



**GAAS May (Virtual) Program: Tues., May 25, 2021 at 7pm**  
***Behind the Scenes at Akron Audubon***

Come join us to discover what the new Board of GAAS has been up to since September. In lieu of a single presentation, we'll present four short segments to update our members on new and existing endeavors and partnerships and opportunities to get involved.

***I. School Outreach: Bird Flight Patterns and Music***



**Tree Swallows, Grand Teton, USA. Photo: Xavi Bou**



## NBSO: Bird Flight Patterns and Music

### **II. What's Happening at The Bath Nature**



#### **Preserve?**

Photo Credit: Austin Garner, Integrated Bioscience PhD Student

Dr. Lara Roketenetz, manager at The University of Akron Field Station at Bath Nature Preserve will fill us in on her outreach work there and will reveal the new Chimney Swift tower that GAAS funded as a collaborative functional art work project with University of Akron and Kent State University.

### **III. Institute for Bird Populations: MoSI Partnership**



Studying  
Neotropical  
Migrant Birds  
on their  
Wintering  
Grounds

GAAS has joined with seven other Ohio Audubon chapters to collectively support two research stations in Nicaragua. We'll be getting updates and reports from the operators of the Ometepe and Los Guatuzos locations as they study "our" migratory species on their wintering grounds: Wood Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Worm-eating Warbler, Black-and-White Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, Scarlet Tanager, Gray Catbird, Golden-winged Warbler, Yellow Warbler, and Chestnut-sided Warbler, among others.

### **IV. Breeding Bird Census: June 11 – June 20, 2021**

In 1978, the first year of this census, 17 participants tallied 4700 birds (99 species) in 85 field hours. In 2020, during a global pandemic, a record 113 participants tallied 50,043 birds (148 species) in 785 field hours. Doug and Michelle Vogus are the

coordinators of this huge endeavor and they rely on our cooperation and help to make this citizen science project a success.

Pre-registration for this virtual meeting is

required: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMsfuihpj0pGNVeSxTkblOF9yuv694UC8-Z>

After registering, you'll receive a unique link to join the session.

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## Ongoing Programs and Events

### Spring Bird Walks

**Firestone Fridays:** Join us each Friday throughout May. All are welcome to attend and are expected to socially distance and wear masks. Meet at the bridge near the Tuscarawas Meadows 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](mailto: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](mailto:ndelamatre@gmail.com)

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## Audubon Plants for Birds and Homegrown National Park Initiatives



*Native Plants: Understanding the Basics*

Just as an artist works in different mediums, three basic plant types offer various colors, textures, and sounds to create interest in a home landscape palette while offering resources for wildlife and other benefits like deeper root

systems that require less water.

*Herbaceous (non-woody) flowering plants (forbs or wildflowers)* are a source of food (seeds, nectar and pollen) and cover for wildlife and add color to landscapes. Some species host specific butterflies, moths and insects during their lifecycles. For example, Monarch caterpillars can only feed on milkweed. Examples of forbs are Butterfly Weed (*Asclepius tuberosa*), Bee Balm/Wild Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*), and Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*).

*Grasses and Ground Covers* help prevent erosion and retain moisture with deep root systems; provide cover and nesting areas for small mammals and insects; require minimal maintenance; and add subtle color, texture and sound. Examples include Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*) and Wild Sea Oats (*Chasmanthium latifolium*).

*Trees and Shrubs (woody plants)* provide food (as pollen, nectar, berries, and seeds), cover, and nesting and roosting areas for birds and other wildlife, as well as windbreaks in winter and shade in summer. White Oak (*Quercus alba*) and Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*) are examples.

GAAS will soon have a limited number of yard signs available to let your neighbors and passers-by know of your native plant efforts in conjunction with Homegrown National Park. Details will be provided soon.

The following native plant vendors are worth the drive to explore and are open to the public with good pricing. Be sure to call before visiting.



