



Flight Patterns

www.tri-moraineaudubon.org

Summer 2020

Serving Allen, Auglaize, Hancock, Hardin, Logan, Mercer, Shelby and Van Wert counties

TMAS Board Meeting - All TMAS Board Meetings are held in the Visitor/Student Center on Campus Drive at OSU-Lima they begin at 7 p.m. Our next meeting is scheduled for July 31. You are welcome to attend. Watch for any changes on our Facebook page.

COMBINED ELECTION and SUMMER PICNIC...

Our picnic and our annual election will be held Tuesday, July 7, 2020, Kendrick Woods, 971 N. Defiance Trail, Spencerville, OH 45887. We will eat at 6:30 p.m.

With the many changes evoked by the present situation, our elections will also be held at this time. We have reserved an open-air shelter. Due to COVID, we are not going to have a potluck as we do not want to risk the virus being spread via the serving utensils. Instead, please bring your own picnic dinner. The chapter will provide cupcakes.



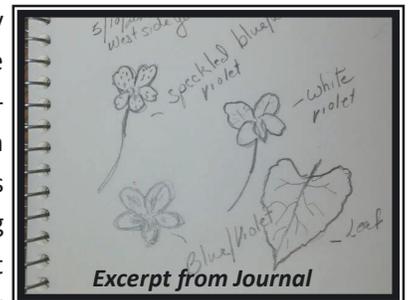
We will have a mystery program or activity where we can have fun while maintaining social distancing protocols. We hope to see you there! Note: Watch the Facebook page for updates, and keep in mind that the event may be cancelled on short notice or that the program may be modified. We also wish to remind everybody that due to COVID-19, rules and restrictions apply. We want everybody to stay safe!

WHAT CAN I DO?

By Jeannine C. Roediger

If you are a parent staying at home with your children, you have probably heard this a time or two. Even as adults we tend to say this once and awhile.

Under our present circumstances there are many things we can do even as we stay at home or try to distance ourselves from others. One of those is keeping a nature journal of what we see in our daily walks, visits to parks, and in our own backyards. Get a notebook and designate it as your journal, even decorating the outside, then take it along on walks and hikes. Grab a pencil and get started! Or take that I-Phone that gives such good pictures, and document in that way.



Excerpt from Journal

Look around you closely. What do you see? What do you hear, smell? Look up, look down, don't miss the most minute spider or insect. See those tiny leaves unfurling from the trees, a butterfly flutters by on the breeze, a bird is calling from the bushes, and squirrels are racing around a tree trunk. There is always something to see. *Continued on Page 3*

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Program Meeting (Save the Date)

The first program meeting of the year will be held Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2020, 7:30 p.m., at the Visitor/Student Services Center, 3900 Campus Dr., OSU-Lima Campus. Look for more information in the next newsletter or on Facebook.

COAC Corner

The Council of Ohio Audubon Chapters (COAC, pronounced “co-ack”) is a nonprofit dedicated to bringing together Audubon chapters in Ohio to share ideas and resources. Currently, COAC is encouraging every chapter in Ohio to conduct a ‘Plants for Birds’ project.

‘Plants for Birds’ is the idea that native plants support native insects that are eaten by native birds. Research has shown that introduced species support fewer insects.

An example is when Tri-Moraine Audubon Society worked with an 8th grade class to plant native prairie wildflowers in a school garden. Students selected plants based on the butterfly host species they support. ‘Plants for Birds’ projects not only provide native birds with food, but they could also extend programming to under-served or faith-based communities, encourage fund-raising, and build relationships.

What ‘Plants for Birds’ initiative should Tri-Moraine do next? COAC has volunteers willing to go to your chapter to help you brainstorm ideas, and provide information on gardening for birds, funding sources and grant writing support, and logistical connections and solutions to make your idea happen. We want to empower your chapter to support ‘Plants for Birds’. All you need is a couple eager volunteers. Contact COAC president, Jackie Augustine (info@counciloac.org or augustine.63@osu.edu) for more info.

Archive Project - Do you have historical newspaper clippings, brochures, or other materials associated with Tri-Moraine? We would like to see them! We are in the process of gathering these materials for the purposes of archiving them, and making them available to all members. If you have materials, contact Jackie Augustine for pick up (augustine.63@osu.edu).

Program Meeting Planning—We will soon be recruiting presenters for the program meetings which will hopefully restart in the fall. If you have suggestions for speakers or topics, contact augustine.63@osu.edu.

Did you know that the last program meeting was held online via zoom? Twenty-three people watched Dr. Susan Gershan present an interesting talk about animal behavior research dos and don'ts. Watch FaceBook for future programs!
Submitted by Jackie Augustine



Bench Dedicated - The perfect home for the Ellen & Jim Wright Memorial Fund bench is Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District's Heritage Park. The Wright family home-stead was just around the corner and the annual Wright picnic is held at the park.

Drive out Shawnee Road to Reed Road, turn left and enter the first park entrance. Take the parking lot on your left. Look past the lot and you'll see a grouping of five benches with the memorial bench in the center. Jim was a longtime volunteer when Tri-Moraine ran its own recycling program at the American Mall. He also had his own recycling project and shared his profits with Tri-Moraine to help fund Audubon Adventures classrooms in schools in Allen County.

