

Saving 'The Pit' at Green Lawn Cemetery

Scouts, Columbus Audubon begin pond restoration

July marked another point of progress at Green Lawn Cemetery as Eagle Scout prospect Scott Mansfield and a group of volunteers from Powell-based Troop 428 put their skills and their muscles to work refurbishing a 220 foot section of the perimeter of the Pond (also known as "The Pit"). In recent years, the perimeter of the Pond has become choked with invasive, non-native bush honeysuckle, which displaced the native flora and blocked any view of the Pond itself.

After meeting on-site with Linda Burkey and Scott Hughes of Green Lawn Cemetery along with Green Lawn Trustee Jim McCormac, it was determined that the project would include removal of bush honeysuckle on the western end of the Pond followed by a planting of native shrubs beneficial to birds and wildlife. At the same time we wanted to upgrade and refurbish the bird feeding station as well

See saving 'The Pit,' page 6

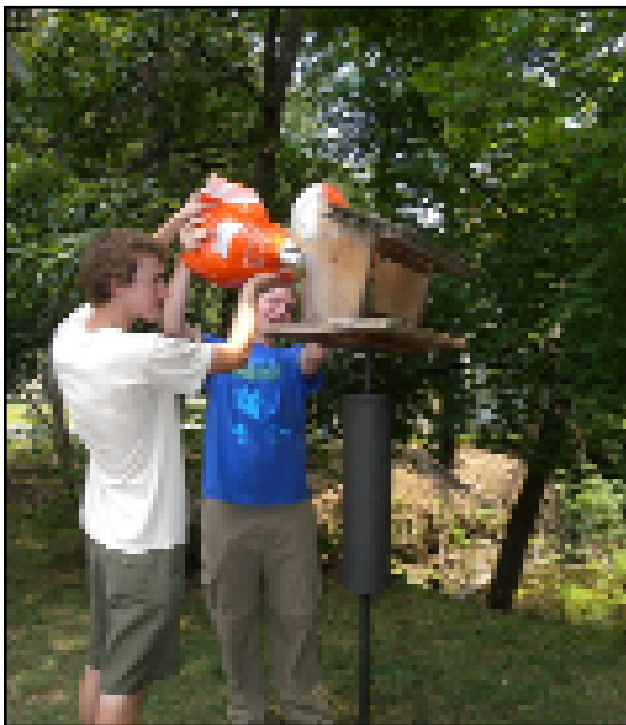


Photos by Tom Sheley, Columbus Audubon

(Above) Scouts from Troop 428 of Powell plant native species near 'The Pit' at Green Lawn Cemetery.

(Right) The scouts refurbish the informational kiosk.

(Below) The scouts plant native Spicebushes in another area near 'The Pit.'



Scouts fill one of the feeders.



Song Sparrow

September-October 2011

Vol. 44 No. 1

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: Fall 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)

Greg Cunningham (Vice Chair)

Alan McKnight

John O'Meara

Beth Crane

Julie Davis

Milt Schott

Carol Drake

Chester Jourdan

Jan Rodenfels

Jeff Chaddock

Bill Heck

Columbus Audubon

Founded 1913

614-545-5475

www.columbusaudubon.org

Twitter: @ColumbusAudubon

Facebook: Columbus-Audubon

Officers: President: Bill Heck, 895-1940

Vice President: Andrea Cook

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: Jackie Bain, jjbain@insight.rr.com

Programs: Darlene Sillick, azuretrails@columbus.rr.com

Field Trips: Earl Harrison, eharrison@ehe.osu.edu

CA Web site: Bill Heck, bill.heck@gmail.com

Ohio Young Birders: Gerry Brevoort,

jbrevoor@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

Sept. - Oct. activities

GIAC programs

Become a member today to receive special discounts on classes, special events, programs and in the Nature Store

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.

GIAC Scouting programs

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

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.

A Swift Night Out in Dublin

Friday, Sept. 9, 7 p.m.

Come to watch Chimney Swifts as they prepare for their fall migration to the Amazon Basin of Peru. Look for "flying cigars" with a fast but very fluttering flight. Chimney Swifts spend all of their waking hours on the wing eating insects. We will meet at 7 p.m. behind Sells Middle School on Rt. 33/161 just west of Dublin Road. For more information, contact Darlene Sillick azuretrails@columbus.rr.com or 614-288-3696.

Birding by Kayak at Twin Lakes

Saturday, Sept. 10 and Oct. 8, 9 a.m.

Please join us at TAASC, The Adaptive Adventure Sports Coalition at Twin Lakes at 6000 Harriott Rd, Powell, Ohio 43065 for a full morning of paddling and birding by kayak. The cost is \$20 to rent the equipment and receive instruction. We will pad-

dle 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. It is a wonderful facility with terrific volunteers and instructors. www.taasc.org

Please bring water, a snack and your binoculars and remember sun screen. Please RSVP to Al LaSala at 614-406-7521 or alasala@insight.rr.com Let him know if you need a tandem kayak.

Three-Creeks to Pickerington Ponds

Sunday, Sept. 11, 8 a.m.

We'll start at Three Creeks Park, where the narrow riparian corridors catch both early sun and migrants. Then we'll hop over to nearby Pickerington Ponds to scout their diverse wetland areas. We'll meet at the Heron Pond parking area of the Creeks. Contact Rob Thorn, 614-551-0643 or robthorn@earthlink.net.

Bird walks at Blendon Woods

Sunday, Sept. 18 and Oct. 2, 8 a.m.

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

See CA programs, page 11

Step Up, Step Out

Connecting Communities to the Nature of Change

As the mission of the Grange Insurance Audubon Center (GIAC) is to awaken and connect participants to the beauty of the natural world in the heart of Columbus and inspire environmental stewardship in their daily lives, our “Step Up, Step Out” program is an integral part of making this happen!

We share a lot about our youth programs. However, did you know that the Center also uses education programs to inspire participants through nature study and recreation and ultimately conservation action within the park and surrounding community?

The Center recognizes that we rely on the community to meet our conservation goals and in turn recognizes the need of the community.

For this reason we established a community centered program, *Step Up, Step Out*, for nearby community members and leaders to get involved and be the nature of change by promoting safe recreation and conservation action within the park and surrounding communities.

GIAC works to keep the Scioto Audubon Metro Park safe for migrating and breeding birds by restoring habitat.

This work benefits local residents by making the park safe as an urban greenspace for nature study, recreation, and conservation action. The objective of *Step up, Step Out* is to increase awareness about GIAC conservation issues, increase park visitation, and increase safety in surrounding neighborhoods. Members are asked to help meet this objective through the following strategies:

1. **Step Up, Step Out Ambassadors:** This group works to raise awareness about GIAC conservation issues. Each year the group adopts an initiative from the center’s conservation plan.

2. **Step Up, Step Out for Fun:** This group supports safe recreation and nature study by creating a presence in the park and surrounding neighborhoods through organized activities such as walk a thons, nature walks, races, volleyball...etc.

3. **Step Up, Step Out for Sustainability:** This group supports the center’s goal of offering free admission by supporting fundraising activities and increasing awareness about the center as a green building.

4. **Step Up, Step Out Events:** This group organizes seasonal events to connect local residents and recruit new members from the Brewery District, German Village, Miranova/Waterford, etc. Events may include cookouts, neighborhood walking tours, or nights out at the center.

It is the intention of the center staff and board that residents of Miranova (who started efforts in June 2001) and other neighbors can be the catalyst for the *Step Up, Step Out* program and work



Photo courtesy of Stefanie Hauck

View of “the spit” from the boat launch at Scioto Audubon Metro Park.

with the Center to better define the above proposed strategies.

Would you be willing to work with your neighbors and community to explore the nature of change and bring the community together?

We have lots of ideas and we’re looking for volunteers from German Village, Waterford, Merion Village, Ganthers Place/Parsons Corridor, North Bank/Nationwide

Arena, Franklinton, Grandview, Downtown Columbus residents, and more. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Jeff Redfield at 614-545-5479.



Easton Town Center’s ‘Change for Charity’ program to benefit GIAC

GIAC is proud and pleased to be a 2011 recipient of the Easton Community Foundation’s “Change for Charity” program. As one of only six charities selected, the cash donation from “Change for Charity” is based on overall parking meter receipts at Easton Town Center and each charity gets two designated months. Our months are September/October 2011.

