



Flight Patterns

Serving Allen, Auglaize, Hancock, Hardin, Logan, Mercer, Shelby, and Van Wert Counties in Ohio

Newsletter of the Tri-Moraine Audubon Society

MAY/JUNE 2008

WEB ADDRESS - <http://www.tri-moraineaudubon.org>

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NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE BY EMAIL. Contact Bill Askins, chapter membership database chair, at waskins@woh.rr.com. State name, mailing address, email address, and your desire to receive Flight Patterns via email. You will receive an email notice of website availability containing a URL you can click on that will take you to the newsletter (in PDF format) on the chapter's website.

CALENDAR

May
1st
thru
June
5th

SAVE THE WILDFLOWERS! This is Tri-Moraine's ninth year helping to save the wildflowers at Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District's Kendrick Woods, one of the 6 Important Bird Areas (IBAs) located in our 8-county service area. Workdays are scheduled as follows from 5:30 pm until dusk: Mondays - May 12 and 19, June 2; Thursdays - May 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29, June 5. Great progress has been made, but additional help is needed. For information and to register as a volunteer contact JAMPD naturalist Mark Mohr at 419-223-1025.

May
6th



Photos in full color on web site.

VIETNAM ADVENTURE, Tuesday, May 6, 7:30 pm, Fellowship Hall, lower level, Market Street Presbyterian Church, 1100 West Market St., corner Cole and Market Streets, Lima. Travel to Vietnam with Jeff Dawson to explore the sights and culture of the country and to learn more about some of its reptiles, amphibians, and other fauna. Jeff became active with Tri-Moraine when he was a student at The Ohio State University at Lima and was the chapter's first webmaster. He is now Zoo Keeper/Herpetologist at the Columbus Zoo. Join us to welcome Jeff back to Lima. You may use the courtyard entrance off the rear parking lot or the elevator entrance on the west side of the church where handicapped parking is available. Follow the Audubon signs. The program is free and open to the public. A very brief annual meeting (5 min. or less) will precede the program.



May
8th

BIRDING REVIEWS, Hancock County Naturalists program meeting, Thursday, May 8, 7:30 pm, Christ Church United Methodist, 225 West Bigelow Avenue, Findlay. Michelle Rumschlag, HCN president and Hancock Park District naturalist, will be covering vireos, thrushes, and warblers in preparation for the group's May 10 International Migratory Bird Day count. For information about the organization, the IMBD count, and upcoming events contact Betsy Worden, newsletter editor, at 419-293-2705 or bworden001@woh.rr.com. HCN will resume program meetings in September.

May
12th

BIG BIRDING DAY, Monday, May 12. This annual trek by TMAS birders will visit six or seven of Lake Erie's best birding locations during this peak of the spring migration. A car pool will depart at 6:30 am from Lima's Eastgate Mall parking lot behind Wendy's on SR 309. Appropriate clothing/footwear, binoculars, sun protection, lunch/snacks/beverages, and field guides are recommended. The group will leave "rain or shine" and return in the evening. The goal is to spot and identify 100 different bird species. Open to the public, all interested birders, including beginners, are welcome. For full information contact Eric Broughton at 419-999-1987 or at ebroughton@woh.rr.com.

May
15th
&
June
19th

UPPER MAUMEE VALLEY NATURALISTS CLUB PROGRAM MEETINGS, Thursdays, May 15 and June 19, 7 pm, The Wassenberg Art Center, 643 South Washington Street, Van Wert. Meeting topics TBA. Watch for local media announcements or for information about the group and more details about upcoming events contact: Jean Perchalski, publicity chair, at 419-232-4108, 419-231-0495 (cell), or jeperch@roadrunner.com; Lyn Warren, president, at 419-749-2999.

June
17th


GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE, a panel discussion scheduled by the League of Women Voters for June 17, 7 pm, Apollo Career Center, Lima. Featured panelists include Dr. Todd Albert (Bowling Green State University), Dr. David Smith (Ohio Northern University), and a representative from Husky Energy Lima Refinery. Arrangements have not been finalized, but you can check the League's website at <http://www.lwvlima.org/> for full details. Note this event on your calendar and support the LWV.

2008 DISTRICT SCIENCE DAY AWARD WINNERS

Four outstanding student entries won \$25 Tri-Moraine Audubon Society Natural Resources, Conservation, Nature Studies Awards at the 2008 Ohio Academy of Science District Science Day held March 15 at Ohio Northern University: Hans Buchenroth, grade 11, Benjamin Logan H. S., Bellefontaine (teacher, Spencer Reams), for "Wind Power" (paper assessed the practicality of using wind power as an alternative source of energy in Ohio); Jessica Frasure, grade 12, Benjamin Logan H.S. (teacher, Spencer Reams), for "A Future With Phytoremediation" (paper assessed the possibility of using sunflowers to remove the heavy metal pollutant copper from contaminated soils); Keeron Ghose, grade 10, Tiffin Columbian H.S. (teacher, Gennette Marshall), for "The Effect and Design on Energy Output From Solar Cells: the Contribution of Reflectors"; Katelyn Schneeg, grade 8, Ottawa-Glandorf E.S. (teacher, unknown), for "Insects and Light Attraction" (paper considered how different wavelengths of light influence attraction of insects, with application perhaps to insect conservation). In addition to winning the TMAS awards, all four students received "Superior" ratings by two randomly-selected Science Day judges making them eligible to compete at the state level. Joint National Audubon Society/TMAS member Dr. Jay Mager, ONU Department of Biological & Allied Health Sciences, did the judging for Tri-Moraine. Dr. Nancy Woodley and Dr. Julie Adams from the Department were the organizers for the District Science Day and also assisted Dr. Mager in the determination of Audubon awardees. The chapter thanks these educators for their help.