Submitted by Volker Jeschonnek

Spring Time Thoughts

Given today's stressful environment I think those of us close to nature get a real boost from the beauty all around us. I walk around our neighborhood and see a wide variety of soothing sights – the redbuds are glorious, creeping phlox is vibrant, the iris are budding – I see new things daily.

Last year I added four new natives to my garden – Yellow or Gray-bearded Coneflower, Compass Plant, Queen of the Prairie (2), and Royal Catchfly. So far, I see the Royal Catchfly and Queen of the Prairie have made it to 2020 and I'm still hopeful to see the other two species.

I'm looking forward to Aullwood Audubon's 2021 native plant sale in April in Dayton. I've made a notation at the end of this year's calendar to contact Aullwood in March at www.aullwood.org or 937.890.7360 for a list of plants available and an order form. And to help me in making my choices I can consult www.audubon.org/plantsforbirds.

Submitted by Carol Bertrand

(See COCA Update on this page for importance of native plants.)

Animal Babies

Spring and early summer is baby time in the natural world! With green leaves and beautiful flowers and (finally) enjoyable weather, it can be tempting to think this is a relaxing time of year. Not so for animal parents. After putting in long hours claiming and defending territories, finding dens and building nests, laying eggs and birthing young, the real work begins!



Animal parents must take helpless creatures and give them enough nourishment to grow, teach them to survive, and protect them from harm – no small task.

Unfortunately, that's where we come in. Every spring well-intentioned, good-hearted people kidnap baby animals and subject them to terrible tortures, sometimes death, in the name of rescue.

Proper care for wild babies is incredibly difficult (and illegal without a permit) so the basics like food, water, heat, housing, all become methods of torture, aside from being torn from mom. Yes, there definitely are times when an animal is truly orphaned or injured and will not survive without our (human) help.

But, most of the time, that baby is just fine and removing it from its mother is the opposite of help. Animal mothers are the best animal mothers while humans, even in cases with true orphans, don't make good wild animal mothers.

If you are concerned about a potentially orphaned or injured animal, check one of these resources before you intervene: wildohio.gov/staywild; ODNR District 2 Office – (419) 424-5000; or injured Wildlife Hotline, (419) 877-0060.

Sometimes, when we notice wild babies in our yard our patience is rewarded with a glimpse of mom or dad returning to care for the youngster. Those are heartwarming experiences that we usually only share when keeping their best interest in mind, which means enjoy from a distance!

Submitted by Dan Hodges

Audubon Adventures News

Audubon Adventures continues to be used in birding presentations at VanCrest and Hearth and Home nursing care facilities by Tammy Campbell, education coordinator for the Van Wert Soil and Water Conservation District. She uses Audubon Adventures and plans to use the bird count list provided by Audubon for the residents to use, as many have bird feeders outside their rooms

She has put together activity packets for the Delphos library to give out to children; the Delphos Library offers curbside book delivery. Audubon Adventures are put in the packets by the children's librarian, Rachel Strahm.

Tammy's in-class presentations include Bird Flights and Nest & Nests Builders for elementary children using Audubon Adventures materials. She uses Wild Republic and has 36 birds now purchased !! Information on Wild Republic can be found at:

<https://shop.wildrepublic.com/collections/audubon-birds>

Audubon Adventures can be found at <http://audubonadventures.org/> Something for everyone!

Submitted by Jennifer Waltz

Earth Day Celebration Rescheduled

The annual April Earth Day Celebration at Faurot Park was canceled due to COVID-19. It is tentatively rescheduled for Saturday, July 25. Watch local media for any update. Tri-Moraine is set to have a booth in one of the tents.



Strategic Planning Update—At the March program meeting, the Strategic Planning Committee asked attendees about Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats to Tri-Moraine. From the answers to these questions, we developed three core strategies: 1) Support existing initiatives and develop new ones, 2) Expand our reach through outreach and advertising, and 3) Ensure the financial and volunteer support of the organization. A draft should be available in mid-June, and we hope to vote on it at the July meeting.

What Can I Do? Continued from page 1 - Write it down, draw its picture, making sure to include the date, time and location of each thing you observe. If possible, return to that spot and view the same thing again. Has it changed, grown, bloomed? You may not be the best artist, but drawing what you see will help you be more observant and also help in identification. Field guides are great for this. Look, and See!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ...

First let me say how honored I am to be your next chapter president. My predecessor, Cheryl, did a fantastic job and I only hope that I will be able to do nearly as good a job during my term.

Luckily I have a great group of volunteers on the board and/or as committee or event chairs keeping everything moving forward. These are difficult and uncertain times, but while you may feel isolated, remember that you are an important part of a great organization. One example is the award to be given to Tri-Moraine Audubon by the Environmental Education Council of Ohio for our outstanding work in Environmental Education.

Currently we are working on a new Strategic Plan to better direct and focus our efforts on those things that are most important to each of us in the next few years. (See update on page three)

I hope we will all stay safe, following correct protocol, as we meet for the Summer Picnic and/or September Program Meeting. Trust me when I tell you that I've been searching for new and better ideas to hold future meetings.

One last thought: How will the future generations of leaders and citizens treat the environment if no one ever made sure they got out and experienced nature in the environment. We need to all make plans to pick up the grandkids (or bring your own kids) to the monthly field trips for their enjoyment, education, and for the planet. Thanks for reading, stay safe.

I hope to see you again soon, Eric.



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Summer 2020 Newsletter