Basically, while shopping Easton anyone who puts coins in the meters (or gets/pays expired meter tickets), is supporting GIAC.

Look for our display featured in the Vitrine/Glass Display Case, images and information on the various kiosks throughout the mall, and more as GIAC is highlighted for these two months.

The Change for Charity program not only raises significant contributions, but also provides great community connections and exposures!

This program supports our science, con-

Easton
Community
Foundation

servation, and nature education programs as well as the GIAC “free admission” program, keeping our

Center free to all visitors during our public hours six days a week. So, we hope you’ll do some shopping for last minute back-to-school, fall fashions, Halloween, or early holiday gifts, or just enjoy the shops, restaurants, theatre, and more at Easton – all while helping “change” GIAC.

Bluegrass, Beer, & Birds

September 30, 2011 | 6:30 - 11 p.m. | Grange Insurance Audubon Center

In our next effort of hosting community events for adults that are both social and educational, GIAC is pleased to announce: Bluegrass Beer & Birds (B3) Friday, September 30 at the GIAC.

Evening activities include: 6 – 7:30 p.m. - Outdoor seating open & Fall Migratory Bird Tour Spots around the Metro Park.

7:30– 10:30 p.m. - Band performances on the GIAC Lawn (weather permitting) featuring “Grassinine” and other local talent.

You and your friends are invited to join us for night under the stars that brings together great talent, food and beverage from local supports, and is a wonderful chance for both current supporters and new friends to enjoy the GIAC.

For updates and full event information visit our programs and events pages at www.GIAC-Audubon.org. Attire for the event is casual and guests are encouraged to bring chairs and blankets for lawn seating to enjoy the band performances.

Raffle tickets to win one of three to five special package items will be held to benefit the education programs as well.

Advance tickets are (Eastern Blue Bird) - \$20 each (by 9/16) and (Red-Headed Woodpecker) tickets are - \$25 (after 9/16, at the door).

Tickets include: admission, souvenir mug, and \$10 worth of food/beverage tickets. (Must be 21 or older to attend).

Ticket availability limited to 500 guests (in case of poor weather, event moved inside)

Member Benefit: Show proof you are a GIAC/Columbus Audubon joint member and receive an additional \$5 worth of food/beverage tickets. Members also receive 15-percent off in the GIAC Nature Store the night of the event.

Not a member – join when you purchase tickets or at the event. Memberships: \$30 individual, \$45 family. Visit our website for on-line membership information.

Also “Backstage Pass” tickets, that include a pre-event reception from 6-7:30pm in the GIAC Multipurpose Room that includes food, beer, and “unplugged” performances, are available. Backstage Passes for this special event are \$50 each or \$90 per pair. A variety of additional support levels/tickets with benefits and a group level (12 passes and classroom deck shared by up to 3 groups at the Bald Eagle Level/\$1500) can be found on the event site (www.GIAC-audubon.org). Contact Jeff Redfield at jredfield@audubon.org or 614/545-5479 for additional package arrangements or questions about the benefits/Backstage Pass reception.

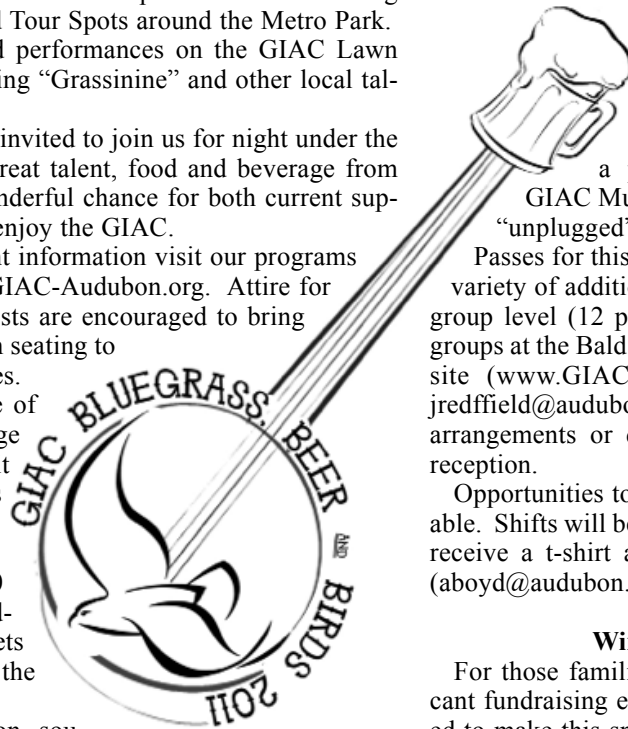
Opportunities to volunteer prior to and at the event are available. Shifts will be held throughout the night and volunteers will receive a t-shirt and general admission. Contact Amy Boyd (aboyd@audubon.org) or 614-545-5486.

Wing Ding on the Whittier update

For those familiar with GIAC’s previous fall special significant fundraising event, Wingding on the Whittier, we’ve decided to make this special gala a celebration held every five years in honor of and marking our major five year(s) anniversaries.

Look for the next Wingding Gala in fall 2014.

Until then our B3 event will become our annual fall fundraising to link and welcome current and new supporters to GIAC!



More chances to give to GIAC and have fun while doing so!

Fall In Love with Nature Breakfast

GIAC will hold it’s “Fall In Love With Nature” Breakfast event on Wednesday, Oct. 12 in the GIAC Multipurpose Room.

Registration starts at 7:30 a.m. and the program begins at 8 a.m. Event concludes no later than 9 a.m. - just in time to make it to the office!

During this free one-hour event, guests will learn more about the Center, it’s programs, mission, and updates, as well as hear from some who’s lives have positively been impacted by GIAC. Guests will also hear more about the vision for the Center which just celebrated its two-year anniversary.

After learning more about GIAC’s programs and mission and “falling in love with nature”, guests will be asked to consider supporting the Center’s Annual Campaign with a gift, pledge or donation. As “keeping the lights on” includes a variety of expenses, these gifts and pledges will help fund the on-going, daily operations of the Center and our educational programs. All gifts from this event stay 100-percent local.

Guests are asked to RSVP with a board member, table captain, or center staff by Sept. 26 to assure a space. After Sept. 26, RSVPs will be accepted until Oct. 5 but only if seats are available. For questions or to RSVP, contact Jeff Redfield, Director of Development at 614-545-5479 or jredfield@audubon.org.

Second Annual Beans & Bowls Benefits GIAC

The owner and students at Clayspace invite you to attend the second annual Beans & Bowls to benefit GIAC on Friday, Nov. 14 from 6:30-9:30 p.m., at Clayspace, 831 S Front Street, in downtown Columbus.

This event features delicious homemade chili served in hand made ceramic bowls for \$20. The best part of the event is you keep the bowl!

And in the gallery, you can tour and see ceramic art made by Clayspace students & resident artists.

Also, resident Artist Todd Hickerson will fire our raku kiln!! Guests will have an opportunity to purchase and glaze a ceramic piece for \$30 to fire in the raku kiln.

A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Grange Insurance Audubon Nature Center’s on-going, daily operations of the Center and our educational programs.

Clayspace is a fully equipped ceramic studio located in the Brewery District offering classes and workshops taught by experienced ceramic artists.

The studio provides a comfortable environment to explore your creative potential.

Call 614-449-8144 for more information or visit www.clayspace831.com.

CA Programs: New year, new format

New time, door prizes, hosts and more in store for CA monthly programs

What do Ice Road Truckers, a movie comedy, a tall man who climbs very high mountains, paleoclimatology and an owl pellet have in common? They are all part of the Columbus Audubon 2011-2012 Program Schedule. We have reached both far and wide to find you interesting and timely topics that are presented by the best speakers. CA is very excited about this season's roster and we hope that you are, too!

Our new starting time is 7 p.m. in which the traditional social time will be replaced by a series of Short Programs.

New monthly program schedule

From 7 – 7:15 p.m. CA will offer the new Short Program series. You will want to arrive on time for these “quick hitter” topics aimed at jump-starting our meetings. There will be new themes and presenters each month. Short Programs will be held in one of the classrooms at the GIAC.

From 7:15 to 7:30 p.m. we will move to the multi-purpose room for refreshments, view some new displays and socialize.

At 7:30 p.m. the main speaker (s) will be introduced and our special monthly program will begin.

