



GREATER AKRON

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Witt's End

You Are What You Eat – *by Clyde Witt, editor*

Earlier this spring the chapter held it's annual garlic mustard pull at Bath Nature Preserve. Regrettably, I couldn't make the gala affair this year and am probably a lesser man for the missing. Recently, the Cleveland Plain Dealer ran some recipes for those who have an abundance of this noxious weed in their gardens or local park. It only proves the adage that a weed is just a flower you haven't met—or something like that. Here's a great use for the weed. Garlic Mustard (*Al-liariapetiolata*) Pesto! I found this, and many more, at www.ma-eppc.org.

- 1/2 Cup Olive Oil
- 1 Cup Pine Nuts or Walnuts
- 1/2 Cup finely grated Parmesan Cheese
- Enough Garlic Mustard leaves to choke a horse (or to clear a forest floor).

Finely mince the walnuts and garlic mustard. An electric coffee grinder works like a charm. Add Oil and Cheese, serve with pasta or rice or other whole grain. For vegan pesto use Nutritional Yeast instead of cheese. Harvesting Garlic Mustard: take out the entire plant including the roots early in the season before it has a chance to flower. Young first leaves are best for pesto (and for salads or as a steamed green). Use only the leaves for this recipe. Remove the roots from the area you are clearing as they will re-establish themselves if left in a pile on the ground. If you pull up garlic mustard after it has flowered beware as it will develop the seedhead even after it is pulled from the ground.

Susan Dooley

Sadly, I report the untimely death of former chapter President Susan Dooley. Susan died in early April at age 47. She and husband Allan became active in the chapter in the late 1980s. They had retired to the Outer Banks and kept in touch with chapter activities. Susan served as newsletter editor and treasurer along with her several terms as president. Along with numerous friends, she leaves behind her husband and daughter, Sarah. Her acerbic wit will be missed.

Meetings

The chapter holds meetings on the fourth Tuesday of the month, except for December when we do the Christmas Count. June is our annual picnic so the meeting place is not always the same. There are no meetings in July and August. Meetings are held at the Mingo Shelter in Sand Run MetroPark in the Merriman Valley. The entrance is off Sand Run Parkway, east of the ford and east of the Shady Hollow Pavilion. Check MetroParks Maps at www.summitmetroparks.org for a map of Sand Run Park. The doors open at 6:30 and the meeting starts at 7:00. We usually start with a short business session before the main program. Meetings are open to the public so bring a friend. Refreshments are served by our stellar hospitality committee.



May 27: Matt Shawkey, University of Akron, will enlighten us on the topic of “Sexual selection in birds as a function of feather color.” Wear your bright-colored clothes for this one.

June 24: Once again we have a special event in store. This year the Annual Picnic will be hosted by Portage Lakes Purple Martin Association. We'll be joined by members of Canton Audubon as well. We'll meet at 6pm at Portage Lakes State Park, North Reservoir Boat Launch, on State Mill Road, just off of Manchester Road where the martin boxes are located. Participants will be able to look into some boxes and see the chicks and possibly yet-to-hatch eggs. There will also be feeding of scrambled egg bits to the adult birds. Afterwards, we'll go to the nearby Kiwanis building (Kiwanis Civic Center, 725 Portage Lake Drive, (a very short drive from the martin site) for our picnic. The potluck picnic starts at about 7pm.

First, we'll do some feeding of the adult birds—flipping scrambled egg bits into the air for the swarming birds to nab. Then, we'll lower some nest boxes, observe the eggs and chicks, and kidnap some of them for banding, which will be done by Tom Henry of ODNR.

Annual Chapter Bird Census

Time to become a citizen scientist. The annual nesting bird survey is set for June 13 through June 22. If you've not participated in this event, but have the Christmas Count, you'll find similarities and a few differences.

For one thing, during the spring count you'll find some birds! Lots of birds. And the challenge is green leaves not white snow.

We need to count the birds to be able to say what is common, what is new and, sadly, what's missing or declining in numbers. So we invite you to help out on our annual GAAS June bird census.

We don't go out every day of the count period. Spreading the count over 10 days gives everyone a chance to work around busy schedules and in-between the rain drops. Volunteers count the birds both seen and heard in an assigned area of Summit County.

