



WCAS Honored at the Northeast Ohio Environmental Awards Ceremony



By Kit Birch

"The Northeast Ohio Environmental Awards program recognizes and honors the outstanding achievements of organizations, businesses, schools and individuals in a wide range of environmental initiatives throughout the region and pays tribute to those who have demonstrated a commitment to environmental excellence, leadership, and accomplishment in their respective fields."

Thus read the invitation sent to Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society's President Tom Romito last month, informing him that WCAS had been selected as an Award recipient to receive \$2,500! Tom and three other WCAS members were invited to attend the Awards Ceremony co-sponsored by **Dominion Foundation** and the **Biodiversity Alliance**.

So on Friday, October 2, 2009, Tom and Mary Anne Romito and Diane Sigler went to the Awards VIP reception and ceremony at The Cleveland Museum of Natural History, where a short video and a brochure highlighting

WCAS's program and accomplishments were presented. Tom proudly accepted the \$2,500 check to WCAS, which will help us fund our final Rocky River Important Bird Area survey in 2010.

It is so gratifying to all active members of WCAS to have our efforts recognized and appreciated in this manner. Hopefully, this type of publicity will help us on future grant applications as well as attracting future volunteers and members. We can all be proud that our volunteer efforts contribute to local habitat and species conservation.

Inside this issue:

| | |
|---------------------|------------|
| Field trips | page 2 & 3 |
| Programs | Page 4 |
| Weeders in the Wild | Page 5 |
| WCAS Board News | Page 5 |
| New Members | Page 5 |
| Conservation News | Page 6 |
| Audubon Adventures | Page 7 |
| Birding Symposium | Page 7 |

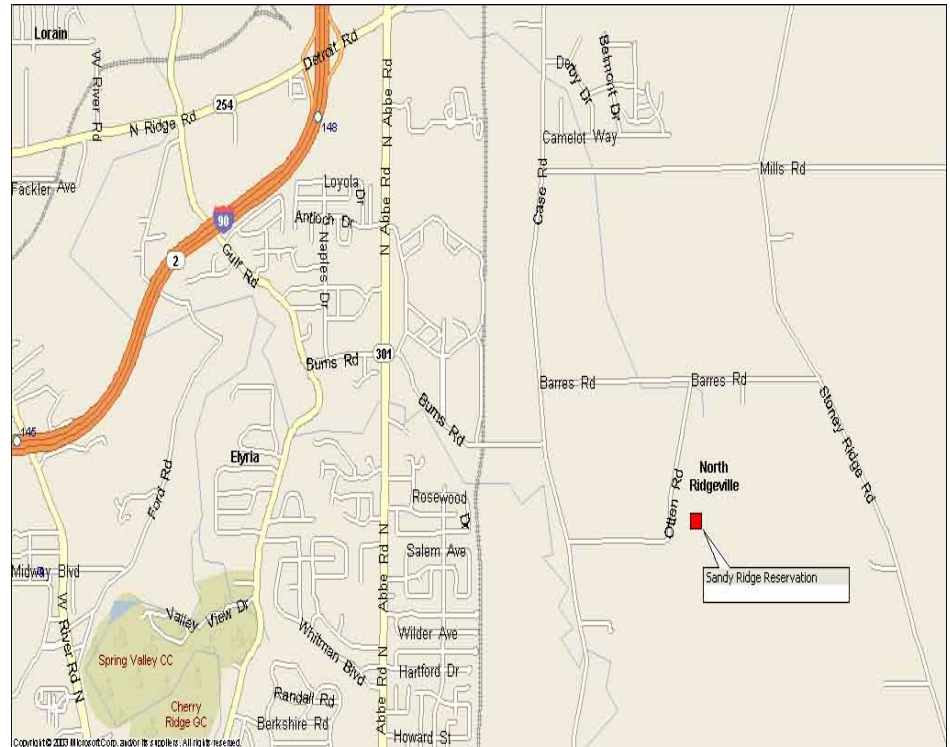
Field Trips

Saturday, November 7, 2009...8:30 a.m....Sandy Ridge Reservation

Who can pass up a birding trip to Sandy Ridge? Tim Fairweather and Josh Michalski will be our leaders to see migrating waterfowl at one of Northeast Ohio's premier birding hotspots.

