

Students of Livingston Elementary School receive CA's Junior Conservation Award

Columbus Audubon presented the Junior Conservation Award to the students of Livingston Elementary School for their significant contributions to conservation. We recognize their efforts to study and learn about conservation and for putting what they learn into action. The students of Livingston Elementary School have been partners in conservation with the Grange Insurance Audubon Center since 2006. Livingston was GIAC's first school partnership and its value has been immeasurable.

Livingston students, teachers, and administrators helped define the partnership GIAC now has with 12 schools within the Columbus City School District.

- Because of their willingness to test GIAC's programs even before there was a physical center and on a site that was still a brownfield, the Conservation Classroom Program was fully developed and ready for roll-out when the Center opened in 2009.
- Livingston served as both a model and an advocate in encouraging more Columbus City Schools to participate in Conservation Classroom.
- The Conservation Classroom model of blending environmental education, STEM studies, and conservation action is now the standard for Audubon Centers nationwide.



Left to right:
Gerry Brevoort, Makaila McDowell,
Teresa Stonerock, Jaden Ward

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

Livingston students have made impact through real, on-the-ground conservation. Some of their work includes:

Wetland Development. Livingston students helped to create two wetland areas during the early stages of remediation by planting native trees, aquatic grasses, and flowering plants and bushes.

Invasive Plants. Students identified and removed Japanese honeysuckle and garlic mustard, significantly reducing the populations of these invasives within the Scioto Audubon Metro Park.

Area 51. They planted trees, native grasses, groundcover, and flowering plants in this targeted area to demonstrate conservation impact.

Data Collection. Livingston students worked within scientific protocol, participating in point counts, and recording of data during spring and fall migration to help establish baseline data and annual measurements in the following years. The protocol included identification of species' preferences and habitat use of both migratory and non-migratory birds.

Back-at-School Conservation. Students took what they learned in Conservation Classroom and returned to school with ideas for conservation projects in the school, on school grounds, and beyond to the neighborhood. Although implementation of their ideas, within the school district's real constraints of grounds maintenance and janitorial staff as well as rules and guidelines, has been challenging, the students, teachers, and administrators are committed to refining their concepts of school-wide recycling, community neighborhood gardens, and other conservation activities to make Livingston Elementary School the District's model of "green."

From our Leaders

From the GIAC Board Chair Greg Cunningham

The phrase “come out and play” evokes different memories for different folks. Memories return of playing with friends, exploring the local woods or park, or wandering the neighborhood looking for adventure. Regardless of where or how you grew up, going outside to play was an important part of learning about life. Experiences gained by playing outdoors and interacting with the natural world help develop life skills and form our opinions about nature.

We’ve all heard about “Nature Deficit Disorder” and campaigns such as “No Child Left Inside.” The sad fact is that many children (and adults) don’t unplug and go out and play. For some, it’s a matter of safety. For others, it’s a matter of time. Still others may not see the value of time spent playing outdoors.

For those who want the opportunity come out and play, the Grange Insurance Audubon Center has much to offer: programming and a setting to satisfy anyone’s desire to connect with the natural world. Whether you’d like time to study and observe from the Nature Library, explore the Center and adjacent gardens, or wander the paths and boardwalks in the Metro Park, there’s something for you. The Center also offers structured weekend programs for adults and children, day camps for children, and programs for school groups. With all of these opportunities, we provide a convenient, safe environment to explore the natural world in the heart of our city. You’ll be surprised what you discover. We invite you to visit GIAC and come out and play!



From Columbus Audubon President Bill Heck



Because you are reading this newsletter, you likely are an Audubon member. Chances are that you are curious and interested in the world around you. You may consider yourself a lifelong learner.

So have you thought about how Audubon can help you to fulfill that learning ambition?

By attending an Audubon program this past year, you might have found out how to identify some of our favorite birds, learned about storytelling from a respected author, studied edible and not-so-edible plants in Ohio, gotten the inside story on seabird research, taken a virtual tour of the north slope of Alaska, or even peeked behind the scenes of a movie set. If you participated in a field trip, not only could you have gained expertise in bird identification, but also may have learned about the relationships between plants and animals or improved your photographic skills.

If you joined one of our Service in the Preserves trips, you might have improved your carpentry or planting skills or, like me, learned that carpentry really is not your strong suit! But you surely would have learned more about some of the finest natural areas in the state.

As we learn more about the world around us, our appreciation of that world grows, and in turn we become more self-aware, too. Those in tune with nature always have something interesting to see, to hear, to learn: it’s a lifelong process. Come join us at a Columbus Audubon program, field trip, or service trip and be part of the voyage of discovery!

International EcoSummit 2012 comes to Columbus



4TH INTERNATIONAL ECOSUMMIT
ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY
RESTORING THE PLANET'S ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

The world's most respected minds in ecological science will converge on Columbus this fall for EcoSummit 2012. This international conference will explore innovative science-based strategies to create, manage, and restore ecosystems. Symposia, workshops, field trips, and plenary sessions will cover wide-ranging topic areas of:

- Ecological restoration and ecological engineering
- Estimating ecosystem services
- Global change issues including climate change effects and the future of food security
- Lake, wetland, river, forest, and agro-ecosystem management
- Corporate involvement in the environment
- Sustainable economics and business practices



EcoSummit 2012 is a high-profile platform for dialogue among researchers, planners, and decision-makers to develop a better understanding of the complex nature of ecological systems and the means to protect and enhance the services they provide.

