

New GIAC director: Christie Vargo

Christie Vargo is the new GIAC Center Director. Christie was selected by the Grange Insurance Audubon Center's Stewardship Board and the National Audubon Society. Christie's first official day was June 1.

In her new role, Christie will work with the GIAC staff and Stewardship Board to fulfill the Center's conservation and nature education mission. While the role of director may be new, Christie's journey to this point and connection with GIAC began well before the building was even built.

Christie has a career spanning 35 years in nonprofit development and operations.

She's worked for environmental and conservation focused organizations, as well as Girl Scouts.

For the past three years Christie served as the Chief Development Officer for Girl Scouts of Ohio's Heartland.

Prior to that, she served as Director of Development for Audubon Ohio from 2004 to 2008.

She was a key player in raising funds to establish the Center, securing a \$4-million gift, one of the largest gifts ever received



Christie Vargo.

by Audubon for a center.

Even during her last three years with the Girl Scouts, Christie continued her involvement with GIAC's development

and opening by serving on its Board of Directors.

Christie has a personal passion for the the Grange Insurance Audubon Center's mission and is looking forward to the center's second anniversary in August.

In her new role as Center Director, Christie gets to combine two passions: Child development and nature conservation education.

Christie has a B.S. in Zoology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a M.P.A. in Public Administration from Cleveland State University. She currently serves on board of directors for the Columbus Rotary Club, and the Association of Fundraising Professionals – Central Ohio Chapter (treasurer). Past board positions include: Earth Share of Ohio, Lorain County Community Action Agency, Firelands Association for the Visual Arts, New Sunrise Properties, Threshold Homes, Elyria Rotary Club, and Girl Scouts of Erie Shores. Christie is an avid nature photographer and loves the outdoors.

See new director, page 15

Doreen Whitley named National GIS Coordinator for Audubon

Doreen Whitley, conservation director and assistant center director is leaving the Grange Insurance Audubon Center to fill the newly created position as the National GIS Coordinator for National Audubon.

Doreen was instrumental in the vision for the Grange Insurance Audubon Center and has worked tirelessly to make a real connection from our site specific conservation goals to hands-on learning for thousands of school children in Central

Ohio. The award winning Conservation Classroom program in partnership with Columbus City Schools and funded through a grant from JPMorgan Chase Bank, has had a significant impact on the science test scores of those children participating in the program. Doreen's enthusiasm and contagious laugh will be missed, but she won't be far.

She will base herself in Columbus for this new position with National Audubon Society.



Doreen Whitley at a recent bird banding.

Song Sparrow

July-August 2011

Vol. 43 No. 6

Grange Insurance Audubon Center

www.grangeinsuranceauduboncenter.org

Staff: Center Director: Christie Vargo
Director of Development: Jeff Redfield
Facilities Operations Manager: Josh Cherubini
Finance and Office Manager: Kristen Clark
Program Coordinator: Amy Boyd
Educators: Allison Roush, Tori Strickland, Joe Jennings and Mindy Tehan
Nature Store Manager: Patty Hecht
Facility Attendants: Ian Dowden, Monica Johnson and Abby King
Volunteer Coordinator: Nancy Hartman
Office Phone: 614-545-5475
Center Hours: Summer Hours – Tuesday-Friday 10am-6pm, Saturday 9-3, Sunday 11-5pm

Directions to the GIAC

From High Street (going south) turn right on Whittier (which runs along south end of German Village and Brewery District). From Front Street (going north) turn left onto Whittier. Follow Whittier, making no turns, across the bridge spanning the tracks, past the other side streets until you drive into the parking lot in front of the center.

GIAC Stewardship Board:

Sandra Nessing (Chair)	Chester Jourdan
Greg Cunningham (Vice Chair)	Tom Katzenmeyer
Alan McKnight	Dr. Bernie Master
John O'Meara	Mark Real
Beth Crane	Jan Rodenfels
Julie Davis	Jeff Chaddock
Barry Hunlock	Bill Heck
Milt Schott	

Columbus Audubon

Founded 1913

614-545-5475

www.columbusaudubon.org

Twitter: @ColumbusAudubon

Facebook: Columbus-Audubon

Officers: President: Bill Heck, 895-1940
Vice President: Vacant
Newsletter/Web Editor: Stefanie Hauck, (740) 972-1680
Treasurer: Warren Grody
Recording Secretary: Suzan Jervey

Trustees: Julie Davis, Mike Flynn, Joe Meara, Heather Raymond, Katryn Renard, Barbara Revard, Andrea Cook, Tom Sheley, Darlene Sillick, Suzan Jervey, Gerry Brevoort, Warren Grody, Bill Heck, Jackie Bain, April Robinson, Dave Horn and Tim Daniel.

Additional chapter leaders:

Conservation: Dave Horn, 262-0312
Service in the Preserves: Katryn Renard, 261-7171
Education: Susan Setterlin, 457-8130
Programs: Mike Flynn, mflynn.wildandfree@gmail.com
Field Trips: Earl Harrison, eharrison@ehe.osu.edu
CA Web site: Bill Heck, bill.heck@gmail.com
Ohio Young Birders: Gerry Brevoort, jbrevoort@columbus.rr.com
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: www.columbusaudubon.org/avids/avids.html

July-August activities

GIAC programs

Become a member today to receive special discounts on classes, special events and programs

Audubon Afternoons

What are Audubon Afternoons? Audubon Afternoons are education programs conducted by Audubon naturalists. They deliver short presentations on a featured topic followed by an "Audubon Challenge."

The Challenge is a nature or conservation investigation and participants receive a small prize upon completion.

Sometimes the program includes going on hikes with the naturalist, sometimes the participants are sent on Audubon Challenges on their own. Audubon Afternoons programs are ideal for families with kids.

The programs are held in GIAC classrooms each weekend in July and August from 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

For more information, call 614-545-5486.

Wednesday morning tours

Come explore the Grange Insurance Audubon Center on a guided tour through the facility every Wednesday at 10 a.m. We will highlight green building features, partnerships, design elements, and programming. For groups of more than 10, please call ahead to RSVP at (614) 545-5475.

Audubon Adventure Camp

Animal Trackers - Session 3: July 5-8 (no Adventure Camp on July 4); Session 7: August 1-5

See GIAC activities, page 11

Columbus Audubon programs

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 or cancelled. Also, go to www.columbusaudubon.org for longer descriptions of each trip.

Bird walk at Blendon Woods

Sunday, July 10, 9 a.m.

Take a short bird walk at Blendon Woods Metro Park. Meet at the nature center.

Birding by kayak at Twin Lakes

Saturday, July 16, 8:30 a.m.

Columbus Audubon members are invited to TAASC, The Adaptive Adventure Sports Coalition at Twin Lakes, Powell, Ohio for a full morning of paddling/birding by kayak. The cost is \$20.00 per person/paddler and includes equipment and instruction time. We will paddle for 2 to 2.5 hours.

TAASC was founded to offer individuals with disabilities opportunities to participate in adventure activities. They also offer friend and family programs and facilities for groups such as Columbus Audubon. It's a wonderful facility with terrific volun-

teers and instructors.

Please bring water, a snack and your binoculars. Remember sun screen, too! We will receive instruction before we launch, then we will paddle to check out area nextboxes that are set up for Prothonotary Warblers. We will also keep a bird list for the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas project during our outing. If you have time after paddling, we will check Bluebird/Tree Swallow nestboxes and Purple Martin boxes which are next to the TAASC property. We should finish by 12:30pm.

