



Song Sparrow



A joint newsletter of the
Grange Insurance Audubon
Center and Columbus Audubon

September-October 2010
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Send editorial submissions to
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By Tom Sheley

Alan Clinton (far left) and his group of scouts from Troop 428 in Delaware County.

Green Lawn Cemetery

Scouts help overhaul butterfly garden

Alan Clinton and a group of hard-working scouts from Troop 428 in Delaware braved the heat over three days in July to help overhaul three butterfly garden beds at Green Lawn Cemetery, which were originally constructed and planted in 1996. The project was a collaborative effort between Columbus Audubon, Green Lawn Cemetery and Boy Scouts from Troop 428.

Alan Clinton brought the project to fruition while he and the scouts logged in over 100 man-hours working on the gardens as part of his Eagle Scout requirements. Tom Sheley and Jackie Bain were Columbus Audubon advisors for the project.

The area was prepped with removal of several truckloads of invasive honeysuckle to improve light and air circulation around the beds. The largest bed still had a very good base of native plants and just needed cleaning out along with invasive plant removal. Another

bed was thinned and replanted with some native perennials and grasses to fill out the holes. The third bed was completely taken over by annuals, poison ivy and Japanese Honeysuckle and needed to be stripped and replanted.

In all, the scouts planted over 225 native perennials and grasses, and laid down a thin layer of organic mulch to help retard the growth of annuals. This is an ongoing effort which will require maintenance, and I will be proposing that we have a volunteer work day once or twice a year to keep up with the weeding and thinning of these beds. The gardens are open for viewing during Green Lawn Cemetery hours of operation and are located about 75 yards west of the main office building and parking lot just inside the cemetery entrance off Greenlawn Avenue.

-Tom Sheley

Directions to Green Lawn Cemetery

Green Lawn Cemetery is located at 1000 Greenlawn Ave., just south of downtown Columbus. You can get to the cemetery via exit 105 (Greenlawn Avenue) off Interstate 71. When exiting, Green Lawn Cemetery is west of the highway.

The gates to Green Lawn are open 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. the first Saturday in November through the second Saturday in March, and 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. during Daylight Savings Time, the second Sunday in March through the first Sunday in November. The office is open 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays, and Noon to 4 p.m. Sundays. The office can be reached by calling (614) 444-1123 or toll-free 1-800-595-1123.

Grange Insurance Audubon Center

From newborn to infant ... exciting new stages for GIAC

The Grange Insurance Audubon Center was born one year ago when we opened our doors on Aug. 27, 2009! Can you believe it...

A few highlights from the first year:

- Hosted the National Audubon Society National Board

- Over 600 people joined us for the Grand Opening of the Center

- First ever Audubon Adventure Summer Camp, hosting over 1000 children this year (each child counted once per day of camp)

- Bird Banding Station" was set up and over 50 birds banded in Spring/Summer 2010

- Over 20,000 visitors to the Center, surpassing expected first-year calculated projections!

- Six schools served in our multiple-visit Conservation Classroom Program

- Over 200 invasive honeysuckle plants removed throughout the community - decreasing invasive plants within a 5-acre area from 60% to 9.7%

- Over 400 native shrubs planted by community members.

- Hosted the 5-bird bronze statue "Lost" exhib-

it

- Created and held new annual education events of "Halloween Trick or Tweet" and "Songbird Spectacular - Mother's Day Brunch"

- 10 High School students engaged in gathering data for the Center using GPS

- Developed scout programs, birthday parties, and camp programs.

- Over 50 new volunteers trained and engaged in programming.

- First ever annual fundraising event, Wingding on the Whittier 9/2009

And, we have hosted numerous community businesses and community groups at the Center for rentals, doubling our expectations for rental revenue in the first year.

Coming this year.... the launching of:

- the new scout programs and birthday parties

- the new Lifelong Learning Lecture Series

- our new Winter and Spring Break Camps

- of new special interest programs like yoga and nature art classes.

See Transition, back page

GIAC wish list

With the opening of the Grange Insurance Audubon Center, our need for donated items has changed dramatically!

Our current **MAJOR** need is for children age 8 to 12 mud boots, rain parkas and gloves. Many of the children attending our school programs do not have suitable boots and clothing to complete the field study portion of the curriculum on cold, rainy, muddy days. Your donation of any of the above mentioned items would be greatly appreciated by both our students and the GIAC staff.

If you have a donation for the Center, please call Christy Smith at (614) 545-5475.

Items needed:

- Potting soil
- Pruning loppers
- Wheel barrow
- Rakes
- Leaf blower
- Snow blower
- Power washer
- Live crickets
- Serving carafes for beverages
- Electric griddles (2)
- Stereo for gift shop with speakers
- Nature stickers or temporary tattoos
- Magnifying glasses
- Scissors for children
- Lightweight folding 6-8' tables (2)
- Recycled Copy Paper
- Spotting Scope
- Telescope
- Laminator
- Hip waders
- Fishing tackle and boxes
- Binoculars, any type and magnification
- Black pens-new
- Sharpies-any color-new
- Dry erase markers
- Linen napkins-white, brown, or black (100)

Donation of services needed:

- Gardening
- Landscaping
- Printing

Gift Certificates:

- Staples
- Target
- Home Depot
- Barnes & Noble
- Airline Miles

Thank you for Support

Donors from 4/8/10 to 7/31/10

Nancy Alonzo
 Marlita Barkett
 Frances Beasley
 Stephen Bechtel
 Kirt Beiling
 Sally Blue
 G. Bonnie
 Elizabeth Bullock
 Peggy Case
 Ada Cleary
 Columbus Audubon Society
 Brian Compton
 Yanitza Cruz
 Julie Davis
 T.J. & Nancy Drought
 Thomas Drought
 Joseph Dulchi
 James Flowers
 Franks Insurance
 Mary Gallagher
 Karen Gay
 Francis Gebauer
 Robert Giammar
 Global Gallery, Inc.
 O'Vell Harrison
 Hilliard Horizon PTO
 Tom & Ann Hoaglin
 Barry Hunlock
 Diane Hunter
 Tad & Nancy Jeffrey
 Stuart Johnson
 Chester Jourdan
 Daniel Kapusta