The EcoSummit website (www.ecosummit2012.org) highlights the Scioto Greenways Project, Scioto Audubon Metro Park, and GIAC as Central Ohio sustainability assets and states that Mayor Michael Coleman wants the world to see that ecological sustainability must be part of every major urban area. "A great city needs plant and animal life, safe water to drink and clean air to breathe," Mayor Coleman says. "We must protect our ecosystems to ensure our future."

Green communication: a commitment to conservation

Green communication is online or electronic communication that is faster, less expensive for an organization, and has a lower impact on the environment. By signing up for email newsletters and updates, you can help CA, GIAC, and other conservation organizations you support be better stewards of your donations.

There are wonderful benefits to getting your *Song Sparrow* electronically in your email inbox instead of in your mailbox: it's faster, there are clickable web links and email addresses, it's in color, and it's green.

When you sign up for e-newsletter service, you lower your carbon footprint: no paper, no ink or printing, no transportation for mail delivery. And your *Song Sparrow* will wait in your inbox, easy to find and ready to read when you're ready. If you would like to switch from "snail mail" to email delivery, send an email with your mailing address and email address to membership@columbusaudubon.org.

GIAC and CA are dramatically increasing green communication in other ways: integrated websites, Facebook announcements, emailed flyers and invitations, and more are yours with these easy actions:

- For quicker and more frequent updates, "like" or join the Facebook pages for Grange Insurance Audubon Center, Columbus Audubon, and National Audubon Society
- Send an email to Jeff Redfield at redfield@audubon.org and indicate your preference for emailed messages, mailings, flyers and invitations



Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*)

“Look carefully. They’re the devil to see,” said Dan, our instructor at Audubon camp. We had been tracking an ovenbird for almost 20 minutes through the Massachusetts forest, but with little luck. Every so often, one of us would get a glimpse of a little bobbing green bird on the ground or in a low shrub, but we could never follow it. This was made all the more maddening because of the periodic loud call: “teacher, teacher, teacher, teaCHER” rang through the forest, but it wasn’t that much help in locating the skulking little bird. Although we were in its territory, we never came close to finding its nest.



This memory, still sharp in my mind 40 years later, highlights some features of ovenbird biology. This is a warbler with a difference: it nests on the ground. So, while it has the basic warbler life-plan—small insect-eater that migrates to the tropics for the winter—many features of its biology are distorted by this unusual nesting habit. Think about it: nearly all of the small birds you know take pains to nest off the ground—in trees, on cliffs, or on isolated islands. Predators are common on the ground; how do ovenbirds survive?

Let’s start with their plumage. Ovenbirds are drab as warblers go, with plain olive-green back, wings, and tail. The chest is white, but broken up with dark spots and streaks like a thrush. The only spot of color is a demure orange-ish crown stripe. Both sexes share this same simple plumage, so it’s one of the warblers that isn’t easy to tell the sexes at a glance. Even the young birds look the same, so this drab plumage must have good survival value on the ground.



What about that loud voice? Ovenbirds have a great song, that loud “teacher, teacher” mentioned earlier. They also have a loud “chip” call. These songs are very different from the high-pitched trills and warbles of most tree-loving warblers. They’re much more like the lower-pitched calls of understory-loving birds like thrushes and Kentucky warblers. These loud, low-pitched songs are better designed to carry far through the gallery forest where these birds nest. Ovenbird songs are also maddeningly ventriloqual; we can’t

quite pin down the singer’s spot because the narrow pitch and changing volume don’t allow us to easily localize its source.

Their behavior is also crafted for ground life. This is a warbler that would rather walk. It marches along through the leaf litter, occasionally jumping onto a log or low branch. They only fly when necessary, and then they fly low and fast. It’s rare to see them flying far or high during the day. They will, however, fly high during migration: flying at night and navigating by the stars. They are a quintessential night migrant, which has made them especially vulnerable to becoming disoriented by building and tower lights. Ovenbirds are among the most frequently killed birds at lighted skyscrapers and towers during migration.

Finally, that nest. Ovenbirds get their name from their unique nests: a woven half-dome of leaves, moss, and needles that functions both to conceal the eggs and nestlings and to protect them from the weather. As befits any ground nest, it’s exquisitely camouflaged. In all my years of birding, I’ve been on hundreds of ovenbird nesting territories and never seen an active nest. The birds are very secretive on their approach to the nest, which helps in concealing it. It’s also very well-matched to the forest floor, using the same leaves and debris found in that spot. This tends to limit their habitat: they need forests with lots of “dry litter”, especially oak leaves and pine needles that shed water well. Locally, that means you look for ovenbirds in dense forests with a large percentage of oaks. Only upland forests, such as parts of Blendon Woods and Highbanks, meet those criteria well locally, so ovenbirds are not abundant around Columbus. The upland forests of unglaciated southern Ohio are good ovenbird habitat, and parks like Tar Hollow, Lake Hope, and Clear Creek MetroPark will usually have many. You’ll hear loads of them and with patience see a few. Just don’t expect to find their nests.

Rob Thorn

Columbus Audubon

CA Annual Meeting & Potluck

Kenn Kaufman, Awards & Recognition and Great Food!

March Madness took on another meaning as Columbus Audubon celebrated its largest annual meeting and potluck in history. With more than 200 in attendance, guests enjoyed good food and a wonderful program by field guide author Kenn Kaufman. The evening was also filled with honors and awards, recognition of the “work trippers” and outgoing trustees, and election of new trustees.