Meetings will conclude with a drawing for door prizes.

2011-12 program topics

We are still working on some really great topics and speakers! We can't wait to tell you about them as soon as we nail down all the details! Here is what we have finalized so far:

September 27 – CA Short Program - Mike Flynn will talk about the Sandhill Cranes of Jasper-Pulaski. Mike has led numerous trips to have field trippers gasping in awe of the spectacle of tens of thousands cranes on the ground or in the air. Mike will promote a November field trip that he will lead for Columbus Audubon.

Main speaker - Greg Miller talk about his Big Year (See sidebar for details).

October 25 – CA Short Program - Mike Flynn will give a talk on waterfowl, “Is it a Dabbler or a Diver?”

Kim Graham will have his photographs from the Metro Parks on display. Kim has special permission to be in the parks at special times and in special places to document happenings for publications for Metro Parks.

John O'Meara will be our main speaker. (See sidebar for details).

November 22 - Short Program - TBD. Main Program - Dave and Jill Russell will present “Birding the Ice Trucker Highway” in Alaska. They are in Alaska for most of the summer doing research and banding Boreal Owls for Miami University. As a bonus that evening we will have live owls in the back from Ohio Wildlife Center. We wonder who-o-o will get the owl pellet give away to dissect??

December - no meeting.

January 24 - Short Program - TBD. Main Program - Lonnie G. Thompson a Distinguished University Professor in the School of Earth Sciences and a Research Scientist in the Byrd Polar Research Center at The Ohio State University will speak about his research and the field of ice core paleoclimatology out of the Polar Regions to the highest tropical and subtropical ice fields. He has published over 185 peer-reviewed publications including several in the journal Science, led over 54 field programs, and has been funded by the National Science Foundation, the National Ocean and Atmospheric Association, and NASA. We are indeed honored to have Lonnie Thompson, PhD, presenting to the Columbus Audubon membership.

Meeting enhancements

Door Prizes - Drawings for door prizes will be held at the end of each meeting. Whenever possible, they will be focused around the theme of our speaker's topic. You will want to make sure you are there for a chance at some fun and special items. One complementary ticket will be given to each person present at the end of the meeting. A second ticket will be given to each person who attends the entire meeting. This means you attended the Short Program, too. From time to time we may also hold raffles for special items to raise funds for future meeting presentations.

In support of this effort, we are looking for a person who can cultivate sources to donate raffle items. Please contact Darlene Sillick at azuretrails@columbus.rr.com or 614-761-3696 if you are interested.

New Hosting Leader - Making sure our members and guests feel welcome is a top priority. We have decided to appoint one person to lead the hosting activities for our monthly meetings. Leslie Sours of Upper Arlington has graciously volunteered to fill this role. She will need two or three cheer-

See CA programs, back page

September - October Programs



Greg Miller (right) with Jack Black.

Tuesday, September 27

Please join CA as we kick off our new program season with Greg Miller. He will talk about “The Big Year.” Greg was one of the three stars in the 2004 book by Mark Obmascik who each saw over 700 species in one calendar year 1998.

Now a full length comedy movie starring Jack Black, Steve Martin and Owen Wilson is due for release Oct. 14. Miller served as a birding advisor for the film.

Miller has been birding for about 50 years and his obsession has taken him to all 50 states. He was formerly on the board of directors for Southern Maryland Audubon Society and the board of directors for the Ohio Ornithology Society.

The main program will start after a CA Short Program by Mike Flynn. (See main article for details).

Tuesday October 25

John O'Meara, Executive Director of Metro Parks will talk about the incredible growth of Franklin County's park system in his presentation: Metro Parks: Build It and They Will Come. Six new parks and more than 12,000 acres have been added to the Metro Parks system and more than 5,000 acres of wetlands, prairies, and forests have been restored to attract wildlife. O'Meara will talk about the growth of the Metro Parks in recent years and what can be expected in the future as the park system continues to work to conserve and restore the best natural areas in the Columbus area.



John O'Meara

John O'Meara has served as Executive Director of Metro Parks since 1998. O'Meara lives in Columbus with his wife Helen. His son Peter is a student at The Ohio State University.

Kim Graham will display some of his photographs taken in the Metro Parks. You can view some of his work at kimgraham.zenfolio.com. The main program will start after a CA Short Program by Mike Flynn. (See main article for details).

2011 Birdathon raises almost \$9,000

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. Twenty five percent of the proceeds from the Birdathon this year will go to the Grange Insurance Audubon Center (GIAC) to support their educational programs. The other 75-percent will go to the newly created John Wilson Memorial Education Fund. This fund was created by the Columbus Audubon to honor

our longtime volunteer and friend, John Wilson, who passed away last December. This fund will be used to provide scholarships and assistance for environmental education programs at Columbus Audubon, the GIAC and at other locations.

A big thanks goes out to all of our teams and sponsors for all their efforts. Also, thanks goes out to our two prize sponsors, Zinck's Inn Carriage House in Berlin, Oh, and to Eagle Optics for their donation of Ranger 8x32SRT binoculars. A special thanks goes to committee members Katryn Renard, Elaine Smith, Dave Horn, Jackie Bain, Tom Sheley and Julie Davis.

There were also several teams that raised

amazing donations this year. Teams that raised over \$1000 were: **Stellar Jays (\$1000)**, **Wild Birds Unlimited (\$3365)** and **Early Birders (\$3795)**. Also of note: the **Slate Run Juncos raised \$865**.

The teams who saw the most species were **Wild Birds Unlimited at 157 species**, then the **Quick Three Beards at 138**, **Red eyed wearies at 108** and the **Early Birders at 103**. Of special note; the Early Birders, who were in the top four of both donations and total birds, is our Ohio Young Birders team! Congratulations and thanks to all of our teams and sponsors for another great Birdathon!

- Julie Davis

Columbus Audubon 2011 Bird Seed Fundraiser update

Fall migration is upon us and time is drawing near to think about stocking up for the bird feeding season. The CA Bird Seed Fundraiser is a perfect way to stock up on quality seeds and seed blends and lend a helping hand to both birds and Columbus Audubon. Usually, we like to include the CA seed order form in this issue of the *Song Sparrow*. However, over the past several months, worldwide supply and demand issues have created the "perfect storm" in the commodities market, causing bird seed costs to be

very unpredictable. Because of this extremely volatile situation, we are not able to quote the prices on our bird seed and bird seed blends for the 2011 fundraiser at this time. As the new crop becomes available in September and October, we will be better able to set prices for the fundraiser that will be a fair value to you. Look for the Columbus Audubon 2011 seed order form in the next issue of the *Song Sparrow*. We will also be posting the order form online at www.columbusaudubon.org as soon as prices become available.

OYBC: Young birders can't get enough!

Summer brings a break from school for most members of Ohio Young Birders Club (OYBC). But that doesn't keep these students from being crazy busy, outside & enjoying nature! At the end of July, OYBC participated in a BioBlitz at the Port Clinton Lakefront Preserve. This biological study set out to document all the flora and fauna found on the nature preserve, including butterflies and other insects, birds, plants, reptiles, amphibians, fish, and mammals. In August, OYBC traveled to South Bass Island for birding and some hands-on water snake research with

"The Snake Lady." As the school year resumes, OYBC doesn't plan to slow down! Young birders will share a "dessert tailgate" before their Chimney Swift Watch on Sept. 9 in Dublin. And all young birders will receive free admission to the Midwest Birding Symposium at Lakeside on Sept. 17 - a fantastic opportunity to rub elbows with amazing experts, along with other students from around the region. In October, OYBC will bird at The Wilds, followed by a safari tour of rare and endangered animals. More details can be found at www.columbusaudubon.org/oybc.

Saving 'The Pit' at Green lawn Cemetery

Continued from page 1

as paint and restore the kiosk to make it useful for map distribution and educational statements about Green Lawn Cemetery, the Grange Insurance Audubon Center, Columbus Audubon and the Green Lawn IBA.