James Kernen
 Abby King
 Patricia Liebchen
 Olga Lucia
 Jana Maniace
 Mary Ritter Garden Club
 Dr. Scott & Meg Melvin
 Miller-Lynn Insurance Service
 Ruth Mallowney-Agra
 Marvin & Barbara Neubig
 Ogren Insurance
 Charles Will
 Ohio Association of Garden Clubs
 Maddi Parker
 Pete Precario
 Mark Real
 Jeff Redfield
 Kathleen Rogers
 Kathy Rogers
 Laurel Smith
 Bruce Soll
 Anne Stewart
 SWACO
 The Scotts Company
 Tim Adams
 Robert & Jo Ann Tustin
 Larry Woods
 Norman and Shirley Woods
 David Yashon
 Daniel Donovan
 Lona Meister
 James & Ellen Pugh

Marilyn Brown
 Martha Watson
 Jack & Martha Mortland
 Greg & Elizabeth Gerhard
 Carl & Beatrice Winchell
 Dennis & Kelly Smith
 Dennis & Joan Wickham
 Judith Yoder
 Jane Brownlee Young
 H.A. Cotesworth
 Dr. Christopher Kenah
 Donald Delp
 John & Debra Fleming
 Pat & Nancy Ross
 Barnett Insurance
 Grange Insurance Agents
 Paul & Kendra Hauelsen
 Toni Seyfried
 Cindy Grinstead
 Patricia James
 Dareth Gerlach
 John D. Holschuh
 Lisa Kaiser
 O'Vell Harrison
 John & Helen O'Meara
 Tom & Mary Katzenmeyer
 Bryan Sauma
 Jane Landwehr
 City of Worthington
 Barrington Elementary
 Alpha delta Kappa
 U.A.C.H.

See Thank you, last page

Grange Insurance Audubon Center

GIAC September-October programs

Audubon afternoons

1-3 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays

Starting this fall, bring family and friends to the Grange Insurance Audubon Center to hike with an educator throughout the park, participate in activities inside and outside the center and just have fun! No pre-registration required. For more information call (614) 545-5481.

Being a Green Student: Back to School Blowout

Saturday, September 11

Calling students, teachers, principals, friends and family from all over Columbus, Ohio! It's that time of year, the leaves are falling and students are packing up to head back to school. Join us for our first back to school blow-out event. Meet different vendors, grab some freebies and information and participate in earth-friendly activities and crafts to help teach your child, students, friends and family how to be 'green' this school year. No pre-registration required. More details TBA. For more information call (614) 545-5481.

Lifelong Learners Series

*Thursday, September 16
and Thursday, October 21*

This series is dedicated to the life long learner, constantly seeking information to broaden their ideas and interests. Whether young adult or senior- come listen and learn about topics pressing our natural

world everyday, from the Gulf Oil Spill to Sustainability. Pre-registration required. More details are TBA. For more information please call (614) 545-5481.

Brushes with Nature Art Series

Tuesdays, September 21- October 26

Our first art series is a six-week course meeting every Tuesday. Join us and our experienced art instructor for six weeks of creativity. Whether you're an interested, new, experienced or advanced artist, this course will invite everyone to open up their mind and eyes to see their world in different and exciting ways! Pre-registration required. More details are TBA. For more information please call (614) 545-5481.

Fall Frenzy Celebration

Saturday, October 2

Bring friends, children, families and neighbors down to the Audubon Center for an event the whole neighborhood can enjoy. No pre-registration required. More detail and information TBA. For additional information call (614) 545-5481.

Capital Day: School's Out Day

Friday, October 15 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

School's out for Capital Day but parents still have to go to work! Have your child join us for a fun-filled day of camp to keep their minds and bodies moving. Our conservation and environmental focused day

camp will introduce your child to the wild world of plants, animals and changes that happen at the Scioto Audubon Metro Park everyday! Extended care will be provided for additional costs. Pre-registration required. More details TBA. For more information call (614) 545-5481.

For more information on the events listed above, check our website frequently for update: grange.audubon.org or call (614) 545-5481/(614)545-5483.

School programs

The Grange Insurance Audubon Center provides school programs through our Conservation Classroom program throughout the year as well as other out of school program opportunities. For more information on how to get your student, their school or your organization involved please contact Doreen Whitley at (614) 545-5481.

Membership pays

Become a member today to receive special discounts on classes, series, special events and day- camps!

Upcoming events

Be on the lookout for our upcoming program guide to the Grange Insurance Audubon Center's entire program from school to special events, programs and classes for 2010-2011.

Wingding on the Whittier: Oh what a night

On August 27 the GIAC held its 2nd "Wingding on the Whittier - A Night Out with Nature."

Nearly 500 guests enjoyed the center, the surroundings and celebrated the Center's one year anniversary. Through ticket sales, sponsorships, and live auction items, the annual event raised operating funds to support the science and conservation programs.

Festivities included performances by Miss B. Haven jazz trio and MoJoFlo and emceed by Dino Tripodis from Sunny-95. Highlights of the live auction included winning bids for the use of the GIAC Multi-purpose room and decks for a Red-White & Boom party for 50 people, an amazing trip for two to the Galapagos Islands, and new this year a "fund

a need" that included guests bidding and getting the opportunity to fund specific projects that ranged from as high as \$5000 to just \$25.

While the annual Gala is an event with a higher priced ticket, the support raised from those who are able to help at this level is significant to the GIAC's success.

Over the next year, the GIAC will also be establishing our Annual Campaign, designed to raise yearly general operating funds through pledges, memberships, and gifts. The Annual Campaign will make it possible for the GIAC to continue to operate and remain open to the public for free during over 40 hours each week. Everyone can participate in the Annual Campaign, regardless

of the level to which they can donate.

For the 2011 Gala, plans are already underway!

Anyone interested on being on the 2011 planning committee, volunteering, sponsoring, or being a Table or Ticket Host should contact Jeff Redfield, Director of Development.

Everyone at the GIAC would like to thank this year's event planner Trace, LTD, the numerous sponsors and ticket hosts, the volunteers who helped with preparations and at the event on August 27, and volunteer committee members including Amy Hurley, Lori Overmyer, Jane Scott, and the 2010 Co-Chairs Julie Davis and Sharon Saia. Thank you all!