Potluck Program

Kenn shared his thoughts on a new book he is writing that will celebrate and explain the marvels of spring migration along the Lake Erie shores. Kenn and his wife Kimberly, who is executive director of the Black Swamp Bird Observatory, appreciate the work of Columbus Audubon, and Kenn graciously waived his speaking fee for the evening. To thank the Kaufmans, CA presented a \$500 check from the John Wilson Memorial Education Fund to the Black Swamp Bird Observatory education fund to support their efforts in northern Ohio.

Columbus Audubon Awards

The Song Sparrow Award recognizes CA members who strive to help fulfill our mission and was given to **Elaine Smith** for her contributions to the CA Birdathon. For more than six years, she has been coordinating team, donor, and prize details, paperwork, and follow-up for this annual fundraising event. To see Katryn Renard's article about Elaine's contributions, go to columbusaudubon.org/SSAward_ElanieSmith.



The James Chase Hambleton Award, named after CA's first and longest-serving president, is given to individuals or groups within central Ohio who are working to support similar missions to us.

Two organizations received the 2012 JCH Award: the **Columbus Zoo Foundation** and **Cardinal Health & the Cardinal Health Foundation**. The Columbus Zoo Foundation was recognized for their support to conservation locally and globally. Cardinal Health Foundation has donated thousands of dollars to our efforts over the years. In addition, they have completed several conservation projects including establishing a bluebird trail on their property in Dublin. Learn more about these awards at: columbusaudubon.org/JCHAward_ColumbusZoo and columbusaudubon.org/JCHAward_Cardinalhealth.

The 2011 James Chase Hambleton Award was finally presented to **Ralph Ramey**, retired chief of the Ohio Division of Natural Areas and Preserves and author of books on hiking in Ohio. Ralph has dedicated a lifetime to activities supporting our conservation mission. Ralph was unable to attend our 2011 meeting but thanks to the Ohio Historical Society, Dave Horn was able to catch up with him at an event in his honor where he received justly-deserved applause.

Suzan Jerevy

More Recognition and Thanks

Richard Mosely, the first chief of the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves read a proclamation from current ODNR director James Zehringer thanking CA for conducting work trips to state nature preserves for the past 30 years. CA project coordinator Katryn Renard distributed certificates to everyone present who has ever assisted on one of these trips (work trippers).

In June, two strong supporters will be leaving the board after completing their terms. **Katryn Renard**, a past president of CA, promises to continue assisting with our annual Birdathon and will be going on work trips to the state preserves. **Tom Sheley** will continue to be involved in various ways including the coordination of our annual birdseed sales.

New CA Trustees: **Warren Grody**, who serves as CA treasurer, was re-elected for another three years as trustee. In addition, two new trustees were elected. **Amanda Conover** works with the Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative and will be a great asset to CA's conservation efforts. **George Arnold** is an administrator at Columbus State Community College and enjoys birding. He has gotten involved to give back to something he enjoys. New trustee terms begin July 1.

Learning and leadership just part of OYBC experience



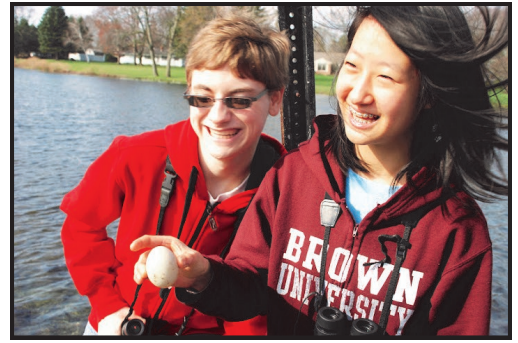
You might guess that the Ohio Young Birders Club is a birding and nature club for teens with an emphasis on education. And you would be right! OYBC is students in the field learning about birds, habitat, wildlife, trees, flora, and fauna; it's nature education at its best.

There are many other facets awaiting OYBC members. To be an OYBCer is also to learn to be a friend—meeting new people, finding common ground, and working together for a common goal. It's about turning off the TV, walking away from the laptop, and getting outside with other teens.

Kids in OYBC learn to be responsible Earth citizens: practicing conservation, protecting our environment, living green, and lowering one's carbon footprint. Members might spend a day on a project to help osprey, learn about wildlife rehab efforts, and help to band or tag birds or other species. Through hands-on experiences and sharing, OYBCers come to understand the inextricable connection between a teenager in Ohio and a condor in California.

Teenagers in OYBC learn leadership when they seize an opportunity to show initiative, solve problems, and take responsibility, whether it's delivering presentations at the annual OYBC conference, serving on the youth advisory board, or writing field reports. These leadership experiences help kids build confidence that can carry over into other areas of their lives.

What OYBC really provides is an education of the whole young person—as an intellectual, social, conscientious bundle of potential. If you know someone aged 12-18 who might enjoy this kind of education, have them check us out at www.columbusaudubon.org/oybc.



Gerry Brevoort

Invasive species: Boxwood blight

Boxwood blight, a fungal infection of boxwoods, is relatively new to the US. *Cylindrocladium pseudonaviculatum* (syn. *C. buxicola*) is a fast spreading blight that was first identified in the United Kingdom in the 1990s, spread throughout Europe and New Zealand in 2002 and appeared in North Carolina in October 2011. It was discovered in Ohio in early 2012 in Lake County.

Boxwood blight is so new to the US that there has been little research on effective fungicides; much of the current information is from the European experience. It is generally believed that long distance spread of this disease will be through infected plant material rather than through the air.