Directions:

From the Greater Cleveland area, take I-90 to the Rt. 254 exit, left on Rt. 254 to Rt. 301, right on Rt. 301 past Lorain Community College, left on Burns Rd., right on Case Rd., left on Otten Rd. to Sandy Ridge. Or take I-480 to Clague Road., turn right or north on Clague to Center Ridge Road (Rt. 20), turn left or west on Center Ridge to Case Rd., turn right on Case Rd., right on Otten Rd. to Sandy Ridge



Sunday, December 27, 2009...Christmas Bird Count

December 27 is the *BEST* day of the year! Birders are out and about in our Count Circle tallying as many species and individuals as possible. Some even head out before sunrise or after sunset to do owling. Won't you consider joining a group? Watching your feeder? Or simply walking the streets in and around your neighborhood (if it is in the count circle). We will break at 1 PM for our fabulous pot-luck chili lunch at the Rocky River Nature Center to tally initial species, then head out to mop up areas that have not been covered. Chili, of many types from mild to wild, are brought, but don't forget the sides and desserts. The participant fee for the Christmas Bird Count remains the same, \$5 per field observer. If you pay the fee you receive a personal copy of the *American Birds-Christmas Bird Count* after it is published next year which is actually a \$25 value.

If you wish to participate, contact Nancy Howell at (216) 231-4600 ext 3225 (work), (440) 891-1710 (home) or e-mail: nhowell@cmnh.org.



Field Trips

2009 Christmas Bird Count Areas

| Area |
|--|
| Lakefront |
| Clague Park/Lakewood Park Cemetery |
| Big Met/Little Met Golf courses-Rocky River Reservation |
| Rocky River Reservation around Nature Center. |
| Lagoon Picnic Area to Bagley Rd. along Valley Parkway around Cleve. Hopkins Airport |
| Baldwin, Wallace and Coe Lakes area in Berea |
| Bradley Woods |
| Lake Isaac/Beyers Pond and environs. |
| Big Creek Parkway - Brookpark Rd to Stumpf Rd. Meet at 8 AM at the Snow Rd. Rd. Picnic area off of Big Creek Parkway just south of Snow. |
| Big Creek Parkway - Stumpf Rd. south to Fowles |
| Cleveland Zoo/West Park Cemetery/Big Creek Reservation |
| Tri-C Western Campus and Parks adjacent to Tri-C. |
| Lake Abrams/Southwest Hospital wetlands |
| Renaissance Retirement Community Property/Sunset Memorial Cemetery |
| Far Western edge of count circle (Jaycox Rd. in Lorain Co.) |
| Any neighborhood, green space or cemetery in the count circle - let Nancy Howell know. |



Sunday, January 10, 2010...9:00 AM... Dike 14, Cleveland

Don't miss this unusual opportunity for a winter visit to Dike 14, the 88-acre wild Important Bird Area just east of downtown Cleveland. January is a great time to bird for the northern species on the lakefront. In past years some interesting sightings have turned up near Dike 14, including a Saw-whet Owl. Nancy Howell will be our leader.

Directions:

To get to Dike 14, take I 90 to Martin Luther King Blvd. Turn North on Martin Luther King Blvd, then left (or West) on N Marginal Rd. Turn right in the Cleveland Lakefront State Park - Gordon Boat Ramp parking area. Park in the far northeast end of the parking lot. This is the end of the parking lot closest to the gate that surrounds Dike 14.

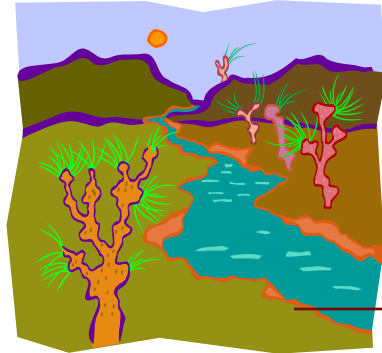


Programs

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, Nov. 3, 2009 at 7:30 PM

Enjoy the beauty of Southwest 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 show a variety of wetland and desert habitats in the Chihuahuan desert as well as habitats at the edge of western mountain ranges.