Please RSVP to Darlene Sillick so we can arrange with the TAASC crew for our paddling session. Be sure to mention if you will have a friend, guest, or a parent joining you. We do have a couple of tandem kayaks.

Please RSVP by contacting Darlene Sillick at azuretrails@columbus.rr.com or 614-288-3696.

Bird walk at Blendon Woods

Sunday, August 7, 9 a.m.

Take a short bird walk at Blendon Woods Metro Park. Meet at the nature center.

See CA programs, page 11

The Scioto Mile

233 Civic Center Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43215

Main attraction. Showplace. Crown jewel. Whatever you call it, every great city has one. And Columbus is no exception.

We call ours the Scioto Mile. And this spectacular Riverfront park will be completed in July. Located in the heart of the city, the Scioto Mile is a green corridor that connects downtown Columbus with the Scioto River.

It winds its way from Whittier Peninsula to the Arena District and features lush green spaces, a charming promenade and mesmerizing water features along with plazas, paths and bikeways. The Scioto Mile is Downtown's cornerstone revitalization project and will help attract and complement residential development, boost property values, and stimulate commercial growth. On the web: www.sciotomile.com.

North Bank Park

The first part of the Scioto Mile project was the creation of North Bank Park, which opened in 2005.

Located just west of Downtown, North Bank Park is the northern anchor of the Scioto Mile.

It connects existing bike and pedestrian paths to the north and south, while also incorporating the median between Spring and Long Streets near Neil Avenue.

North Bank Park features boat ramps, an interactive pop-up fountain for children, picnic facilities and a glass-enclosed pavilion overlooking the Downtown skyline.

North Bank Park is the first park developed under the Columbus Riverfront Vision Plan and will serve as inspiration for the Riverfront renovation.

The Promenade

The Promenade on the Scioto Mile, a grand esplanade and green corridor that stretches along Civic Center Drive from Broad Street to Rich Street, connecting Battelle Riverfront Park with the John W. Galbreath Bicentennial Park.

Bicentennial Park

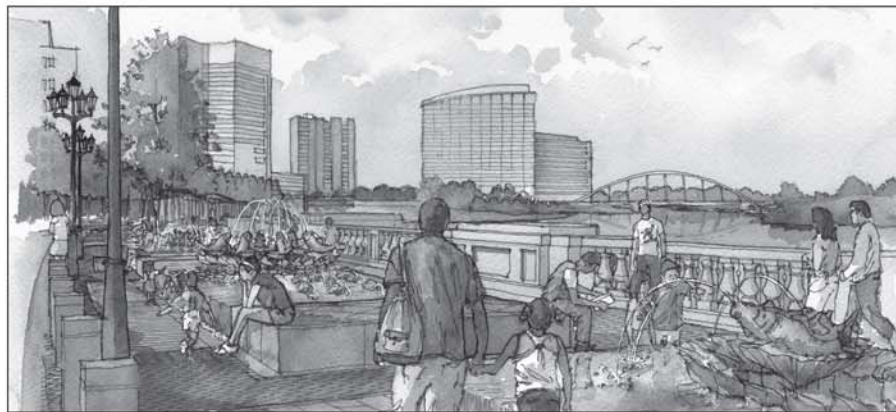
The John W. Galbreath Bicentennial Park, a 4.7-acre park featuring a stunning 15,000-square-foot water fountain, casual dining cafe and eye-catching bandshell.

Upcoming events

Come FountainSide at lunchtime on Wednesdays, when the park celebrates kids



Directions: To RiverSouth Parking Garage – 232 Front Street. From the North: Take I-71 to the Broad Street exit and turn right at the traffic signal. Go west passing the Ohio Statehouse on your left until you come to Front Street. Turn left and go south thru three traffic signals and turn left into the garage.



with live music and fun interactive activities. Mark your calendars for July 13 and 27, and then August 3, 10, 17, and 24.

Plan on doing some Friday evenings at the Scioto Mile too.

Rhythm on the River is on tap July 8, August 12, August 26 and September 2 at Bicentennial Park: it brings a great mix of local musicians, touring artists and even a little Ballet Met.

For cinema fans, Movies on the Mile will host great family movies (ranging from *Despicable Me* to the original *Pink Panther* movie) on Saturday July 9 – then for more Friday fun: July 15 and 29 and August 5 and 19.

Grand Opening Ceremony

TheSciotoMile Thursday,
July 7
5:30 p.m.

The ceremony will kick off at 5:30 p.m. Afterwards, stay for an evening of celebration with fountain fun and music! Stroll along the riverfront promenade and be entertained by street performers, or relax on a blanket in the park to enjoy the evening concert by the Hoo Doo Soul Band and fountain show.

Grange Insurance Audubon Center

Small Wonder

It is a small wonder that children are so fascinated by nature! It is a joy to watch the face of a young child as they discover the pill bug under the rock, or see the frog's eyes peak at them from the edge of the lily pad. Can you count how many turtles are on the log from the river overlook? It just takes a moment to watch the light shine in a little ones eyes, as they explore the great outdoors.

The Grange Insurance Audubon Center wants to be the place that children remember as they discover their natural world.

We have lots of fun things to do in the building and around the grounds to explore on your own.

The Forest Room is a wonderful interactive play space where little ones can come and explore the "forest". There is a climbing structure, and fun costumes for dress up, to encourage imaginative play.

The library has a wonderful view of the city, lots of kids book and a microphone so that you can hear all the birdies at the feeders right outside the windows.

One mom wrote in her online blog "This place is seriously cool. Full of educational information and full of fun educational play time for the kids, and FREE. They not only have an indoor area where kids can play and learn, but they offer a playground, educational classes, and nature hikes to learn about wildlife in Ohio."

Don't forget to explore our wonderful gift shop filled with educational books and toys for your young explorer.

But if you are looking for something a little more structured for your preschooler then you might be interested in our "Small Wonders" program for preschool groups. We offer a variety of topics and will tailor the program to fit your group's needs. Call (614) 545-5486 or email Amy Boyd aboyd@audubon.org if you are interested.



Photos courtesy of GIAC

Top: Discovering ants in the library. Middle: Playing with puppets. Bottom: Forest Room.