Columbus Audubon

Coming Up

Columbus Audubon activities are for nature enthusiasts of all ages and skill levels. We invite you to join us for a field trip or program to learn more about birds and their central Ohio habitats, as well as other natural history topics. Our activities are free and open to the public and there is no need to register unless otherwise noted.

Note: Field trip times, dates and locations are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances. Please contact the trip leader 24 hours ahead to make sure the trip has not been changed, postponed or cancelled. Also, check www.columbusaudubon.org or follow us on Twitter at @columbusaudubon.

Field trips

Wednesday walks at Scioto-Audubon

Wednesdays, September 1 and October 6, 7:30 a.m.

Leaders: Paul Gledhill and Heather Raymond

Walks are always held the first Wednesday of the month. Join Heather Raymond for a short walk around the Scioto-Audubon Metro Park to view wildlife as well as to watch the latest developments of the park and nature center. Meet at Lower Scioto Park in the boat ramp parking lot (west of Front Street and south of Whittier Street) Please contact Heather Raymond at (614) 785-0342; heather_columbus_audubon@yahoo.com for more information.

Migration along the Scioto

Saturday, September 11, 7 a.m.

Leader: Rob Thorn

Migration should be peaking as we survey the Scioto River as it wends its way through urban Columbus. The narrow riparian corridor running from Berliner Park north to Griggs dam funnels a diverse array migrating landbirds, including many species of swallows, flycatchers, vireos, and warblers. The many ponds and old quarries along this route also make a nice target for waterbirds like herons and shorebirds, and we'll make a special effort to find sandpipers and elusive Green Herons and Night Herons. We'll start at the Scioto MetroPark looking for the early morning burst of migrants. Afterwards, we'll venture up to the Grandview ponds and bikepath, the northern counterpart to Scioto, to look for accumulated migrants there. We'll meet at the Scioto Metro Park boat launch at 7 a.m. (take Whittier west from Front St, and make the first left turn). For more information, contact Rob Thorn, 614-551-0643 or robthorn@earthlink.net.

A Swift Night Out

Friday-Sunday, September 10-12, 7 p.m. to sunset

Leaders: Darlene Sillick

It is late summer, so it's time once again for A Swift Night Out. Chimney Swifts have finished raising their young, so these fascinating aerial acrobats begin to congregate in communal roosts prior to their fall migration. Some roosts may consist of an extended family group of a half a dozen birds or so, but the larger sites can host hundreds or even thousands of swifts! As usual, many Columbus Audubon members will view this exhilarating spectacle. You can join us for a count or create your very own Swift Night Out.

To create your own Swift Night Out, just keep your eyes to the skies at dusk and watch for areas where swifts are feeding. Look for

See Coming up, page 11

CA September & October Programs

Tuesday, Sept. 28, and Oct. 26

7 p.m., social time, 7:30 p.m., presentation
at the Grange Insurance Audubon Center
505 W. Whittier Street, Columbus

Macaws and Canyons of Peru

Jenny Bowman will speak about her recent trip to Peru. She will share her experiences birding three locations: 70 kilometers of the Manu Road - one of the "birdiest" roads in the world - alongside Manu National Park; birding the Machu Picchu road; and birding in the high Andes.

Next, Jenny will discuss how she volunteered for her sixth Earthwatch project, helping researchers conduct a project to study macaws and their use of claylicks in the Tambopata River region of the Amazon basin.

As if that were not enough, she then joined a VENT tour that had just arrived in Lima from the United States.

The group flew up to Chiclayo and began a circular tour of northern Peru that featured seeing endemic birds of the country. Finally, her trip took her to Arequipa in southern Peru, the jumping off point for trekking in those famous canyons. Jenny did back-to-back treks into Colca Canyon (where she saw 5 Andean condors soaring at eye level at once), and then a traverse through Cotahuasi Canyon. Her travels ended 200 kilometers south of Lima at Paracas National Park where desert and ocean meet.



Jenny Bowman

Birding in Southeast Arizona

Southeast Arizona is considered to be among the best places in the country to see birds.

Come tonight and explore this exciting part of the country with us as our speaker, Earl Harrison shares with us some of these world-renowned birding locations and the incredible birds that are here.

Earl enjoys and has a rich background in birding, photography and travel, and he enjoys bringing his nature experiences to others. He serves as field trip chair with Columbus Audubon. He is on faculty at The Ohio State University.

In this presentation, Earl will take us to several outstanding places, including the Chiricahua Mountains, Huachuca Mountains, and one of the most famous birding locations in the U.S., Madera Canyon in the Santa Rita Mountains.

He will include suggestions on where to go and when to go, and he will have site maps of some of these places.

Columbus Audubon

2010 Birdathon raises over \$9,500

Year after year, the Columbus Audubon Birdathon is a fun and exciting event for participants and donors alike. And, this year was no exception! Participants searched for birds all over Ohio and beyond.

The Low-Carbon Footprinters again birded in Columbus using only foot and bike power and other teams also stayed close to home birding at our Metro Parks. Columbus Audubon is once again donating all proceeds to the Grange Insurance Audubon Center, to help fulfill our \$100,000 pledge. Monies raised this year, along with dollars from our general fund, will pay off that pledge. A big thanks goes out to all of our teams and sponsors for all their efforts. Also, thanks to our two prize sponsors, Murphin Ridge Inn in West Union, Oh (www.murphinridgeinn.com) for donating a night's stay (won by Tom Sheley) and to Eagle Optics

for their donation of a pair of Spitfire 8.5 x 32 binoculars (won by Bill Heck). Running the Birdathon takes the hard work of many people. A special thanks to committee members Katryn Renard, Elaine Smith, Dave Horn and Julie Davis.

There were also several teams that raised amazing donations this year. Teams that raised over \$1000 were: Stellar Jays (\$1084) and Wild Birds Unlimited (\$4040).

The competition was intense and the weather iffy at times, but the teams persevered, including the top three teams. Birding teams that saw the most species this year were: Wild Birds Unlimited at 151 species, Westerville Waxwings with 153 and once again the top team was Quick Three Beards at 166. Congratulations and thanks to all of our teams and sponsors for another great Birdathon!

Grange Insurance Audubon Center

Weddings, meetings and events - Oh my!

