

## Never Too Young to Connect to Nature, Never Too Old to Be Inspired by Her Beauty

Grange Insurance Audubon Center and Columbus Audubon have something for everyone: kids and adults, experienced birders and beginner conservationists, lifelong learners and casual visitors. Here's a peek at how GIAC and CA bring you what you're looking for.

Preschoolers are some of the Center's best customers and we love watching them play in the Forest Room—dressing up like birds and flying through the forest climbing structure or burrowing down with puppets under the tree. After enjoying story time on Wednesday morning, parents are all too happy to let their little ones play with newfound friends in "one of the best play areas" in Columbus (as reported in *Columbus Parent* magazine). If your child attends a preschool, suggest that they take a field trip to the Center for the Small Wonders program led by one of our educators. Book your program now as summer spots are filling up fast.



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Look for this icon throughout this issue for stories relating to education and lifelong learning.



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



Audubon Afternoons offered every Saturday and Sunday, led by naturalists who know just how to engage the family in a nature blitz exploring the river's edge, forest, meadow or wetlands. Scouts need to look no further for a great engaging program with one of our fantastic educators. Come and work on a badge or a larger project. Program specifics can be found at [www.grangeinsuranceauduboncenter.org](http://www.grangeinsuranceauduboncenter.org).

Families with school-aged kids can enjoy a variety of programs from Audubon Adventure Camp, where summer play is on the top of the list and the summer is spent with fantastic camp counselors exploring all of the habitats represented on the Whittier Peninsula. Families have found a nature oasis with



*continued on page 3*

### From Columbus Audubon president Bill Heck

What's up with Columbus Audubon? Ah, so much to tell you, and so little space...

You already know that Columbus Audubon is a century old this year. On June 9, almost 100 people joined to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the very first meeting of Columbus Audubon with an ice cream social at the GIAC. The afternoon featured live raptors and talks from our friends at the Ohio Wildlife Center, games for the kids, locally-made ice cream, beautiful weather, and, most of all, a few hours of socializing and birdwatching on a Sunday afternoon. Thanks to all who joined in!

Our 100th anniversary year continues with our usual schedule of programs on the fourth Tuesday of every month, starting on September 24 featuring world-renowned Puffin expert (and rescuer) Steve Kress. November 10 will bring one of our biggest events of the year, Art for Audubon, our art auction fundraiser. It's a win-win: you have the chance to acquire beautiful artwork, unique services, and other fun items while supporting the Columbus Audubon programs and projects that you love. You can find event and registration details on page 8 of this newsletter or at [www.columbusaudubon.org/a4a](http://www.columbusaudubon.org/a4a).

Let me leave you with a thought about Columbus Audubon's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. In today's world of 2013, we are often distracted by the events of the day. Here at home, economic concerns and political gridlock seem to dominate our discussions, while the international news seems filled with unsettling events in faraway lands. How can we possibly find the time to worry about local conservation and environmental education? Well, 1913 was a year marked by devastating floods in Ohio, activism for women's right to vote in the United States, and the run-up to World War I internationally. Yet in that year of turmoil, a few people had the wisdom and foresight to form an Audubon chapter in Columbus, one that grew and worked for the community for a century. Surely we, too, can demonstrate that same level of commitment to conservation today.



### From GIAC center director Christie Vargo

Learning: I like to think of the Grange Insurance Audubon Center as a learning organization. The Center opened nearly four years ago in late August 2009. While still on the uphill climb of the learning curve, we now know a lot more than we knew on opening day. The Stewardship Board and Center staff are taking a hard look at our vision, mission, activities, and outcomes. What is working and not? What should we keep, what should be tweaked, and what should we let go? Hard conversations, necessary conversations as we aspire to be a relevant resource to the Columbus community.



What have we learned? While first-time visitors are often awed by the building and space, there is not much for the casual, walk-in visitor to see and do having come once before. Creating engaging visitor experiences is our primary goal. You will see changes in signage, self-guided tours through printed guides and mobile apps, as well as opportunities for visitors to share their experiences with others.

The Center relies on contributed and earned income to offer free admissions, free Audubon Afternoons on weekends, educational support to Columbus City Schools, and subsidized participation in programs for targeted populations. However, some programs which should be paying for themselves are not, due to low numbers of participants, lack of appeal, and/or low pricing. As a result, marketing is a high priority to increase visibility and program participation.

*Continued on page 3*

Try our new mobile app and take a tour of the Grange Insurance Audubon Center on your smartphone.



Tour also available at [www.giac-audubon.org](http://www.giac-audubon.org)



## Balogh Sisters Exhibit Art and Photography at GIAC

The Balogh sisters, Anne and Jenna, are a creative and talented pair. Anne is the conservation manager at the GIAC by day and an artist by night. She gets a lot of inspiration for her artwork from nature, surroundings, and experiences as a biologist. She also enjoys exploring the human face and figure and paints custom portraits from photos. Anne and her husband also make ornaments and mobiles; you can see them at [www.potbellies.etsy.com](http://www.potbellies.etsy.com). If you're interested in a painting, print, or a custom portrait, please feel free to contact Anne with any questions [ABalogh@aol.com](mailto:ABalogh@aol.com).