Everybody is looking for data these days so the census results are dispersed in a number of ways. Check out some past results at www.akronaudubon.org. And if you can't join us, but you hear woodcocks, nighthawks or owls during those dates, we'd love to know about it. Contact Doug Vogus at 330-865-6706 (email vogeye@yahoo.com) or Ann Chasar at 330-467-3664 (email ascdwc43@yahoo.com) for more information. If you are new to birding you are welcome to join us and work on your birding skills.

Summit County is rich in diversity and bird species. Here's a great opportunity to get out and see more of the land around us and make it pay.

Audubon Joins Alliance for Climate Protection

The Alliance for Climate Protection is launching a major campaign to persuade the American people—and people elsewhere in the world—of the importance and urgency of adopting and implementing effective and comprehensive solutions for the climate crisis.

It has joined with a number of organizations, including Audubon, to increase its reach into communities across the country. Audubon is excited to be working with the Alliance to pilot interactive exhibits at representative Audubon centers, increase grassroots outreach efforts in key states and build inroads into religious, labor, business and other communities. Check out the Alliance for Climate Protection's video campaign at www.climateprotect.org.

Size Matters—For Trees

A 240-foot-tall ponderosa pine, an Ohio buckeye at McDonald's Hamburger U, and a sycamore with a girth of more than 35 feet are among the 733 trees crowned as national champions in the 2008-2009 National Register of Big Trees. The biennial listing of the largest known trees of 826 species is maintained by American Forests, the nation's oldest conservation group, and sponsored by The Davey Tree Expert Company, Kent.

A new rule this year that trees have to be re-measured within 10 years to remain on the list caused the most sweep-

ing changes in the Register's 68-year history. A total of 219 new champs and co-champs were crowned in 44 states and the District of Columbia.

Topping the list is Sequoia National Park's "General Sherman" giant sequoia—Earth's largest living thing and a perennial champ since the first Register in 1940. Standing 274 feet tall with a girth of 1,020 inches and a crown spread of 107 feet, it racks up a point total of 1,321.

The smallest big tree is a Geyer willow on Fort Apache Indian Reservation in Arizona, which stands 13 feet tall with a girth of just 10 inches and a crown spread of 14 feet for a total of 27 points. It's the first time a Geyer willow has ever been nominated to the Register.

This year Arizona beat out Florida for having the most champs within its borders at 94. Virginia had 37 new champs, more than any other state. And Delaware, Hawaii, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, and Wyoming had no champs at all.

Among the notable changes this year: The Seven Sisters Live Oak in Louisiana, a champion since 1976, was dethroned after its co-champ in Georgia was found to be more than 5 points larger. Severe weather toppled two massive trees—the 856-point "Klotchy Creek Giant" Sitka spruce in Oregon and a 563-point eastern cottonwood in Nebraska.

A new sweetgum champ was crowned in South Carolina after a fierce battle among 10 states to take the title. And Ohio lost the title to its state tree, the Ohio buckeye, to Illinois, whose new national champ stands at McDonald's corporate headquarters of Hamburger U.

Information about all the champions can be found at American Forests' website, www.americanforests.org. Download interesting trivia about the champs, a description of how to measure a tree, a nomination form for new champs, and e-mailable postcards. You also can check out the list of 189 species that are currently without a national champion.

Scholarships Available

The third annual "Audubon Leadership Workshop" at the Hog Island, Maine, Audubon Camp will be held August 10-16. All Audubon leaders are invited to attend this fun and informative session

Designed especially for active Chapter leaders to build and deepen their expertise and ability to enhance Audubon's effectiveness at all levels, the camp is led by top-level state and National Audubon program staff and thoroughly experienced chapter staff and volunteers. Participants enjoy a combination of daily workshops, special presentations, and lively discussions, as well as the traditional Maine field trips, serenity and fine food; hallmarks of the Hog Island Camp.

A National scholarship of \$200 per person is available to 30 registrants with a matching \$200 scholarship from her/his local Chapter. Camp fee is \$700 per person or \$300 per person with matching scholarship.

For more information or to register, call Maine Audubon's registrar, Linda Ledoux, toll free at 888/325-5261 x215

Restoring Nature to Its Rightful Place

Just south of downtown Columbus along the Scioto River a great urban green space is emerging—a new kind of public park of restored natural habitats. Soon, this area will be home to a world-class educational facility committed to preserving the natural world in the heart of the city.

The Grange Insurance Audubon Center is destined to become a place of nature-based learning, recreation and play—a state-of-the-art resource for area schools and the community, inspiring ecological stewardship in everyone's daily lives.