RIVERSIDE

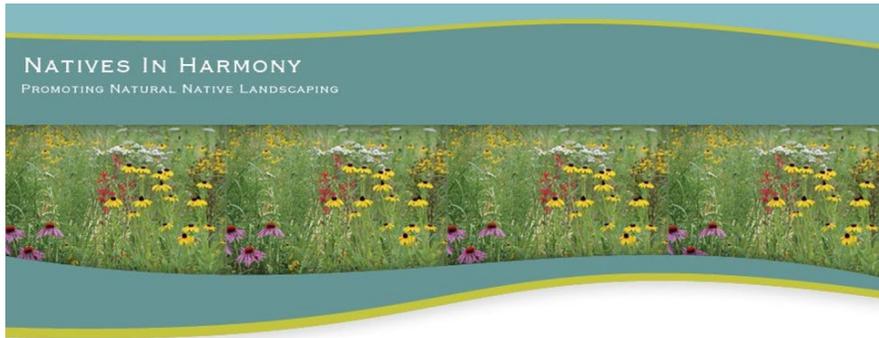
NATIVE TREES

2295 River Road, Delaware, OH 740-815-3230 <https://riversidenativetrees.com>



3351 State Route 37 West, Delaware, Ohio 43015 740-363-8264

<https://sciotogardens.com/contact-us/>



4652 Township Road 179 Marengo, OH 43334 Phone 419-688-9800  
Mobile 419-688-9800 <https://www.nativesinharmony.com>

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## No Mow May...Could it catch on here in Ohio?

Legions of gardeners in Canada and England are joining in a campaign by PlantLife to lock up lawnmowers May 1<sup>st</sup> for a month in an attempt to help bees, butterflies, wildlife and us! A trial run in Appleton, Wisconsin showed that unmowed lawns have a fivefold higher bee abundance and threefold higher bee species richness compared with regularly mowed areas in the same neighborhoods. Read about this study by the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) here: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7518183/>

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**A Free Live Public Seminar! Wednesday, June 2, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Hale Farm & Village, Hartwell Community Room 2686 Oak Hill Rd. Bath, *Becoming a River Park: A Story of Renewal in Cuyahoga Valley National Park***

Hosted by Bath Gamma Garden Club, Dr. Lisa Petit, Chief of Natural and Cultural Resource Stewardship for Cuyahoga Valley National Park, will discuss a transformation of the park in its landscape, its spirit and its future. Reservations are suggested for best seating and Bath Gamma Garden Club is holding a raffle to benefit Bath community service and plantings. For details, see [https://www.gardenclubbathohio.org/uploads/1/0/1/2/101248940/2021\\_event\\_flyer.pdf](https://www.gardenclubbathohio.org/uploads/1/0/1/2/101248940/2021_event_flyer.pdf)

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## **Magee Marsh Boardwalk Update:**

Per the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, the Boardwalk is now open to the public with no permit required.

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## **A Local Anecdote...**

### **From **nextdoor** Newsfeed on May 12, 2021:**

A post by someone from Uniontown/Green area of Summit County, reported that their neighborhood hawk had returned and while defending its territory dove at a neighbor, causing enough injury to send her to the emergency room for treatment to the top of her head! During nesting season, be sure to keep small pets on a leash or otherwise protected—and perhaps wear a hat.

## **And Speaking of Nesting...**

The pair of Bald Eagles nesting in the Pinery Narrows area of the Cuyahoga Valley National Park has abandoned their nest north of the Station Road Bridge Trailhead in Brecksville. The area had been closed to the public since February but park service has now reopened it. Whether because of harassment by another eagle or by Peregrine Falcons, CVNP biologist says this could be encouraging news. Find out why here in this FOX 8 news story: <https://fox8.com/news/eagle-pair-abandons-nest-in-cuyahoga-valley-national-park/>

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## **'Tis the Season...For Bird Censuses: Birders Wanted**

Greater Akron Audubon Society is looking for a team of dedicated birders who would be willing to help conduct bird censuses of private properties that have been earmarked for conservation or preservation by local groups such as Western Reserve Land Conservancy or West Creek Conservancy. Such groups use data from nearby eBird hotspots but usually these surveys are conducted as a bio-blitz on designated days with permission to be on the property and are done as discretely as possible with no publicity until a property transfer has taken place after grant proposals, etc. As an Audubon chapter, we are receiving more and more requests for help with data collection for the bird species portion of flora and fauna surveys during a “discovery window.” If you’d be interested in helping out in this way, please email [info@akronaudubon.org](mailto:info@akronaudubon.org) or call 330-645-0953. All skill levels encouraged as this is a great way to be out birding with more experienced birders. We all learn from one another when we’re out as a group and even in small teams, the mentoring process is a great experience!

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## **GAAS WEB PAGE! Have you visited our new website?**

April 9, 2021 marked a new era in Greater Akron Audubon’s history. A new webpage debuted with much help and input from active members. A hearty thank you to everyone who has helped or is helping to update our information and keep our

information relevant! It's a work in progress so be sure to visit regularly: <http://www.akronaudubon.org>. If you've missed or deleted these **For the Birds** emails, they are also posted in the archives. And if you have suggestions or would like to help maintain the website, we need your help as well! Please direct questions or comments to [info@akronaudubon.org](mailto:info@akronaudubon.org)

Follow us on Instagram: @akronaudubon

Find us on Facebook: @greaterakronaudubon

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