The project was laid out in three phases. Phase one, completed July 7, included the removal of the bush honeysuckle and herbicidal painting of the stumps to prevent resprouting. Completed July 22, phase two had the volunteers digging and potting the Spicebush to be transplanted at the Green Lawn Pond. Ironically, the same Spicebush were originally salvaged from a building site in Dublin as part of another Eagle Scout

project several years ago, and were transplanted into a National Wildlife Federation Backyard Habitat at the home of Dr. Steve Rissing. Our thanks go out to Dr. Rissing for his contribution of several beautiful specimens to the project. Phase three was completed July 23 when the shrubs were planted, the bird feeding station was updated with new poles and cleaned feeders and the kiosk was given a fresh look and coat of paint. A final planting session when cooler weather arrives will complete the introduction of native Spicebush, viburnums, dogwoods and Paw Paw to the landscape. We took care to leave a few vistas into the Pond for optimum viewing opportunities. The reaction to the project from passing birders and visitors has been very positive, with

several folks mentioning they were unaware that a pond even existed behind the wall of shrubbery. The feathered residents of the area seemed pleased as well. While the Scouts took a well-deserved time out to rehydrate and rest in the shade, a male Red-bellied Woodpecker brought his offspring to one of the feeders, a Blue Jay family dropped to the ground to glean a few seeds and White-breasted Nuthatches scurried over the tree trunks caching peanuts.

In all, twenty-one Boy Scouts took part in the project along with six adults including CA advisors Tom Sheley and Tom and Jackie Bain. Thus far, a total of 156 volunteer hours have been contributed to the Green Lawn Cemetery Pond restoration.

-By Tom Sheley

Grange Insurance Audubon Center

Special seasonal events coming up at the GIAC

Being a "Green" Student: Back to School Event

Come to the Grange Insurance Audubon Center to get tips on how to make eco-friendly choices at home and at school.

Being a Green Student is our second annual eco-smart back-to-school event for parents, families and students throughout Columbus. A back-to-school event different than your families have ever seen. Join us on Saturday, Sept. 10, from 9 a.m. until noon, to learn about how you can play a role in lightening the load on the planet. You will have the opportunity to buy eco-friendly products from our local vendors and enter raffles to win cool prizes. There are games and fun for the entire family.

The event includes a Back to School Clothing Swap - If you bring a reusable grocery bag (e.g. Giant Eagle reusable

shopping bag), you can fill it up with 'up' cycled back to school clothing. If you do not have a reusable bag, you can purchase a bag from the Grange Insurance Audubon Center for only \$2 to fill up. Have clothes to donate? Donate today to get a VIP Pass to get first pick at the best clothes on the day of the swap!

Contact Victoria Strickland via email to arrange a drop off before Friday, Sept. 10 or for more information on the Back-to-School swap or the event itself!

Stay afterwards to listen to the Lydia Brownfield show on the grass outside the center, playing at noon.

Trick or Tweet!

Grange Insurance Audubon Center's Third Annual Halloween Celebration takes 'fright' on Friday Oct. 28 from 6-9

p.m.

A seasonal favorite... join us for a fun night of tasty alternative treats, candy crafts, fun-filled games, recycled costumes, face painting, night hikes, live animals and more! Admission to the event will only be \$2 per person (\$1 for our partnership school students). For more information, contact Victoria Strickland via email at tstrickland@audubon.org.

Holiday Shopping Mall

GIAC will host the second annual "Holiday Shopping Mall" on Nov. 12 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

In addition to wonderful GIAC nature store items, we're inviting local for-profit artisans and businesses, and other educational and museum non-profit gift

See GIAC seasonal, back page

Columbus Audubon & NWF

Backyards for Wildlife: What question am I asked the most?

Being a Habitat Ambassador for eight years, the question I am asked the most is, "Why did you start doing this?"

When I bought my first and only home 18 years ago, I put out perennial wildflower seeds for butterflies, planted some annuals and put a summer birdbath in the middle. I'm certainly no gardener, but to me, it was my heaven away from the bureaucracy of work.

Then something amazing happened. I sat in a lawn chair on the porch and saw my first "special" bird, which I found out later was an American Robin.

I felt like I got to know it. I know now that there were probably many different Robins, but I felt I learned to recognize it from the others.

In fact, I observed it so carefully that I thought the immature Robins were a different kind of bird entirely. It came every day, and I laughed as it splashed water all over. I brought friends over to watch it, and they laughed with me.

Then I saw my first Monarch butterfly. I followed it around until it sat still on what I now know was a butterfly weed (orange milkweed). I still have the faded photo I took of that precious moment I remember so clearly. I hurried home daily to see the garden and started remembering a feeling I

had lost – peace.

My love of nature really began when I was a kid. I remember the fallow farm field where I explored flowers, bugs, and turtles, and where every day was a new adventure. The summer seemed to last forever. In the fields and surrounding woods, I felt peace. When they were torn down for apartments, the topic of many of my school papers was conservation.

I inherited my love of nature. My Dad raised homing pigeons on the rooftop of his skyscraper apartment in Brooklyn, New York. He brought the birds to Ohio, and Mom and Dad kept them until the regulations changed and made keeping pigeons illegal. So they turned to attracting wild birds. Mom used to take me on walks at Blacklick Woods and told me the names of all the wildflowers.

Dad told me that he had to walk blocks to see one, single tree in the middle of a Brooklyn crossroad.

My parents saved up money to plant a tree or bush every year they lived in their home in east Columbus.

In our suburban yard, we had many kinds of birds, bugs, and mammals. However, even as a child, I could see them disappear as the area built up. Gone were the songs of the Killdeer and

Mockingbirds and the visits from beautiful, large Box Turtles. Soon, I got caught up in school and work, and lost the peaceful feeling that nature had provided.

When Dad developed dementia, the one thing he said over and over was that he missed his birds. Mom and Dad's favorite bird was the male Cardinal.

Dad always called it "red bird." His advice to me before he passed away was for me to do anything to keep the red birds in my yard.

To carry on Mom and Dad's tradition, I began to learn everything I could about wildlife. I started by planting a native tree in their name. By experiencing nature in my yard, I have rediscovered that special feeling of peace that I felt in the fields and woods as a kid. I hope that by experiencing nature in your yard, you can bring that feeling to your heart, too. Rest in Peace Mom and Dad.

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.

-Toni Stahl

GIAC welcomes new volunteers

Grange Insurance Audubon Center is highlighting our new volunteers. We have had the fortune to welcome 24 new volunteers in the past six months. They have been helping with the Habitat, Education, Nature Store, Special Events, Bird Banding, Point Count and Front Desk Operations. We appreciate the volunteers who have served us since our opening. They faithfully work in many of the same areas.

We would like to introduce you to one of our newest volunteers, Lisa Feldman. Lisa became attracted to volunteering for us because of the beautiful and intelligent design of the building and wanted to be a part of a positive vision of nature being brought to the urban population. She said "I am originally from a very rural part of Pennsylvania and getting out into Mother Nature and the woods is extremely important to my world view. I want to share this love of mother earth with children."



Lisa Feldman

Lisa has volunteered at our special events and works in the Nature Store two days a week. When she comes in, she brings wild flowers and makes arrangements for us to enjoy around the Center. We all love it that Lisa has organized our kitchen, library and front office storage. "Part of my culture is to volunteer – it goes way back in the fami-

ly." Lisa continues, "Having overcome a life threatening illness, I enjoy the socialization that volunteering provides and the opportunity to be of service to others."

Lisa is a Licensed Social Worker specializing in the use of horticulture, art, music, meditation, physical activity and education to address the needs of at risk populations.

Lisa has worked in many organizations including her most recent Columbus Area Wilson House as a Program Manager and Buckeye Ranch as a Horticulture Group Specialist.

Other volunteer activities include: YMCA, Gardens at Gantz, Nature Conservancy and Sierra Club. Lisa states, "My activities include all things to do with plants, gardening, hiking, swimming, writing and reading. I am about to release my first album, *Searching for the Meaning of Life* with piano and vocals." This album is located on her website.

GIAC hosts special Red, White & Boom private events

As part of the 2011 "Wine and Warbler" silent auction, three private events/rentals were offered to the highest bidders. Each package ran from 6:30 – 11:30 the night of Red White & Boom and included amazing views of the annual downtown July fireworks event, parking, and a shared bartender (guests could bring their own alcohol as long as the bartender served it). Up for bid in the silent auction were: * Red White Boom and BBQ – for 40 people in west ½ the GIAC multipurpose room and ½ the north deck. The package included catering with a BBQ theme (minimum bid was \$900).

