



## Upcoming Programs and Events

### Ongoing Items of Interest:

#### ***Summit Metro Parks Presents Virtual Amateur Photography Exhibit 2021***

Enjoy viewing the photos selected as part of the 2021 Amateur Photography Exhibit in this YouTube video set to music. The exhibit has gone virtual on YouTube this year, but typically is displayed in the auditorium of the F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm visitors center in Akron. Congratulations to several of our chapter members who had their photos selected for this exhibit!

<https://youtu.be/CRb7UebvoGk>



#### **“Garden as if life depends on it.” –Doug Tallamy, entomologist/author**

***Bringing Nature Home 2021*** Register at: <http://bit.ly/3cMa5gZ>

The virtual series about ecological gardening continues with the fourth talk:

**Monday, March 22, 7 p.m., *Refresh Your Garden with Good Design and Best Practices*** presented by Chris Cheraso, Landscape Architect

Planting with a purpose, inspired by ‘The Very Hungry Caterpillar.’ It’s your yard --

what would you like to see in it?

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**The Wilderness Center (TWC) and Stark Soil and Water Conservation District (SSWCD)** have teamed up to create an online series of at-home conservation programs in March, April and May. TWC programs are \$10 and SSWCD programs are free. For more information, see <https://www.wildernesscenter.org/backyard-habitat/>



In an effort to keep members informed about sources for native plants, **TWC's Native Plant Sale** will open for online orders on April 1<sup>st</sup> with contactless order pick-ups to be scheduled for the first weekends of May and June. Members of The Wilderness Center will be able to place orders a week earlier! Not a member? Join by March 15<sup>th</sup>! <https://www.wildernesscenter.org/native-plant-sale/>

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To help inform your selection of native plants for your yard, National Audubon has an excellent resource that lets you explore the best plants for birds in your area by zipcode: <https://www.audubon.org/native-plants> By entering your email address, you'll receive an emailed list of the native plants you've selected and get additional tips on creating your bird-friendly habitat. Audubon's native plants database draws its plant data from the North American Plant Atlas of the Biota of North America Program

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(BONAP).

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Several of our chapters members have recommended **BSBO** (Black Swamp Bird Observatory) <https://www.bsbo.org/> for their **Birds at Home Virtual Learning Series** and for access to their recorded and live programming. There are several programs coming up in March and April and these are free to members who join. Also available are several resources such as bird migration profiles on over 100 species from 30 years of collected banding data and access to Young Birders Network. Also of value will be full and free access to 2021 Virtual "Biggest Week in American Birding" workshop presenters and keynote speakers May 6-10, 2021. See <https://www.biggestweekinamericanbirding.com/special-announcement.html>

## **MAGEE MARSH AND BOARDWALK UPDATE (From BSBO)**

Known as a prime spot for visitors to witness spring migration, the wildlife area will remain open from sunrise to sunset. Currently, the Magee Marsh Wildlife Area boardwalk is open and posted as one-way travel starting at the west entrance.

However, due to the number of people who visit the boardwalk each spring and the current social distancing guidelines, the Magee Marsh Wildlife Area boardwalk will be closed from April 17 to May 31, 2021.

The rest of the area will remain open, and during this time, a new trail will be open near the boardwalk to provide more areas for birding. (Revised map showing new birding trails on the area coming soon!) The Sportsmen's Migratory Bird Center and Black Swamp Bird Observatory center will also remain closed until further notice.

The Black Swamp Bird Observatory Team would like to thank our friends and partners at the Ohio Division of Wildlife for the incredible amount of time and thought they put into making this decision. It's abundantly clear in all of our communications that our state wildlife agency values birding as an important outdoor experience and the birding community as an important group of stakeholders.

We'd also like to remind birders that while the boardwalk is a sensational experience, the rest of Magee Marsh is fabulous for birding! The adjacent Ottawa National Wildlife

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Refuge, nearby Howard Metropark, and all of our local, county, and state parks in the area, offer amazing birding experiences as well.

