



Ongoing Items of Interest:

Spring Bird Walks

Firestone Fridays: Join us each Friday through 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

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



Look what showed up at the Beaver Marsh on our first Sunday bird walk!

This stealthy American Bittern basking in the sun thrilled many along the towpath trail.

Audubon Plants for Birds and Homegrown National Park

Initiatives



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.

In 1900, 40% of U.S. population lived in cities or suburbs. By 2005, 83% of us live in these parceled tracts. Middle class suburbia has created a sterile environment by replacing a diverse community of native plant species with less diverse, non-native ornamental plants and grasses with little or no nutritive value to the wildlife that lived there. The result? Large declines in aquatic species (mussels, fish, reptiles and amphibians), plant species, and bird species—because, in effect, we've eliminated their food (insects), shelter and nesting spaces. Insects can't survive or thrive on the new host plants and the birds that eat those insects can't eat or nest in those spaces. In our lifetimes, we will have lost 95% of the species that existed when the Pilgrims arrived, and by 2100, one-fourth or more of the bird and wildlife species will have been lost. In essence, we've been issued a challenge to re-design our living spaces (now estimated to be about 95-97% of all the land in the continental U.S.) to improve the native biodiversity that comes with healthy ecosystems so we'll save our fauna and, ultimately, ourselves. Let's share our yards and make homes for caterpillars, butterflies, songbirds and more.

Please join GAAS and Homegrown National Park, an effort by Dr. Doug Tallamy, to change this picture by spreading the word and opting to plant native plants. In an effort to keep our members informed about local sources for native plants, we offer another local vendor:



NATIVE ROOTS INC.

<https://www.nativerootsinc.com/>

3576 Five Oaks Dr. Richfield, Ohio 44286

By appointment only: 330.232.3423 or at various events such as Countryside Farmer's Market in CVNP on Saturdays at Howe Meadow 9 a.m. –12:00 p.m. Find events on their Facebook page from the link on their website.



The Twinsburg Garden Club ends their 2021 Educational Series, "Native Plants: Garden with a Purpose," Thursday, May 20th at 7:00 p.m. when Judy Semroc will present:

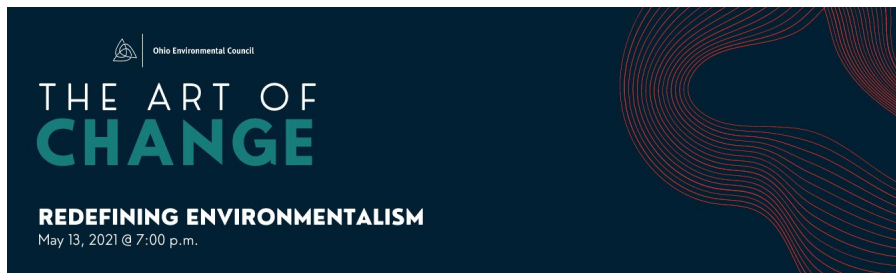
Through the Season: Important Late Summer and Fall Plantings to Aid Pollinators and Migratory Species

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

Take your pick on May 13, 2021: Coloring the Conservation Conversation



The Cuyahoga Valley Conservancy has launched a new virtual series intended to connect readers to Northeast Ohio's National Park: Crooked River Reads, a Distinguished Author Series. At **7:00 p.m.** Dr. Drew Lanham will discuss what it means to embrace the full breadth of his African-American heritage and his deep kinship to nature and adoration of birds. The convergence of ornithologist, college professor, poet, author and conservation activist blend to bring our awareness of the natural world and our moral responsibility for it forward in new ways. Candid by nature — and because of it — Dr. Lanham will examine how conservation must be a rigorous science and evocative art, inviting diversity and race to play active roles in celebrating our natural world. Tickets can be purchased online at for just \$10/8.50 for Conservancy members at forcvnp.org/crooked-river-reads