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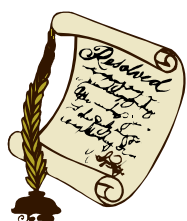
AUDUBON SOCIETY

Serving Allen • Auglaize • Hancock • Hardin • Logan
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PRESIDENT'S CHAPTER NOTES.....Mark your calendar for the **SUMMER PICNIC** at Ottawa Metro Park, Lima, Tuesday, July 8. Details next newsletter..... **TMAS BOARD MEETING**, Tuesday, May 27, time and place TBD..... Proud parents Anne (field trip chair) and Jason Smedley welcomed their **NEW BABY DAUGHTER**, Olivia Ilse, on March 4. She weighed in at 5.12 pounds..... If you have **PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS** for the 2008-2009 chapter year, please contact Fern Albertson, program chair, at 419-634-6381 or walberts@bright.net..... To submit **FIELD TRIP SUGGESTIONS** contact Anne Smedley at 419-222-3271 or jsmedley@wcoil.com..... The **NOMINATING COMMITTEE SLATE** was presented at the April 24 meeting in Van Wert: president, 2-year term, Carol Bertrand; secretary, 2-year term, Annette Kovic..... 9 trippers trekked on the **KILLDEER PLAINS WILDLIFE AREA** March 15 **FIELD TRIP** led by Eric Broughton. A good day was had by all

and 40 bird species were sighted. Thanks to Eric for filling in for Anne..... Tri-Moraine does not offer programs or field trips the months of June, July, and August. Members are too busy with weddings, family gatherings, vacations, gardening, etc. However, there are lots of places to go birdwatching in the area plus the bonuses of fresh air and exercise. Some of our members just go walking or walk their dogs and along the way they pick up those ubiquitous aluminum cans. I have a stash started for our annual recycling project the 2nd Saturday in September. It's one of our bigger fund-raisers. If you are interested in helping with this project, give me a call for details at 419-227-9231. Not only do you get rid of unsightly litter, but you can help your chapter while you get lots of exercise. The summer break also gives us a chance to catch our breath, do some thoughtful planning, and catch up with all that paperwork before the rush of fall activities. Best wishes to all of you for a summer that is just right for you..... Carol M. Bertrand

MORE BIRD MONITORING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Additional birders, especially those in Auglaize, Mercer, and Van Wert Counties, are needed for the bird-monitoring phase of the chapter's St. Marys River-Grand Lake Important Bird Area Habitat Protection and Conservation Project. For information and/or to volunteer your help, please contact Eric Juterbock at 419-995-8360 (day), 937-468-2606 (evening), juterbock.1@osu.edu (email), or surface mail at OSU at Lima, 4240 Campus Drive, Lima, OH 45804.

RATIFICATION OF GREAT LAKES COMPACT STALLED IN SENATE

On April 16 State Sen. Tim Grendell may have finally revealed the true agenda for his efforts to derail Ohio's ratification of the Great Lakes Compact. During a hearing of the Ohio Senate Environment and Natural Resource Committee, Grendell withdrew all of his remaining objections to the Compact, save one. He said that he would support ratification without amendment, provided that the voters of Ohio first pass a constitutional amendment to exclude groundwater and non-tributary surface water from the State's public trust obligations.

Over the past two years, Grendell has raised numerous objections to the Compact, including an argument that his objections could not be resolved by a constitutional amendment, but rather only by amendment of the Compact itself. In an abrupt about-face, however, he now argues that a constitutional amendment would allay his only remaining concern, namely, alleged ambiguity in Ohio law as to whether groundwater and non-tributary surface water is subject to state regulation under the Public Trust Doctrine.

Grendell has not yet produced a draft of his constitutional amendment. The public could not vote on such an amendment until November 2008, and then only if both houses of the General Assembly vote, by 60 percent supermajorities, to place it on the ballot, or Grendell and his supporters collect hundreds of thousands of signatures. Grendell said he would withdraw his opposition to the Compact if voters approved the as-yet unwritten constitutional amendment, but he did not say what he would do if the amendment didn't make it onto the ballot or was voted down.

Audubon Ohio and other conservation groups immediately characterized Grendell's latest gambit as yet another effort to throw up roadblocks to ratification of the Compact, and to enact potentially harmful constitutional restrictions on the ability of the State to protect ground and surface water resources. During testimony before the Committee on April 16, both State Representative Matthew Dolan (who is sponsoring ratification legislation that has passed the Ohio House 90-3) and Ohio Department of Natural Resources Director Sean Logan urged the Committee to proceed with ratification immediately rather than waiting for a constitutional amendment that no one has seen, that may never make it onto the ballot, and that may be voted down even if it does.

Testimony on the Compact will continue on April 23, when Audubon Ohio Executive Director Jerry Tinianow (author of this article, AudubonOH-NEWS, April 21, 2008, pp. 2 & 3) is expected to testify in favor of immediate ratification without amendment.