All boxwood cultivars appear to be susceptible to this fungus, which colonizes all above-ground portions of the plant, and unlike other boxwood diseases does not affect the roots. In the early stages, the leaves show spots which are usually tan or brown, often with dark borders. As the disease progresses, the plant will become badly defoliated. It may also develop characteristic black cankers on the twigs and stems. Unless the plant is young, boxwood blight usually does not kill the plants. However, it seriously disfigures them, and remaining spores will re-infect the plant. If one or more infected plants is discovered, the best course is to completely remove and dispose of the plant material along with all leaf litter. Spores may survive for up to five years. Clean all tools and shoes involved in the cleanup process to remove spores.

Detailed information about boxwood blight can be found at: www.ct.gov/caes/lib/caes/documents/publications/fact_sheets/plant_pathology_and_ecology/boxwood_blight-a_new_disease_for_connecticut_and_the_u.s._12-08-11.pdf

Watch for the disease, but don't forget to enjoy your boxwoods.

Suzan Kramp

Columbus Audubon



July & August Field Trips and Programs

For complete descriptions of all trips, visit our web site: www.columbusaudubon.org/events

Bird Hike at Blendon Woods Metro Park *Sunday, July 8 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.*

Join Blendon Woods naturalist Bruce Simpson as we wander the trails at one of the area's finest Metro Parks. Bring binoculars. We will start at the nature center, then explore Thoreau Lake and other trails. For more information, call Blendon Woods Metro Park at 614-508-8000 or check the Metro Parks website.

Birding by Kayak at the Adaptive Adventure Sports Coalition

Saturday, July 21, 2012 from 8:30 a.m. to noon

We will spend the morning paddling and birding at TAASC at Twin Lakes. No prior kayaking experience is necessary; space is limited and you must register in advance. Cost is \$20 per person and includes kayak, personal flotation device, and paddle, as well as instruction from certified professionals. Everyone paddling must complete TAASC forms; parents or guardians must sign for minors (forms may be downloaded at TAASC website, www.taasc.org). Bring water, a snack, binoculars, and sun screen. TAASC offers individuals with disabilities opportunities to participate in adventure activities. They also offer special use of their facility by groups. TAASC is located at 6000 Harriot Rd in Powell. Contact Darlene Sillick at azuretrails@columbus.rr.com or 614-288-3696.

Avid Birders field trip

Saturday, July 28 at 5:30 a.m.

Join the Avid Birders group for extended field trips to seasonally-significant spots across Ohio. All trips depart at 5:30 am with carpooling from the southeast corner of the Worthington Mall parking lot. Worthington Mall is located on the north-west corner of High St. and Wilson Bridge Road, just south of I-270. For more information or to be included on our email list; avidbirderleads@columbusaudubon.org or contact one of our leaders: Bill Heck (614-895-1940), Brad Sparks (614-751-6622), or Bill Whan (614-262-3595). You can also find more info at www.columbusaudubon.org/avids/.

Early Migration: Shorebirds, Herons, Swallows at Hoover Reservoir

Saturday, August 4 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

August isn't the birding doldrums; many shorebirds are already migrating south from their short Arctic summer breeding season. Mudflats are usually starting to appear around parts of Delaware, Alum Creek, and Hoover Reservoirs, attracting wayfarers, as well as a variety of herons, flycatchers, and swallows. Join us for a morning of birding 'on the edge', where it may be rather soft and muddy to wear old shoes or boots. Meet at the Hoover Dam parking area (off Sunbury Road at the west end of the dam) and be prepared to carpool. We won't know the best spots until close to the trip! Contact Rob Thorn at robthorn@earthlink.net or 614-471-3051.

Butterflies and Dragonflies with Jim Davidson at Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park

Saturday, August 4 from 9:00 a.m. to noon

Join Jim Davidson as he leads you through the Battelle Darby prairies in search of numerous species of butterflies and dragonflies. Bring your camera, field guide, water, hat, and sunscreen. After a walk with Jim you will be in awe...of nature. Contact Darlene Sillick at azuretrails@columbus.rr.com or 614-288-3696.

Bird Hike at Blendon Woods Metro Park

Sunday, August 5 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

See description for July 8.

Birding by Kayak

Saturday, August 11, 2012 from 8:30 a.m. noon.

See description for July 21.



Avid Birders field trip

Saturday, August 25 at 5:30 a.m.

See description for July 28.

Dawes Arboretum Prairies and Wetland *Saturday, August 25 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.*

Join us as we tour the Dawes Arboretum Prairies and Dutch Fork Wetland with Dawes Botanist David Brandenburg. We will meet at the parking lot (watch for Columbus Audubon signs) and spend the morning with David to learn about summer plants. We also hope to have an expert on butterflies and dragonflies with us. Bring lunch, water, and sunscreen and be ready for an amazing day. Learn more about Dawes at www.dawesarb.org. Contact Darlene Sillick at azuretrails@columbus.rr.com or 614-288-3696.

Blacklick Woods-to-Pickerington Ponds

Sunday, August 26 from 8:00 a.m. to noon

Migration should be gearing up, so we'll combine forest, field, and wetlands on this trip. We'll start from the Ash Grove picnic area in Blacklick Woods to hike through the great woods there, looking for early landbird migrants. We'll then travel over to the nearby Pickerington Ponds to look for field and wetlands birds; with low water levels, we're hoping for a good showing of herons and migrant shorebirds. Wear durable shoes for walking as we'll be on trails for most of the morning. Also pack water, snacks, and bug repellent; a hat and/or sunscreen are also recommended. Contact Rob Thorn at robthorn@earthlink.net or 614-551-0643.

Bird Hike at Blendon Woods Metro Park

Saturday, September 1 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

See description for July 8.