Ohio Environmental Council has created a new series of digital and in-person events to bring together artists and changemakers to address some of the biggest challenges facing Ohio. Their first (virtual) event will be a live performance from poet Barbara Fant and musician Eric Rollin (accompanied by David Wong) at **7:00 p.m.** Following Barbara and Eric's performances, Callia Tellez, OEC Policy Fellow, will lead a panel discussion focused on the intersectionality of art, the environment, and social justice. To join OEC for these moving performances and insightful discussions [Register Here!](#)



Diversity in Water Speaker Series: Dr. Willie Harper **5:30 p.m.** May 13, 2021
The Diversity in Water Speaker Series invites leaders in the water industry from diverse backgrounds to discuss their careers, lend us their life lessons, and help lead the discussion on championing diversity within the water industry and in our day-to-day lives. The event will be held virtually via Zoom; to receive the meeting link, please RSVP here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/144675693895>

GAAS May (Virtual) Program: Tuesday, May 25, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. *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. 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 is

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

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

Mentioning Migration...

Help Wanted: Citizen Science Project on Mourning Warbler Songs

Dr. Jay Pitocchelli, Chair, Biology Department at Saint Anselm College in Manchester, New Hampshire is in his seventh year of research on using birdsong to study migratory connectivity of Mourning Warbler song populations. Over 130 birders have contributed to date and contributions are reinforcing his preliminary results that Western song populations are separating out from the rest of the pack and migrating throughout the mid-western states directly to the Prairie Provinces while the Eastern song populations are migrating together through the Appalachian Mountains. He's especially interested this year in recordings from Texas, ***more mid-western states***, eastern Colorado and the New England coast.

All you need is a smartphone with a voice recording app and some luck. Videos with recordings are also helpful. For more on the project and how to make the recordings in more detail, see <https://mowasongmapper.weebly.com/>. Please send song recordings to the Mourning Warbler Sound Lab (jpitocch@anselm.edu).

A map of previous years' results may explain why we don't see more of this species here in Ohio during spring

migration: https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?hl=en&mid=1voXjBhvHZ0nwAv93_OBC_vCPuxQ&ll=38.892516009880424%2C-85.09712735&z=5

There is also a link to a spring 2017 National Audubon Society story on this research:

<http://www.audubon.org/magazine/spring-2017/this-guy-mapping-how-warblers-migrate-just>

Magee Marsh Wildlife Area Trail Map: The Ohio Division of Wildlife has issued a revised map showing new trails that have never been open to the public before. Take a look: https://www.biggestweekinamericanbirding.com/uploads/3/0/8/0/30807041/mageemarshwildlifearea_trailmap.pdf

Of Note to Northeast Ohioans

This story has circulated in many forms recently, including the National Wildlife Refuge Association's *Birding Community E-Bulletin*. Well-known local birder and photographer Chuck Slusarczyk noticed that a Ring-billed Gull, one of the many thousands on the shores of Lake Erie, had a metal leg band. After taking numerous photos he was able to piece together the tiny numbers on the band and send them to the USGS Bird Banding Lab. To his surprise, he learned that this bird had been banded as a chick in Toronto on June 18, 1992. The Canadian Wildlife Service and the U.S. Geological Survey confirmed that this bird is the oldest Ring-billed Gull on Record: 28 years and 9 months! A story from WKYC-TV features

Chuck: <https://www.wkyc.com/mobile/article/sports/outdoors/cleveland-discovery-birding-hike/95-1f20921d-fc5b-4b77-9ffc-b75b6fe9bc77>

You can easily enter data in the USGS Bird Banding Lab website at <https://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/BBL/bblretrv/>. When looking at a flock of birds through binoculars or spotting scope, remember to look at the legs. Many researchers are using alphanumeric color banding on seabirds and shorebirds for information on survivability, movement, fidelity, and population estimates. If you see a banded bird, record the color of the band, the part of the leg and which leg the band is on, and the code on the band (if there is one). Your contribution of a banded bird can make a difference in conservation and may be the only resighting of an individual in a given year.



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

Follow us on Instagram: @akronaudubon

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