In our first year of operating, GIAC has become one of the newest and premiere locations in Columbus for all types of events including several business meetings, retreats, and especially wedding receptions. Just a few examples:

- n The Columbus Chamber rented the entire Center for their "Cinco De Mayo" event

- n Other non-profits have held fundraisers there

- n The Columbus Urban League held their planning retreat and the U.S. Green Building Council - Ohio Chapter holds their monthly meetings at the GIAC, and,

- n Wedding ceremonies (in tents on the Center's lawn and on the boardwalk under the Mulberry tree) and many wedding receptions have spent their special day at the GIAC.

Because of the proximity to downtown, free parking, wonderful views of nature and downtown skyline from several rooms, the Center is in great demand. In fact, throughout most of this past summer and until early November the Center is booked for wedding receptions. Already for 2011, there are 6 wedding reservations from April til October, and between receptions and events the GIAC multi-purpose room completely booked on Saturdays in

May. The average wedding rental facility cost is under \$1,000 (4 - 5 hours) and rental fees include use of tables and chairs (for 200) and the AV equipment we already have - where as most rental places charge additional fees. The benefit of center rentals is that it introduces many new people to GIAC's downtown location, Audubon, and center programming.

Rental fees provide funding for our educational, conservation, and birding programs. Rental costs are based upon room(s) desired and when the event will be held. Rates are lower for use during the center's opening hours and unless already scheduled or needed by the GIAC, the conference room and Song Sparrow room are also available to nonprofits and groups at no cost during these times. These rooms are ideal for small groups of 15 people or less.

If you are looking for a space to rent, stop by while the center is open or contact Wade Walcutt (Facilities Operations Manager) or Christy Smith (Finance and Office Manager) to learn more, schedule a date, and set up a meeting. And just think, these rentals of weddings, meetings, and events (oh my!) help keep the center programs running and allows the public free admission.

'Give at the office' this fall

Each fall employees throughout central Ohio make workplace contributions through payroll deductions to support important charitable work like that of the Grange Insurance Audubon Center. The GIAC is a member of EarthShares Ohio.

EarthShare Ohio is an opportunity, a system, and an answer for environmentally conscious employees and workplaces to support dozens of environmental groups at once through a charitable giving drive. For combined or public campaigns which include Earth Shares, donations to the GIAC are designated under "Audubon Ohio" and provide unrestricted operating and program funding.

Founded by its member charities in 1988, EarthShare, the national organization, is an opportunity for environmentally-con-

scious employees and workplaces to support hundreds of environmental groups through a charitable giving drive. EarthShare represents and supports more than 400 of America's most respected environmental and conservation groups, including 39 national organizations and hundreds of local groups in 18 affiliate states including Ohio.

Questions regarding any workplace giving or payroll deduction opportunities should be directed to Jeff Redfield (jredfield@audubon.org) 614.545.5479. Look for us at your place of work this fall and with your donation to the GIAC/Audubon Ohio, the next time when you say "I gave at the office" you can truly mean it!

Union County 4-H Local student earns 'Outstanding' on Ohio birding project

By Darlene Sillick

Eleven-year-old Emily LeMaster, of Marysville, received an "Outstanding" ribbon for her 4-H project and poster on Ohio Birds.

"I had to find three bird nests and write when I found it, where it was (shrub, tree, near the water), how big the nest was, what materials were used to build the nest. I had to find 20 different birds. I also had to build 2 different bird houses. What I liked about this project was finding 20 different birds because I love the nature and birds," Emily said.

Emily chose the 4-H Natural Resources category #621 Ohio Birds.

She had to observe and identify birds at bird feeders in her yard and on field trips to see the many benefits they provide. I took Emily and her family on a field trip to see cavity nesting birds and gave Emily and her family a tour of Ohio Wildlife Center to view some of Ohio's raptors and mammals.

Emily and her brother (an equally interested six-year-old) had the chance to hold nestling Eastern Bluebirds and nestling Tree Swallows. They also peered into a

House Wren nest with five eggs and another bluebird nest with four blue eggs. She added a Green Heron and a Gray Catbird to her growing life list of birds while on her OWC tour. Emily used a Division of Wildlife check list to record the birds she saw.

One last requirement was to invite someone to come to her 4-H meeting to talk about birds. I attended her 4-H meeting and gave a presentation about Ohio's Common Backyard Birds. I had a surprise quiz for Emily and the audience and it was titled Who's That Bird? It asked questions about the selected bird then you had time to guess the species before the name and picture popped up. Emily surprised herself and the other attendees by knowing all the birds on the quiz. It helped her to be even more confident to present her project to the 4-H board. She called me the following Saturday to say she got an outstanding. I was so proud of her!

Emily will attend the Columbus Audubon September 28 monthly program at GIAC to present her poster and talk briefly about her project. Hope you will join us then to congratulate Emily!

More about 4-H:

Ohio's young people need advanced skills in innovation and application of new technologies, as well as basic skills in communications, math, science, and research. OSU Extension's 4-H Youth Development program is part of a community of young people across America who learn about leadership, citizenship, and life skills. In 4-H, young people aged 5 to 19 experience hands-on learning through clubs, camps, in-school, after-school and summer programs in urban, suburban, and rural communities statewide. All 4-H and other youth programs focus on learning by doing - emphasizing active involvement and quality experiences which stimulate life-long learning of values and skills. <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/expl ore/History4h.htm>.

The four H's stand for Hearts, Hands, Heads and Health and has been around since 1906. It represents the four-square education:

- educational development
- fellowship development
- physical development
- moral development

Grange Insurance Audubon Center

Bird conservation calendar for September - October

Safe Neighborhoods Safe Shrubs

Do you have honeysuckle (an invasive/non-native plant species) in your yard or know someone who does - the Safe Neighborhoods Safe Shrubs program is still ongoing. Contact Doreen Whitley, dwhitley@audubon.org or (614) 545-5481 to find out how you can borrow a honeysuckle popper FREE and receive a FREE native replacement plant.

Conservation Action fall planting

Join the Grange Insurance Audubon Center for an onsite Conservation Action fall planting of all native plants as we continue our efforts to restore and enhance bird and wildlife habitat at the Scioto Audubon Metro Park. For more information on how you, your group or organization can get involved, contact Doreen Whitley, dwhitley@audubon.org or (614) 545-5481.