Swift Night Out at Sells Middle School

Friday, September 7 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Join us behind the school (150 West Bridge Street in Dublin) in front of the tennis courts as we count the swifts entering the school chimney at sunset and contribute to citizen science. We will start by talking a bit about chimney swifts and why they are so amazing, then we'll count as the light fades. Bring lawn chairs and mosquito repellent and a snack to share! Contact Darlene Sillick at azuretrails@columbus.rr.com or 614-288-3696.

Conservation Corner: Appalachia Ohio Alliance

From time to time I like to highlight a central Ohio conservation organization that shares the goals of Audubon and may be new to some of our readers. This issue's selection is the Appalachia Ohio Alliance. AOA is a non-profit organization dedicated to the stewardship of the environment and culture of Appalachian Ohio, the hilly southeastern part of the state frequently visited by Columbus Audubon members. AOA promotes conservation of natural areas and open spaces while encouraging economic activity that emphasizes the region's scenic beauty and cultural values. This includes land preservation, eco-tourism, and family-oriented industry, arts, and crafts. AOA is primarily a "land trust" funded by donations, corporate sponsors, and grants to develop conservation easements which protect the area from exploitative commercial development to preserve the natural environment, while still allowing landowners full use of their property. In its short decade of existence, AOA has protected over 7,000 acres of southeast Ohio that otherwise might have been lost to clear-cutting and/or mineral development.

Their efforts have preserved forests nearing 100 years old that are now seeing the return of bears, bobcats, and ravens, species long gone from Ohio. AOA owns a few preserves outright but most of their efforts emphasize conservation easements. Longtime Columbus Audubon member (and past board member) Clyde Gosnell has been intimately involved in AOA from its inception. AOA and Audubon share conservation goals and both are worthy of support. For more information on AOA visit www.appalachiaohioalliance.org

Dave Horn

EcoWeekend Committee extends thanks!

The EcoWeekend Committee says a big **thank you** to all who made the 40th EcoWeekend a success this past May. The anniversary was celebrated with a specially-designed t-shirt and an entertaining program on Saturday evening, Ohio's Raptors by Ohio Wildlife Center and presented by volunteer Darlene Sillick.

There were 161 people registered with over 100 of those staying overnight on the grounds of Oty'Okwa in the hills west of Logan. A special thank you goes to Camp Oty'Okwa and staff for the use of their wonderful facility.

This year there were 50 different programs offered for adults and families. Programs included birding, insects, wild-flowers, geology, bats, stream discovery, mushrooms, reptiles, moss, astronomy, owl walks, and many other activities. An early morning yoga session was held for the first time




Sincere thanks go to the 42 program leaders of the adult and family programs (in order of appearance): Jeff Johnson, Sharon Treaster, Christa Hein, Don Rice, Kaylin Babbert, Kent Rothermel, Dave Horn, Patty DeMaria, Larry Koebel, Sue Gross, Jackie DeLuca-Harbour, Rick Fay, Katryn Renard, Susie Burks, Suzan Jervy, Heather Stehle, Ann Cornell, Kara Walton, Jim Davidson, Fred Steck, Paulette Ariss, Bob Klips, John Biesecker, Carole Slone, Frank Gifford, Barb White, Joe Brehm, Clyde Gosnell, Jarrod Burks, Pat Quackenbush, Heike Perko, Lisa Adams, Sarah Dalton, Jay Matthews, Mike Flynn, Becky Hufferberger, Andrea Moore, Jill Snyder, Scott Thomas, David Sagan, Pat Adams, and Joe Meara.

Another big debt of gratitude goes to the 11 youth program leaders: Jennifer Biesecker, Josh Bryant, Kim Brewster, Kristin Kindler, Duan Cannon, Megan DeLaurentis, John Gifford, Dustin Hall, Amanda Preston, Sue Roberts, and Terry Wilkins. Sincere appreciation goes to Megan DeLaurentis for creating and overseeing the excellent program for the youth. Youth from pre-K through grade 8 spent Saturday learning about insects, mammals, reptiles, stream discovery, and appreciation of the world around us. It was a fantastic day!

Special thanks are extended to the tireless and enthusiastic EcoWeekend Committee: Lisa Adams, Paulette Ariss, Dale Brubeck, Mary Counter, Lois Day, Jane Dean, Megan DeLaurentis, Patty DeMaria, Scott Drake, Sue Gross, Jay Matthews, Becky Hufferberger, Liz Melick, Maura Rawn, and Ann Sayers. These are the folks that planned it all!

Many thanks to all the willing hands who together make EcoWeekend a success.

