Vol. 3 #11 2-26-2023



Upcoming Programs and Events

GAAS February (Virtual) Program

Women of Cuyahoga Valley:

Harriet Louise Keeler and Jane Edna Hunter

Arrye Rosser, Tuesday, February 28, 2023 7:00 p.m.



In the 1920s, one of the first areas of public parkland in Cuyahoga Valley—the Harriet Keeler Memorial Woods—was preserved in honor of this "Teacher-Author-Citizen." It remains the heart of Brecksville Reservation. In the 1930s, the Phillis Wheatley Association—lead by Jane Edna Hunter—

founded Camp Mueller just south of Peninsula. The camp served primarily African American youth from Cleveland until it was recently sold. Both Keeler and Hunter were remarkable women whose long professional careers were born from the social movements of the Progressive Era. Tune in to hear Ranger Arrye Rosser make the case that their achievements are nationally significant. This program will be jointly held with members of the Akron Area League of Women Voters. Please register in advance for this meeting:

Meeting Registration - Zoom After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing a link to join the meeting.

Note: This program will conclude our virtual winter program series. Please join us **live at Goodyear Heights Metro Park, West Room** on March 28, 2023 to hear Chuck Jakubchak's program on *Feathered Miracles*.



Native Landscaping for Wildlife

Thursday, March 2, 2023 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm Visitors Center

1828 Smith Road, Akron, OH 44313

Learn about the birds and the bees...and how to create habitat for them at home! Learn about the best trees, shrubs, wildflowers and vines to support local wildlife throughout the year.

Invasive Plants in the Home Landscape

Thursday, March 2, 2023 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Oenslager Nature Center

6100 Ridge Rd.

Sharon Township

(use Wadsworth, OH 44281 for GPS)

There is mounting evidence that non-native invasive plants are threatening Ohio's natural areas by reducing food and habitat for native wildlife. Learn which invasives may be lurking in your home landscape and what you can do about them. Sustaining our local ecosystems by replacing non-natives with native plants will also be discussed. Find out how and why this effort has become more important than ever before. Ages 12 to adult; free. Register by March 1 here: Medina County Park District (medinacountyparks.com)



Pre-registration Opens online for the 14th Midwest Native Plant Conference Sunday, March 5, 2023 at 7:00 pm

The very popular, weekend-long event will be held Friday through Sunday *July 28 – 30, 2023* at Bergamo Center for Lifelong Learning in Beavercreek, Ohio. The website has recently been updated with the 2023 conference agenda, information about the speakers, programs, Sunday field trips, on-site plant sale and other info about this educational and engaging weekend. Midwest Native Plant Society Annual Conference

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Western Reserve Land Conservancy Winter Virtual Symposium

Session 5: Shining a Light on Shade: Creating Ecologically Vibrant

Gardens

Wednesday, March 8, 2023 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

The final session in the series will focus on the other plants, the not so colorful ones, that add a healthy mix of biodiversity to our gardens. Shade tolerant plants, such as ferns and

sedges, can add lush greens and texture to our landspaces, while edibles, such as berries and nuts, can give us and our wildlife friends an extra boost of energy. Presenting each hour are Uli Lorimer (Ferns), Director of Horticulture, Native Plant Trust; Roy Diblik (Sedges), Designer, Author, Owner at Northwind Perennial Farm; and Jason Neumann (Native edible trees and shrubs), Public Programs Manager, Cincinnati Nature Center. For more details, presenter biographies, and to register, see <a href="Inviting Biodiversity into OurGardens">Inviting Biodiversity into OurGardens</a> — Session 5 — Western Reserve Land Conservancy

WILD & SCENIC FESTIVAL where activism gets inspired

Where activism gets inspired

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Cleveland Museum of Natural History
Friday, March 10, 2023 5:30 – 10:00 p.m.