South Side Settlement

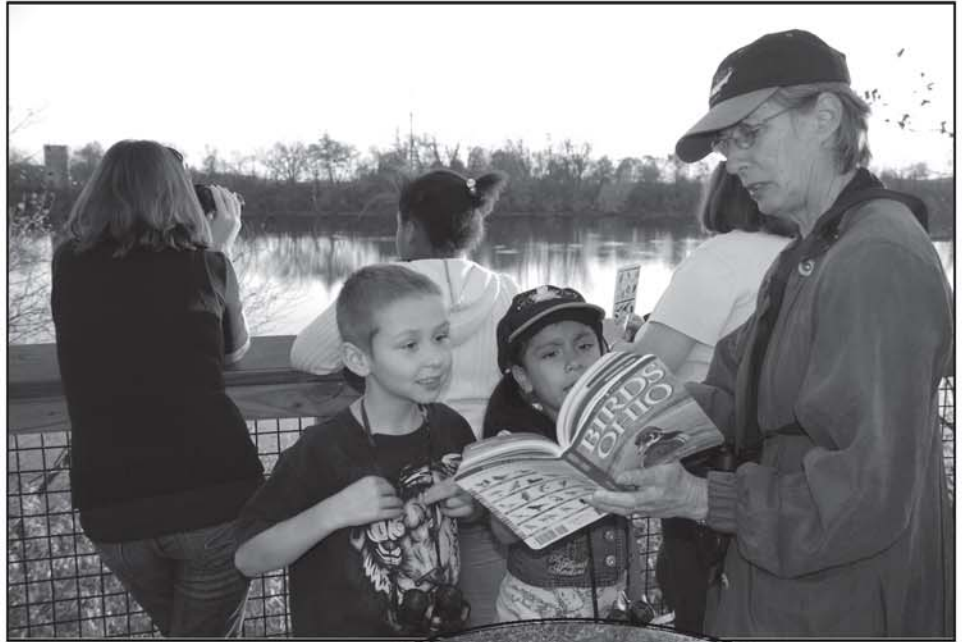
A season for champions and challenges

It was a year of challenges for the students in the after school program at South Side Settlement House. The program got a late start due to scheduling challenges but once underway, in late October, the students quickly and eagerly participated in some great activities to hone their observation skills and learned about some "Conservation Heroes" both current and historical. They learned about John James Audubon's drive to paint all of the species of birds he observed in the wild. They also discovered Aldo Leopold's passion to instill in others a sense of wonder for nature as well as inspiring others to develop their own "land ethic."

They then heard about how there are some young birder "champions" in the Ohio Young Birders Club/Columbus Chapter that researched, developed and installed two feeder stations at a local school. Students were intrigued by one young girl's idea to raise funds for the gulf oilspill by drawing birds and selling them.

They were amazed how her drawings caught the eye of millions throughout the nation. After brushing up on their binocular skills (more than 50 percent of the participants are first timers so they had to have a lesson or two on binocular use and etiquette), they staked out the overlook at the Scioto Audubon Metro Park's boat landing and nearby bike path to look for fall migrants. It was a gorgeous sunny day and the students were excited to see a great blue heron flushed from a nearby branch and fly off gracefully for a more peaceful destination. Seeing such a large and beautiful bird up close was a memorable event for these students.

Winter weather proved to be a real challenge when it came to getting out and learning tracking skills as well as "reading the landscape." In the end, the snow storms which cancelled classes on several days that we had field experiences scheduled, triumphed. Undaunted, the students gained tracking skills indoors by becoming "bird sleuth investigators." A "nature scene" was constructed in the SSS's gymnasium. There, they identified tracks from eight animals and determined that a Great Horned Owl quietly swooped down and captured a rabbit for its next meal! The students really got into the role of investi-



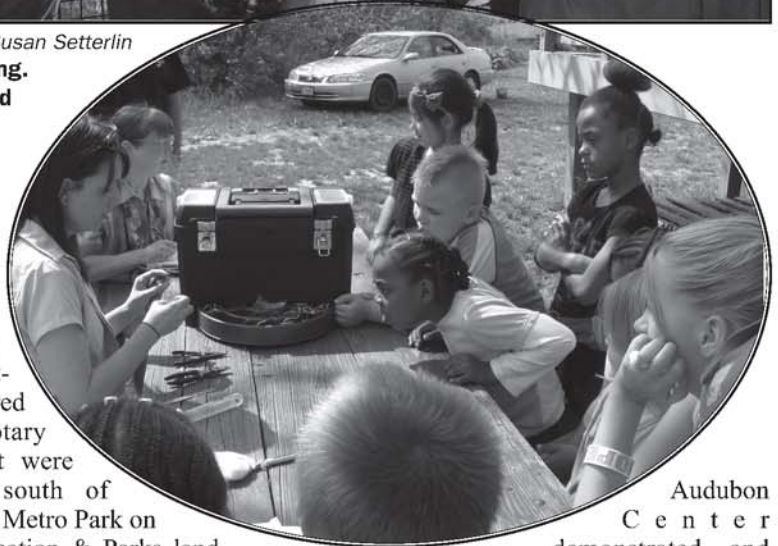
Photos by Susan Setterlin

Above: Fall birding.
Right: Spring bird banding with Doreen Whitley.

gator.

The SSS students became "Conservation Champions" themselves when they painted and numbered eight prothonotary nest boxes that were installed just south of Scioto Audubon Metro Park on Columbus Recreation & Parks land. They learned about the spring migration and the importance of the area as an "Important Bird Area" and hopefully they will monitor the boxes next year to provide important data about this bird in peril to scientists. They experienced pride in their work and a sense that they were participating in an important conservation project.

Once again, the weather proved to be in charge as several attempts to walk the Scioto Audubon Metro Park on a mission to identify spring migrants. After several rainouts, they FINALLY got a chance to see some migrants up close and personal when Doreen Whitley, Conservation project manager for Grange Insurance



Audubon Center

demonstrated and explained the value of bird banding to obtain important migration statistics for the scientific world. The students got up close and personal with a black & white warbler-an experience that was a first for them.

Finally, as the school year was coming to a close, we had planned a great outing for the students near the climbing wall of the park. Students were placed on "Survivor" teams and had to perform a series of tasks such as: Heron Hop, Peregrine Climb, Egg to Nest race, What's My Wingspan and Cavity nest feed contest. True to our luck

See South side, page 15

Give CA your

Best Shot

Photo contest seeks new images for use in Columbus Audubon awards

Columbus Audubon is changing how we recognize our annual award winners and we are looking to our members for appropriate photographs.

The new award will be a certificate noting the award and a photograph that is appropriate for the award, both matted in a single frame. We are conducting a contest for three photographs, one for each of our awards:

•**The Song Sparrow Award** is given for significant contributions to the mission of Columbus Audubon. This photo should be a stunning picture of a song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*).

•**The James Chase Hambleton Award** is given for significant contributions to local conservation. This photo should be an arresting picture that brings conservation to mind.

•**Junior Conservation Award** is given to students under the age of 18 who have made outstanding contributions in the area of conservation. This picture should bring youth and local conservation to mind.

Contest rules:

1. The photographer who submits a winning photo for a category will receive a \$100 visa debit card and a certificate of commendation for winning the prize. Columbus Audubon will frame the certificate if requested.

2. This contest is open only to members of Columbus Audubon. If you are not already a member of Columbus Audubon see www.columbusaudubon.org.

3. All images entered must be taken by the person entering the contest.

4. Photos that have been taken prior to the contest are acceptable.

5. All images must be true to the original subject. Nothing should be added to an image or taken away. Minor adjustments to color, light intensity and contrast are acceptable, as is cropping.

6. Entries are limited to only one image per category. Any subsequent entries will not be accepted.

7. Deadline for entries is October 15, 2011.

8. All photographs remain the property

of the photographer. CA retains the right to use the 3 winning photos for the specified awards and other uses related to the award. By submitting a photo, you grant CA a nonexclusive right in perpetuity keep the file provided.

9. The winning photos will be selected by the Awards Committee of the Columbus Audubon Board. The decisions will be final.

10. If the Awards Committee determines there are no appropriate entries for a category, no winner will be selected for that category.

11. The photographer's name may not appear anywhere on the photo so as not to influence judging.

12. Submit images in digital format at a minimum resolution of 300 dpi.

13. Submit all photos in digital format to songsparrowphotocontest@columbusaudubon.org.

14. Include the following information in the email:

- The words "Song Sparrow", "Hambleton", or "Junior Conservation" in the subject line, depending on the category being entered

- Name
- Mailing address
- Phone number
- Include the image as an attachment

15. Questions may be directed to the general Columbus Audubon phone at (614) 545-5497.

16. Winners will be announced November 22, 2011 on columbusaudubon.org and via our Facebook page.



Top: Baltimore Oriole. Photo by Tim Daniel, ODNR.