Tuesday, December 1, 2009 at 6:30 PM



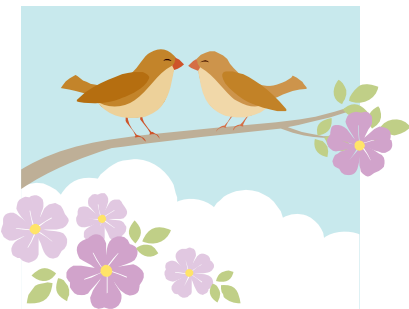
This is Western Cuyahoga Audubon's Potluck Dinner, but program runs at usual time, 7:30 PM. Please remember to bring your own place setting and a side dish or dessert; ham and turkey will be provided. Don't forget about our annual silent auction during dinner! Bring your new or gently used or hand-made items to donate for this fun fundraiser, and some extra cash to buy great stuff. (Bird or nature-related items are preferred.)

Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2009 at 7:30 PM

Photographer Doug West has taken images throughout Ohio, Texas, Florida and New Mexico, and has been published in magazines and books. His presentation, "*Birds Are People Too*" will include the stories behind his photographs as well as techniques to help everyone become a better bird photographer.



Tuesday, January 5, 2010 at 7:30 PM



Jennifer Brumfield will present a light-hearted look at the intimate – and not so intimate – lives of birds. Have you ever wondered if those late straggling migrants are just plain lazy? Thought your neighborhood was void of gangs? Guess what, there's a flock in EVERY "hood". From the adorable to the silly, nerdy and strange, this presentation, "*Birds Have Taught Me...*" will celebrate the *real* lives of birds – and birders.

Weeders In The Wild

December 5, 2009, Saturday...9:30 am to 12:00 noon
Rocky River Nature Center parking lot
Join the Green Team!

Today we join Dave Dvorak and Nature Center volunteers. Buckthorn will be removed using clippers and a weed wrench. Equipment will be provided. Dress for the weather.

April 17, 2010, Saturday...1:00 to 4:00 PM
Wendtwood, Lorain County
Along the west branch of the Rocky River

RSVP by calling: 440-759-8220, 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. Bring a snack and binoculars.



Buckthorn winter ID ©
Terri Martincic

WCAS Board Meeting News

The WCAS board is putting together an "IBA Stakeholder" brainstorming session to take place on November 16, 2009. This will be a full day, hosted at Cleveland Metroparks Zoo. The list of invitees includes representatives of environmental organizations, public officials, and scientists in the Rocky River watershed. The event will be announced at the next membership meeting for WCAS members who would like to take part.

News Flash! Stan Searles of the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo has become a WCAS board member! Welcome Stan.

On the date of our regular February Program meeting, the area around the Rocky River Nature Center will be closed. We are looking for another place to meet on that date, and will announce it in the February newsletter.

The board has been discussing purchasing WCAS lapel pins to use as awards and/or also for sale.

Welcome New Members

Tony & Karen Berg
Mark & Penny Bruce
John Bucher
Daniel Cica
Molly Force
Margaret & Bob Glenn
Richard Hutchinson

Kathy Rehus
Joanne Righi
Daniel Roksandic
Deva Simon
Jan Snow
Lillian & Richard Tilton
Isy Zsebi



Conservation News

Manx Shearwater Fledgling

On September 8, biologists visiting Matinicus Rock, an island off mid-coast Maine, discovered a fledgling Manx Shearwater, the first of this species to successfully mature to fledgling age in the USA. Audubon's Scott Hall, along with Brian Benedict, Bob Houston, Matt Klostermann, and

Lauren Scopel of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, discovered the chick. Named for their habit of flying low over the water, adult Manx Shearwaters develop a wingspan of nearly three feet. The discovery is a tribute to the partnership between Audubon's Seabird Restoration project and USFWS.