Jenna's work has been displayed at the Penelec and Megahan Galleries at Allegheny College and galleries in Frostburg, MD. Recently Jenna completed a course in wedding photography through the University of Akron. Many of her photos come from adventures in New Zealand, Wyoming, Scotland, road trips across the USA, and many come from adventures very close to home! You can see her work at [www.bizzycatstudio.etsy.com](http://www.bizzycatstudio.etsy.com).



### Never too young, continued from page 1

Adults can enjoy learning a new skill such as native gardening or birding 101. Workshops are provided by Center staff as well as by our partners such as Scioto Gardens, Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District, and experts from the Columbus Audubon chapter. We are never too old to learn and many people really enjoy becoming a citizen scientist: assisting Audubon with critical data collection that helps inform decisions on habitat restoration, which in turn helps migrating birds and other wildlife. Many retired folks enjoy spending time at the Center volunteering in a variety of ways: greeting our visitors, working in the Nature Store, helping with bird banding and other citizen science programs, or just coming in once in a while for a special event.



Inspiration doesn't have a time- or expertise-limit. Some of our most experienced birders and naturalists stay youthful and engaged by continually returning to nature for inspiration. CA and GIAC provide field trips and programs that help long-time birders recharge and learn new things—a form of continuing nature education. CA field trip leaders are always willing to share their knowledge with new birders and even they learn as they lead, as nature always has something new to teach us. Trip leaders help with bird identification and also point out interesting behaviors, help spot trends, and extend our knowledge of habitats. Whether helping with long-term studies, censusing, nest box monitoring, giving service to nature preserves, or just exploring new areas, CA field trips and programs are a great way to expand and deepen your knowledge and appreciation of birds and all aspects of nature. Up-to-date field trip details can be found at [www.columbusaudubon.org/events](http://www.columbusaudubon.org/events).

*Contributors: Rob Thorn and Amy Boyd*

### From GIAC center director continued from page 2

We are also joining with program partners to broaden our offerings and audiences. Some of our “standard” programs may go by the wayside, and some prices may increase. Overall, we think you will find a menu of new, interesting, and affordable program opportunities and ways for you to engage with the Center.

Center volunteers number well over 100. Improvements have been made to volunteer scheduling and tracking of hours, volunteer orientation, training, recognition, and ongoing volunteer development. As an investment in our number one resource, volunteers, we are committed to continuous improvement of systems, training and education, and an environment where volunteers find fulfillment and satisfaction.

We invite your input on what the Center should be when it grows up. Please feel free to send your thoughts and comments to me at [cvargo@audubon.org](mailto:cvargo@audubon.org).

## Northern Parula Warbler

The little bird remained maddeningly elusive, darting behind leaves high up in a sycamore to keep me from getting a good look. “Typical warbler,” I muttered to myself, as much an expletive as an identification. I couldn’t make out the species, though, and I heard the nearby peeping of a begging juvenile, so the ID would be crucial here. I was part of the Second Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas (OBBA2), and breeding warblers were a scarce commodity on my suburban blocks. Finally the bird revealed itself, both with a good glimpse and its very distinctive song, a buzzy trip up the harmonic scale: zee-ee-ee-ee-ee-tsupp. “Parula”, I thought, “I don’t remember them breeding around here.”

This scenario occurred with surprising regularity in my six years with the OBBA2 in the Columbus suburbs. Parula Warblers, which had been uncommon migrants and rare local breeders, were suddenly showing up in lots of places. This distinctive little southern warbler, with its plethora of field marks—bright yellow throat bordered by a beautiful orange breast band, blue-ish head with white eye crescents, and subtle olive patch on the back between the wings—seemed to be invading riparian areas throughout central Ohio. Not that I was complaining, mind you, but something was happening to give these little birds an ability to colonize habitats that lacked many other breeding warblers.

Northern Parula Warblers (*Parula americana*) are a bit unusual: a subtropical wood warbler that has steadily moved its breeding range north. Its closest relatives are the Tropical Parula (*P. pitiayuni*) and the Flame-throated and Crescent-chested Warblers (genus *Oreothlypis*) of Mexico and Central America. [Note: recent genetic evidence has merged Parulas and most North American wood warblers into one genus *Setophaga*]. All look and behave similarly, being canopy foragers in tropical lowland broadleaf forests, having high buzzy songs, and nesting in mossy thickets. Northern Parulas are the only long-distance migrant in this group, with most eastern US birds heading south to coastal Central America, Florida, and the Caribbean islands.

Parulas return to the US in the first waves of spring Neotropical migrants, showing up in the southern states in early April and reaching southern Ohio by mid-late April. Aside from migrant traps, they can be easily found in riparian forests throughout the eastern US, where they gravitate towards areas that are humid enough to support large patches of hanging moss, mostly south and east of Ohio. Growing up in south Florida, I had to make special trips out to Big Cypress Preserve to look for nesting birds among the Spanish moss-draped cypress heads there. A subpopulation has adapted to the mosses of boreal forests, and they nest in northern spruce bogs and hemlock forests of Canada and the Appalachians, showing up here in Ohio nowadays mostly as migrants. Nesting occurs starting in mid-May and can run through July; some pairs will nest get off several broods. Unlike many warblers, Parulas seem to be rarely parasitized by cowbirds, possibly because of their cryptic mossy nests.