Right and below: Birds at the May OYBC field trip to Magee Marsh. Photo by OYBC advisors.



Photo by OYBC advisors

Warbler at the May OYBC field trip to Magee Marsh.

Backyards for Wildlife: Digging for gold!

My ancestors were digging for gold, and now I carry on the tradition by digging for a different reason – adding plants for Goldfinches. I remember seeing my first one on the way to visit a friend. I ran in shouting, “Someone’s lost a canary!”

As the sun sets, I sit on my porch and admire Goldfinches sitting on the branch tips of my Red Maple tree. They are lit by the golden, setting sun and appear like dazzling ornaments on the tree.

My neighbor put up a Niger thistle-seed tube feeder to attract them and asked, “Why won’t they come to my yard?” I replied, “They stay in my yard for native plants and chemical-free native bugs. I have plants that go to seed at different times and leave the ones from last winter standing until Mother’s Day.”

It’s fun to watch Goldfinches eating the seeds of my Purple Coneflower, Black-eyed Susan, Blazing Star (Gayfeather), Downy Sunflower, Goldenrod and Common Evening Primrose.

I have several native trees and bushes with small branches for perching. I also provide shallow, clean water.

My neighbor was concerned about adding native plants. He asked, “Won’t that bring Mosquitoes?” “No,” I answered. “Mosquitoes breed in shallow, stagnant water in as quickly as four days.

I just removed a small, old trash can lid someone threw in the back because even the tiniest bit of standing water will breed lots of mosquitoes!”

Mosquitoes don’t breed in moving water. I have a dripper in one of my bird baths, and I change the water in all of the birdbaths



Photo by Marc Apfelstadt

American Goldfinch.

daily in this hot weather. My neighbor dumps the water out of her swimming pool cover after it rains. Standing water puddles don’t contain the natural predators that a wetland has, so mosquitoes breed freely there.

Goldfinches nest later than other birds and have only one batch, with the male feeding the female.

They time it so they can line the nest with thistle down.

Two bonuses: The parasitic cowbird has already laid its eggs, and spiders have spun large webs that the Goldfinches use for holding their tiny cup nests together. I leave webs in my yard so I can see the adorable round, fluffy fledglings in late August.

My neighbor then asked, “Why do I have so many House Sparrows?” I answered, “Get a tube feeder with the holes below the perch, or hang your tube feeder upside down.

Goldfinches can eat upside down, while House Sparrows and House Finches cannot.”

The happy ending is that my neighbor didn’t realize he already had native trees and bushes.

He added some native flowers, got a new tube feeder and voila! -- The goldfinches now sing as they make their distinctive loops flying back and forth across the street from his yard to mine.

Lessons learned? If you’re interested, email marc-a@columbus.rr.com with questions or to receive the monthly ‘Nature Scoop’ email. Go to www.backyardhabitat.info to learn more and see videos of my yard. Let’s work together to help birds, one yard at a time.

Habitips:

Keep Starlings off Suet Inexpensively:

Woodpeckers play an important role for smaller tree-nesting birds because they peck dens that other birds (like wrens, nuthatches, chickadees, tree swallows, etc.) will use after the Woodpeckers leave. European Starlings devour the suet Woodpeckers eat. To avoid this, I’ve been told to keep the suet in its original container and open it on one side only (leave the rest of the packaging). Hang it in a traditional square suet cage feeder with the open side on the bottom. Starlings can’t eat upside down like Woodpeckers can.

Save Money; Save Water: I let my organic lawn go dormant.

-By Toni Stahl,
NWF habitat ambassador

Eco-Weekend Committee extends thanks

The Eco-Weekend Committee would like to say a big thank you to all who made the 39th Eco-Weekend a success this past May.

The weekend was held at Camp Oty’Okwa in the hills west of Logan.

There were 149 people registered and staying on the camp grounds during the weekend, with more coming in during the day to attend 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.

This year there were 50 different pro-

ECO-WEEKEND T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST

Here is a chance to design a T-shirt celebrating our 40th Eco-Weekend in 2012! The designer of the winning entry will receive a FREE PASS to Eco-Weekend 2012. Designs should fit into the center of the front of a T-shirt, and have only three colors. You may view past T-shirt designs on our website, www.ecoweekend.org.

The winning entry will be announced in the January *Song Sparrow*. Opportunities to order the 40th Anniversary T-shirt will be available on our website and in next year’s Eco Weekend brochure. The winner will be awarded a free trip to Eco Weekend in 2012.

Please send your design submissions to the Eco Weekend Committee, c/o Roz Horn, 37 Arden Rd., Columbus, OH 43214 or send to rozhorn@columbus.rr.com.

Deadline for submissions: October 1, 2011.

OYBC: Variety of trips taken this spring

The Central Ohio Chapter of the Young Birders Club (OYBC) kept busy in the spring and early summer by participating in three trips where members learned about bird behaviors and migration by birding in a cemetery, several forests, riparian corridors, reservoirs, coastal lake wetlands, beach and lake shore habitats and by viewing wildlife from the unique perspective of a kayak.

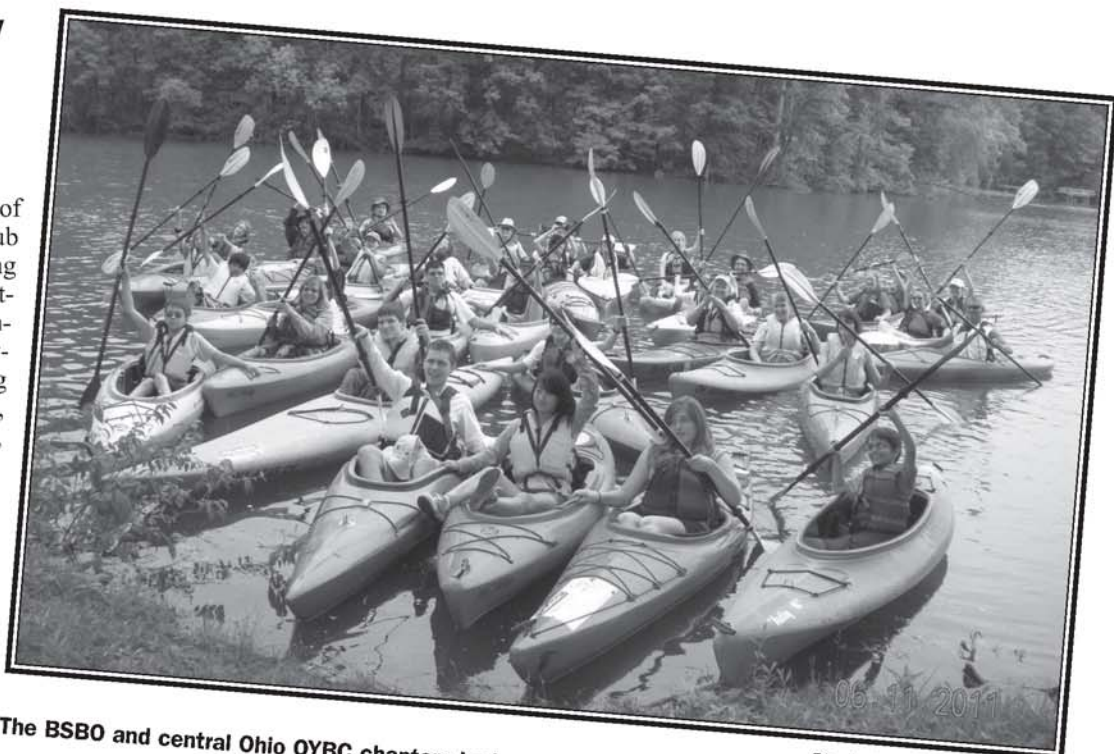
Below are excerpts from The April and May trip reports submitted by Jacob Stinnett and Doug Whitman.