Mark your calendar for EcoWeekend 2013 on May 3-5 at Camp Oty'Okwa. You can be part of the EcoWeekend Committee or volunteer as a program leader; call Columbus Audubon at (614) 545-5475 or email to rozhorn@columbus.rr.com. Learn more about EcoWeekend at www.ecoweekend.org.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 	2 Note: GIAC is closed EVERY Monday	3	4 FREE Tour of LEED Gold GIAC building 10 a.m. Reservations required	5 Audubon Adventure Camp: Wonders of Water Grades 1-3 River Rangers Grades 4-5	6 Audubon Adventure Camp: Wonders of Water Grades 1-3 River Rangers Grades 4-5	7 Audubon Afternoons at GIAC 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
8 Bird Hike at Blendon Woods 8:00 a.m. Audubon Afternoons at GIAC 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.	9 Note: GIAC is closed EVERY Monday Audubon Adventure Camp: Audubon Artists ALL WEEK	10 	11 FREE Tour of LEED Gold GIAC building 10 a.m. Reservations required	12 Mother Nature's Child Movie Screening 7:00 p.m. RSVP to: aboyd@audubon.org	13	14 Audubon Afternoons at GIAC 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
15 Audubon Afternoons at GIAC 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.	16 Note: GIAC is closed EVERY Monday Audubon Adventure Camp: Operation Conservation	17	18 FREE Tour of LEED Gold GIAC building 10 a.m. Reservations required	19	20	21 Birding by Kayak 8:30 a.m. Audubon Afternoons at GIAC 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
22 Audubon Afternoons at GIAC 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.	23 Note: GIAC is closed EVERY Monday Audubon Adventure Camp: Nature Invaders ALL WEEK	24	25 FREE Tour of LEED Gold GIAC building 10 a.m. Reservations required	26	27	28 Avid Birders Trip 5:30 a.m. Audubon Afternoons at GIAC 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
29 Audubon Afternoons at GIAC 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.	30 Note: GIAC is closed EVERY Monday Audubon Adventure Camp: What's Bugging You? ALL WEEK	31				




GIAC events are in italic black text. For complete descriptions of any event or program, see pages 11-12.

Columbus Audubon events are in bold green text. For complete descriptions of any event or program, see page 7.

Calendar Key

August 2012



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Note: GIAC is closed EVERY Monday Audubon Adventure Camp: What's Bugging You? ALL WEEK		1 FREE Tour of LEED Gold GIAC building 10 a.m. Reservations required.	2	3	4 Early Migration at Hoover 8:00 a.m. Butterflies & Dragonflies Battelle Darby 9:00 a.m. Audubon Afternoons at GIAC 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
5 Bird Hike at Blendon Woods 8:00 a.m. Audubon Afternoons at GIAC 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.	6 Note: GIAC is closed EVERY Monday Audubon Adventure Camp: In Touch with Nature ALL WEEK	7	8 FREE Tour of LEED Gold GIAC building 10 a.m. Reservations required.	9	10	11 Birding by Kayak 8:30 a.m. Audubon Afternoons at GIAC 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
12 Audubon Afternoons at GIAC 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.	13 Note: GIAC is closed EVERY Monday Audubon Adventure Camp: Adventure Celebration ALL WEEK	14	15 FREE Tour of LEED Gold GIAC building 10 a.m. Reservations required.	16	17 	18 Audubon Afternoons at GIAC 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
19 Audubon Afternoons at GIAC 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.	20 Note: GIAC is closed EVERY Monday	21	22 FREE Tour of LEED Gold GIAC building 10 a.m. Reservations required.	23	24	25 Avid Birders Trip 5:30 am Dawes Arboretum 8:30 a.m. Audubon Afternoons at GIAC 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
26 Blacklick Woods to Pickerington Ponds 8:00 a.m. Audubon Afternoons at GIAC 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.	27 Note: GIAC is closed EVERY Monday	28 	29 FREE Tour of LEED Gold GIAC building 10 a.m. Reservations required.	30	31	

GIAC events are in *italic black text*. For complete descriptions of any event or program, see pages 11-12.

Columbus Audubon events are in **bold green text**. For complete descriptions of any event or program, see page 7.

Calendar Key

Grange Insurance Audubon Center

Low-Head dam removal in Columbus: Broader connections and impacts?

Plans to remove two low-head dams on the Scioto and Olentangy Rivers were announced in April. Mayor Michael Coleman and the City of Columbus are championing the removal of the Main Street Dam on the Scioto, targeted for 2014. OSU and the City of Columbus plan to remove the 5th Ave. Dam on the Olentangy this summer. This is great news for the health of both rivers. Upstream from the dams the rivers will narrow: opening green spaces, restoring natural flood plains, and allowing for the natural ebb and flow of the water levels. The river stretches will become more shallow and meandering. Water quality will improve, leading to more diverse populations of fish and invertebrates.

There will be impact felt downstream as these and other low-head dams are removed.

The Scioto and Olentangy Rivers are part of the Mississippi River watershed and play roles in the health of both the Mississippi River and the Mississippi River Delta. One of the most productive ecosystems in the US, the Mississippi River Delta is losing 16 square miles of marsh land each year, perhaps the fastest rate of land loss in the world. Erosion of the Delta is natural, but its health depends on constant rebuilding from the silt carried to the mouth of the Mississippi from upstream. Dams restrict the natural flow of Delta-building silt.

Will the removal of our dams make a difference? The Greenlawn Dam is downriver from both the Main Street and 5th Avenue dams. Because it contains sewer pipes and other infrastructure, it would be very difficult to remove. The last dam between here and the Ohio River, the Greenlawn Dam will continue to impact the natural flow of silt in the Scioto River.

Dam removal is part of a nationwide movement to restore natural systems by removing dams that have outlived their usefulness. While the environmental impacts downstream of removing the Main Street and 5th Avenue Dams are hard to determine, the upstream sections of the Scioto and Olentangy Rivers will return to health and their banks will expand the riverfronts for people to enjoy.

For more details, go to www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2012/03/29/dam-could-give-way-to-parkland.html and www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2012/04/04/mayor-puts-in-18m-ante-for-dam-removal-project.html.

Plan for a narrower river



Save the Date

2nd Annual Bluegrass, Beer and Birds

Friday, September 14, 2012

Featuring the local
band



Follow us on Facebook and our
website at :

www.grangeinsuranceauduboncenter.org

More details coming soon!