Aside from migrants, Parulas have been unusually scarce in the Midwest for much of our lives. That has not always been the case here; they were formerly regular breeders in the hemlock copses of eastern Ohio and neighboring West Virginia and Pennsylvania, but many populations there have declined over the years. Some people have speculated that the industrialization of these areas may have altered the environment so that their favored hemlock moss clump nest sites were less available. Interestingly, more southern-type riparian-favoring birds have steadily invaded the state, starting with southwest Ohio in the 1950s and moving up into central Ohio in the 1990s, reaching Columbus in the 2000s. When I first arrived here in 1994, nesting Parulas were scarce and could only be found locally along Darby Creek. Since that time, they’ve moved to all of our major creeks and can now be found even in some isolated urban parks. Since we don’t have large clumps of hanging mosses, it’s unclear how these birds have adapted, but lack of hanging moss hasn’t stopped them. You can listen for them along the Darby Creeks, in areas of Three Creeks Metro Park, parks along Big Walnut Creek, and the Scioto and Olentangy Rivers, and marvel at an adaptable warbler.



**Rob Thorn**



# Columbus Audubon

## Columbus Audubon Celebrates 100th with Catered Dinner and Speaker Kimberly Kaufman

Photos courtesy of Mike Maier



Columbus Audubon members enjoy the catered dinner by Berwick Manor.



Special guest Kimberly Kaufman wowed the guests with her heartfelt talk.



Kenn Kaufman and the Ohio Young Birders Club members.

VP Suzan Jervey thanks Kimberly for spending her birthday with CA.



A full house in attendance for the special anniversary program.

# Columbus Audubon



## July & August Field Trips

For complete descriptions of all trips, visit our web site:  
[www.columbusaudubon.org/events](http://www.columbusaudubon.org/events)



### Birding by Kayak

Sat., July 13 from 8:30 am to noon

Meet at TAASC, 6000 Harriot Rd. in Powell ([www.TAASC.org](http://www.TAASC.org)). Bring water, snacks, binoculars, and sun screen. Some tandem kayaks available. Cost \$20 per person, kayaks provided. Please pre-register with Darlene Sillick at [azuretrails@columbus.rr.com](mailto:azuretrails@columbus.rr.com).

### Bird Hike at Blendon Woods

Sun., July 14 from 8:00 am to 11:00 am

We will meet Bruce Simpson at the nature center and then explore Thoreau Lake and other trails. Bring binoculars or borrow ours. For more information call Blendon Woods Metro Park at 614-895-6221.

### Bird Hike at Blendon Woods

Sun., August 4 from 8:00 am to 11:00 am

We will meet Bruce Simpson at the nature center and then explore Thoreau Lake and other trails. Bring binoculars or borrow ours. For more information call Blendon Woods Metro Park at 614-895-6221.

### Birding by Kayak

Sat., August 10 from 8:30 am to noon

Meet at TAASC, 6000 Harriot Rd. in Powell ([www.TAASC.org](http://www.TAASC.org)). Bring water, snacks, binoculars, and sun screen. Some tandem kayaks available. Cost \$20 per person, kayaks provided. Please pre-register with Darlene Sillick at [azuretrails@columbus.rr.com](mailto:azuretrails@columbus.rr.com).



## An Education... and Beyond!

The goals of the Ohio Young Birders Club (OYBC) are “to encourage, educate and empower our youth conservation leaders.” Education is a key component of what goes on in our central Ohio chapter of OYBC, but it goes way beyond studying field guides, memorizing bird calls, or committing taxonomy details to memory. OYBC



is all about providing its young members with opportunities to learn and grow and stretch in ways they may never have thought possible. It's about fostering curiosity and a sense of wonder. It's about uncovering their gifts and talents, and helping these students to be and do all that they are capable of.

For the teenaged members of our OYBC chapter, learning takes place in the woods, on the water, in a conference center, in a basement workshop, or at a picnic table with their peers. The OYBC experience educates the *whole* person. Our young birders develop their knowledge of the natural world by being out in it. They build their self-confidence by doing *real* conservation work, knowing that they truly can make a difference in the planet's future. They learn to get along with each other, to compromise, to make choices, to make

friends, and to celebrate what they have in common, along with what makes each of them unique.

Wanna broaden your education? Come join the Ohio Young Birders Club! Visit [www.columbusaudubon.org/oybc](http://www.columbusaudubon.org/oybc) for more information.

*Gerry Brevoort*



## Conservation Corner: Lights Out Columbus Update



While spring migration is the highlight of the year for many bird watchers, for our migratory birds the annual voyage to reach their breeding grounds is fraught with hazards and threats. One of the most dangerous hazards during their nightly migrations is artificial lighting. Lights, especially on tall buildings or aimed at the sky, can disorient them and draw them into the buildings. This leads many birds to strike windows or circle buildings until they can no longer fly. Researchers estimate that each year in the US more than 1 billion birds are killed by collisions with buildings and windows.

Reductions in lighting can help to reduce collision-related kills. Lights Out Columbus works with building owners and managers to reduce the impacts of the building's lighting on migrating birds, while maintaining safety standards and aesthetic beauty. Columbus Audubon would like to thank the following six buildings, including three new buildings this year, for committing to saving our migratory birds:

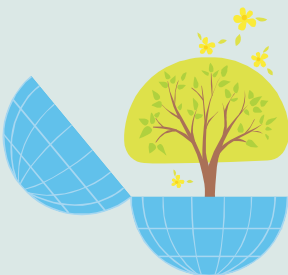
- American Electric Power Corporate Headquarters
- Columbus City Hall
- Columbia Gas
- Grange Insurance Corporate Headquarters
- Grange Insurance Audubon Center
- One Columbus

For more information on Lights Out Columbus and how to prevent window collisions at your home, please visit [www.obcinet.org](http://www.obcinet.org).