On April 22, OYBC members birded took a tour of Columbus.

We started at Green Lawn Cemetery, then rode down the road to the Grange Insurance Audubon Center (GIAC) to eat lunch and got a tour of the facility by employee Josh Cherubini. Our next stop for the day was at Hoover Reservoir, where we met up with bird-lover Charlie Bombaci. We birded from the boardwalk then headed to Area N and began a long trek through the woods. When everyone got to the water's edge, Charlie heard a Prothonotary Warbler and we got quiet really fast. It was on the other side of the stream, but with its bright yellow plumage it was not hard for us to find. As we arrived at our next destination, the last of the day, it began to sprinkle a little, but it was not bad in the trees. Dick Tuttle had scopes set up at the #4 Osprey nest at Alum Creek. Dick told us about how he helped to build these nesting platforms. Just as he was finishing his speech and we got some good pictures, the rain began to come down harder, so we had to pack up and go home. It was a great event and so many of our life lists grew quite a bit that day. My favorite birds to see were the Yellow-rumped Warblers, the Double-crested Cormorants, and the Red-headed Woodpecker. - *Jacob Stinnett*

On May 14, OYBC members set out to see 100 or more species in the space of 24 hours at Magee Marsh.

COYBC met up with John Sawvel (OYBC Membership Coordinator) at the bird-banding pavilion where we got to help Ken



The BSBO and central Ohio OYBC chapters had a awesome time kayaking at Twin Lakes on June 11. Photo by Tim Daniel, ODNR

Keffer (the Education Director at Black Swamp Bird Observatory) band various species of birds. The we headed to the Magee Marsh Boardwalk. Just in the first 5 minutes on the boardwalk we got Yellow, Black-Throated Blue, Magnolia, Blackburnian, Prothonotary, Chestnut-Sided, and Cape-May Warblers, plus a Red-Eyed Vireo and assorted other birds like Red-Winged Blackbirds and Common Grackles. The group separated a bit as we worked our way down the boardwalk, but all of us got interesting birds. Some highlights included Green Heron, Scarlet Tanager, Eastern Screech-Owl, Philadelphia Vireo, a House Wren that was about 2 inches from our faces (no joke, the reason we lost sight of it was that it hopped UNDER the boardwalk), and of course, warblers. After that, we went to the Sportsmen Center to see Purple Martins and Barn Swallows then the whole group headed to the woodlot behind the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge building.

Once we were done at Ottawa, we decided to cruise some roads that ran along flooded fields to look for shorebirds. By this time we were getting very close to our goal, and when we visited Metzger Marsh saw a few new birds like American Coot -- basically birds you would find in a marsh. A Yellow-Headed Blackbird spotted by Darlene Sillick brought our count to 102 species seen at our OYBC Birdathon. -*Doug Whitman*

GIAC Caps Can Do Program

The Grange Insurance Audubon Center has partnered with Weisenbach Recycled Products as a drop-off location for #5PP - Polypropylene Plastic caps.

The Caps Can Do program is dedicated to recycling plastic bottle caps, promoting education, increasing awareness and providing solutions to the problems littered plastic caps cause to wildlife and humans alike. Drop your caps in our CAPS CAN DO collection bucket located in the front lobby! To learn more about the partnership, visit www.weisenbach.com.

CLEAN Plastic Caps Accepted (please rinse or clean your lids and remove any foil, foam or paper liners as well): Caps from

threaded neck bottles (soft drinks, soda, water, juice, shampoo, etc); Jar lids (peanut butter, pickles, mayo, etc.); Flip caps from personal care products, shampoo bottles, and food product bottles (condiments, etc); Laundry detergent caps.

Caps NOT Accepted: No caps with foil, foam, or paper liners (unless the liners are removed); milk jug caps; dirty caps encrusted with food particles or foreign materials; pharmaceutical products; metal lids or metal caps; caps with metal inserts; plastic pumps or sprayers; caps from spray cans or deodorant sticks; flexible snap-on lids (unless marked as PP#5); No caps or lids that break when bent.

JULY 2011



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	NOTE: GIAC closed every Monday except for Adventure Camp participants.		Tour of LEED Gold GIAC building 10 a.m.		GIAC Closes @ 3pm for Red White & Boom.	Audubon afternoons 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
3 Audubon afternoons 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.	4	5	6 Tour of LEED Gold GIAC building 10 a.m.	7	8	9 Audubon afternoons 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
	Audubon Adventure Camp - Animal Trackers - Session 3: July 5-8 - no session on July 4					
10 Audubon afternoons 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. Bird walk at Blendon Woods 9 a.m.	11	12	13 Tour of LEED Gold GIAC building 10 a.m.	14	15	16 Audubon afternoons 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. Birding by kayak at Twin Lakes, 8:30 a.m.
	Audubon Adventure Camp - Audubon Artists - Session 4: July 11-15					
17 Audubon afternoons 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.	18	19	20 Tour of LEED Gold GIAC building 10 a.m.	21	22	23 Audubon afternoons 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
	Audubon Adventure Camp - Eco-Friendly Kids - Session 5: July 11-15					
24 Audubon afternoons 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.	25	26	27 Tour of LEED Gold GIAC building 10 a.m.	28	29	30 Audubon afternoons 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
31 Audubon afternoons 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.	Audubon Adventure Camp - Amazing Flyers - Session 6: July 25-29					



Calendar
key



GIAC events are in plain text. For complete descriptions of any event or program, see page 2.

Columbus Audubon events are in bold. For complete descriptions of any event or program, see page 2.

AUGUST 2011



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 NOTE: GIAC closed every Monday except for Adventure Camp participants.	2	3 Tour of LEED Gold GIAC building 10 a.m.	4	5	6 Audubon afternoons 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
7 Bird walk at Blendon Woods 9 a.m.	8	9	10 Tour of LEED Gold GIAC building 10 a.m.	11	12 Webelos Cub Scout overnight – 7pm Friday – 10am Saturday.	13 Audubon afternoons 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Audubon afternoons 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.	Audubon Adventure Camp - Audubon Artists - Session 8: August 8-12					
14 Audubon afternoons 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.	15	16	17 Tour of LEED Gold GIAC building 10 a.m.	18	19	20 OYBC August trip: Birding and LEW Put In Bay, 9:30 a.m.
	Audubon Adventure Camp - Conservation Countdown - Session 9: August 15-19					Audubon afternoons 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
21 Audubon afternoons 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.	22	23	24 Tour of LEED Gold GIAC building 10 a.m.	25	26	27 Audubon afternoons 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
28 Audubon afternoons 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.	29	31				



CA programs

Continued from page 2

OYBC field trip: Birding/Watersnake Research on South Bass Island

Saturday, August 20, 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Join us on South Bass Island to conduct hands-on research of the Lake Erie water snake (LEWS) with researcher Kristin Stanford. Kristin has been collecting and taking information on the LEWS for a decade now, and she is willing to have OYBC follow along with her to see how it's done. She is featured on the popular TV show *Dirty Jobs*.