1 Wade Oval Drive, Cleveland, OH 44106

The Cleveland Museum of Natural History hosts the 15th annual South Yuba River Citizens League's Wild & Scenic Film Festival, one of the leading environmental and adventure film festivals in the country. The Museum's Murch Auditorium will show selections from the WSFF's lineup of 2022 and 2023 films. Combining beautiful cinematography with exceptional storytelling, these films inspire a love of nature while bringing unique perspectives to environmental advocacy, justice, and activism. To see more information and event details, including ticket prices, the 11 films being shown or to

purchase tickets, see Wild & Scenic Film Festival | Cleveland Museum of Natural History | (cmnh.org)

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Saturday, March 11, 2023 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Clinton Township Building

205 E. McConkey Street (by the Fire Station)

Shreve, OH 44676

The Shreve Business and Community Association, Ohio Division of Wildlife and The Wilderness Center are cosponsors of this year's event. Spotting scopes will be set up throughout the Killbuck Marsh Wildlife Area between 8:00 a.m. and Noon and speakers will present programs in the afternoon. Events will take place in one of three locations: the Clinton Township Building, the Library and at He Brews Coffee. Breakfast and BBQ Chicken will be available and favorites such as the Kids Activities, the Birder's Marketplace and the Medina Raptor Center will be on hand throughout the day. For a schedule, location maps or to register online in advance, please see MIGRATION SENSATION (shreveohio.com)



Chimney Swifts: nature's imperiled avian insectivores

Saturday, March 11, 2023 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

University of Akron Field Station

Bath Nature Preserve

4240 Ira Rd, Akron, OH 44333

Come see the new Chimney Swift tower designed and installed in fall 2022 by artists Markus Vogl (University of Akron) and Margarita Benitez (Kent State University). The artists will be on hand to discuss their process and goals of the project and share other work that incorporates nature and art. This project was funded in part by Greater Akron Audubon Society. Then Judy Semroc will present a riveting talk on these interesting birds!

See UA Field Station Facebook page for more information: Chimney Swifts: nature's imperiled avian insectivores | Facebook

Light refreshments will be provided. Space is limited to ~30 guests, so please RSVP to Isabel at uafsamericorps@gmail.com with **CHIMNEY SWIFT** in the subject line.

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Registration is now open to join the OOS at

#### Shawnee State Park for Warblers & Wildflowers Weekend!

Friday - Sunday, April 28 - 30, 2023

Ohio Ornithological Society's annual spring event that features birds and botany, is now open for registration. See a detailed itinerary, field trip descriptions, and information about this year's speakers – Jenny Richards (Shawnee State Park Naturalist), Allen Chartier, (Project Director for the Great Lakes HummerNet) and Jeremy Dominguez (Birding Outreach Coordinator and Ornithologist at The Toledo Zoo and Aquarium):

REGISTRATION OPEN: Warblers & Wildflowers Weekend 2023 | Ohio Ornithological Society (ohiobirds.org).

Lodging is available at the Lodge and in the cabins until full, as well as in nearby Portsmouth at the Holiday Inn Express.

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Bird Walks

Get Wise About Wood Ducks

Sunday, March 5, 2023 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Oenslager Nature Center

6100 Ridge Rd.

Sharon Township

(use Wadsworth, OH 44281 for GPS)

When we think of ducks, we think of them floating in the water, flying through the air, or waddling along the ground, but wood ducks can also perch in trees. Come discover what else makes these beautiful birds unique as we hike through their habitat. Be prepared for mud! All ages are welcome. No registration is required. Free.

Bird Watching: Cozy Hideouts

Saturday, March 11, 2023 8:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Cuyahoga Valley National Park

Boston Mill Visitor Center

6947 Riverview Road, Peninsula, OH 44264

Join Volunteer Naturalist Dwight Chasar in the search for lingering migrating birds. Bring binoculars to spot red-breasted nuthatches, kinglets, and more along the towpath trail to Stanford House.

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**Bird Nerds: Waterfowl** 

Saturday, March 11, 2023 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.

**Coventry Oaks Area of Firestone Metro Park** 

40 Axline Ave., Akron, OH 44319

Bird enthusiasts of all kinds are invited to join naturalists with Summit Metro Parks as they explore a new group of birds each month of 2023. Learn about adaptations, behavior, identification and more. Bring binoculars if you have them, because after the presentation you'll hit the trail to put your new knowledge into practice.

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## **News You Can Use**



It's that Time of Year!

Yes, it's time to be thinking of shrinking our lawns and getting our orders placed for native plant sales. Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District is taking orders for native plant kits and native trees and shrubs. The deadline for tree, shrubs and herbaceous perennials orders is 8:00 a.m. on Monday, March 13, 2023; those bare root orders will be shipped in early April. The deadline for the native plant kits is 8:00 a.m. on Monday, March 27, 2023. Four kits (\$160 each) are offered, each containing 50 native plant plugs (2 ½ x 5") and suitable for covering about 200 square feet (if planted on 18-24" centers). Choose from prairie grasses, prairie wildflowers, rain garden or shade species that will be shipped in early June. Take note: a flat \$13.99 per order shipping charge applies and native plant substitutions may be made, if necessary. Cuyahoga County tax rate is 8% and will be added to order totals. For more details or to place orders, see Programs

(cuyahogaswcd.org).