*Amanda Duren*



## Conservation Corner: CA Conservation Grant Program



Conservation of birds, other wildlife, and their habitats has been a vital part of the mission of Columbus Audubon for all of our 100 years. In this spirit, Columbus Audubon announced a new conservation grant program to support the conservation of Ohio's native bird species. The conservation grant program offers financial support for habitat management, habitat protection, and scientific research projects especially in central Ohio.

Funding is open to non-profit organizations, businesses, clubs, educational institutions, and individuals. The conservation grant program is supported by fundraising efforts such as the bird seed sale and Birdathon, and to all members who support these fundraisers: thank you. Your contributions go to good purpose.

Applications for 2013 grants are currently under review, and awards will be announced this summer. Grant recipients will be invited to share the results of their projects with Columbus Audubon members at a future monthly program.

*Amanda Duren and Dave Horn*

# Columbus Audubon

## EcoWeekend Committee Extends Thanks

The EcoWeekend committee would like to say a big thank you to all who made the 41st EcoWeekend a success this year. There were 165 people registered with over 124 overnight at the campgrounds. A special thank you goes to Camp Oty'Okwa and staff for the use of their wonderful facility and help in making this a successful event.



This year there were 44 different programs offered for adults and families, plus yoga in the morning and a Saturday night program for all by Mark Berman ("The Bugman"). Programs included birding, insects, wildflowers, geology, bats, stream discovery, mushrooms, reptiles, moss, astronomy, owl walks, and many other activities.

Sincere thanks go to the 51 leaders for the adult, youth and family programs:

Lisa Adams, Kara Aden, Paulette Ariss, Jennifer Biesecker, Josh Bryant, Jarrod Burks, Susie Burks, Duan Cannon, Ann Cornell, Sarah Dalton, Jim Davidson, Megan DeLaurentis, Patty DeMaria, Jane Ann Ellis, Mike Flynn, Joyce Gibson, Clyde Gosnell, Sue Gross, Dave Horn, Suzan Jervey, Jeff Johnson, Larry Koebel, Rebekah Korenowsky, David Landers, Sarah Landers, Terry Lyons, Jay Matthews, Andrea Moore, Joe Mooserudder, Kevin O'Conner, Martha O'Conner, Dan Perko, Heike Perko, Amanda Preston, Pat Quackenbush, Katryn Renard, Don Rice, Kent Rothermel, David Sagan, Joy Schumacher, Cheyenne Senften, Jill Snyder, Fred Steck, Heather Stehle, Brenda Thomas, Scott Thomas, Sharon Treaster, Darcy VanDervort, Barb White, Terry Wilkins, and Francoise Wilson.

Special thanks are also extended to the tireless and enthusiastic EcoWeekend committee members: Lisa Adams, Paulette Ariss, Mary Counter, Lois Day, Jane Dean, Megan DeLaurentis, Patty DeMaria, Scott Drake, Sue and Eric Gross, Roz Horn, Becky Hufferberger, Sarah Landers, Jay Matthews, Liz Melick, Tom and Marcia Morgan, and Maura Rawn. These are the folks who planned it all!

Come join us for EcoWeekend 2014. It will be held on May 2-4, 2014 at Camp Oty'Okwa. If you are interested in serving on the EcoWeekend committee or volunteering as a program leader, call me at 614-888-0685 or email [dbrubeck@columbus.rr.com](mailto:dbrubeck@columbus.rr.com). To find out more about EcoWeekend, check out our website at [www.ecoweekend.org](http://www.ecoweekend.org).

With many thanks to all the willing volunteers who together make EcoWeekend a great success for Columbus Audubon.

*Dale Brubeck, chair of EcoWeekend committee*

## Save the Date: Art for Audubon 2013

Columbus Audubon will hold its premiere fundraising event, Art for Audubon, on Sunday, November 10 from 4:00-7:00 pm. You won't want to miss this unique and exciting opportunity to acquire beautiful artwork and other items while helping to support the Columbus Audubon programs that you love.

This year's collection of fine art is highlighted by a series of bird and wildlife prints by well-known American artists. There's much more, though, including art photography, craftworks, jewelry, and a variety of sports and entertainment packages.



For the first time, this year CA offers Art for Audubon sponsorship opportunities for businesses and individuals. We have a range of sponsorship levels that include admissions, Audubon memberships, and exclusive recognition

In preparation for Art for Audubon, we are seeking donations of auction items, especially three-dimensional art and craftworks, event packages, and other services. Please contact event organizer Julie Davis at [greenheron58@insight.rr.com](mailto:greenheron58@insight.rr.com) for information on sponsorships and donations.

Detailed information on registration, sponsorship opportunities, and more will be available soon on the Columbus Audubon website at [www.columbusaudubon.org/a4a](http://www.columbusaudubon.org/a4a) and in the next issue of the newsletter.



# Columbus Audubon and GIAC Events

## Schedule of Events

GIAC events are in black text.