GIAC activities

Continued from page 2

Audubon Artists - Session 4: July 11-15; Session 8: August 8-12

Eco-Friendly Kids - Session 5: July 18-22

Amazing Flyers - Session 6: July 25-29

Conservation Countdown - Session 9: August 15-19.

GIAC Scouting programs

Program Registration is now open for Cub and Girl Scouts for the 2011 – 2012 school year.

The Grange Insurance Audubon Center offers a variety of exciting programs designed to help scouts complete their electives, achievements, badge-work and special awards throughout the year as individuals or as part of the den/troop.

Scout leaders may reserve a 1 1/2 hour or 2 1/2 hour den or troop level program which usually takes the place of or supplements a regularly scheduled meeting.

Larger scouting events and overnights are planned throughout the year as well to provide scouts with the opportunity to complete steps in earning specific special awards.

These events are great for individual scouts working on a specific award as well as dens or troops working together on a specific award.

Remember the GIAC in your scout planning this year!

To make a program reservation, inquire about specific dates or for pricing information or other questions, call or e-mail Allison Roush at (614) 545-5482 or aroush@audubon.org.

Cub Scouts

Tiger Cubs: Achievement #5: Let's Go Outdoors

Electives: Birding Bundle #31 & #32
Conservation Bundle #33, #34 & #37

We will meet up with OYBC students from around the state and have a fun day of birding on the island during and after the snake adventure. We will be looking for herons, gulls, egrets and many other birds that use this island.

Bring binoculars and a sack lunch, drinks & snacks for yourself. We will meet in the parking lot of the Put In Bay Ferry and get to the island from there. Look for the OYBC bus and we will gather to load up on the boat. Click here for directions to the ferry parking lot.

Please contact Central Ohio OYBC Advisor Tim Daniel if you are interested in

Awards: Cub Scout Leave No Trace
Cub Scout Outdoor Activity
Wildlife Conservation Belt Loop
Wildlife Conservation Pin

Wolf Cubs: Achievement #7: Your Living World

Elective: Birds

Awards: Cub Scout Leave No Trace
Cub Scout World Conservation
Wildlife Conservation Belt Loop
Wildlife Conservation Pin

Bear Cubs: Achievement #5: Sharing Your World with Wildlife

Elective: Water/Soil Conservation
Awards: Cub Scout World Conservation
Wildlife Conservation Belt Loop
Wildlife Conservation Pin

Webelos requirements: Forester, Naturalist

Awards: Cub Scout World Conservation
Wildlife Conservation Belt Loop
Wildlife Conservation Pin

Special Cub Scout days

(please call Allison Roush 545-5482 for specific dates and pricing):

Conservation Cubs (Tigers-Webelos): Earn your Wildlife Conservation Belt Loop & Pin all in a day at the GIAC!

Outdoor Cubs (Tigers): Come explore the great outdoors on the Whittier Peninsula and you'll be well on your way to earning the Cub Scout Outdoor Activity Award!

World Conservation (Tiger-Webelos Specific): Come and get a jump-start on earning your Cub Scout World Conservation Award!

Cub Scout Overnights: (Tiger-Webelos

going. If you want to carpool from the Central Ohio area, let Tim know and we'll coordinate that. From the Central Ohio area, it will be an early morning departure, probably around 7 a.m., since it takes about 2 1/2 hours to drive to our destination. If you plan to get there on your own and meet us at 9:30 a.m., that's fine too. If you go up the night before and want to book a hotel room, you can stay on the island or in the general area. More information is available at the Put In Bay visitor's bureau.

Please contact Tim Daniel at tcdaniel@embarqmail.com.

Specific).

Girl Scouts

Daisy Scouts: Use Resources Wisely & Make the World a Better Place Petal Bundle

Explore Nature
Learn a New

Brownies: Try-Its: Eco-Explorers

Watching Wildlife
Water Everywhere

Junior Girl Scouts Badge-Work: Earth Connections

Your Outdoor Surroundings
Wildlife

Special Girl Scout days

(please call Allison Roush 545-5482 for specific dates and pricing):

Journey Between Earth and Sky at the GIAC (Daisy): Take a journey between Earth and Sky at a hidden treasure in the heart of the city and you'll be inspired to see how you can explore nature at home in your own backyard or even in your community.

Explore the Many Wonders of Water at the GIAC (Brownies): Start your Wonders of Water journey at the GIAC by learning about why it's so important, where we find it around our center and why it's so important to keep it clean and conserve it. You'll be ready to take action upon returning home to your own community.

Get Energized and Take Eco-Action at the GIAC (Juniors): Energize yourself for your Get Moving journey when you investigate the world of energy from birds to the building at the GIAC inspiring innovative change at home and in your community when you leave here.



Inaugural event a huge success

wine & warblers

The inaugural GIAC Wine and Warblers event was a huge success. The evening blended birding and warbler education with wine sampling, great food, and community support. More than half of the 250 guests went on warbler walks, including specialty walks led by acclaimed author Kenn Kaufman and his wife, Kimberly. Guests sampled 11 wines provided by Wine Trends and Deutsch & Sons. GIAC announced the selection of Christie Vargo as Center Director and a bird-banding demonstration by Doreen Whitley, former GIAC assistant director/director of conservation, was a highlight of the evening.

Through ticket sales, supporter warbler levels, and silent auction items, the inaugural event raised more than double our original goal. This will help support the center and our educational programs. The event could not have happened without the help of the GIAC staff, board and the following people:

Warbler Walk Leaders

Tom Bain
Ken Davis
Warren Grody
Earl Harrison
Bill Heck
Dave Horn
Suzan Jervey
Kenn Kaufman & Kimberly Kaufman
Katryn Renard
Darlene Sillick
Joe Meara

Sponsors and Supporters

Kirtland Warbler Level: Greg Cunningham and Amerprise Financial/Chaddock Group

Prothonary Warbler Level: Jan and Charlie Rodenfels

Blackpoll Warbler / Wine Glass Sponsor: Wild Birds Unlimited Nature Store on Riverside Drive

Canada Warbler Level: Design Group, Tom and Mary Katzenmeyer

Black-and-white Warbler Level: Sandy and Ken Nessing

Cerulean Warbler Level: Beth Crane and Richard McKee, Bill and Cornelia Ferguson, John and Helen O'Meara

Kentucky Warbler Level: Anna Lin, Lucas Schrader

Bay-Breasted Warbler Level: Chester and Cheryl Jourdan, Bill Kennedy

A special thank you to all the various supporters who donated items, tickets, experiences, and wine to the Silent Auction.

Look for dates for Wine and Warblers II in May 2012!



Photo by CA

Joe Meara and Darlene Sillick chat with Kim and Kenn Kaufman at Wine & Warblers on May 18. More photos can be found at columbusaudubon.org.

Wine and Warbler Committee Members

Julie Davis, Chair
Sara Cousins
Greg Cunningham
Anna Lin
Sara Maaseel
Tony Pellerite
David Simon

GIAC offers specially themed Birthday parties

It's a great time to get outside and have some fun! The GIAC offers all-inclusive birthday parties—from invitations and cake to activities and party favors. Call Allison Roush at (614) 543-5482 for more information or to book a party.

Happy Bird-Day!

Our center is located in an Important Bird Area (IBA) 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!

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 of them fluttering around the Whittier Peninsula.

See GIAC offers, page 15

Conservation corner: Denial of data

I often tune my car radio to stations that features conservative talk-radio shows. I am interested mostly because they seem to have the most frequent and current information on traffic and weather conditions, but I also like to hear what a chunk of the American electorate is hearing even though I often don't agree.

