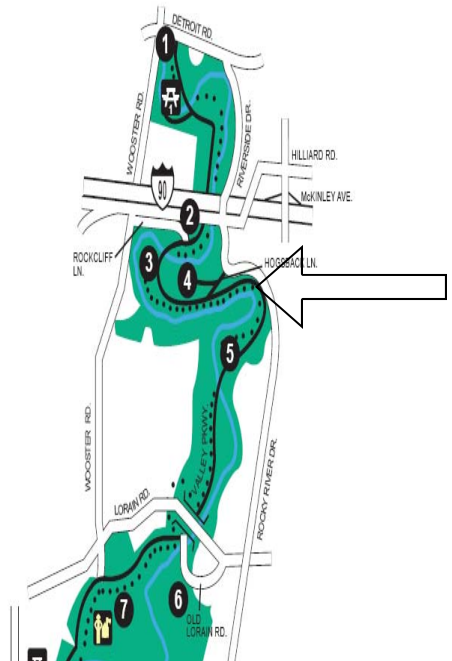
## Map for May Field Trip

## Map for June Picnic



## South Mastic Picnic Area #4

- SCENIC PARK PICNIC AREA
- NORTH MASTICK PICNIC AREA
- SYCAMORE RESERVED CANOPY (horseshoe pit, playing field)
- SOUTH MASTICK PICNIC AREA (decorative fountain)
- COTTONWOOD PICNIC AREA (no water)
- BIG CEDAR POINT PICNIC AREA
- LITTLE CEDAR POINT PICNIC AREA
- MAPLE GROVE PICNIC AREA
- LAGOON PICNIC AREA
- WILLOW BEND PICNIC AREA





WCAS  
 4310 Bush Ave  
 Cleveland, OH 44109

To find out about the Ohio Breeding Bird and/or Winter Bird Survey, see our "What's New" webpage. To find out about current environmental issues, see our "Take Action" webpage. Find them at [www.wcasohio.org](http://www.wcasohio.org)



### Chapter Supporter Application

Circle one:	1 or 2 people	Family
<b>Basic</b> (includes newsletter and nametag)	<b>\$20</b>	<b>\$35</b>
<b>Enhanced</b> (includes above benefits plus WCAS patch)	<b>\$40</b>	<b>\$55</b>

NAME	
ADDRESS	
CITY/STATE/ZIP	
TELEPHONE	
EMAIL ADDRESS	Amount \$

### Weeders in the Wild

Saturday, June 17, 2006

Sandy Ridge Reservation

Lorain County

Canary Reed Grass and Purple Loosestrife marsh and muck pull.  
Chris Grames will meet us at the nature center before we go through the woods to the marsh. If we're lucky, we may see the Bald Eagles or Sandhill Cranes as we work.  
 \*Water proof knee-high boots are highly recommended for this work date, as we will go into the marsh.  
 Help fight the invaders!

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