



Upcoming Programs and Events



<https://www.ohionativeplantmonth.org/>

In 2020, the Council of Ohio Audubon Chapters adopted a unifying initiative among the Audubon chapters in Ohio. The theme, Native Plants for Birds, has been extended to 2021. Greater Akron Audubon Society's way of participating in the initiative will be to encourage all members to begin or continue to plant natives in their residential spaces. In addition, we'll be joining forces with Dr. Doug Tallamy's Homegrown National Park (HNP), a grassroots call-to-action to restore biodiversity and ecosystem function by planting native plants and creating new ecological networks, one person at a time.



HOMEGROWN NATIONAL PARK™ - START A NEW HABITAT™ HAS NO POLITICAL, RELIGIOUS, CULTURAL OR GEOGRAPHIC BOUNDARIES BECAUSE EVERYONE - EVERY HUMAN BEING ON THIS PLANET - NEEDS DIVERSE, HIGHLY PRODUCTIVE ECOSYSTEMS TO SURVIVE.

We invite you to visit <https://homegrownnationalpark.org/> and explore this “**largest cooperative conservation project ever conceived or attempted.**”

“Our National Parks, no matter how grand in scale are too small and separated from one another to preserve species to the levels needed. Thus, the concept for Homegrown National Park, a bottom-up call-to-action to restore habitat where we live and work, and to a lesser extent where we farm and graze, extending national parks to our yards and communities.”

“**THE MAP** is an interactive community-based visual that will show each person’s contribution to planting native by State, County and Zip Code. There will be a gauge showing progress towards our goal of 20 million acres of native planting in the U.S. Importantly, the map is a way for individuals to see their part in the greater whole – creating new ecological networks and restoring biodiversity.”

GAAS wants all members who have planted natives in the past to also be acknowledged and to be “on the HNP map.” As our plan unfolds, we hope to collect some basic data from our members via a survey (later in the year) to approximate the extent to which our membership is contributing to the endeavor and ensure that our collective efforts get entered on THE MAP. Stay tuned for updates.



Continuing with our theme, the Twinsburg Garden Club’s 2021 speaker series, Sustainable Gardening in your Backyard

Native Plants: Garden with a Purpose: *Backyard Relationships*

Thursday, April 15th at 7:00 p.m.

Judy Semroc presents (virtually): “A Common Bond: The Fascinating World of Insect & Plant Interactions”

Preregistration is required: <http://go.osu.edu/twins>



GAAS April (Virtual) Program: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Fireflies: Summer's Dazzling Gift

Ken and Peggy Butler, Cofounders of the Pennsylvania Firefly Festival, Inc.

In 2012, the Butlers discovered that the rare synchronous firefly surrounded their home in the Allegheny National Forest in northwest Pennsylvania; this discovery fueled a passion to share their good fortune with others and led them on a mission to educate both children and adults about environmental change and the emerging threats to all firefly habitats. Their multi-media presentation includes an introduction to the most prevalent firefly species, teaches how to use the flash pattern to identify different species and provides a discussion of the femme fatale of fireflies, the genus photuris. You'll learn why the female photuris must imitate the female flash pattern of other firefly species to attract, kill and eat the males of non-photuris species. Now committed to serving as citizen scientists, the Butlers support the development of firefly habitat and dark sky environment.

Pre-registration is required: https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlqf-6grikuHNUa_in261cLGtezD5WM8WbG

[Audubon Announces Plan to Restore the Great Lakes for Birds and People](#)

On March 22nd, Audubon Great Lakes released an ambitious new report titled *Audubon's Vision: Restoring the Great Lakes for Birds and People*, which offers a blueprint for how to best address the threats facing the Great Lakes region. Given the urgent need to protect and restore remaining coastal wetlands for birds and people, Audubon is investing in cutting-edge science to prioritize coastal wetlands for conservation action, studying the impact of climate change on birds, and developing a range of conservation management tools. Read more about our plans and check out the full report.

The GBBC Results are Here!

Birds brought the world together during the 2021 Great Backyard Bird Count. All 50 states, the District of Columbia and United States territories participated by sharing their observations and love of birds. A big [thank you](#) to our Audubon chapters that are always an important part of this event. Explore interactive world maps, details on participation, rarities spotted, and this [in-depth summary from the four-day event](#).