Columbus Audubon events are in green text

**Nature Store closed for inventory**

Tues., July 2 all day

**Red, White and Boom**

Wed., July 3 (Closing Early at 3:00 pm)

**Independence Day USA**

Thurs., July 4 CENTER CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC ALL DAY

**Audubon Afternoons - Wetlands**

Sat.-Sun., July 6 - 7 1:00 - 3:00 pm

**Audubon Adventure Camp - Scioto Sleuths**

Mon. - Fri., July 8 - 12 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

**Birding by Kayak**

Sat., July 13 8:30 am to noon

**Outdoor Yoga**

Sat., July 13 10:00 - 11:00 am

**Audubon Afternoons - Habitats**

Sat.-Sun., July 13-14 1:00 - 3:00 pm

**Bird Hike at Blendon Woods**

Sun., July 14 8:00 - 11:00 am

**Audubon Adventure Camp - Audubon Artists**

Mon. - Fri., July 15 - 19 9:00 am- 4:00 pm

**GIAC Volunteer Orientation**

Tues., July 16 6:00 - 7:00 pm

**Audubon Afternoons - Creatures of the night**

Sat. - Sun., July 20-21 1:00 - 3:00 pm

**Mindfulness Yoga**

Sun., July 21 12:00 - 1:30pm

First class of a 4 week series, ends on Aug 11

**Audubon Adventure Camp - Myth Busting with Audubon**

Mon. - Fri., July 22 - 26 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

**Audubon Afternoons - Nature Journaling**

Sat.-Sun., July 27-28 1:00 - 3:00 pm

**Audubon Adventure Camp - It's a Bugs Life**

Mon. - Fri., July 29 - Aug 2, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

**"Fall in Love with Nature" Lunch - Table Captain Kickoff**

Wed., July 31 5:30 - 7:00pm

For those signed up or interested in being a table captain/host for the October 3 Gift Luncheon

**Audubon Afternoons - Tracking**

Sat.-Sun., Aug 3 - 4 1:00 - 3:00 pm

**Bird Hike at Blendon Woods**

Sun., August 4 8:00 - 11:00 am

**Audubon Adventure Camp - Survivor**

Mon. - Fri., Aug 5 - 9 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

**Birding by Kayak**

Sat., August 10 8:30 am - noon

### July 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

### August 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

**Outdoor Yoga**

Sat., Aug 10 10:00 - 11:00 am

**Audubon Afternoons - Adaptations**

Sat.-Sun., Aug 10 - 11 1:00 - 3:00 pm

**Audubon Adventure Camp - Adventure Celebration**

Mon. - Fri., Aug 12 - 16 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

**Bands, Birds & Beer**

Fri., Aug 16 7:00 - 11:00 pm

**Audubon Afternoons - Birdfeeders and Houses**

Sat.-Sun., Aug 17 - 18 1:00 - 3:00 pm

**GIAC Volunteer Orientation**

Tues., Aug 20 6:00 - 7:00 pm

**Audubon Afternoons - Birds and Art**

Sat.-Sun., Aug 24 - 25 1:00 - 3:00 pm

**Audubon Afternoons - Migration**

Sat.-Sun., Aug 31 - Sept 1 1:00 - 3:00 pm

**Mindfulness Yoga**

Sat., Sept 7 9:30 - 11:00 am

First class in a nice week series ends on Nov. 9  
(no class on Oct. 5)

**GIAC Volunteer Orientation**

Tues., Sept 17 6:00 - 7:00 pm

**Leave No Child Inside Central Ohio Summit**

Fri., Sept 27 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

# Wine & Warblers

## Scenes from 3rd annual Wine & Warblers



The wine tree was a popular silent auction item.



A BIG thank you to Wild Birds Unlimited - Riverside for once again sponsoring our wine glasses and Ohio Ornithological Society for sponsoring the wrist bands!



Enjoying wine and food.

Photos courtesy of Mike Maier



Guests enjoy bird banding by Ann Balogh.



Bidding on silent auction items.



Binoculars waiting for warbler walk participants.



## Going Back To School Greener



Back to school is an exciting and busy time of year. It can also be costly, not only on your pocketbook but on many of our precious natural resources. By planning ahead, you can save time, money, and even the earth this fall. Here are three simple tips to help get your school year off to a great and greener start:

**Strive to be Waste-Free when Packing Lunch:** One of the biggest waste producers in packed school lunches is individual wrapping. The sandwich is wrapped, the chips are sealed, the drinks are boxed, fruit is even enclosed in a wrapper at times, and often all these things are packed in one big plastic bag. All of this wrapping creates a tremendous amount of waste that can rarely be recycled. Consider what a difference it would make to have one reusable lunch container filled with various smaller reusable containers and a reusable bottle for a beverage. Also consider the money you would save by buying in bulk and breaking portions down each day rather than buying multiple individually wrapped packages. Each summer at our Audubon Adventure Camp, we strive for our campers to become as waste-free as possible, especially when it comes to lunch. Even changing one or two components inside the lunchbox can make a huge difference, and we often find that campers decrease the total waste by at least 50% each week.