Birding for a Better Columbus

Conservation Coordinator, Doreen Whitley will be continuing to band and track migratory birds this fall. Bird Banding will happen every Tuesday and Thursday starting on the dates listed

below:

- September 2, 7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 23, 28 and 30.
- October 5, 7, 12, 14, 19, 21, 26 and 28.

Banding Demonstrations will also be happening every other Saturday on the following dates: September 4, 18; October 2, 16 and 30.

Bird Banding Volunteer Training Dates

Saturday, September 11
Saturday, September 25
Saturday, October 9
Saturday, October 23

If you are interested in learning more about bird banding or assisting with bird banding (nets, data collection, etc), please join us during the banding demonstration or volunteer trainings listed above.

For information or to volunteer, please contact Doreen Whitley, dwhitley@audubon.org or call (614) 545-5481.

Columbus Audubon

Message from the 2010-2011 president: Heather Raymond

Hello! I am very excited to be your new Columbus Audubon chapter president. In upcoming articles I will share some of my goals for the coming year and information on some fun projects our chapter is initiating.

But for now I would like to tell you a little about myself. I have Master's degrees in Science and Public Administration from Ohio University, have spent several terms on the Columbus Audubon board, and have always had a strong connection to nature and a desire to help restore and protect our natural environment. But what is probably my best qualification as

president is simple: I love birds. From backyard bird feeding to driving all night in the hope of seeing an ivory gull, to avian data collection and bird banding. The more I learn about our amazing feathered friends the more I want to know. I participated in my first "World Series of Birding" and "Big Year" in 2009 (more on that in an upcoming article) and birds have given me many hours of pure happiness.

As President, I hope to give a little back to the birds and do what I can to achieve our mission "to promote the appreciation, understanding, and conservation of birds, other wildlife and their habitats for

present and future generations." I hope that you will join me in helping the birds by volunteering for some of our events and programs. Volunteering is also a great way to meet wonderful people that share your appreciation for nature.

Since I have been involved in Columbus Audubon I have been lucky enough to meet as many kind and interesting people as I did new bird species! I look forward to meeting even more Columbus Audubon members and partners during the next year.

Take care, and good birding!

Heather Raymond



Heather on an Avid Birder trip to the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge.

Eco-Weekend committee extends thanks for another successful

The Eco-Weekend committee would like to say a big thank you to all who made the 38th Eco-Weekend a success this past May.

This year there were 43 different programs offered for adults and families. The main Saturday evening program was the presentation, "Close Encounter" by the Cincinnati Zoo. We saw a total of 59 birds over the weekend at Camp Oty'Okwa, the site of the event in the hills west of Logan. Programs included birding, insects, wildflowers, geology, bats, stream discovery, nature photography, reptiles, moss, astronomy, owl walks and many other activities. We had 32 program leaders for the Adult/Family programs, and an additional 10 leaders for Youth programs. A special thank you goes to Camp Oty'Okwa and staff for the use of their wonderful facility and help in making this a successful event.

Sincere thanks go to the leaders of the Adult and Family programs: (in order of appearance) Jeff Johnson, Rick Fay, Chip Adams, Jacki Zevenbergen, Mike Huffenberger, David



One of the programs for younger children at Eco-Weekend.

Paris, Joe Jennings, Patty DeMaria, Susan Burnside-Kelly, Dave Horn, Tim Taylor, Susie Burks, Suzan Jervy, Steve Molk, Mike Maier, Barb White, Jim Davidson, Fred Steck, Bob Klips, Frank Gifford, Ann Cornell, Jarrod Burks, Jill Snyder, Lisa Adams, Becky Huffenberger, Mike Flynn, Roz Horn, Sharon Treaster, Mary Novak, Kim Leach, David Sagan and Pat Adams.

We also owe a big debt of gratitude to the Youth Program

Leaders: Paula Jones, Jeff Perlman, Josh Bryant, Jacki Zevenbergen, David Breithaupt, Jim & Vicki Snyder, John Gifford, Beth Sandeman and Steve Molk. Sincere appreciation goes to Megan DeLaurentis and Cathy Elkins for creating and overseeing the excellent program for the youth. Youth from Pre-K through Grade 8 spent Saturday learning about insects, plants, stream discovery, nature photography and appreciation of the world around us. It was a fantastic

day. Special thanks are extended to the tireless and enthusiastic Eco-Weekend Committee: Lisa Adams, Paulette Ariss, Dale Brubeck, Mary Counter, Lois Day, Jane Dean, Megan DeLaurentis, Patty DeMaria, Cathy Elkins, Becky Huffenberger, Liz Melick, and Maura Moran. These are the folks that planned it all. We extend special thanks to John Wilson who acted as CA Board liaison with the Committee and provided insight and enthusiasm, especially in the publicity area: Thank you, John.

Come join us for Eco-Weekend 2011! It will be held on April 29 - May 1, 2011

at Camp Oty'Okwa. If you are interested in serving on the committee or volunteering as a program leader, call CA at (614) 545-5475 or email rozhorn@columbus.rr.com.

To find out more about Eco-Weekend, check out our website at www.ecoweekend.org and take a look!

With many thanks to all the willing hands who together make Eco-Weekend a success,

-Roz Horn, Chair

Backyards for Wildlife: Fall birding via organic lawn care

I go fall birding by watching out my window. I especially love the secretive birds, like the Swainson's thrush, who visits every fall to refuel in my yard.

I have plenty of healthy bugs for birds to eat thanks to organics and if you use chemicals, fall is a good time to switch. I watched lots of lightning bugs in my lawn, noticing none were in the adjacent chemically treated lawn.

Thanks to all of you who read the monthly Nature Scoop. You've had a lot of questions about going organic since Canada banned lawn chemical use on private property after finding shocking results from scientific studies of the effects of lawn pesticides on human health.

We all need some good news about the little guy winning right now. The documentary, *A Chemical Reaction*, features among others, Paul Tukey, author of the *Organic Lawn Care Manual* at <http://www.safelawns.org/>, who became seriously ill through his work with chemical lawn care.

You can bring this inspiring, true story to your area. See www.chemicalreactionmovie.com for information.

Canada and other countries have adopted the ban, but in the US, only some states have banned the use of lawn pesti-



White Crowned Sparrow.