For quite a few months I have been hearing that climate change, or global warming — call it what you wish — is a total hoax perpetrated by the usual liberal leftist suspects. This stimulates me to write because it represents a viewpoint that is different from the usual political debate: It implies that something for which we have overwhelming supporting data actually is not happening — in short it is “denial of data.”

Consider for comparison another area of controversy: generation of electricity by nuclear reactors. We can argue and debate endlessly about siting, safety, expense, as we should, but *nobody* says that excessive

radiation is not harmful to humans and our environment. Yet that is what I hear about climate on my radio: “Global warming is a fiction perpetrated by faked data.”

What about measurements of average global temperatures (rising for 100 years), glaciers and arctic ice receding, northward revision of plant hardiness zones and more southern insects in Ohio lately? The talk-radio host and often his or her listener seem to be telling us “The things that we see are not real. Those satellite photos of receding arctic ice — they are fakes. Just look at the winter we've endured in Ohio! Do you call that global warming?” (By the way, the winter of 2010-11 was quite close to normal.)

There *is* argument over how much climate change is due to “natural” as opposed to human-generated phenomena. That debate is appropriate and ongoing, but it is clear from what we observe that there *are* climate changes and they *do* have measur-

able impacts some of which are negative and already being felt. The overwhelming majority of researchers believe that humans are at least partially responsible and that we can reduce our own impact.

This of course isn't news to most Audubon members and I may be “preaching to the choir.” You know: drive less, save energy, recycle, eat less meat, plant a tree ... I suggest that we now add a little more activism to that. Climate change is an area where local changes can have global impacts — after all that is what got us to this point. Political action starts with simply sharing your views and recruiting to your cause. If denial of data stirs you to more action, get involved and help set the record straight.

(Yes, I have called in to those talk shows but they have not put me on the air.)

- Dave Horn

Human impacts on biological communities can be controlled

Conservation biologists, concerned with patterns of human impacts on native species and biological communities, simplify and summarize the big impacts with the acronym, HIPPO. The big letters in HIPPO stand for big problems: Habitat destruction, Invasive species spread, Pollution, Population growth, and Overharvest. These five impact patterns, together, are the charging hippo threatening ecosystem integrity and essential ecosystem services globally and in our backyards.

The ‘I’ in HIPPO, Invasive species, may be the least understood by folks on the street, but it's the most actionable by everyone. It's the growing problem that everyone can help shrink through education for better informed purchase decisions and for recognizing and removing invasive species growing in our home habitats.

Summer is the season to spring into action in the yard and garden. At home, it's the plants within reach that offer all of us our easy opportunities to reduce invasive species. Begin by battling the following five abundant invasive plants found in most neighborhoods and wild spaces. Consider native species replacements for the invasive species growing in your home habitats.

Eliminate **bush honeysuckles** and

autumn olive, the shrubs that ate the Midwest. Just about everyone living in central Ohio can look out a window and see bush honeysuckles or autumn olive shrubs nearby, they have taken over whole neighborhoods.

Older neighborhoods, roadside right-of-ways, and abandoned farmland are most impacted. Native arrowwoods (*Viburnum dentatum*) and native shrubby dogwoods (*Cornus amomum*) are attractive replacements.

Eliminate **Callery Pear**. Bradford pear is the original cultivar introduced in the United States in 1908. Since then, it has morphed into a shrubby thorny thicket-producer. Old fields, fencerows, and planted prairies are invaded by this cultivar: will newer cultivars follow the same pattern? Callery pear cultivars continue to be one of the most popular ornamental trees sold in the United States. Several cultivars are loved for their showy blossoms, cookie-cutter form, and fall colors. Wildlife eat the abundant little fruits, then they deposit the abundant seeds everywhere. Native flowering dogwood and eastern redbud are attractive replacements. Many native trees offer showy blossoms and fruit for wildlife.

Eliminate **silver grass** (*Miscanthus sp.*). Giant clumps of Asian silver grass are

abundant in suburbia, rural developments, and new golf courses. They are best sellers. Today, these giant grass clumps are popping up along fencerows and woodland edges and in old fields. *Miscanthus* is an emerging invasive species. Let's nip this one in the bud! Native warm season grasses are attractive substitutes. Indian Grass is an attractive clump-forming species. Switchgrass forms large dense clumps suitable for privacy plantings. Ask for plants of local origin, local genotype.

Eliminate **garlic mustard**. Many of Ohio's woodlands are dominated by invasive garlic mustard overshadowing struggling native wild Canada ginger, sessile trillium, dogtooth violet, and many other spring wildflowers. Garlic mustard is easy to pull, roots and all. Before plants are flowering, pull them and leave them lay. When flowering, bag the tops so seeds don't repopulate your home habitat. No need for native replacements, your native spring wildflowers will return, in time.

Do something wild—go native in your home habitats.

For a good read and a better understanding of HIPPO, see Edward O. Wilson's 2002 book *The Future of Life*. Find detailed information about many invasive species at <http://www.invasive.org/>.

- Dave Horn

Grange Insurance Audubon Center

There's still time to sign up for Audubon Adventure Camp

Do you remember the lazy days of summer as a kid when you went out of the house in the morning and didn't come back home until supper time? Those were the days when children were free to play outside for hours on end, not worrying about much of anything except not being late for dinner. Unfortunately, those lazy days of wild and free, unstructured play are a thing of the past for most kids today. Now our children are scheduled for programs in the summer, mostly out of necessity due to working parents.

As we worked to develop our education programs here at the Grange Insurance Audubon Center, we were all too aware of the lack of free "nature play" that children get today. So we have created Audubon Adventure Camp, an awesome summer day camp. Children going into grades 1-8 can look forward to getting back to the wild while they are here at camp this summer. The day camp program runs from June 20 through August 19.

We have a variety of topics planned that will engage the children directly in our conservation work here at the center, all while having a blast!

The natural environment and the animals that it supports need our children's help to protect and defend it for future generations. Campers will understand the human impact on the environment and be empowered to take action. They'll be encouraged to get involved in the work that Audubon is doing to help protect our natural world.



JOIN THE ADVENTURE!

GRANGE INSURANCE
Audubon CENTER
ADVENTURE CAMP
Not Your Ordinary Summer Camp

Convenient Location for Parents Working Downtown

Our goal for each camp session is to create an awareness and connection with nature in the urban setting. Experience woodlands, fields, mudflats, wetlands and discover fascinating wildlife throughout this Scioto Greenlawn Important Bird Area (IBA). Learn about ways to restore and conserve the environment in your own communities.

For more information contact:
aboyn@audubon.org
614-545-5486
505 W. Whittier St.
Columbus, OH 43215

- Campers grades 1-5 & Teen Program grades 6-8
- Leadership staff are experienced educators with proven academic success
- Fun and excitement in an urban outdoor setting
- Week long sessions from June 20-August 19 from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
- Before Care 7:30-9:00 a.m. & After Care 4:00-6:00 p.m.
- Healthy snack provided, campers bring waste-free lunches

Register Online Now
www.GrangeInsuranceAudubonCenter.org

GIAC is still in the process of reclaiming what was once a wasteland into a beautiful green oasis in the heart of Columbus. Campers will pull invasive species and replace them with native plants.

They'll learn how our everyday actions impact river pollution and how our Scioto River is connected to the Mississippi River basin.

So when planning your child's summer, please consider Audubon Adventure

Camp. We want your child to have that feeling of fun in the outdoors. Our staff will be ready to explore the wild with your camper and create a summer that won't soon be forgotten.