* Red White Boom – Burgers and Bats – for 40 people in the east ½ of the GIAC multipurpose room and ½ the north deck. The package included a picnic style catering menu featuring burgers and brats (minimum

bid was \$900).

* Red White Boom – Room with a View – featuring the fabulous inside Bird Viewing/Library Room view of downtown (or an outside view), this package included up to 7 bottles of wine and appetizers for 20 people (minimum bid was \$600).

Making this revenue opportunity possible was one of the new GIAC caterers, Mass Appeal. Mass Appeal, along with 4 other new caterers were added to the list of approved caterers this spring bringing the total to 11. For a full list, see "Rentals" on our website.

Got a group of friends and family members who love fireworks or Red White & Boom? Look for these package opportunities to be offered again at Wine and

Warblers II on May 9, 2012 (pre-bids will be accepted).

To say "thank you" for donating the food and service for these three packages, GIAC would like to highlight Mass Appeal Catering & Events.

Mass Appeal has been providing fine food and professional service to the Columbus community for over 25 years. Their specialties include elegant dinners and elaborate hors d'oeuvres receptions, and talented staff assist customers with all

aspects of an event planning process. MA caters to your specific needs and looks forward to helping you make your event a success. Consider them for your next GIAC event! Contact Sarah Selhorst at 614-985-2215 or sarah@massappealdining.com.



Artist Jim Turanchik to exhibit at GIAC through January 2012

If you subscribed to Bird Watcher's Digest over the past twenty years you were likely to encounter the work of artist/illustrator Jim Turanchik.

Beginning Sept. 9, limited edition prints of this Ohio bird artist's watercolors will be on display at GIAC. "I can't imagine a richer subject matter than birds," says the artist. "For beauty, variety, and vitality they are unsurpassed in the natural world."

Turanchik first became interested in birds as a student at Ohio State.

Living off-campus near the fairgrounds made for some surprising discoveries. "I'd take our dogs over to the fairgrounds parking lot to run. There was a lot of open grass-

land there where killdeer and meadowlarks nested and kestrels hunted – all new and exciting to me."

A resident of Columbus, Jim says Ohio may not have dramatic mountain ranges or rugged coastlines, but when it comes to bird migration it is spectacular. "The 200-plus species listed for the Scioto River-Greenlawn IBA speaks eloquently of that."

Jim works in a loose, impressionistic style, emphasizing expressive form over anatomical detail: "I'm not about painting



feathers. The bird's topography has got to be right, but what's more important to me is the life that animates it."

And that, according to the artist, can only be captured by paying close attention to nuance and gesture.

The exhibit is located on the north wall outside the GIAC Nature Store, where unframed prints of Jim's work are available, as well as his Great North

American Songbirds Series of note cards. The art display will run through January of 2012.

SEPTEMBER 2011



<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
4 Audubon afternoons 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.	5 NOTE: GIAC closed every Monday	6 7	7 Tour of LEED Gold GIAC building 10 a.m.	8 9	9 A Swift Night Out at Sells Middle School in Dublin, 7 p.m. Beginning Sept. 9 thru January 2012, limited edi- tion watercolor prints by Jim Turanchik will be on display at GIAC.	10 Birding by kayak at Twin Lakes, 9 a.m. Audubon afternoons 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. Being a "Green" Student: Back to School Event, 9 a.m. until noon.
11 Audubon afternoons 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. Three Creeks to Pickerington Ponds, 8 a.m.	12 13	13 14	14 Tour of LEED Gold GIAC building 10 a.m.	15 16	16 17	17 Outdoor Cubs (Tiger Cubs), 1 – 2:30 pm Audubon afternoons 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. Conservation Cubs (Tigers - Webelos), 9 am – noon
18 Bird walk at Blendon Woods, 8 a.m. World Conservation Days (Cub-Level Specific), 12 - 3 pm Webelos Audubon afternoons 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.	19 20	20 21	21 Tour of LEED Gold GIAC building 10 a.m.	22 23	23 24	24 Service in the Preserves - Conkles Hollow State Nature Preserve, 7:45 a.m. Audubon afternoons 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
25 Get Energized and Take Eco- Action at the GIAC (Junior) Audubon afternoons 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.	26 27	27 28	28 Tour of LEED Gold GIAC building 10 a.m.	29 30	30 24- continued	24- continued Journey Between Earth and Sky at the GIAC (Daisy), 10 -11:30 am Explore the Many Wonders of Water at the GIAC (Brownies), 12:30 -2:30 pm



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.



OCTOBER 2011



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	NOTE: GIAC closed every Monday					1 Audubon afternoons 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
2 Beginning Birders at Blendon Woods 2 p.m. Bird walk at Blendon Woods 8 a.m. Audubon afternoons 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.	3	4	5 Tour of LEED Gold GIAC building 10 a.m.	6	7	8 World Conservation Days (Cub-Level Specific) 9 – 11:30 am Bear Outdoor Cubs (Tiger Cubs), 12:30 – 2 pm Migration at Alum Creek & Hoover Reservoirs, 8 a.m. Audubon afternoons, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
9 Conservation Cubs (Tigers - Webelos), noon – 3 pm Birding by kayak at Twin Lakes, 9 a.m. Audubon afternoons 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.	10	11	12 Fall In Love with Nature Breakfast, 7:30 - 9 a.m. Tour of LEED Gold GIAC building 10 a.m.	13	14	15 Service in the Preserves Jackson Bog SNP October 15-16, overnight camping trip Audubon afternoons 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
16 Birds at Pickerington Ponds, 2 p.m. Audubon afternoons 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.	17	18	19 Tour of LEED Gold GIAC building 10 a.m.	20	21	22 Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts Make A Difference Day, service projects site. 8am – 2 pm Audubon afternoons
23 Audubon after- noons, 1 p.m. for both the 23rd and 30th Explore the Many Wonders of Water at the GIAC (Brownies)	24 31	25 CA Short Program - "Is it a Dabbler or a Diver?" by Mike Flynn at 7 p.m. John O'Meara, Executive Director of Metro Parks speaks at 7:30 p.m.	26 Tour of LEED Gold GIAC building 10 a.m.	27	28 Trick or Tweet, 6-9 p.m. at the GIAC	29 Journey Between Earth and Sky at the GIAC (Daisy), 1:30 – 3 pm Get Energized and Take Eco-Action at the GIAC (Junior), 9-noon Audubon afternoons, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Save the Date:

Sandhill Cranes of Jasper-Pulaski Jasper-Pulaski Fish & Wildlife Area, IN
Friday, Nov. 11 - Sunday, Nov. 13

Save the Date:

Holiday Shopping Mail: Nov. 12 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Second Annual Beans & Bowls Benefits GIAC on Friday, Nov. 14 from 6:30-9:30
p.m., at Clayspace, 831 S Front Street, in downtown Columbus.

CA programs

Continued from page 2

Beginning Birders- Fall Migrants Sunday, Oct. 2, 2 p.m.

As September gives way to autumn, many birds will migrate to southern destinations. Others will spend the winter right here. This refuge has a wide variety of habitats on a short and easy trail. We will begin in the nature center then hit the trail to look and listen for the fall migrants. Meet at the nature center at Blendon Woods Metro Park. Contact Mike Flynn at 614-769-1681.

Migration at Alum Creek & Hoover Reservoirs

Saturday, Oct. 8, 8 a.m.

We'll start at Alum Creek, where the small woodlands at the southern end of the Lake are excellent migrant traps, and the wide lower reservoir attracts a wide variety of waterfowl. After taking in the morning migrants there, we'll move to the upper end of nearby Hoover Reservoir. We'll meet at the Westerville Community Center parking lot (on Cleveland Ave just north of Main

Street. For more details contact Rob Thorn, 614-551-0643 or robthorn@earthlink.net.

Birds at Pickerington Ponds Sunday, Oct. 16, 2 p.m.

This wetland refuge is an important stopover point for migrating birds as they wing their way south. This refuge has rich, diverse habitat that supports many wetland and upland species including waterfowl, herons, raptors and songbirds. We will search for and observe the birds and other wildlife. Meet at the Glacier Knoll Picnic Area. Contact Mike Flynn at 614-769-1681.