Photo by Marc Apfelstadt

cides on school grounds or in local communities.

None have banned it on private property because there's big business in chemicals. This needs to be a grass-roots effort - perfect for bird lovers.

I choose to use an exclusive-ly organic lawn care company to maintain my lawn; however, I have a few tips about how easy it is to do yourself. I send reminders of when to treat your lawn in Nature Scoop.

Organic broad-leaf weed control takes care of preventing new weeds in your lawn, but you need to get rid of those that are already there. Dig

weeds out in spring or fall and drop some grass seed in their place or spray them in warmer months with an organic spray. I use BurnOut Weed and Grass Killer, but anything similar will do fine.

I found that the first year took more weeding effort as the lawn was addicted to chemicals.

Over-seeding the grass really helped my yard. I used perennial rye seed and kept it moist. Timing this transition in spring or fall is best when there's lots of rain.

Apply Preen or Concern Plus from mid-March to mid-April

and mid-September to mid-October.

They contain corn gluten, which acts as natural weed control and fertilizer.

The good news is that in fall, my lawn looks greener than others! I have my lawn mowed at 3&1/2" to 4" high to shade out weeds.

This lets the grass grow thicker and turn green faster because it is naturally rather than artificially boosted to grow. I let the lawn go dormant in summer to control the grubs that kill the lawn by eating the roots and become nasty Japanese beetles. I don't water it.

For more details, see www.backyardhabitat.info, select the tab How Do I Do This?; then Click on Environmentally Friendly Lawn and Garden Care, then #3 on the left side.

If you want to learn more, go to <http://ohioline.osu.edu/hygfact/4000/4031.html> and read Paul Tukey's *Organic Lawn Care Manual*.

Lessons learned?

If you're interested, email marc-a@columbus.rr.com to receive our monthly 'Nature Scoop' email or go to www.backyardhabitat.info to learn more.

Let's work together to help birds, one yard at a time.

-Toni Stahl

Fall yard care reminders

- Scratch native seeds into the ground where you want them in garden beds and water
- Take leaves off lawn and put them on flower beds (not too thick, but enough to protect bugs)
- Plant native trees and bushes in the right place (research mature height, width, soil conditions, etc. so you don't trim off larvae that is on the outside of the plants when they grow larger)
- n Help migrating birds fuel up with water and native

berries (departure dates at www.birdnature.com/falloh.html)

■ Remove invasive plants, see <http://www.oipc.info/>

■ See more at www.backyardhabitat.info, How Do I do This? Tab, Fall Yard Care That's Nature Friendly

■ If you feed birds, disinfect their feeders with water and 10% bleach, then rinse, rinse and rinse!

Columbus Audubon

Conservation corner: reaction to oil spill in the gulf

Like most birders and many other Audubon members, I was saddened to see the impact of the recent oil blowout on the ecosystems of the coastal Gulf states. I applaud the efforts of everyone, from well-cappers to bird-cleaners, coming to the rescue as quickly and efficiently as they did. As we all know, it took many weeks to slow and stop the flow of oil, and while the Gulf is slowly healing itself, the ultimate impact of the spill may not be known for months or years. I am certain that we will see tightening of regulations on offshore drilling and improvement of blowout-prevention-and-control technology. I am equally certain that there will be other accidents, other blowouts, eventually eclipsing the 2010 Gulf spill in both volume and impact. With some luck, future spills will be far enough from the Gulf Coast that the

marshes, estuaries and offshore fisheries can recover.

As expected, I have been deluged with information, suggestions, e-mails, phone calls and solicitations from all the usual concerned organizations and citizens, exhorting me to "do something." Nearly every article, analysis or plea seemed to deal with fixing blame, the cost of cleanup, relocating birds and other wildlife, improving regulations and so forth.

As I click around the Internet today, four months later, that is still most of what I find. While that effort is necessary and appropriate, it seems to me that a resource conservation viewpoint has been largely missing from the discussion.

For much of the past forty years we in the USA have been wringing our hands over our dependency on foreign oil but

have we changed our transportation habits? Sure, I may drive a more fuel-efficient auto than my V-8 gas guzzler of 1973 but do I take fewer trips? Do I drive more slowly? Not long ago I read an article that suggested the United States could cut our oil usage by 20-percent just by instating a national speed limit of 55-mph, but that "people would not stand for that." Why not? We did it in 1973-74. We did it during World War II. If we all drove 55, a lot of lives would be saved as well. Why not conserve?

So I've decided to "do something" and I invite you to join me:

On our next trip to New England we're going to drive 65 mph, maximum, and save some gas. If everyone did that, at least we'd postpone the next blowout.

And if there is ever a train to Cleveland, I'll ride it, even at 39 mph.

Invasive species: Kudzu (*Pueraria lobata*)

Yes, it's here. Kudzu, that notorious invasive vine that seems to have taken over woodlands in the southern states but "could never survive Ohio winters" has arrived in Ohio, and in Columbus, no less. Kudzu (*Pueraria lobata*) was introduced into the USA from Japan in the 1870s in what is now a familiar story: the plant was (and is) useful for erosion control, as a legume it enhances soil nitrogen, is good forage for livestock, the starchy roots can be prepared for human food, and is a source of used as traditional medicine in the Orient. It also bears pretty purple flowers.

The problem, as usual with invasive species, is that kudzu does not simply stay

put when planted. The vines (which can grow over a foot in a day) quickly overtake and smother other vegetation, altering woodlands throughout the southeastern USA. It has been called "the vine that ate the South" because of the ideal growing conditions there. We had thought kudzu could not survive the rigors of Ohio winters and that may have been true a few decades ago, but kudzu has now been documented from 16 Ohio counties, and a thriving patch was discovered last year in Ontario. In Columbus you can see some in Iuka Park.

Kudzu can be effectively controlled by removal of the "root crown," a knob of tissue close to or just under the soil surface.

Simply cutting stems without applying herbicide isn't satisfactory, as the plants will simply regrow. Fortunately, so far, infestations are relatively isolated; also, kudzu does not seem to grow as fast in Ohio as it does further south. Promising experiments are underway using a fungus for kudzu control. Meanwhile, we now have yet one more unwanted plant out there with which we will learn to live.



