



Upcoming Programs and Events



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 multimedia 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-6grjkuHNUa_in261cLGtezD5WM8WbG

Ongoing Items of Interest:

Spring Bird Walks

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

Plant Native Plants

Greater Akron Audubon Society continues to promote the planting of native plants in our residential spaces. *So, what exactly are “native plants?”* Native plants are those that occur naturally within a geographic area; over millions of years, they've co-evolved with local climate conditions, geology, flora and fauna. Native plants include trees, shrubs, vines, annuals and perennials. Native plants help provide food for birds and create contiguous green corridors that enable our pollinators and other wildlife to successfully complete their lifecycles. They offer other benefits as well: they attract native wildlife, reduce soil erosion, require less fertilizer and watering, promote native regional biodiversity, thrive under natural conditions so fertilizer and pesticides are not needed, and they connect people to nature.

“So where can I get native plants now?” you may ask.



Native Plant Sale



THE WILDERNESS CENTER
EDUCATION • CONSERVATION • COMMUNITY

The Wilderness Center (TWC) in Wilmot, Ohio is still taking orders for June 1st and 2nd pick-ups. Inventory is selling out but selection is still good for this later pick-up.

To view the plants being offered and to check out the detailed plant data and soil/sun requirements and to shop online: <https://www.wildernesscenter.org/native-plant-sale/>

Remove Invasive Plants

Have you seen this devious spring beauty in your landscape?



Lesser celandine (*Ficaria verna* (previously *Ranunculus ficaria*)) is a non-native highly-invasive weed that belongs to the buttercup family, Ranunculaceae, and is sometimes called "fig buttercup." Lesser celandine flowers have 3 green sepals and 7–12 yellow to faded yellow petals. It is known as a "spring ephemeral" owing to the time of year when the short-lived plants and flowers are present. Plants collapse and disappear from view in late-spring to early-summer depending on environmental conditions. It's amazing how rapidly a broad expanse of lesser celandine can completely vanish. However, the weed is not gone; it's just biding its time in the form of recharged tubers that will support ever-expanding colonies next season. Lesser celandine is native to Europe, northern Africa, western Asia, and Siberia. It is believed to have been first introduced to North America as an ornamental in the mid-1800s and escapes were reported in Pennsylvania in 1867. The overall effect of a massive colony of lesser celandine is a magical-looking dark green carpet speckled with flecks of bright yellow. It's a beautiful sight unless you consider that the magic carpet rolls over native spring wildflowers. Although lesser celandine plants seldom rise more than 4 – 5" above the soil, they have dense root systems and plants grow together to form mat-like impenetrable canopies. For this reason, lesser celandine appears on the Ohio Department of Agriculture's

"List of Invasive Plants." Plants on the list were prohibited from being sold or distributed in Ohio. This non-native invasive weed ***should be eradicated as soon as you spot it***. Management becomes more problematic once it becomes widely established. For more information see <https://bygl.osu.edu/node/1446>

In a Nod to Earth Day... 'but man is a part of nature, and his war against nature is inevitably a war against himself.' Kendra Sewall quoting Rachel Carson in *Silent Spring*. Sentinel species, such as birds, are good indicators of environmental health, and they can send subtle warning signs that humans may be in danger next. In a recent study, Virginia Tech associate professor Kendra Sewall and a diverse team of scientists and students have found that lead levels like those reported in Flint, Michigan, can interfere with the neural mechanisms of vocal development of songbirds and affect mate attraction. "Our study shows that levels of lead in water that are known to be concerning for human health also have negative effects on the brain and the learning ability of male songbirds and compromises their ability to attract a mate," said Sewall. Read more on the fascinating study and what's ahead for the team at <https://vtnews.vt.edu/articles/2021/01/fralinlifesci-songbirds-lead-contamination-and-human-health.html>

Mentioning Migration...

BirdCast: <https://birdcast.info/>

Real-time analysis maps show intensities of actual nocturnal bird migration as detected by the US weather surveillance radar network between local sunset to sunrise. All graphics are relative to the Eastern time zone. In other words, weather radar data is turned into information on the numbers and flight directions of birds aloft in order to increase the understanding of migratory bird movement. Access live bird migration maps, bird migration forecast maps and local bird migration alerts at this website.