Sandhill Cranes of Jasper-Pulaski Jasper-Pulaski Fish & Wildlife Area, IN Friday, Nov. 11 - Sunday, Nov. 13

Imagine the spectacle of 10,000-15,000 or more Sandhill Cranes as they vocalize, fly in and out, feed, socialize and rest in this unique wildlife area located along their southern journey. This is the largest gathering of sandhills in the eastern U.S. The sights and sounds of the birds at this

wildlife area are incredible. It is an amazing experience. A short preview about this trip will be presented at the beginning of the Sept. 27 monthly meeting. Contact Mike Flynn at 614-769-1681, by Sept 28.

Service in the Preserves Conkles Hollow State Nature Preserve September 24, 7:45 a.m.

Our service project this month will be to install short sections of split rail fence and to do some surface leveling. Please call Katryn Renard by Wednesday, Sept. 21 at 614-261-7171 to sign up.

Jackson Bog State Nature Preserve October 15-16, overnight camping trip

Please join us as we explore so-called Jackson Bog State Nature Preserve in Stark County. Please call Katryn Renard by Monday, Oct. 10 at 614-261-7171 to sign up. Bring your lunch for Saturday, water, and camping equipment. Saturday dinner and Sunday breakfast and lunch will be provided for a nominal fee.

GIAC activities

Continued from page 2

Scouting programs continued

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 arough@audubon.org.

Conservation Cubs (Tigers - Webelos)

\$10/Scout. Earn your Wildlife Conservation Belt Loop & Pin all in a day at the GIAC!

9/17 - 9 a.m. - noon or 10/9 -

noon - 3 p.m.

World Conservation Days (Cub-Level Specific)

\$9/Scout. Come and get a jump-start on earning your Cub Scout World Conservation Award!

9/18/11 Noon - 3 p.m. Webelos or 10/8/11 9 - 11:30 a.m. Bear.

Outdoor Cubs (Tiger Cubs)

\$8/Scout. 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!

9/17 - 1 - 2:30 p.m. or 10/8 - 12:30 - 2 p.m.

Journey Between Earth and Sky at the GIAC (Daisy)

\$8/Scout. 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 when you leave here!

9/24 - 10 - 11:30 a.m. or 10/29 - 1:30 - 3 p.m.

Explore the Many Wonders of Water at the GIAC (Brownies)

\$9/Scout. 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 impor-

tant to keep it clean and conserve it! You'll be ready to action upon returning home to your own community!

9/24 - 12:30 - 2:30 p.m. or 10/30 - noon - 2 p.m.

Get Energized and Take Eco-Action at the GIAC (Junior)

\$10/Scout. 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!

9/25 - 12:30 - 3:30 p.m. or 10/29 - 9-noon.

Save the Date

Saturday, Oct. 22, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. (various shifts)

Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts Make A Difference Day, service projects site.

Call Allison at 614-545-5482 to sign-up or for more information.

Birthday parties at GIAC

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. A sampling of themes are: Happy Bird-Day, Nature Explorers, Operation Conservation, Habitat Detectives and more. Call Allison Roush at 614-543-5482 for more information or to book a party.

BIG Adventure

Audubon Adventures Day Camp doubles attendance from first year

Audubon Adventures Day Camp has been a huge success this summer. We have doubled our numbers from the first year and have engaged some very happy campers throughout the summer. David G. reports he really enjoyed his summer at the GIAC –“it’s fun because you get to catch fish, turtles, and frogs and you get to learn about lots of different birds.”

Topics have ranged from Audubon Artists where we explore different art mediums and celebrate the wonderful paintings that John James Audubon left us, to Eco-Friendly kids where the campers learn how to “fox walk,” make fire by friction, and tune into nature by finding a special place in the forest for a “sit-spot.”

Animal Trackers has been exciting as we explore the river and wetland to find tracks left by our animal friends. As Audubon continues to restore the habitat on the peninsula as part of our conservation plan, it is interesting for the campers to see who inhabits this area and learn what we need to do to make the habitat suitable for all wildlife. Last but not least is our Amazing Flyers, where kids learn about why bird’s bones are hollow, how their beaks and feet are adapted to their habitat and to what they eat as they learn about our wonderful winged friends. The last week of camp is a celebration of all the topics presented this summer as all the activities culminate in Conservation Countdown.

We were very fortunate to have an outstanding staff this summer.



Photos courtesy of GIAC

Marci Lininger, Raymond Sessley, Amy Boyd, Allison Roush, Nicole Jackson, Victoria Strickland and Towanda (Shelley) Warren.

Marci Lininger is in her second year at The Ohio State University and is getting a Masters degree in Environmental Science and Natural Resources.

Nicole Jackson will be graduating from The Ohio State University in December with a degree in Parks and Recreation.

Marci and Nicole are here through a fellowship sponsored by Together Green Youth, funded by Toyota through the National Audubon Society.

Raymond Sessley just graduated from Centennial High School and is headed to Wright State University on an academic scholarship and is undecided in his major.

Sessley has been with us for five years as part of our Urban Conservation Crew and began his service to GIAC through the Miracle Gro Capital Scholars Program in 2006.

Towanda Warren is a senior at Ohio Dominican University and is studying Peace and Justice. Towanda is serving as a fellow from the Columbus Foundation and is working with our Urban Conservation Crew partner camps.

Allison Roush and Victoria Strickland are full-time educators at the center and have done an outstanding job in their leadership roles this summer.

GIAC enhances other area summer camps with special programming

This summer we partnered with multiple South Side community organizations to provide a science and conservation component to their summer camp. Columbus Urban League, Central Community House and the Dowd Center have all participated in summer programming at the GIAC. This program is referred to as our Urban Conservation Crew because these visits are a partnership between urban youth programs and the Audubon Center. The camps and their students have multiple visits that span throughout the entire summer, where we are able to build and expand on scientific and conservation focused content.

The students we work with vary in age

from kindergarten through high school. The camps express their focus for the summer and we develop a unique lesson to reflect their target areas while providing a fun and unique conservation component. This summer we have focused on energy within ecosystems and how our conservation work is a tool to maintain the importance of the food webs within the park. Each group ends with an ‘Amazing Race’ to review their content and enjoy a summer day with fun activities from their visits in the past.

Some groups are also participating in conservation projects.

For example, our center was in need of rehabilitating the entryway rain garden and

the Columbus Urban League students learned of invasive plants and the harm they pose to different habitats, as well as food chains. Therefore, we used that opportunity have them remove the invasive cattail that was growing in the rain garden and replant native species in their place. The conservation aspects are a tool used to connect science to real life experiences. We have had a great summer, serving over 100 students in our partnerships this summer.

So if you get a chance, visit the Grange Insurance Audubon Center and look to your left as you enter and marvel at the hard work of the Columbus Urban League Youth’s rain garden!

Columbus Audubon

Conservation corner: The Egret success

This column frequently addresses issues of concern to the environmental community, pointing out action that must be taken immediately before dire and irreversible consequences result. Working for conservation causes can become quite depressing, with the odds seemingly stacked against those of us taking the side of Mother Nature. Sometimes, it is worthwhile to reflect upon some of the major victories of the conservation movement. One such victory concerns egrets.

Over a century ago, great egrets and snowy egrets were species in grave danger. It was trendy for women to use bird plumes ("aigrettes") to adorn their hats. A profitable market for certain bird feathers developed and plume hunters slaughtered large numbers of egrets to obtain their

showy feathers. Both species teetered on the brink of extinction. Various individuals such as Frank Chapman and George Bird Grinnell became concerned.

The National Audubon Society was eventually formed out of this concern. Legislation was enacted to protect the plumed birds. Wildlife refuges were established, starting with Florida's Pelican Island, designated by Theodore Roosevelt in 1903. The great egret has become the symbol of National Audubon.

Privately owned wildlife refuges were also established to help egrets and other birds recover from near extinction. E. A. McIlhenny, the developer of Tabasco sauce, founded a bird colony in the 1890s on Avery Island in Louisiana.

Mr. McIlhenny started with eight young

egrets, raised them in captivity on the island, and eventually released them. They returned the following spring, with others of their species. Today, thousands of great and snowy egrets and other water birds return to Avery Island each year to the delight of conservationists (and lovers of Tabasco sauce).

Conservation seems often a daunting task, but concerned individuals and organizations can make a great impact on preserving our natural heritage.

- Bruce Lindsay

(Note added by Dave Horn: While Columbus Audubon does not endorse commercial products, I personally use Tabasco sauce as I know that indirectly I am helping egrets.)