**Take the Greener Way to School:** In 2009 a National Household Travel Survey was conducted, which measured trips to school of one mile or less, a distance considered easily walkable and bikeable for most students. The survey found that 38% of 5-14 year old students reported walking and bicycling to school, compared to 88% of students in 1969. The survey also found that 12% of children arrived at school by private automobile in 1969; by 2009, this number increased to 44%. It's easier to drop children off or pick them up directly at school on the way to and from work or errands but consider the impact on the environment and the strain on your gas budget. Consider working with other families in your neighborhood to organize a walking school bus (group of children walking to school with one or more adults) or bicycle train to encourage opportunities to appreciate the natural world, exercise, breathe fresh air, and value stewardship of mother earth. A carpooling system for inclement weather days further decreases gas emissions, idling congestion close to schools, and fuel costs. These activities take planning and commitment to ensure the safety of the children and adults involved but the benefits are well worth the effort. For more information on starting a walking school bus or bicycle train visit [www.walkingschoolbus.org](http://www.walkingschoolbus.org) or [www.saferoutesinfo.org](http://www.saferoutesinfo.org).



**Get Out and Play at the End of the Day:** Years ago children would be seen in the neighborhood after school playing outside until sunset. Now, when the school bell rings, throngs of children go home and “plug-in” for the remainder of the day. According to the Children and Nature Network, in 2008 children were spending half as much time outdoors as they did 20 years ago. In fact, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation, today children 8-18 years old devote an average of 7 hours and 38 minutes using entertainment media in a typical day. With increased numbers of parents working, greater numbers of children coming home to an empty house, increased dependence on

technology, and safety concerns, the number of children engaging in outdoor free play after school has decreased. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends at least 60 minutes of daily unstructured free play as essential to children's physical and mental health. At the beginning of the school year, be sure to schedule outdoor play and an “unplugged” hour before bedtime. Before you know it these times will be a part of the new school-year routine!

# Grange Insurance Audubon Center

## Welcome GIAC's newest board members

Grange Insurance Audubon Center is pleased to highlight our two newest members to the Stewardship Board.

**Aparna Dial** has more than 18 years of experience in sustainability, environmental regulatory compliance, energy purchasing, energy conservation, recycling and waste reduction. She has had many roles as a successful leader setting and achieving transformative organizational goals.



Aparna received numerous awards at The Ohio State University, including the first campus Sustainability Award (2011) and the Michael Blankenship Award. She has also contributed articles and conference presentations as a nationally recognized visionary and innovator in campus sustainability.

Aparna holds an MPA from the Fisher College of Business at The Ohio State University, an MS in civil and environmental engineering (summa cum laude) from Utah State University, and a BS in civil engineering (summa cum laude) from Osmania University (India).

**Rich Shank** recently retired from ScottsMiracle-Gro as senior vice president, where he was responsible for regulatory and compliance processes.



Prior to ScottsMiracle-Gro, Rich served as executive director of the Nature Conservancy's Ohio chapter. He is a former vice president for environmental business activities with Science Applications International Corp. and former director of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.

He serves on the boards of the Ohio Environmental Council and the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium and was appointed by former Ohio Governor Bob Taft to the Ohio Environmental Education Fund Board.

Rich holds a PhD in environmental toxicology from The Ohio State University. He also earned a master's in zoology/aquatic toxicology and a bachelor's in natural resources at OSU.

## Johann Cozart Award and Volunteer Recognition

At the recent annual Volunteer Recognition Event, Center volunteers celebrated all of their hard work over the past year and enjoyed a nice dinner catered by City Barbecue.

Denny Forrest was the recipient of the Johann Cozart Outstanding Volunteer Award. Denny is a greeter on Thursdays and a great ambassador for the Center. He loves to share fun facts about the Center and Metro Park and has never met a stranger. He is a skilled wood craftsman and has made many unique things for the Center. The Center staff and volunteers congratulate Denny for his outstanding service as a volunteer.

The Good Egg award was created this year to celebrate a volunteer who has gone above and beyond and is just an all-around "good egg." Our first recipient is Jill Holl. Each quarter a new "good egg" will be identified so stop by the Center and check the display at the front desk.

A new volunteer recognition system was implemented to award volunteers for the number of hours that they give each year with pewter pins representative of the hours served.

The Center is very grateful to our volunteers and we are honored that these wonderful people choose to give their time and talent to help accomplish the mission of Audubon.



### Have the dog days of summer set in at your house? Send the kids to Audubon Adventure Camp!

- Exciting weekly themes with lots of time spent outdoors
- Engaged and caring camp counselors
- Monday - Friday 9 am to 4 pm
- Before and after care available
- GIAC members \$185, non-members \$200

Register on line at  
[www.grangeinsuranceauduboncenter.org](http://www.grangeinsuranceauduboncenter.org)





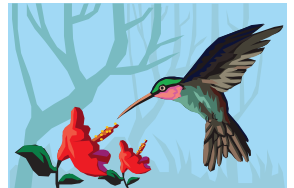
# Grange Insurance Audubon Center

## Spring event recap



**Earth Day:** On April 20, Grange Insurance Audubon Center was an Earth Day Columbus worksite. We had 65 participants who worked hard all morning, giving time and sweat equity to the Earth resulting in over 200 volunteer hours. The projects they tackled were multiple. Some conducted a river clean-up and filled over twenty-five 40 gallon bags with trash. Others helped to remove invasive plants from our park and cleared a sizable section of bush honeysuckle. Finally, a group with green thumbs helped us to beautify and maintain our native plant gardens. We want to thank all of our participants whose hard work benefited our Center and Metro Park. We also want to extend the invitation to other groups and individuals. Make every day Earth Day, and schedule a volunteer service day today!