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**GAAS Program: March 23, 2021 7:00 p.m.**

***West Creek Conservancy: Finding a Niche in Summit County***

**Derek Schafer**, Executive Director of West Creek Conservancy

Derek will elaborate on the organization’s mission to create and reclaim greenways and natural spaces in the “live and work” urban areas of northeast Ohio and how strategic watershed planning initiatives furthers those goals. More specifically, he’ll focus on WCC’s efforts in Summit County and more southerly reaches of their area, and how our chapter’s territory fits into the more regional framework of their mission. Derek believes strongly in progress through partnerships and regional collaborations that work together to protect land and water resources and he’ll provide some examples of these, as well as ancillary work that becomes necessary to connect citizens with existing green spaces and water trails.

Register in advance for this meeting:

[https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAtceqhpz4tE9Pv3cT\\_mrsAqzuGprHpr2Ru](https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAtceqhpz4tE9Pv3cT_mrsAqzuGprHpr2Ru)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



From our February 23, 2021 program, presenter Paul Greenfield's contact information:



**Paul J. Greenfield**

Founding Member

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## Go Birding in Kansas—Virtually!

Kansas Wetlands Education Center invites you to their ***Wings and Wetlands Festival***, online this year: March 24 – 26. <https://www.wingsandwetlands.com/>

The conference brings you industry-leading experts on birds, wetlands, and conservation messages and resources to enhance your next wetland visit. And trust us: if you like shorebirds and love to see huge flocks of waterfowl, you really want to visit the Kansas wetlands at Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira National Wildlife Refuge.

Nationally known speakers, including Kenn Kaufman, Sharon Stiteler, and Alvaro Jaramillo will talk about both the birds and the birding. And the locals will provide plenty of information to help you plan a future visit.

## Save the date:

Council of Ohio Audubon Chapters (COAC) Virtual Gathering



Saturday April 3, 2021 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Dr. Lara Roketenetz, from University of Akron Field Station at Bath Nature Preserve (a partner with GAAS) will discuss ways to create pollinator habitat in urban environments at 1:00 p.m. Lara also serves as Ohio's Coordinator for Project Wingspan, a program of the Pollinator Partnership. Registration and details to come.



Greater Akron Audubon Society is looking to fill a recent vacancy of *Secretary* on its Board of Directors. If you'd like to be on the leadership team to help influence the future of our chapter, we'd love to have you! Please email [info@akronaudubon.org](mailto:info@akronaudubon.org) or call 330-645-0953

## ***Dreams***

Hold fast to dreams  
For if dreams die  
Life is a broken-winged bird  
That cannot fly.

Hold fast to dreams  
For when dreams go  
Life is a barren field  
Frozen with snow.

Langston Hughes (1922)

I first memorized this poem as an elementary student because it resonated with me. Little did I know that, decades later, I'd become engaged in the world of birding or how relevant the poem would remain. I had no idea then, in upstate New York, that Langston Hughes was a Black poet with early ties to Cleveland, Ohio. As President of our Greater Akron Audubon Society chapter, I'd like to start a conversation on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and how our membership may benefit by welcoming everyone, regardless of age, ability, skin color or gender identity so that we may gain fresh perspective and entertain a broader, more diverse and inclusive base, with which we'll be all the stronger. Please share your thoughts and suggestions in the coming months as we venture forward together. –Sherilyn Burns

The Northern Cardinals are singing and we're starting to see Killdeer, Tree Swallows and several other species we look forward to in anticipation of spring. Stay safe and get out to your favorite birding locales.

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## **GAAS WEB PAGE UPDATES**

We regularly update our web page (<http://www.akronaudubon.org>) with new events and upcoming event details. Kindly stay in touch! Please direct questions or comments to [info@akronaudubon.org](mailto:info@akronaudubon.org)

And

**Follow Us on Instagram! - Please see @akronaudubon**

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