Cornell Lab of Ornithology currently produces these maps. Support for this research came from NASA, Edward W. Rose Postdoctoral Fellowship, and Amazon Web Services. The BirdCast project was created by grants from the National Science Foundation and supported by additional grants from Leon Levy Foundation.

Ruby-Throated Hummingbirds have been reported in northeast Ohio so it's not too early to put out your nectar feeders. Hummingbirds expend a tremendous amount of energy during their migration journey from South and Central America and Mexico. Weather conditions will alter hummingbird migration by affecting the time when flowers will bloom and the supply of

nectar is available. Phenologically, their arrivals in northeast Ohio have coincided with the blooming of Buckeye trees; the Buckeyes have yet to bloom this season so the nectar feeders could be of significant importance.

From Ohio Division of Wildlife

To promote safety and social distancing, the Magee Marsh boardwalk is closed from Saturday, April 17, to Monday, May 31. **The Magee Marsh** area offers many wonderful trails that are highly productive birding locations.

The Crane Creek Estuary Trail and Magee Beach Trail are particularly suited to view warblers and many other species.

The Magee Marsh Walking Trail, located just behind the Sportsman's Migratory Bird Center, is fully accessible and perfect for those visitors looking for a shorter walk.

The new Goosehaven Trail and a section of the lakefront levee will be open from April 17 to May 31. The Goosehaven Trail can be accessed via the Estuary Trail and near the east end entrance of the boardwalk. The entrance to the lakefront levee is located at the southeast end of the overflow parking lot. More information and a map of all the trails can be found on the Magee Marsh Wildlife Area page at wildohio.gov. In addition, the Sportsman's Migratory Bird Center will be open on a limited basis during the spring birding season.

The southwest shore of Lake Erie has many prime birding locations that can be explored this spring. Here are just a few that shouldn't be missed:

Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge (Ottawa County): Scattered woodlots provide viewing of migrating songbirds, and several owl species are frequently seen on the area. The monthly wildlife drive is open for additional dates in May. This drive allows visitors to traverse the expansive wetlands and is perfect for viewing waterfowl, shorebirds, and eagles.

Metzger Marsh Wildlife Area (Ottawa County): The open water marsh is a prime spot to see swans and diving and dabbling ducks. A small woodlot at the northern end of the road can hold a spectacular array of migrating warblers and songbirds.

Howard Marsh Metropark (Lucas County): Shallow marshes and mudflats in the park provide fantastic viewing of wading birds and waterfowl. Eagles and other raptors, as well as swans and sandhill cranes, are often seen flying over.

Maumee Bay State Park (Lucas County): The park contains a variety of habitats, including swamp forests, open meadows and beach areas, and is a great place to view everything from wading birds to raptors and warblers.

East Harbor State Park (Ottawa County): Hosting a variety of habitats, the park draws in a wide range of species including waterfowl, gulls and terns, and numerous songbirds. Wooded areas around the campground and the swamp forests along the lakefront are most productive for warblers.

For more information, please visit <https://www.biggestweekinamericanbirding.com/special-announcement.html>



Programs:

THE BIGGEST WEEK IN BIRDING (Virtual)

Wednesday, May 05, 6:30 p.m.– 8:00 p.m.

Join a naturalist online to discover the story of amazing avian journeys that are occurring now, right in our own back yards! We'll meet some migratory bird species, talk hot spots and share our love for these special groups of songbirds. <https://zoom.us/join> Enter Zoom meeting ID: 836 1339 7221

SELF-GUIDED BIRD WALK: MIGRATORY BIRD DISCOVERY

Firestone Metro Park at Tuscarawas Meadows area

Friday, May 7th – Sunday, May 16th, 6:00 a.m.-- 11:00 p.m.

Hit the trail to learn fun facts about bird migration and identification while experiencing the beauty of peak migration season. This self-guided activity will be available on *Willow Trail* from May 7 through May 16.



Ohio.gov/Tick

<https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/know-our-programs/zoonotic-disease-program/resources/tickborne-diseases>

World Migratory Bird Day: May 8, 2021

Officially recognized the second Saturday of May in the U.S. and Canada, the day serves as a way to connect people to birds around the world. The phenomenon of bird migrations gives global recognition and appreciation of the challenges migratory birds face during their journeys and highlights the urgent need for their conservation. The U.S. alone is estimated to have about 86 million bird watchers.



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 or call 330-645-0953

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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