Advocacy Update



Preserve The Valley, the citizen action coalition formed to help save Theiss Woods and advocate for a Master Plan for development in the Merriman Valley by the City of Akron, would like individuals and groups to contact the Summit County Metro Parks (via their website contact page) to thank them for their endorsement of the conservation efforts of the Western Reserve Land Conservancy: <https://www.summitmetroparks.org/contact-summit-metro-parks.aspx> And please continue to contact Akron City Council either by voice recording: 330-375-2566 or by email: citycouncil@akronohio.gov Even better, Akron residents are strongly encouraged to contact their council rep directly. The full brief, including the WRLC proposal to the City of Akron, can be found here: <https://www.preservethevalley.com/fact-sheet>

Salmonellus Outbreak—is it affecting Ohio?

(From the Ohio Ornithological Society and BirdWatching Magazine)

There have been some stories shared on birding-related social media sites in Ohio recently, raising concerns about a salmonellus outbreak killing Pine Siskins, and advising people to pre-emptively remove their feeders and bird baths for the time being. There has, in fact, been a documented significant outbreak in the Pacific Northwest states, but the OOS Conservation Committee has investigated and has found no evidence of a salmonellus outbreak in Ohio or this region. Because feeders and bird baths can be a source of a variety of infections that can kill birds, we urge birders to continue to monitor their feeders and baths for signs of sick birds, clean and sanitize them regularly and temporarily remove them if they see signs of infection. An investigation by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is now underway after at least 19 people in eight states (California, Kentucky, Mississippi, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, Oregon, Tennessee, and Washington) have been infected with salmonella due to contact with wild birds or bird feeders, and eight people have been hospitalized, the agency said. No deaths have been reported.

Here's to 87 years, GAAS!

On April 2, 1934, the Cuyahoga Fall Audubon Club was duly organized and named The Cuyahoga Falls Audubon Club by the nine people attending the meeting. Adopted in 1936, the following pledge which was adapted from a pledge Orry Mitchell saw in a Canadian paper. "I hereby promise to protect birds in every way, to learn all I can about them, to interest others in them and to give what help I can to the Cuyahoga Falls Audubon Club." The club became an affiliate chapter of the National Audubon Society on March 15, 1949 and later voted to have Chapter Member status in February 1976 with a name change to the Greater Akron Audubon Society.

Spring Bird Walks to Resume

Firestone Fridays: Join us, beginning April 30th and continuing every Friday through May. All are welcome to attend and are expected to socially distance and wear masks. Meet at the bridge over the race/feeder canal nearest the Warner Rd. parking lot at **7:30 a.m.** The first leg of the walk is always along the race and we walk slowly, so it is easy for late arrivals to find us. If you are using GPS, you can enter the address: 2620 Harrington Road Akron 44319. Weather permitting, the walks usually last between two to three hours. For new birders, binoculars are highly recommended. For any questions about the walk, contact Ned DeLamatre at ndelamatre@gmail.com

Sundays at the Beaver Marsh: We'll also meet every Sunday in May in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park at the Ira Trailhead parking lot at **7:30 a.m.** The Beaver Marsh is located ¼ mile north of Ira Trailhead along the Towpath Trail. The easy walk is accessible by wheelchair or stroller. If you are using GPS, you can enter the address: [3801 Riverview Rd, Peninsula, OH 44264](#). For any questions about the walk, contact Ned DeLamatre at ndelamatre@gmail.com



New Birding Areas

The Montville Township Trustees want us all to spread the word that the Aaron Smith Nature Reserve and the Thomas Currier Nature Reserve are now open and available for birding. As part of the Blue Heron Park Complex Nature Reserves, this was the site of the former Blue Heron Golf Course in Medina County that was purchased and repurposed in 2012. While a third area, the Austin Badger Park, was repurposed for active recreation, these two reserves, about 150 acres in area, have been set aside as passive recreation and offer many habitats, including lakes and old growth forest and wooded areas that attract many bird species—including the Cerulean Warbler. The township continues to remove invasive species and plant native Ohio trees. A new field station building with a training room recently opened at the Aaron Smith Nature Reserve. These new birding locations fall well within the bounds of our chapter territory. Visitors are encouraged to park at the Blue Heron Brewery parking lot at 3227 Blue Heron Trce, Medina, OH 44256 where signage for Aaron Smith and trailheads to Thomas Currier are located. There will be a grand opening in May, so stay tuned.

Birding by Ear: A Virtual program from Summit Metro Parks

Friday, April 23rd 6:30 -- 7:30 p.m.

Join a naturalist to prepare yourself for birding by ear during the spring and summer months. Tips and tricks and to identify common birds will set you off on the right “wing.” Good speakers or headphones are recommended but not required. To attend, visit <https://zoom.us/join> and enter the Meeting ID: **863 4120 2016**

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

And

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