2011 Entertainment Books for sale

By popular demand Columbus Audubon again offers Entertainment Books for sale. Books are available for \$25 each from the bird feeding supply stores listed below now through December 15. Proceeds from the sale will support Columbus Audubon's educational activities and the Grange Insurance Audubon Center.



Better Earth	59 Spruce St., Columbus (North Market)	224-6196
Backyard Experience	3515 North High St., Columbus	261-0355
Wild Birds Unlimited	21 Cherry Park Sq., Westerville	899-9453
Wild Birds Unlimited	5400 Riverside Dr. Columbus	766-2103
Wild Birds Unlimited	6839 E. Broad St., Columbus (Blacklick Shopping Ctr.)	860-1133
Columbus Audubon	Dave Horn (If you want an out-of-town book, contact Dave directly and he'll make it easy)	262-0312 horn.1@osu.edu

Grange Insurance Audubon Center

Boy and Girl Scout programs

Come Explore the Nature of Change

For more information and scheduling please contact: Allison Roush, Scout Educator
at (614) 545-5475 ext. 306 or aroush@audubon.org.

Tiger Cubs <i>Achievement #5</i> Let's Go Outdoors <i>Electives:</i> Learn About Animals Feed the Birds Cleanup Treasure Hunt Conservation Reduce, Reuse, Recycle	Wolf Cubs <i>Achievement #7</i> Your Living World <i>Elective:</i> Birds 	Bear Cubs <i>Achievement #5</i> Sharing Your World With Wildlife <i>Electives:</i> Nature Crafts Water/Soil Conservation WeBeloS <i>Requirements:</i> Forester Naturalist	Other badges Wildlife Conservation Belt Loop Cub Scout Leave No Trace Award Cub Scout Outdoor Activity Award Cub Scout World Conservation Award The GIAC is now offering a variety of Girl Scout and Boy Scout programs, Scout Days and service project opportunities which provide unique hands on learning activities and combine conservation awareness with outdoor nature exploration...all designed to help your scouts complete their goals. Programs are available Monday-Thursday late afternoons and evenings. Scout Days are in October, December, February, April, June and August.
 Girl Scouts®	Daisy Learning Petal Activities Use Resources Wisely Make The World A Better Place Explore Nature Learn a New Hobby	Brownie try-Its Earth Is Our Home Eco-Explorers Outdoor Adventurer Watching Wildlife Water Everywhere	Junior badge-work Earth Connections Eco-Action Outdoor in the City Water Wonders Wildlife

Themed Birthday parties now offered at GIAC

Celebrate at the Grange Insurance Audubon Center...where every birthday party is a fun and exciting, hands-on, learning adventure that inspires stewardship and change as your child grows!

Birthday Parties will be offered on Saturdays and Sundays.

The cost for birthday parties is \$225 (non-members \$250) for up to 15 children.

Additional children may be added for an additional \$10/guest.

All parties include an hour program led by an Audubon educator, a private party room, electronic party invitations, birthday cake, drinks and sustainable decorations and tableware, a T-shirt of the birthday child, and guest party favors.

Happy Bird-Day!

Our center is located in an Important Bird Area which means you can see many fine feathered-friends. Come and learn about birds from their special beaks and feet to the ways they communicate... then grab some binoculars to explore the exciting world of bird-watching. Finally, learn about what you can do when you leave to

help birds thrive and survive in your own backyard!

Nature Explorers

Explore nature on the Whittier Peninsula in any season just minutes from the heart of downtown Columbus! Investigate what makes up nature, where can you find it, how do you observe it and how does it change throughout the year? We'll make some predictions and then go exploring from the river overlook, through the forest and across our prairie and wetlands. Grab an adventure pack filled with all the things you'll need to go exploring to see what we can find!

Operation Conservation

Think you have to be all grown up to make a difference in the world? No way! Join us on Operation Conservation! Come learn about conservation and how to live more lightly on our earth. We'll explore soil, water, air and wildlife and learn about ways to conserve it when you leave so we can all enjoy the world for years to come. You'll be a certified conservation hero when you leave!

Habitat Detectives

Discover what it takes to make up a habitat and how to protect them. Then, head out to go on a habitat hunt on the Whittier Peninsula! How many habitats can you find just minutes from downtown Columbus? Are there any dangers lurking? Finally, you'll learn all about ways to create your own backyard habitat when you return home!

Flutterby Butterfly (seasonal)

You'll go through many changes as you grow, but come learn about all the changes a butterfly goes through before it gets its wings! Learn about its life-cycle, eat and drink like a butterfly and then go exploring with a net to find some fluttering around the Whittier Peninsula.

Let's Get Buggy (seasonal)

Learn about bugs and what makes them unique from the way they look to the ways they move! Which bugs help us, which bugs just downright bug us and which bugs amaze us? Learn about how a bug survives in this big world. Then, we'll grab a net and hand lens and get buggy on a bug hunt!

Columbus Audubon

Coming up

Continued from page 4

a tall shaft, chimney or similar structure to locate where the birds go to roost in your area. Then choose one night over the weekend of September 10 - 12, observe the roost starting about 30 minutes before dusk, and estimate the number of swifts that enter. When you have your number, email Driftwood Wildlife Association the following: Number of swifts counted, time, date, location and broad description of the site, e.g. school, warehouse, residence, Chimney Swift Tower, etc. Weather conditions may also be reported.

That's all there is to it! If you would prefer to join us for a count, Darlene Sillick will be at the Sells Middle School on Rt. 33/161 just west of Dublin Road Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evenings, September 10 - 12. Sunset is about 7:50 those nights, so plan to arrive in the count area just behind the school between 7 - 7:15 p.m. Bring your lawn chair and insect repellent and wait for the show! Contact Darlene Sillick at azuretrails@columbus.rr.com.

Migration Alum Creek & Hoover Reservoirs

Saturday, October 2, 8 a.m.

Leaders: Rob Thorn

Migration should be changing from neotropical to temperate migrants as we survey these two reservoirs north of Columbus. We'll start at Alum, searching the small woodlands at the southern end of the Lake for migrant warblers, sparrows, jays, and raptors. The wide lower part of Alum Creek Lake attracts a wide variety of waterfowl, so we'll keep an eye out for grebes, loons, and early ducks. Afterwards we'll move to the upper end of nearby Hoover Reservoir, where the mudflats of the Hoover Nature Preserve should be infested with ducks & shorebirds. A side trip to Hoover Meadows should round out our lists with marsh & field birds. We'll meet at 8 a.m. at the Westerville Community Center parking lot (on Cleveland Ave almost to County Line Road, about 1.5 mile north of I-270). Bring sturdy shoes (for lots of possibly wet walking), snacks, and a windbreaker/jacket if the weather is cold. For more details contact Rob Thorn, 614-551-0643 or robthorn@earthlink.net.