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We Sure Could Use Some Help!

Our Audubon chapter needs your participation and assistance. More frequently, other organizations are reaching out to us to have a presence at local events or to present programs or help with community outreach. We'd love to be able to say, "Yes," to all these requests, but many times we have to say, "No," because the few volunteers in leadership positions are already overburdened with chapter-related responsibilities. We need help—both in the short term and the long term—for our chapter to survive. Today, we're asking specifically for help with tabling events this spring, summer and fall. If you have a few hours to spare this spring and summer and think you'd like to be part of our outreach team, with no further commitment, please email info@akronaudubon.org for more details. Thank you in advance for your serious consideration.

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## 2023 Scholarship Opportunity from Summit County Master Gardeners



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Seasonal Employment Opportunities with Summit Metro Parks

Summit Metro Parks is looking for a Seasonal Park Biologist and a Seasonal Apiarist, both with the Conservation Department. The seasonal positions operate much like an internship and are approximately six months long and offer \$12 – \$15 per hour with flexible 40-hour workweeks. Both positions will remain open until filled. Mike Johnson, Chief of Conservation for SMP, states, "We make sure our seasonals do not leave without a great experience to help propel their careers." Call him at 330-865-8057 x221 if you have any questions or need additional information. Application and info sheets are also available from info@akronaudubon.org.



Speak Up for a Strong Farm Bill to Bring Back Grassland Birds

The American Bird Conservancy (ABC) is asking for support this year in an effort to shore up the current Farm Bill that is due to expire in September 2023. The Farm Bill is the single-biggest source of conservation funding in the world (\$500 billion). ABC has introduced a three-pronged platform that would help strengthen programs that are known to make a difference in the conservation of grassland birds. The renewal terms of this year's Farm Bill present enormous opportunity to turn the plight of our grassland birds around. Please read about the recommendations that ABC is proposing This Year's Farm Bill Could Be a Game-Changer for the Most Imperiled U.S. Land Birds - American Bird Conservancy (abcbirds.org) and speak up for a stronger Farm Bill by signing ABC's Farm Bill Action Alert.

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Screenshot by NPR/Storyful

# Woodpeckers went nuts, stashing 700 pounds of acorns in the wall of a California home

In case you missed it, this NPR news item went viral a couple of weeks ago. It seems that a pair of Acorn Woodpeckers had stashed a hoard of acorns in a Santa Rosa, California home for about two to five years prior to an exterminator's arrival to investigate the source of mealworms. Read the story and watch a video of the seemingly endless outpouring of acorns: Woodpeckers stashed 700 pounds of acorns in the wall of a California home:

**NPR** 

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#### Making Best Use of Our Chapter's Resources

Finally, you may notice that today's *For the Birds* email is coming to you from a different email service, MailerLite, instead of Mailchimp. That's because Mailchimp will now be charging us to send these emails to your Inboxes. Instead of paying parent company Intuit, we chose to find a suitable emailing service that would remain free but would require less of a learning curve to format while saving our resources for outreach efforts. Therefore, the overall appearance may be somewhat different, but the content remains

committed to keeping everyone informed of pertinent local, regional and federal bird-related programs, events and news. We hope that you'll still receive the e-news in your lnbox (not Junk mail) and that you find it enhances your awareness of birds and their conservation.

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As always, please visit our website regularly: https://www.akronaudubon.org If you've missed or deleted these *For the Birds* emails, they are also posted in the **Archives** under the **News** tab on the Home Page. For more northeast Ohio bird-related programs, events (including some bird walks), please visit the *Northeast Ohio Regional Bird Calendar*, hosted by Kirtland Bird Club of Northeast Ohio: CALENDAR (kirtlandbirdclub.org)

Note: A chronologic listing of past GAAS program pages with speaker bios and topics can be found by going to the GAAS Website Meeting Archives page: Meeting Archives - Greater Akron Audubon Society If a virtual meeting was recorded and is available for watching, there will be a <recording> button that can be selected to link to the recording on YouTube.

Please direct questions or comments to info@akronaudubon.org

Follow us on Instagram: @akronaudubon

Find us on Facebook: @greaterakronaudubon

Greater Akron Audubon Society

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