Invasive species: Asian Longhorned Beetle

Once again, a new insect pest has appeared in Ohio. In early June, the Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) was discovered infesting maple trees in Bethel, Clermont County, east of Cincinnati. Surveys have discovered nearly 700 infested trees in a one square-mile area and it is assumed that the beetles had been present for a few years before detection. The ALB is a large beetle, about 1 1/2 inches long, shiny black with white spots and long black and white antennae. The damage is caused by the larvae, boring in many kinds of hardwood trees. Maple, poplar and willow are favorites but other ornamental, shade and forest trees are susceptible. There are no effective natural enemies of the beetles in North America. ALB apparently reached the USA in wooden packing material (crates or pallets) and was first discovered in Brooklyn, NY in 1996. That infestation, and others in New York, New Jersey and Chicago were eradicated



Courtesy of the N.Y. Agr. Experiment Station
Asian Longhorned Beetle.

cated due to timely reporting and aggressive treatment. A persistent population in Massachusetts may be close to elimination. Apparently it's now Ohio's turn. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources is still determining the limits of the infestation,

and authorities have prohibited movement of firewood out of the infested area. Informed citizens (like Audubon members) can help by keeping watch for the ALB, which is most likely to show up first in an urban or suburban setting. Report any beetle that looks like ALB to 1-855-252-6450 or www.BeetleBusters.info.

What if we do nothing? An established ALB population may not be as devastating as the Emerald Ash Borer seems to have become, but over time we stand to lose many maples and other hardwood trees. Woodpeckers will eat plenty of larvae but not enough to keep the numbers in check. If the ALB infestation remains small and confined, there is a good chance that it can be eliminated.

Remember: When you move firewood you may move bugs. - Dave Horn

Article courtesy of New York Agr. Experiment Station).

Columbus Audubon offers 2012 Entertainment Books for sale

By popular demand, Columbus Audubon again offers Entertainment Books for sale for \$30 each. You may purchase the 2011 Entertainment book at any of the following outlets:

Better Earth - 59 Spruce St. (North Market), Columbus (614) 224-6196

Nature's Barn - 20 E. Columbus St., Lithopolis (740) 837-1929

Wild Birds Unlimited - 21 Cherry Park Square, Westerville (614) 899-9453

Wild Birds Unlimited - 5400 Riverside Drive, Columbus (614) 766-2103

Wild Birds Unlimited - 6839 E. Broad Street Columbus (Blacklick Center) (614) 860-1133

or directly from Columbus Audubon: Dave Horn, 262-0312, horn.1@osu.edu.

Contact Dave if you'd like to purchase an out-of-town book. The sale runs through Dec. 15.

GIAC Stewardship Board - Recapping July decisions

At its July 2011 Board meeting, the GIAC Stewardship Board approved some changes which we'd like to share.

I. Changes to the Center's Hours of Operations: Based upon analysis of walk-in visitation patterns, the GIAC staff recommend additional changes to traditional hours of operation that coincide with Daylight Savings Time (starting in November, ending in March) in which Tuesday – Friday closing hour is at 5pm (winter) versus 6pm (spring – fall). The Board approved the changes to winter hours for Saturday from 9am-3pm to 10am-3pm and for Sunday to be changed from 11am-5pm to Noon-5pm. On occasions when events are occurring at either the Center or the Scioto Audubon Metro Park, Center hours of operation will be

extended to accommodate anticipated visitors.

II. Rental Rate Changes: After reviewing data provided by the staff on rental fees charged by venues in the central Ohio area, coupled with rental use and associated costs to GIAC, the Board approved some increases in the GIAC rental rates. These changes included a change in the hourly rate structure for both the Center/Center Grounds and the Multipurpose Room (+ \$75/hour and + \$300 deposit), for the Wetland Deck and adjacent lawn (less \$100/hour), and for each classroom or flexspace (+ \$35/hour to \$100 an hour).

GIAC Board Transitions:

In July the Board approved the appointment of Carol Drake, Vice President of

Marketing for Grange Insurance to the board for a 3-year term starting in July. Carol has a long history of involvement with Audubon Ohio and the development of the GIAC project.

Also recently joining the board was Milt Schott of Milton B. Schott & Co. Milt was instrumental in advocating for and helping secure the \$250,000 Harold R. Schott Foundation's gift to the GIAC Capital Campaign. Milt was approved to join the board in May for a 3-year term.

Bill Heck, new Board President of the Columbus Audubon Chapter, as part of his new role also joins the GIAC Board. Julie Davis, outgoing CA Board President, has accepted a direct appointment (not association with her former role) and will be con-

See GIAC Board, page 15

Letter from the president of the CA Board

I'm honored to have been elected by the Columbus Audubon board of directors as President of Columbus Audubon. It's an amazing time to be involved in CA! Just a few highlights:

We have a tremendous roster of speakers for the coming year. From Greg Miller, legendary birder and consultant for the movie *The Big Year*, to John O'Meara, head of the Columbus Metro Parks, to Lonnie Thompson of the Byrd Polar Research Institute at OSU, to Kenn Kaufman. And those names are only a sample. You'll see all the details in upcoming issues and on the Columbus Audubon website.

Our Ohio Young Birders Club chapter continues to grow and prosper. These youths – and their advisors – are awesome, and I think we have the best OYBC chapter in the state.

The John Wilson Memorial Education Fund already has started to award scholarships to area kids. The contributions that you made to the fund through fundraisers such as the Birdathon are being put to good use.

Our line-up of field trips continues to grow, with exciting opportunities for major trips on the horizon.

Also, not only do we have an outstanding group of people contributing on our board, but we also have volunteers in new areas. You'll have a chance to meet many of these folks at meetings, on field trips, and in other venues throughout the year. I hope you'll thank them for all that they do.

The GIAC center and our chapter have developed a strong partnership. But what is even more exciting is that the partnership is still young – the center has been open for only two years – and the possibilities are endless. Yes, it's an exciting time to be involved in Columbus Audubon. Why don't you plan to come to a program, join a field trip, or even volunteer so you can see what all the excitement is about?

Yes, that sounded like a good closing line. But I can't close without sending a heartfelt thank you to our outgoing president, Julie Davis. Julie is the one who has positioned us to grow and to take advantage of the opportunities that we now have. Thanks, Julie, for your leadership... but don't think we're going to let you get away!

**Bill Heck, President
Board of Directors
Columbus Audubon**

Letter from the president of the GIAC Board

Dear GIAC and Columbus Audubon Members and Friends,

Thank you for your membership and support! This is the 12th joint newsletter of the Grange Insurance Audubon Center and Columbus Audubon. Our joint membership is the first of its kind in the Audubon system and is touted as a best practice and model for future Centers and their local chapters. Together we have come a long way in strengthening Audubon's presence and commitment to bird conservation in the Columbus area.

The Center is coming up on its second anniversary of its opening on August 28, 2009. The mission of the Center, to awaken and connect participants to the beauty of the natural world in the heart of Columbus and inspire environmental stewardship in their daily lives, has guided the development of our education and conservation programs from the start.

The Center's success is due largely to the quality of its partnerships. Among the most important partners is Columbus Audubon. While the Center and the Chapter each develop their own programs unique to their respective roles and areas of expertise, there is also a lot of coming together. The Chapter provides volunteers to GIAC for bird identification and special events. GIAC provides meeting space for the Chapter.

The Chapter provides the editor for this newsletter. GIAC handles its printing and mailing. The Chapter has a great line-up of speakers for the coming year, as well as a host of field trip opportunities, for the benefit of our joint members.

Coming soon is the roll-out in September of National Audubon's strategic plan and its overarching conservation goals. Together GIAC and Columbus Audubon will be looking at ways to further those conservation goals here in the Columbus area, thereby reducing threats to significant species of birds and contributing to the overall health of the Mississippi flyway.

We look forward to our growing partnership and ability to offer you, our members, even more value and opportunities in the years to come. The synergy of our partnership will also increase our voice for conservation and environmental stewardship in our corner of the world.