Register on line now at grange.audubon.org (click Summer Programs on the Nature Education tab). Call program coordinator Amy Boyd with questions at 614-545-5486 or email aboyn@audubon.org.

Don't miss the back to school clothing swap

School's almost in session!

Come to the Grange Insurance Audubon Center to get tips on how to be a "green" student by making eco-friendly choices at home and school this year!

Join us for our Second Annual "Being a Green Student Community Event and Clothing Swap" on Saturday, Sept. 10 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Everyone can go back to school just a little bit greener after coming to this event at the GIAC.

You'll have the opportunity to buy eco-friendly products from our local vendors and enter raffles to win cool prizes from our partners.

There will be games and fun for the entire family! This is a back to school event different than you've ever seen.

This event includes a Back to School Clothing Swap - If you bring a reusable grocery bag, you can fill it up with recycled back to school clothing.

If you do not have a reusable bag, you can purchase a recyclable bag from the Grange Insurance Audubon Center for only \$1.50 to fill up.

Have clothes to donate?

Contact Victoria Strickland at 545-5483 or tstrickland@audubon.org or Allison Roush at 545-5482 or aroush@audubon.org to arrange a drop off before Thursday, Sept 8.

If you donate a bag of gently used clothing, you'll be invited to our VIP only early clothing swap at 8 a.m.

GIAC Wish List

- Leaf Blower
- Split Firewood
- Chain Saw
- Leaf Rakes
- Garden Rakes
- Full Set of Silverware
- Crock Pot
- New 2" or larger binders
- Dry Erase Markers and Eraser

New director eager to connect people with nature

Continued from page 1

Christie said, "I am honored to be your new GIAC Center Director and look forward to continuing its legacy of connecting people with nature,

conservation, and community engagement. My heart truly is with the center and its mission."

John O'Meara, Metro Parks Executive Director, Board

member and Chair of the Search Committee said, "We look forward to working with Christie and continuing our strong partnership with Audubon and the City of

Columbus to make this one of the nation's premier urban parks for visitors to enjoy."

To contact Christie, email her at cvargo@audubon.org or call 614/545-5475, ext. 312.

GIAC offers specially themed Birthday parties

Continued from page 12

fied conservation hero when you leave.

return home.

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 so we can all enjoy the world for years to come. You'll be a certi-

Habitat Detectives

Discover what it takes to make up habitats and how to protect them. Then, head out 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

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!

South Side Settlement 2010-11 program highlights

Continued from page 5

this year, the weather threatened storms that day so once again, the activity moved into the SSS gymnasium. The kids were not bothered as they learned about teamwork and had great fun with the "Survivor" activities. Afterward, pizza,

lemonade and cookies were enjoyed by all as well as prizes handed out.

Yes, it was a year of challenges for this program, but the students triumphed and are still talking about the fun they have had. I pray that we have "quiet" weather next year! This valuable program for kids would not be possible without dedicated

volunteers like Johann Cozart and Karen & Frank Martens. Thank you! Thank You! Thank You! The next time you are in the company of these fine volunteers, give them a pat on the back—they certainly deserve it!

- Susan Setterlin

Eco-Weekend committee extends thanks

Continued from page 5

grams offered for adults and families. Programs included birding, insects, wildflowers, geology, bats, stream discovery, nature photography, reptiles, moss, astronomy, owl walks and many other activities.

We also conducted a Bio Blitz of the Camp area for the first time, counting how many different plants and animals we could find and identify. We discovered and identified 72 birds, 15 quadrupeds (including mammals, reptiles and amphibians), 115 plants and fungi, and 228 invertebrates (including insects). Not bad for our first-ever Bio Blitz!

The entertaining main Saturday evening program was the presentation, "Wildlife 200 Years Ago" by Manon Van Schoyk of Ohio Nature Education.

Sincere thanks go to the 37 Program Leaders of the Adult and Family programs: (in order of appearance) Jeff Johnson, Rick Fay, Chip Adams, Jamie Kidwell, Mike Hufferberger, David Paris, Patty DeMaria, Sharon Treaster, Jenn

Wallace, Tim Taylor, Katryn Renard, Susie Burks, Heather Stehle, Mike Maier, Gisela McDonald, Larry Koebel, Jim Davidson, Fred Steck, Paulette Ariss, Bob Klips, John Biesecker, Frank Gifford, Dave Horn, Sharon Dalton, Jarrod Burks, Kaylin Dials, Heike Perko, Lisa Adams, Colleen Sharkey, Becky Hufferberger, Sue Gross, Mike Flynn, Ann Cornell, Andrea Moore, Jill Snyder, David Sagan and Pat Adams.

We also owe a big debt of gratitude to the 10 Youth Program Leaders: David Breithaupt, Josh Bryant, Megan DeLaurentis, Jackie DeLuca-Harbour, John Gifford, Dustin Hall, Paula Jones, Tim Pitt, Jim & Vicki Snyder and Carol Zamonski.

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, mammals, 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, Sue Gross, Becky Hufferberger, Liz Melick, and Maura Moran. These are the folks that planned it all!

Come join us for Eco-Weekend 2012! It will be held on May 4-6, 2012 at Camp Oty'Okwa. If you are interested in serving on the Eco-Weekend Committee or volunteering as a Program Leader, call Columbus Audubon at (614) 545-5475 or email to 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,
Eco-Weekend Committee

RETURN IN FIVE DAYS TO

Columbus Audubon/GIAC
505 W. Whittier St.
Columbus, OH 43215
DBA - National Audubon Society

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PERMIT 5146

Columbus Audubon/Grange Insurance Audubon Center joint membership

Apply now for joint membership in Columbus Audubon (CA) and the Grange Insurance Audubon Center (GIAC). We offer these membership levels:

Basic Individual \$30. Includes membership in GIAC and CA, The Song Sparrow newsletter, subscription to Audubon magazine, and many other benefits.

Basic Family \$45. Includes the benefits above plus discounts at the GIAC Nature Store and on GIAC programs for your entire family.

Chickadee \$100. Includes all standard membership bene-

fits plus enrolls you as a Founding Member of GIAC plus an Audubon coffee mug.

Great Blue Heron \$250. Includes all of the above plus your choice of an Audubon cap or tote bag.

Bald Eagle \$500. Includes all of the above plus a copy of the world-famous Guide to North American Birds by David Sibley.

Great Egret \$1000. Includes all of the above plus a personalized birding day in the Columbus area with a guide from Columbus Audubon.

Joint membership benefits are (all levels):

- * Membership in the national Audubon society
- * Subscription to Audubon magazine
- * 10% discount at the GIAC nature store
- * Discount on GIAC program fees
- * Free CA field trips and programs throughout the year
- * Volunteer opportunities
- * Invitations to special events at GIAC
- * Building rental opportunities at GIAC
- * Bi-monthly Song Sparrow newsletter, a joint publication of Columbus Audubon and the Grange Insurance Audubon Center (electronic delivery only for basic membership)
- * An invitation to attend the CA annual meeting
- * Discounts at partnering affiliates
- * Voice in CA/GIAC conservation initiatives

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Method of payment

Check the box to receive the
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☐

Check (made payable to the Grange Insurance Audubon Center)

Master Card

Visa

Discover

Card expiration: _____

Name as it appears on card _____

Please return form to: Kristen Clark,
Grange Insurance Audubon Center
505 W. Whittier Street, Columbus 43215

Or to: Columbus Audubon Membership Chair,
P.O. Box 141350, Columbus, Oh 43214
Chapter code S57