



Flight Patterns

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Summer 2017

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Mercer, Shelby, and Van
Wert counties

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Save the Date...

PROGRAM MEETING—The first program meeting of the year will be held Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2017, 7:30 p.m., in the Visitor/Student Services Center, 3900 Campus Dr., OSU-Lima Campus. Keep your eyes open for more information on this program.

BOARD MEETING -TMAS Board Meeting is scheduled for July 25 at 7 p.m. All are welcome to attend. TMAS board meetings are held at the Visitor/Student Services Center, 3900 Campus Dr., OSU-Lima Campus.

RECYCLE DAY—Plan ahead for our annual Recycle Day Fundraiser on October 14 from 8 a.m. to 12-noon at Wapakoneta. At least 25 volunteers are needed to sort and unload vehicles. Bring your aluminum cans to the summer picnic and upcoming meetings. They are worth more but should be clean, dry and crushed, if possible. Pick them up during your walks this summer! For further info contact Bob Bertrand at 419.227.9231.

TMAS PICNIC - Plan now to attend the Annual Membership Picnic, Tuesday July 11, 2017 at Hermon Woodlands Metro Park JAMPD (please note this is a new location) on Wapak Rd. west of Lima just off St. Rt. 81. You can learn more at the Johnny Appleseed Metro Park District website. We will be in one of the reserved shelters. There are restrooms and trails, one featuring a storybook theme. Go early to take advantage of these great amenities before the picnic (see details in the calendar of events).



Oh, say can you see...

By Jeannine C. Roediger

As we take those nature walks, whether it be in one of our parks or in woods or field, it's always thrilling to see something unexpected. Almost every walk you take allows one to see something interesting even if it is just a mammal track or an unexpected bird sighting.

It's happened to me many times. Once while taking a walk in a nearby park, during my lunch hour, I spotted this Eastern Red Bat hanging on a bladder nut bush right beside the walkway. Unexpected for sure, and easily missed! Good thing I had my camera.

Or the time I was walking across a yet-to-be planted field and found these Killdeer nestlings. Killdeer babies are precocious, but I got a picture before they left the nest. If we find a nest in our fields we mark it in some way so the tillage equipment can go around it.

Just this morning I was looking out and saw a mother raccoon carrying her baby from a hollow catalpa tree near our barn to an Osage orange in the windbreak. Yesterday I rescued a baby rabbit from one of our barn cats. Seeing what is going on can have surprising results.

Plus, a watchful eye caught



an immature Bald Eagle browsing our flooded field leaving tracks in the mud. So what can you see if you take time to look. You never know what may come into your point-of-view, "seeing" what is really going on in your natural neighborhood. And although you may not always carry your camera, our cell phones take pretty amazing pictures. There are some unbelievable sights out there just waiting for you to "see."

SUCCESSFUL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION WEEKEND

The year 2017 marked the 38th annual EEW held the weekend of May 5th – May 7th. Heavy rains, which began the Thursday prior to the weekend, made for challenges for some programs as the water level in streams impacted travel within the preserve. The rains subsided Friday evening and Saturday and Sunday were unseasonably cold, but dry.

Forty people attended this year's event. Collectively we saw 58 species of birds, down slightly from previous years, driven in part by the low numbers of warblers seen this year. There was a great selection of programs to choose from with topics on bird watching, aquatic study, wildflowers, insects, nature walks, mosses, fishing, pioneer skills and nature crafts. One of the greatest difficulties for participants is in choosing between which programs to attend!

The camp is reserved for next year for May 4th to 6th. So if you are doing some long term planning, mark May 4 – 6, 2018 for next year's EEW and come enjoy the fun.

Submitted by Don Rosenbeck



A BIG THANK YOU goes to Environmental Education Weekend chairmen, Eric Broughton and Don Rosenbeck, and their loyal committee for all of their hard work in making the 38th EEW a success. The program for the weekend included many excellent opportunities to be out-of-doors and learn about the natural world first hand. The weather was soggy, but campers enjoyed a wide variety of educational sessions designed to inform even the youngest campers. Photos can be seen on the TMAS Facebook page under photo/albums. Without TMAS volunteers this program would not be possible. Kudos and salutes to the presenters of all the educational sessions and to the cooks and helpers in the kitchen.



Rose Breasted Grosbeak being banded

BIRD BANDING IS FOR EVERYONE!

Scientists catch wild birds, place a small metal bracelet on their leg, and release the birds unharmed. This bracelet, or band, carries a unique number allowing the scientist (or any other person encountering the bird) to determine when and where the band was placed. This allows scientists to monitor the survival of local birds, determine the movement patterns of migrant birds, or examine many other things.

So what do non-scientists get out of bird banding? They get to spend time outdoors admiring nature and contributing to the generation of new information. It is also very exciting to check the nets, not knowing what might have flown in it. When a bird is captured, one can admire the fine plumage details or other traits unique to that species of bird. Ever see the bristles around the mouth of a flycatcher? Ever consider the variation in the amount of white on the tail of goldfinches? Ever want to know how hard a cardinal can bite?