**Hummingbirds at Home:** On Friday, May 10, we welcomed Audubon's chief scientist, Dr. Gary Langham, for an intimate evening discussing Audubon's new citizen science project, Hummingbirds at Home. Hummingbirds at Home is the first mobile app-based citizen science program that allows people to capture and report hummingbird sightings on their smart phones or tablets. If you missed the program, but would like to learn more, please visit <http://birds.audubon.org/hummingbirds-home>.



**International Migratory Bird Day Celebration:** On May 11 we had a fun and educational day filled with activities for all ages, presentations on native plants and a native plant sale, art vendors, and food trucks. We hope to build on this annual event each year, so look for more details next year.

## Spring Seasonal Banding Report

Spring migratory banding was conducted on 22 days from April 9 to May 31, 2013. A total of 605 birds were captured: 506 new and 99 recaptures representing 66 species. These included eighteen warbler species, five thrush species, woodpeckers, vireos, flycatchers, kinglets, orioles, sparrows, and more. The list of recaptured species includes Warbling Vireo, Northern Cardinal, Song Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Yellow Warbler, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Gray Catbird, Baltimore Oriole, Tree Swallow, Indigo Bunting, and Common Yellowthroat. A number of species showed either a brood patch or a cloacal protuberance, which confirmed their active breeding status within Scioto Audubon Metro Park. These included Warbling Vireos, Baltimore and Orchard Orioles, Indigo Buntings, Song Sparrows, Yellow Warblers, and Brown Thrashers.

We had nine active volunteers who donated 240 volunteer hours. We had many drop-in visitors and were able to reach a large number of students. Ohio State's ornithology class (65 students) attended banding demonstrations over two consecutive days. School groups involved in Conservation Classroom visited almost daily, ranging from pre-K to 6<sup>th</sup> grade, and over 250 students attended banding demonstrations. If you are interested in visiting or volunteering, we will begin fall migration banding in mid-August. Contact Anne at [abalough@audubon.org](mailto:abalough@audubon.org) for more info.



Birds of a Feather... Shop Together!

Save the Date for the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual GIAC Holiday Shop Around  
Saturday, November 16

Vendors at the green craft fair: contact [phecht@audubon.org](mailto:phecht@audubon.org)  
for more information

Business Sponsors: contact [jredfield@audubon.org](mailto:jredfield@audubon.org)

# Grange Insurance Audubon Center

## Join us for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Bands, Birds and Beer!



**Friday, August 16 from 7:00pm – 11:00pm**

**Featuring the local band Sons of Gladys and Grassinine**

It's hard to believe but many people in and around Columbus still don't know about the Center and the conservation and education work that takes place at this green oasis right in the heart of the city. What better way to spread the word than to grab your friends and come down to the Center for a summer evening of great music, food, and beverages along the banks of the Scioto River. This year's event is gearing up to be a great one with two exciting bands. We will start the evening with

Sons of Gladys, an Elvis tribute band (August 16<sup>th</sup> is the anniversary of Elvis' death). After the first band, we will take a break and have a "creature feature" then back to the music with Grassinine. The evening will also feature bird walks with Columbus Audubon volunteers at the overlook deck.

The first band to take the stage will be Sons of Gladys. They play the music of Elvis Presley and have been making music in Central Ohio since 2002. After Elvis gets you warmed up the band Grassinine will have you up and dancing on the lawn to some of your favorite tunes. Both bands are donating their time and talent to help support the Center's education and conservation programs.

Purchase \$10 admission at [www.giac-audubon.org](http://www.giac-audubon.org) until August 14 or \$15 at the door. Hot delicious Donatos pizza and a variety of other food will be available for sale, as well as beer and wine available for sale with ID. In case of rain, the event will move inside.



## Yoga at GIAC

GIAC is teaming up with Yoga on High to offer a variety of yoga classes at the Center. Come and practice the art of yoga surrounded by nature in a room full of natural light. There is something for everyone. Register and find class descriptions at [www.yogaonhigh.com/classes/programs-audubon](http://www.yogaonhigh.com/classes/programs-audubon).



**Summer Yoga for Kids** (4 weeks, \$60) Fridays, July 12-August 2, 9:15 am-10:15 am

Sign your child up for this fun, safe, and gentle way to be physically active and enhance his or her well-being.

**Pilates** (4 weeks, \$60) Fridays, July 12-August 2, 9:15 am-10:15 am

Pilates is a series of dynamic exercises designed by Joseph Pilates. The "Method," as Pilates enthusiasts sometimes call it, is an excellent enhancement to core stability for the yoga student.

**Mindfulness Yoga** (4 weeks, \$60) Sundays, July 21-Aug 11, 12:00 pm-1:30 pm

This mixed-level class uses simple hatha yoga sequences as a vehicle for developing mindfulness, the practice of present-moment awareness.

**Outdoor Yoga** (donation classes with proceeds to GIAC) Saturday, July 13, 10:00 am-11:00 am and Saturday, August 10, 10:00 am-11:00 am

Both classes will include stretching, breath awareness, yoga postures, and relaxation. No previous yoga experience required. If you have your own mat please bring it with you. In case of rain, class will move inside to the common area.

**Mindfulness Yoga** (10 weeks, \$145) Saturdays, September 7-November 9 (no class October 5), 9:30 am - 11:00 am

This mixed-level class uses simple hatha yoga sequences as a vehicle for developing mindfulness, the practice of present-moment awareness.