**Sandy Nessing, President
Board of Directors
Grange Insurance Audubon Center**

Keeping GIAC free for the community

Since opening our doors 2 years ago, GIAC has been committed to our “free admission” program. Whereas most nature center’s charge \$4 or more per visit, GIAC doesn’t charge a fee because of:

- Wanting to make sure that an admission price is **not** a barrier for families, individuals, or children to visit and learn from the Center,

- Serving much of the local urban community, often the people GIAC hopes to connect with the most in our community conservation programs, means providing access to those who have limited income/resources for their children and themselves,

- Maintaining the program is in the spirit of collaboration provided by the City of Columbus, Columbus Recreation and Parks, and Franklin County Metro Parks, that without their support the dream of a nature center downtown would not have become a reality,

- Recognizing that much of the support of capital campaign funders (Grange, American Electric Power, Franklin County, Limited Brands, SWACO, Columbus Foundation, Guy Carpenter & Company, Crane Group/Crane Family) who all gave between a 4-million to half million donation for the facility’s construction was with a free admission program goal in mind.

The True “Cost to our community”

First, the educational cost to the future generation is immeasurable. By working with kids and families today to become good stewards, we pay forward so much.

Second, much of the cost relates to those who could not afford the smallest of admission fees and would miss out. Being green is not always cheap but it is much better in the long run regardless of a person’s socioeconomic level.

Third, in our often materialistic and sta-

tus-driven society, an admission fee might make coming here “more desirable” or “if they charge it must have a greater value or reward.” We don’t feel this way nor does GIAC want to create any barrier for those who have yet to learn about the beauty and wonder of the Center, of nature, or the difference conservation makes in all of our lives.

What’s the Cost to GIAC and our supporters?

The cost of having the Center open, which vary and include staffing, utilities, facility and grounds operations, upkeep – both maintenance and custodial, administrative, and insurance, is estimated at \$200,000 a year. This does not include the costs associated and unsubsidized with programs and rentals. Considering that every effort helps fund this program, what “time, talents, or treasures” can you lend? Check back next issue to learn more!

‘Give at the office’ this fall

The #1 one reason a person gives to a charity is the first time because they were asked. The #2 reason, and also *the reason they continue to give* is because they care about the issue or mission of the charity. Simply, people making a gift want to choose to whom they give their donation and support – it’s a matter of “choice!”

Choice is also a very important aspect of workplace giving, the programs in place for people to “give at the office.” Most companies offer some form of workplace giving.

Workplace giving is a means by which employees donate to charitable organizations of their choice, primarily through payroll pledges. Once a year, most often in the fall, donors decide which issues are most important to them and contribute a portion of each paycheck to their favorite charity or charities.

If you are a person who supports conservation, nature, environmentalism, birding, having a nature Center, or education, and your office participates in a workplace giving plan, we hope you’ll make your office gift impact those areas by designating GIAC/Audubon this fall.

Many know of the United Way. In central Ohio there are 10 Giving Federations, and

United Way of Central Ohio is the largest, most known, and also just one of the 10 groups that afford donors a choice. The GIAC/Audubon is a member of EarthShares Ohio.

As one of the central Ohio Giving Federations, 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 EarthShare Ohio, donations to the GIAC are designated under “Audubon Ohio” and provide unrestricted operating and program funding. With EarthShare Ohio, YOU decide who your donation goes to; someone else doesn’t make that decision for you.

Donations through workplace giving enable EarthShare Ohio’s member organizations to spend less time fundraising and more time working toward a healthier environment.

Often “combined campaigns” (open to all Federations) are public offices (City of Columbus, Franklin County, State of Ohio), schools and universities, and some private companies. For a list of campaigns or to learn

more about workplace giving visit www.earthshareohio.org. Some require a specific code or #. Please let us know and we’ll help you find that # if you wish to give to GIAC/Audubon in Ohio.

However, some companies have their own system and you need to fill in the charity(s) of your choice. In this case, often the tax ID, name, and address are needed. GIAC/Audubon’s is 13-1624102, 505 W. Whittier St. Columbus, OH 43215. Or,

Only offer some federations, most commonly United Way. While GIAC is not a member of United Way, each company has a different system and often even within the United Way programs you can provide the correct information and designate charities like GIAC. Two important factors if you wish to give this way are to contact us for the most accurate information and way to do this and secondly, notify us of your gift in order that we may follow up with United Way or other programs to assure we get your intended support.

Questions regarding any workplace giving or payroll deduction opportunities should be directed to Jeff Redfield (jredfield@audubon.org) 614-545-5479.

GIAC Board July 2011 meeting update

Continued from page 14

tinuing on as a GIAC Board Member. We’d like to also thank a number of Board members who have recently completed terms of service in July of 2011. These Board members served during the challenging and successful period of the \$14.5 million dollar Center Capital Campaign, the Center’s opening in 2009 and its first nearly two years of operation.

Thank you to: Barry Hunlock, Tom Katzenmeyer, Dr. Bernard Master, Mark Real and Ellen Tripp.

Renewing in July 2011 for an additional 3-year term is Jan Rodenfels.

Thank you all for your support and service to the mission of the Grange Insurance Audubon Center and for what you all have made possible for the community!

RETURN IN FIVE DAYS TO

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

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
COLUMBUS, OHIO
PERMIT 5146

CA Programs: Monthly meetings take on new format

Continued from page 5

ful volunteers to assist her for each meeting. If you would like to help Leslie in this important job, please contact her at imsours@ameritech.net or home 614-486-6851. You don't have to commit to every meeting, just choose which ones to be involved in.

Leslie and her husband, Steve, are graduates of Ohio Wesleyan University and Leslie has a zoology degree. I would say she found the right place to volunteer!! She has two grown sons and her family take her from coast to coast to coast with no shortage of new birds and habitats to explore.

Her backyard has been National Wildlife Certified for about 20 years and she continues to learn from all who visit her yard. Leslie stated, "I am now resolved to get more serious about Ohio birding. I set a simple goal for the summer: seek out birds...and birders. I have been meeting wonderful people and seeing and learning something every day. I look forward to new friendships and adventures within the birding community and with Columbus Audubon."

New Program Photographer- Many of us who are involved in monthly meetings also try to photograph the event. We have decided to assign this responsibility to a person that has no other program duties. This will reduce the number of hats we wear and enhance our photographic coverage. We are delighted that Mike

Maier has accepted this new role. For details on Maier's background go to <http://mikemaierphotos.zenfolio.com/p489241103>.

A little more about Mike: While he has done many types of photography, he now calls himself a nature photographer. His style has most recently been influenced by Arthur Morris, a professional who has elevated bird photography to an art form. Mike likes to present birds that are interacting with their environment. This allows the birds to tell their own stories. Mike started Avian Expressions in 2007 to use photography as a means of engaging people to appreciate, protect and preserve nature. Since then his work has been displayed in numerous venues including birding conferences, art festivals and art galleries. Be sure to view Mike's current GIAC photo exhibit "Let's Start a Family". He and his wife, Hari, have donated time to photograph numerous events for Columbus Audubon, GIAC and Ohio Wildlife Center.

New Audio Visual Specialist - As with photography, we are looking for one person to coordinate the audio visual needs for each meeting. This includes being familiar with the permanent equipment of the GIAC and how outside equipment can be linked to it. If you would like to be involved with this please contact Darlene Sillick at azuretrails@columbus.rr.com or 614-761-3696.

*- By Darlene Sillick (and suggestions from Mike Maier)
CA Program and Field Trip Coordinator*

GIAC seasonal activities offer variety

Continued from page 5

stores to set up shop for the day. It will be your chance to walk into a shopper's paradise all under one roof, and to "shop around" for holiday gifts and goodies. Members of GIAC will receive a 10-percent discount in the Nature Store as well as other special offers.

Enjoy refreshments and holiday music as you peruse tables and booths with a wide array of beautiful nature-inspired, one of a kind, quality gifts and goodies to fulfill everyone's holiday wish list.

Products for sale will be available throughout the building, along with gift certificates for memberships to the center, and

gift certificates for our GIAC Summer Adventure Camps.

Our own nature store, "The Bird House", will be open for you to see a gorgeous Holiday tree adorned with beautiful ornaments all of which can be purchased and hung on your own tree.

We will also provide samples of Audubon Shade Grown Coffee and will feature wonderful Charley Harper merchandise including mugs, books, ornaments and calendars.

Activities for children will be held in one of our classrooms while parents shop.

The cost of using this kid-friendly service is free with a donation of a new toy to benefit one of our GIAC partner organizations or a \$2 donation per child.