Beginning bird watchers will likely encounter birds they have never seen before. Even artists visit the banding site to sketch birds that would normally be too far away to draw. If you would like to visit a bird banding site, contact Anne Smedley at jsmedley@wcoil.com or call 419.303.1766 or 419.222.3271.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TMAS—40 YEARS OF EDUCATION, FUN—For 40 years Tri-Moraine has provided education about our natural world and environmental issues through our monthly meetings, field trips and Audubon Adventures. Our organizers wanted people to be able to have a hands-on experience, so 38 years ago Jackie and Bill Light and others started our Environmental Education Weekend. Little kids look forward to their big adventure, college kids return for it, parents, grandparents, siblings and grandchildren make it a family reunion. The Boyd family has had four generations attend together.

Besides all the awesome things we see and learn, each person from the youngest to the eldest has the opportunity to be creative with the encouragement of many instructors. Artist Libby Lloyd taught us to see the world through an artist's eyes using watercolors and a straw. Janelle helped us paint in abstract form. Critters have been constructed from folded paper, glue and natural materials. With Liz we have made garden flags, stepping stones and fairy gardens.

Tom encouraged us to slow down and observe and journal what we see and feel, while Wayne led us a step further to turn these into poems and meditations. Thanks to Don, every child has proudly constructed a birdhouse or feeder and adults have put their carpenter skills to use building picnic tables for the grounds.

We have all gained a deeper appreciation for our natural world through these and many other hands-on activities at our Environmental Education Weekends thanks to the foresight of our founders.

Submitted by Evelyn Prater

STUDENTS WIN CONSERVATION, NATURE AWARDS

Students from two area schools won three \$25 Tri-Moraine Society Natural Resources, Conservation, Nature Study Awards at the 2017 Ohio Academy of Science District Six Science Day March 18 at Ohio Northern University in Ada.

Winners were Megan Ketner, eighth grade, from Ottawa-Glandorf School District on "Phosphorus Contamination," Matthew Schneeg, eighth grade, also from Ottawa Glandorf, on "Lead in the Drinking Water," and Jalyn Parrett, eighth grade, from Paulding Middle School for "Does Fertilizing Your Soil Affect the Nutritional Value of Hay?"

Judging for the awards was done by Dr. Ken Oswald, ONU Department of Biological and Allied Health Sciences. Dr. Leslie Riley, who presented letters of recognition from Tri Moraine and the cash awards, Dr. Jamie Sanford, Mrs. Jane Brown, Mrs. Melissa Kieffer and Jeff Braychok from the department, assisted in the organization of the event and judging of the awardees.

TMAS thanks the Department of Biological and Applied Health Sciences under the direction of Dr. Jay Mager for the many years of assistance in making the annual TMAS chapter awards program successful.

Submitted by Carol Bertrand

MYEERAH MANAGEMENT GROUP REPORT

The Myeerah Management Group (MMG) held their annual management meeting on Sunday, January 22nd. The MMG was created in the *Declaration of Restrictions* attached to the deed to the property when it was purchased from the Girl Scouts of Western Ohio for passive recreational purposes.

The MMG is responsible for the conservation and protection of the land and all operations on the land and any changes, modifications, development and restrictions at the Myeerah Nature Preserve. The MMG consists of two representatives from the city of Bellefontaine and three representatives from the Tri-Moraine Audubon Society (TMAS).

Dennis Versele, representative from the city of Bellefontaine, resigned from the MMG. Dennis had served on the MMG since its inception in 2014. He was replaced by Fred Brentlinger. The other representative from the city of Bellefontaine is Karen Hesson Brady. The members representing TMAS are Eric Juterbock, Don Rosenbeck and Anne Smedley.