**Autumn Art and Yoga** (\$25) Sunday, October 27, 12:00 pm-2:00 pm

Celebrate the autumn hues with our Art & Yoga offering. Collect colorful leaves on a short walk before a gentle yoga movement practice. Feel the season and tap into your innate creativity as you are guided through the process of making a unique piece of art to take home.



## Columbus Audubon (Founded 1913)

**Mission:** To promote the appreciation, understanding and conservation of birds, other wildlife and their habitats, for present and future generations.

[www.columbusaudubon.org](http://www.columbusaudubon.org)

614-545-5497

Twitter: @ColumbusAudubon Facebook: Columbus-Audubon

### Officers

President: Bill Heck, 614-895-1940

Vice President: Suzan Jervey

Treasurer: Maura Rawn

Recording Secretary: Tamara James, [tamajam@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tamajam@sbcglobal.net)

Past President: Julie Davis

**Trustees (through June 30, 2014):** George Arnold, Amanda Duren, Tim Daniel, Warren Grody, Bill Heck, Dave Horn, Tamara James, Suzan Jervey, Mark Young

### Additional chapter leaders

Birdathon: Linda Benner, 614-237-7644, [winter\\_wren@att.net](mailto:winter_wren@att.net)

Conservation: Dave Horn, 614-262-0312

Eco Weekend: Dale Brubeck, [dbrubeck@columbus.rr.com](mailto:dbrubeck@columbus.rr.com)

Lois Day, 614-793-8843

Education: Jackie Bain, [jjbain@insight.rr.com](mailto:jjbain@insight.rr.com)

Field Trips: [information@columbusaudubon.org](mailto:information@columbusaudubon.org)

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

Web site: Bill Heck, [webmaster@columbusaudubon.org](mailto:webmaster@columbusaudubon.org)

Web/Social Media: Stefanie Hauck

**This newsletter is printed on 100% recycled stock with soy ink.**

## Thank you recent GIAC donors (March & April 2013)

George & Vanessa Arnold  
Frances Beasley  
Tracy Bieser  
Paul Bingle  
Bird Watcher's Digest  
Cardinal Health  
Kristen Clark  
Columbus Audubon  
Alexander Darragh  
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William Schnug  
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Christie Vargo  
Craig Weaver  
Kay Williamson  
Bernard & Doris Zindler

## Grange Insurance Audubon Center

**Mission:** 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. [www.grangeinsuranceauduboncenter.org](http://www.grangeinsuranceauduboncenter.org)

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

Education Program Manager: Allison Roush

Educator: Paul Tankovich

Educators (part-time): Kevin Gish, Stacy Goebbel, Karen Karpik, Marci Lininger

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

**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 St. or Front St. turn west on Whittier (which runs along south end of German Village and Brewery District). Follow Whittier, making no turns, across the bridge spanning the tracks, 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

Arpana Dial

Carol Drake

Bill Heck\*

Alan McKnight\*

Sandra Nessing

John O'Meara\*

Lori Overmyer

Steven Puckett

Jan Rodenfels

Milt Schott

Rich Shank

Leslie Strader

Christie Vargo, Ex Officio

\* Appointed

## Welcome new & renewed members (March & April 2013)

Mark Aalyson  
ADAMH  
MaGrann Associates  
Marcia Barnhart  
Arden Baumann  
William Beer  
Madalyn Benjamin  
Arnold Berger  
Laura Bogreess  
Laura Bump  
Rachael Bush  
John T. Condon  
Elizabeth Crane &  
Richard McKee  
Hilary Damaser  
Emelio Disabato  
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Carrie Ghose  
Randy Headley  
William & Mary Heck

DC Heiman  
Akuce Jackson  
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Robert Kala & Linda Talmadge  
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Warren & Mary King  
Sara Klein  
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Beverly Newkirk

Chris & Kami Niehoff  
Amanda Padamadan  
Lori Patterson  
Robert Pavoni  
Lisa Phelps  
Peter Precario &  
Cheri Brown  
Penelope Reighart  
Dan A. Remley  
Linda E. Resnik  
Steven & Patricia Rice  
Randel Rogers  
Brian & Carol Rowley  
David Rutter  
Anita Scalf  
Lucas Schrader  
Susan A. Setterlin  
Leslie Sheets  
Mark Skinner  
Anne Stewart  
Tara Stockdale  
Doreen M. Velt  
Jane & Richard Ward  
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**Return in 5 days to**  
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505 W. Whittier St  
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DBA-National Audubon Society

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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.**

\_\_\_ **Basic Family \$45.**

\_\_\_ **Organization \$75.**

\_\_\_ **Chickadee \$100.**

\_\_\_ **Great Blue Heron \$250.**

\_\_\_ **Bald Eagle \$500.**

----- **Great Egret \$1000.**

### 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 Center (electronic delivery only for basic membership)
- \* 10% discount at the GIAC nature store
- \* Discount on selected 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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\_\_\_ To help the environment check here to  
receive the Song Sparrow electronically,  
include email below.

### Method of payment

Check \_\_\_\_\_ Master Card \_\_\_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_\_\_ Discover \_\_\_\_\_

(made payable to the Grange Insurance Audubon Center)

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name (as it appears on card): \_\_\_\_\_ Card expiration: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return form to:  
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Grange Insurance Audubon Center  
505 W. Whittier St.  
Columbus, OH 43215  
Attn. Membership