Save the Date: September 15, 2012 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The Grange Insurance Audubon Center and Midwest Native Plant Society

"Dragonflies and Damselflies: the fascinating world of Odonata"

Join us for a day focusing on the common dragonflies and damselflies of Ohio, and their amazing adaptations and lifestyles. Topics will include identification, life history and ecology, migration and more. Learn about exciting citizen science opportunities that allow you to collect data that will help unlock the secrets of these insects! Activities will include field observation and identification, as well as tips for photographing these beauties in the field.

For more information including program fee and list of speakers check the website:

www.grangeinsuranceauduboncenter.org

Registration will open on July 15.

Space is limited so register early for this exciting workshop.

Contact Amy Boyd to register: aboyd@audubon.org



Grange Insurance Audubon center

What's happening at GIAC?



Book your 2012-2013 education programming today!

The Grange Insurance Audubon Center is a great place to supplement any education program, from the classroom to an afterschool club! We offer a variety of program topics and times to help fulfill your needs. Here are just a few programs we offer:

Focus in the Field offers school and home-school groups year-round single-visit opportunities in two and four hour increments on a variety of topics. This program is designed for up to 30 children in Kindergarten through 8th grade.

Tiny Trackers offers pre-school and home-school groups year-round single-visit opportunities in one hour increments on a variety of topics. This program is designed for up to 30 pre-school children. A six-session package is an option for pre-schools wishing to supplement their program continuously throughout the year.

Boy Scout and Girl Scout programming is available throughout the entire year at GIAC. We offer den or troop programs for a variety of achievements, requirements and badges, service projects, overnights and special days to designed to help your Scouts work on special awards.

Check out our website at www.grangeinsuranceauduboncenter.org for the most up-to-date information on education program topics, Scout programs and special events, and contact information to book a program. These programs fill up fast, so Contact Allison Roush at 614-545-5482 or aroush@audubon.org soon to book a program date for your group.

Join us for a screening the movie of *Mother Nature's Child* and panel discussion

Thursday, July 12 at 7:00 p.m. at the Grange Insurance Audubon Center

Mother Nature's Child examines nature's influence on all aspects of child development—intellectual, physical, emotional, and spiritual. In addition to looking at human health and creativity, the film explores cultural fears, the importance of risk in adolescence, and education of the “whole child.” Shot in both urban and rural locations, the film features children of all ages, as well as insights from parents, teachers, and highly regarded experts including Richard Louv, author of *Last Child in the Woods* and *The Nature Principle*; tracker Jon Young; educators Stephen Kellert and David Sobel; Nancy Bell of The Conservation Fund; and outdoor educators Brother Yusuf Burgess, Misha Golfman, and Amy Beam.

This special event is sponsored in part by Leave No Child Inside Central Ohio Collaborative. A panel discussion will be held after the film and will feature Amy Dutt from Urban Wild who makes natural plays capes, Dr. James MacDonald of Nationwide Children's Hospital who specializes in current childhood health issues, Jenny Morgan, founder and co-chair of the Leave No Child Inside Central Ohio Collaborative along with Alice Hohl, who is a website designer and marketing expert. Babysitting will be available for \$1 per child. Reservations are required. RSVP to Amy Boyd at aboyd@audubon.org (preferred) or call 614-545-5486.

Audubon Adventure Camp is filling up fast!

There are still spots available! If you are looking for a great adventure for your child in 1st to 8th grade, consider sending them to day camp at GIAC. Campers will be outside exploring habitats found on the Whittier Peninsula while doing cool, fun conservation-based activities, exploring creative arts, and making new friends.

View weekly themes and register online at www.grangeinsuranceauduboncenter.org/natureeducation. GIAC is conveniently located at the edge of German Village, perfect for parents working downtown. Call Amy Boyd at 614-545-5486.

Join us for the 3rd annual

Back to School Celebration



Saturday, September 8
from 9 am – Noon

Free Admission

Families can look forward to fun educational games to help each student learn how they can “be a green student” at school this year.

Be eco-friendly and donate a gently used bag of clothing for the clothing swap. If donated by September 1st, you will be in the first group in at 8:30am for the best clothing selection.

Grange Insurance Audubon Center



The evening was perfect for the 2012 GIAC Wine and Warblers. Once again the event blended birding and warbler education with wine sampling, great food, and community support. This year's special guests, authors Julie Zickefoose and Bill Thompson III, were especially well received. Thanks to Bill and Julie for joining us this year.

Guest sampled wines provided by Wine Trends, Vintage Wines, and Glazers. Food was provided by GIAC-approved caterers Cameron Mitchell,

Metro Cuisine, and Two Caterers. Their savory and sweet items were a hit!

Bird banding by GIAC conservation manager Anne Balogh and walks lead by a number of Audubon volunteers highlighted the "warbler" portion of the evening. Thank you to our dedicated walk leaders: Tom Bain, Ken Davis, Warren



Grody, Earl Harrison, Bill Heck, Dave Horn, Suzan Jervey, Katryn Renard, and Darlene Sillick, Bill Thompson III, Julie Zickefoose.

New this year was the Top Flight reception. This sold out option included samples from seven wine enthusiasts and members of the Secret Wine Appreciation Team. Thank you to Roger Gentile, Bill Lee, Larry Liebert, John Patton, Ron Pizzuti, Charles Penzone, and Jay Scott for providing both their wine and knowledge to entertain the crowd. Thank you to Peacock Home Lane for decorating the Top Flight rooms.