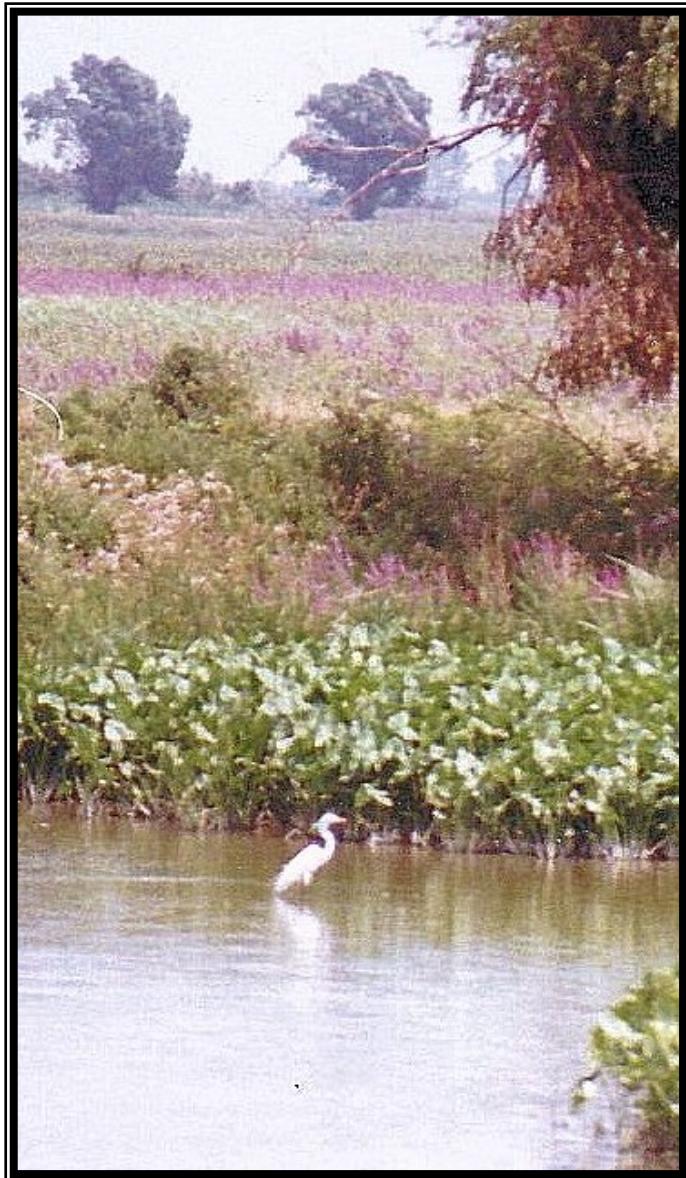
The agenda for the meeting addressed work on By Laws for the MMG and the management plan for the property. After consideration and discussion, MMG By Laws were adopted.

Items for discussion related to the management plan that had been drafted earlier by Donnie Knight (US Fish & Wildlife), Kris Myers (Superintendent of Bellefontaine Parks & Recreation) and Don Rosenbeck (Tri-Moraine Audubon Society). Items considered for the management plan focused on habitat development and protection, as well as public safety.

Items addressing public safety included the steps at the Lodge dropping down to the creek and improvements for handicapped parking.

Discussed, but under study, are proposals for algae control in MacDonnell Lake, creation of additional wetland scrapes and further control measures of invasive species in the woodland areas. It was noted that while the 2015 planting of 1,827 trees and 251 shrubs was successful for the trees which were protected by tree shelter tubes, none of the shrubs survived as they were eaten off by wildlife, most notably the large whitetail deer population.

Submitted by Don Rosenbeck



Egret photographed at Maumee Bay State Park

Big Birding Day

Western Lake Erie's Important Bird Area was the focus of the Big Birding Day on May 15th.

Jackie and Eric of TMAS were joined by Dan and six JAMPD participants for an early morning trip north to Magee Marsh on Lake Erie.

Eight hours later, 89 different species of birds were identified, and the merry band headed back home after a day full of fun, fresh air, and yummy treats.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE...

The National Audubon Society (NAS) has been making a lot of changes and difficulties are arising as it takes so long to clear payments for its membership, allowing some members to be dropped. NAS has never supplied expiration dates on renewal forms and it no longer appears on your magazine labels.

However, if you look at your mailing label on this chapter newsletter you will find your expiration date in the upper right hand corner. If it reads "10/17 M," that means your NAS/Chapter memberships expires in October of 2017. If it reads "02/18 SM," that means your supporting membership (chapter only, no magazine) expires in February of 2018.

If you are having difficulties with your membership, contact Bill Askins, chapter membership data chair, at waskins@woh.rr.com or call him at 419.339.9751.

Submitted by Carol Bertrand



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Summer 2017 Newsletter

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President's Message...

Celebrations come in many forms, but for TMAS 2017 is an entire year of celebration. June 1, 2017 will mark the 40th Anniversary of the formation of Tri-Moraine Audubon Society as a chapter of the National Audubon Society. The chapter was fully chartered in June 1977 after three years of organizational and provisional charter work.

What a grand time we will have as we celebrate throughout the year, ushering in new and celebrating past accomplishments. Looking back, TMAS has had nine Presidents, all serving the chapter in a variety of ways in addition to serving as president.



Phil Hugo—Provisional President 1974-1977
Phil Hugo- 1977-79
Jackie Light-1979-1983
Carol Decker-1983-87
Nelson Moore-1987-1990
Carol Bertrand-1990-94
Don Rosenbeck-1994-98

Eric Broughton-1998-2002
Mary Rosenbeck-2001-2006
Carol Bertrand-2006-2010
Eric Broughton-2010-2013
Dianne Knipp-2013-current

(On a lighter note, the TMAS Board has agreed that in honor of this special year, cake is appropriate at all events as we gather and share our friendships and love of the natural world.)

Congratulations to Bob and Carol Bertrand for their recent honor of the many years of service and generosity given to the Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District and community by JAMPD. A Bald Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) and Swamp White Oak (*Quercus bicolor*,) were planted in their honor at Heritage Park, 2092 Reed Road, Lima, OH on April 28 as part of their 2017 Arbor Day Tree Ceremony. Well deserved, and what a gracious gift to honor both Bob and Carol.

I hope to see you at the July 11 Summer picnic...and yes, there will be cake!

Enjoy your summer birding adventures, Dianne