

Program Description

"The Pantanal -- One of the World's Greatest Wetlands" The Pantanal is one of the world's largest tropical wetland areas, and is located mostly within Brazil, but it also extends into Bolivia and Paraguay. It sprawls over an area of up to 75,000 sq mi. Up to 12 distinct ecosystems have been defined within the Pantanal, each with distinct hydrological, geological and ecological characteristics. Wildlife is abundant -- hundreds of bird species, anacondas, anteaters, jaguars, and much more. This presentation will be based upon Mark & Claire Purdy's trip to the Pantanal, as well as other areas of Brazil, in September of 2013.

About the Speaker

Mark was born and raised in Owensboro, Kentucky. He obtained BS and PhD degrees in Chemical Engineering from the University of Kentucky and North Carolina State University. From school, he came to the Akron area in 1983 when he accepted a job with BFGoodrich, where he worked in aerospace research until retirement in 2012. He now devotes much of his time to nature causes. He has been president of Greater Akron Audubon Society for over 10 years, he is the volunteer crew chief for The Nature Conservancy's Herrick Fen Preserve in Portage County, and he frequently volunteers to work on alien invasive species at Bath Nature Preserve in Summit County. He is also very interested in running (both competing and coaching). However, travel is his biggest passion. He has made multiple trips to every continent except Antarctica (which is high on his wish list!), generally with an emphasis on nature.