Grange Insurance Audubon Center

The brand new Grange Insurance Audubon Center celebrated its opening with a ribbon cutting ceremony on August 28, 2009 attended by Audubon Chair B. Holt Thrasher and Ohio Governor

Ted Strickland. Only minutes from downtown Columbus, the transformed brownfield site is also an Audubon Important Bird Area.

Support Audubon by Purchasing 2010 Audubon Calendars!

This year Audubon is launching two new calendars: **JOHN JAMES AUDUBON'S BIRDS OF AMERICA**, with twelve beautifully reproduced paintings from Audubon's seminal work "Birds of America", and **GREEN WORLD**, a year of eco-

travel featuring a dozen extraordinary destinations, each one rich in geographic wonders and teaming with flora and fauna. They are both available in local book stores, as well as online at Audubon.org.

Why Should You Buy Shade Grown Coffee?

Do you sometimes wonder why most things that are good for the environment are more expensive? Well, you get what you pay for, and unfortunately with regular coffee you get pesticide use and deforestation which directly impacts the survival of the birds we all love to watch.

Shade grown, organic coffee is grown without harmful chemical fertilizers or pesticides which protects the environment and water supply for people who grow and harvest the coffee, and for the wildlife that makes its home in the tropical forests. Priceless!!

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.

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Stan Searles

Kathleen Tiburzi

Education Outreach

YOU Can Help a Child Discover the Natural World!

How can I do that you ask!?! Well it's as easy as cutting out the outlined box on this page and giving it to any teacher or school librarian you know, just for them to read and decide about on their own. What can it hurt you to try? And you may be enabling them to turn on young people to the great natural world through a wonderful organization like the Audubon Society. Good luck!



Audubon Adventures, a set of publications for educators, are available FREE through Western Cuyahoga Audubon for the 2009-2010 school year. This year's series entitled, "**Action for Planet Earth**", focuses on conservation action in a set of 4 tabloid style newspapers containing study units on Water, Energy, Habitats, and Pennies for the Planet. The information provided is a standards-based classroom curriculum and is rooted in elementary science, language arts, and social studies best used with students from 3rd through 5th grades. Educators may request a class kit which includes 30 newspapers on each theme for students and also Ohio standards-based teacher materials. For homeschools, an individual kit may be ordered which has one newspaper per theme as well as teacher materials. Western Cuyahoga Audubon will provide kits to educators, free of charge, until our 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.

2009 Midwest Birding Symposium

by Penny O'Connor

A great birding event just finished up, but it is coming again in 2011. Bird authors, bird guides, ornithologists, film makers and 808 bird enthusiasts gathered at Lakeside, Ohio for the 2009 Midwest Birding Symposium, Sept. 17-20. Lakeside will host this again in 2011. The symposium started off with Jason Kessler's film "Opposable Chums" about the madness of the World Series of Birding. Jason was present to answer questions and sign copies. It is a great film, and I have already lent my copy out. When it is back, I will lend it again!

Each morning, some of the greatest bird guides led trips at birding hotspots, notably East Harbor State Park, where one group caught a glimpse of a Kirtland's Warbler. Other groups enjoyed bird banding. Late

morning and afternoon lectures featured actress Jane Alexander, guide Alvaro Jaramillo, author David Sibley (whose new tree guide was available onsite), naturalist Jim McCormac, and Jim Berry, who is director of the Roger Tory Peterson Institute. Bill Thompson III was the emcee for the event, sharing music as well as bird knowledge.

Did I mention the vendors? It was a great chance to try out new binoculars and scopes, see and buy wonderful bird art, dream of bird expeditions all over the world, pick up new bird books, and meet the guides and the authors. I can't wait for 2011!



WESTERN CUYAHOGA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Chapter Supporter Application

Chapter Membership year: September 1 through August 31 (adjustment made for mid-year)

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

Check one:

1 or 2 people

Family

Dues

\$20

\$35

Additional Donation (Check one)

\$5

\$10

\$20

Other

\$ _____

Total enclosed

\$ _____

| |
|----------------|
| NAME |
| ADDRESS |
| CITY/STATE/ZIP |
| TELEPHONE |
| EMAIL ADDRESS |

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