This year's silent auction include some

incredible donated items, such as tickets from many arts groups and sporting tickets donated by Tom Katzenmeyer (Columbus Clippers tickets), Jeff Chaddock (OSU football), and Beth Crane (Columbus Crew). The wine tree of 30 bottles expanded to include a wine nest (16 bottles at \$30 or more) thanks to donations from the Board, committee, supporters, and staff. There were great art pieces by Kim Graham, Jim Turnachek, and others. A week in Estes Park at Anne Powell Riley's was a highlight as well. There's no way to name everyone, so thank you to everyone who donated or purchased items in this year's silent auction!

continued on page 14



Grange Insurance Audubon Center

More Wine & Warblers Fun...

The program could not have happened once again without the help of the GIAC staff, board, and the following Wine and Warbler committee members: Chair Julie Davis, Sally Blue, Sara Cousins, Greg Cunningham, Morgan Kubic, Kristan Leedy, Anna Lin, Sara Maaseel, Tony Pellerite, Jan Rodenfels, and David Simon.

GIAC would also like to thank this year's sponsors and supporters: Wild Birds Unlimited Nature Store on Riverside Drive, Ohio Ornithological Society, Small Business Outfitters, Apex, and Ohio Environmental Council. Special thanks to Grange Insurance and Limited Brands for purchasing groups of tickets for employee recognition.



This year's event attendance was 320 and raised approximately \$27,000 for GIAC's conservation work. A special thank you to all the guests who attended and the awesome volunteers! We couldn't have done it without you.

Look for dates for the 2013 Wine and Warblers next May!

All photos courtesy of Mike Maier



Columbus Audubon Founded 1913

www.columbusaudubon.org

614-545-5497

Twitter: @ColumbusAudubon

Facebook: Columbus-Audubon

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Vice President: Suzan Jervey

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Newsletter Layout: Julie Davis

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Treasurer: Maura Rawn

Recording Secretary: Tamara James

Past President: Julie Davis

Trustees (through June 30, 2013): George Arnold, Jackie Bain, Amanda Conover, Gerry Brevoort, Tim Daniel, Warren Grody, Bill Heck, Dave Horn, Suzan Jervey, and Darlene Sillick

Additional chapter leaders

Birdathon: Katryn Renard, 614-261-7171

Conservation: Dave Horn, 614-262-0312

Eco Weekend: Dale Brubeck, dbrubeck@columbus.rr.com

Lois Day, 740-793-8843

Education: Jackie Bain, jjbain@insight.rr.com

Field Trips: information@columbusaudubon.org

Membership: Joe Meara, 614-430-9127

Ohio Young Birders: Gerry Brevoort, jbrevoort@columbus.rr.com

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

Service in the Preserves: Katryn Renard, 614-261-7171

Web site: Bill Heck, webmaster@columbusaudubon.org

Welcome New & Renewed Members

April & May 2012

Katherine Abel	Margaret Lynd
Diane Anderson	Ajay Massey
Diane Blaschko	Rebecca McCauley
J Brubeck	Joe Meara
Eve Catus	Karen Mears
Carol Clark	Amelia Menk Brown
Ann Collinger	Carlos Miranda
Joanne Dole	Paul S Morton
Scott & Sandra Drake	Dawn Nauman
Jennifer Evans	John Nemeth
Yoko Faulkner	Melissa Pecci
Justine Feinstein	Marcus & Heike Perko
Rita Finn	Brenda Petruzzella
Jessica Fox	Dave & Maura Rawn
Dareth Gerlach	Deborah Rowe
Carolyn Gruenbaum	Kathy Royer
The Guenterbergs	Ellen Shackelford
Barbara Hykes	David Shuttleworth
Claudia Hansley	Ronald & Rose Solomon
Mary Holden	Rebekah Sowers
Suzanne Holderbaum	Evelyn Louise Spafford
Danielle House	John & Kathy Tucker
Dorothy Howard-Flynn	Kelly Vineyard
Sarah Hudson-Bartczak	Vincent Volpi
Gregory A. Kingsbury	Francoise Wilson
Sarah Landers	Irene Yiu
Sue Lape	

Grange Insurance Audubon Center

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614-545-5475

Staff

Center Director: Christie Vargo

Director of Development & Marketing: Jeff Redfield

Finance & Office Manager: Kristen Clark

Director of Education & Conservation: Amy Boyd

Facility & Nature Store Manager: Patty Hecht

Conservation Manager: Anne Balogh

Educators: Allison Roush and Tori Strickland

Educators (part-time): Karen Karpik, Heather Luedecke, Mindy Tehan

Facility Assistants (part-time): Ian Dowden and Monica Johnson

Volunteer Coordinator (part-time): Nancy Hartman

Spring and Summer hours: Tuesday – Friday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.;

Saturday 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

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

Greg Cunningham (Chair)

Julie Davis (Vice Chair)

Frances Beasley

Jeff Chaddock

Beth Crane

Carol Drake

Bill Heck*

Chester Jourdan

Alan McKnight*

Stuart Muir

Sandra Nesson

John O'Meara*

Lori Overmyer

Steven Puckett

Jan Rodenfels

Milt Schott

Leslie Strader

Christie Vargo, Ex Officio

* Appointed

Thank you recent GIAC donors April & May 2012

Jon & Elaine Altmaier Fund	Cynthia Kelsey
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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, 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.

___ **Organization \$75.** Includes all standard membership benefits

___ **Chickadee \$100.** Includes all standard membership benefits

___ **Great Blue Heron \$250.** Includes all standard membership benefits

___ **Bald Eagle \$500.** Includes all standard membership benefits

___ **Great Egret \$1000.** Includes all standard membership benefits

Joint membership benefits are (all levels):

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

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