As anchor of the new Scioto Audubon Metro Park, the 18,000 square foot building is scheduled for completion in early summer 2009 and will feature innovative "green" technologies in keeping with Audubon's mission of environmental conservation.

If you care to help make this center a reality, you can pay tribute to a family member or loved one by purchasing a commemorative paver or long stone. The personalized pavers will be carefully placed along the Center's court and the irregularly shaped long stones will be used to build a legacy wall that will form a lasting tribute to some of the Center's most committed supporters.

The 5-inch by 10-inch by 2.5-inch commemorative pavers, available for \$250 each, are pedestrian friendly and manufactured to facilitate storm water runoff and water conservation.

The 18-inch by 9-inch by 4-inch inscribed long stones, available for \$2,500 each, will be used to build a legacy wall that will lead to the Center's observation decks.

For more information or to purchase a paver or stone, visit <http://www.grangeinsuranceauduboncenter.org/PDF/SteppingStones>.

Audubon, Toyota Announce Five-Year Alliance

The National Audubon Society and Toyota have launched TogetherGreen, a nationwide Audubon program to fund conservation projects, train environmental leaders, and offer volunteer opportunities to significantly benefit the environment.

A \$20 million Toyota grant—the largest Audubon has received in its 103-year history—will fund TogetherGreen for five years, enabling Audubon to expand the scope and reach of its internationally known conservation programs.

TogetherGreen will include three program components:

- Innovation Grants to fund dozens of on-the-ground projects each year that employ creative approaches and engage diverse communities to help achieve measurable land, water and energy conservation results. Grant requirements will broaden project participation and promote innovation by uniting Audubon's national network with environmental and community partners.
- Conservation Fellowships to educate and foster up to 200 promising environmental leaders who can serve as role models, expert guides and organizers for engaging new and diverse audiences in effective conservation action.
- Volunteer Days to be offered at Audubon Centers and other

locations nationwide, providing hands-on opportunities to address environmental problems and take part in restoration activities.

"TogetherGreen is about giving people the knowledge, the support and the opportunities they need to truly make a difference," said Audubon President John Flicker. "We will engage people of all ages, from every community and all walks of life to help shape a healthier future."

"Audubon has a long and successful history of encouraging conservation of our natural ecosystems, and we are proud to develop this initiative with them," said Patricia Salas Pineda, group vice president of Toyota Motor North America. "Toyota believes in supporting programs with long-term sustainable results, and TogetherGreen fits perfectly with that philosophy."

Toyota plans to engage its 36,000 U.S. employees and invite its business partners to join with others through TogetherGreen as conservation volunteers to take the individual steps that will add up to significant conservation results.

"Toyota employees have already been energized by participation in volunteer activities at Audubon's Mitchell Lake Center in San Antonio, Texas," said Pineda. "We're excited by the promise of more opportunities for them to be involved in hands-on conservation efforts." Toyota is a long-time supporter of Audubon Centers that deliver nature experiences, conservation education and action opportunities to previously underserved groups in urban communities.

2008 Coastweeks Celebration Set

Ohio's 2008 Coastweeks observance will again focus on the preservation and protection of Lake Erie and its watershed through a variety of cleanup events along the shoreline and throughout its watershed.

This year's observance will kick off Friday, September 12 at the annual meeting of the Ohio Lake Erie Commission, set for the Lake Erie Nature & Science Center in Bay Village. Ohio's Coastweeks will run through Sunday, September 21.

Coastweeks is part of an annual nationwide effort to educate the public about protecting America's coastlines. The Ohio Lake Erie Commission coordinates the state's observance.

This year, Ohio's Coastweeks will include International Coastal Cleanup Day on Saturday, September 20. It is the world's largest one-day volunteer effort to clean up coastlines and waterways. The Dive! Put-In-Bay Harbor Cleanup on South Bass Island is set for Monday, September 15.

Environmental organizations, schools, scout groups, clubs, community groups and individuals throughout Ohio's Lake Erie watershed are encouraged to get involved in this year's Coastweeks by organizing an event.

Visit the OLEC Web site, www.epa.state.oh.us/oleo, or call 419-245-2514 to learn more about the 2008 Coastweeks, or to obtain an application form to organize an event. The OLEC will provide the tools needed to promote an organization's Coastweeks events.