Sandhill Cranes of Jasper-Pulaski

Date: To be determined (Oct. 29-31 or Nov. 19-21)

Leader: Mike Flynn

Two-day trip to Jasper-Pulaski Fish & Wildlife Area, Indiana.

The spectacle of these incredible birds is breathtaking. Sandhill Cranes from Canada and the northern U.S. migrate south to their wintering grounds in southeast Georgia and Florida.

On the way, they spend time at this special wildlife area, resting and feeding. Their numbers slowly build from late September throughout the autumn, and by early-mid November may reach 15-20,000 or more cranes. Each day they fly in, feed, rest, take off, return and call, giving an exhilarating show. Being here, and being able to observe and appreciate the sights and sounds of this place and the birds, is a great experience!

Drive time is approx. 4-1/2 hours. There are other nearby natural areas to visit that have good wildlife also. Carpooling may be available. It is also possible to meet us there Saturday morning if Friday does not work for you. You pay for your own costs including transportation, food and lodging, plus a \$25 trip fee per person. RSVP by September 25. Contact: mflynn.wildandfree@gmail.com or call (614) 769-1681.

Bird hikes at Blendon Woods

Saturdays, September 4 and October 2, 8 a.m.

Leader: Bruce Simpson

Join Blendon Woods naturalist Bruce Simpson to check out local residents and fall migrants as we wander the trails. Bring binoculars. We will start at the nature center, then explore Thoreau Lake and other trails. Call (614) 508-8000 or go to www.metro parks.net.

Birding at Green Lawn Cemetery

Sunday, October 3 and Saturday, October 16, 8 a.m.

Leader: Darlene Sillick

Join Darlene Sillick, Columbus Audubon trustee on these two walks. In October, the summer residents have either headed south or are looking for feeding nooks before the winter chill. Some of the winter residents are arriving and we will delight to find and welcome them back. We will spend two hours looking around some of the over 360 acres of this large and historic cemetery dating back to 1848. Meet at the main entrance, office parking lot. E-mail azuretrails@columbus.rr.com or call (614) 288-3696. New birders welcome!

Owl Prowl in Powell

Friday, October 29, 6 p.m.

Leader: Darlene Sillick

Join Darlene Sillick at Scioto Ridge Elementary on Big Bear Ave. in Powell for an Owl Prowl in Powell. We will discuss and try to hear or see Great Horned Owls during this walk. This program will last about one hour. Maybe you will be the one chosen to wear the costume to help teach owl adaptations! E-mail azuretrails@columbus.rr.com or call (614) 288-3696. New birders welcome!

Avid Birders field trips

Avid Birders welcome all birders to join any regularly scheduled trip. We can accommodate an unlimited number of persons on most trips. Unless otherwise noted, participants should meet at the southwest corner of the Worthington Mall parking lot at the designated time. Next trip is to Lake Erie to view southbound migration on September 11 from 5:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Service in the Preserves

Gallagher Fen State Nature Preserve

Saturday, September 25, 7:45 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Leader: Katryn Renard

What is the difference between a fen and a bog? Have you seen a prairie fen that encompasses a marl meadow, a gravel terrace, and a mature oak-hickory open woods? We'll be exploring all this at Gallagher Fen State Nature Preserve in Clark County. Our task will be to build a staircase at the end of a savannah slope. It is a privilege to do work here since this SNP is accessible by permit only. There will be time to tour the fen to see the unique characteristics that made it desirable to conserve.

Meet at 7:45 a.m. in the parking lot inside the gate house at the Ohio Department Natural Resources Complex, 2045 Morse Road, Columbus to travel in the ODNR van to the site. Please call Katryn Renard by Wednesday, September 22 at (614) 261-7171 to sign up, reserve space for transportation, and to help us determine tool requirements. No special skills are required, but do bring your lunch, water, work gloves and appropriate foot gear. You will need to complete the Dept. of Natural Area's volunteer form to participate in this activity. We will return to ODNR by 5 p.m.

Grange Insurance Audubon Center

www.grangeinsuranceauduboncenter.org

Staff: Center Director: Heather Starck
Conservation Program Coordinator: Doreen Whitley
Educators: Joe Jennings, Tori Strickland & Allison Roush

Development Director: Jeff Redfield
Finance & Office Manager: Christy Smith
Patty Hecht, Nature Store Manager
Facilities Operations Manager: Wade Walcutt
Office phone: 614-545-5475
Center hours: Tuesday-Friday 10-6pm, Saturday 9-3, and Sunday 11-5.

GIAC Stewardship Board:

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Columbus Audubon

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Additional chapter leaders:

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Service in the Preserves: Katryn Renard, 261-7171
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Programs: Mike Flynn, mflynn.wildandfree@gmail.com
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CA Web site: Bill Heck, bill.heck@gmail.com
CA KIDS: Nadya Bennett, 306-8215
Ohio Young Birders: Gerry Brevoort, 761-3696
Eco Weekend: Roz Horn, 262-0312; Lois Day, (740) 549-0333
Membership: Joe Meara, 430-9127
IBA Committee: Heather Raymond, 785-0342
Birdathon: Julie Davis, 523-2180 or
Katryn Renard, 261-7171
Avid Birders: <http://www.columbusaudubon.org/>

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- Annual Pledge Breakfast in spring
 - Updated Web Page and new contact management system
 - Updated Strategic Plan created by board and staff in August 2010
 - New Program Guides, Membership Guides, and Rental Brochures
- And much, much more...

Our members are key to the success of the Center! We appreciate everyone who has pitched in and volunteered time, donated money or items, and supported the Center throughout our first infancy year. Help us transition now to toddler-hood over this next year by getting even more involved and introducing even more people to the GIAC. Word of mouth is our best marketing tool, so please bring your friends, neighbors, and family to your Center!

Thank you

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