



Greater Mohican Audubon News

YOUR LINK TO TOMORROW'S ENVIRONMENT

www.gmasohio.org

FALL 2008

GMAS CALENDAR

***Thur. Sep. 4** 5PM. Nature walk at Malabar Farm's, Junglebrook Trail. Malabar Farm is located near Pleasant Hill Lake on Bromfield Road in Lucas. Meet at the lower parking lot across from the Youth Hostel.

***Sat. Sep. 13** 9AM-11AM. Bird Walk at Secrest Arboretum, 1680 Madison Avenue, Wooster, Ohio. Meet at Visitor Pavilion.

***Thur. Sep. 18** 5PM. Bird walk at Pleasant Hill Lake Campgrounds. Meet at the Camp Registration/Recreation Building parking lot. ☺

***Sat. Sep. 27** 9AM-11AM. Bird Walk at Byers Woods, located 4 miles south of Ashland, just east of State Route 60 on CR 1754. Meet in the parking lot.

***Thur. Oct. 2** 5PM. Nature walk at Mohican State Park-Pleasant Hill Trail. Meet at the covered bridge.

***Sat. Oct. 4** 7AM-5:45PM. Ohio Young Birder's Conference in Holmes County. For more information, go to www.ohioyoungbirders.org

***Sat. Oct. 11** 9AM-11AM. Bird Walk at Malabar Farm, located near Pleasant Hill Lake on Bromfield Road in Lucas. Meet at the Visitor's Center. GMAS Board Meeting will follow the walk at Malabar Inn.

***Sun. Oct. 12** midnight-midnight. The Big Sit. Join us as we count birds from a 17-foot circle at the Pleasant Hill Lake swimming beach area. From St. Rt. 95, enter at main park entrance and follow road back to the beach area on the left. For more information, go to www.gmasohio.org. ☺

***Oct. 18-19** Audubon Ohio State Assembly in Richland County. See article in this issue. ☺

***Sat. Oct. 25** 9AM-11AM. Bird Walk at Byers Woods, located 4 miles south of Ashland, just east of State Route 60 on CR 1754. Meet in the parking lot.

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BIO-BLITZ AT AUDUBON WETLANDS PRESERVE

Ohio Young Birders, naturalists, and volunteers from GMAS and the Ashland County Park District descended on Audubon Wetlands Preserve on July 5 to survey animals and plants. Kenn Kaufman, naturalist and author, and Kim Kaufman, both of Black Swamp Bird Observatory, accompanied the Ohio Young Birders. The young birders were enthusiastic and sharp-eyed naturalists.

Rick Gardner, Heritage Botanist for Ohio Division of Natural Areas and Preserves (DNAP), led people who were interested in plants. Guy Denny, retired Chief of DNAP, surveyed dragonflies and butterflies. Tim Leslie led a group of bird watchers, whose sharp eyes also spotted butterflies, dragonflies, a tiny toad, a young spring peeper, and plants. Dr. Dick Stoffer, biologist and professor at Ashland University, studied mammals and plants, along with a spring study of amphibians. The earlier study uncovered Small-mouth and Jefferson Complex salamanders.

The biggest surprise of the day was discovered by Cheryl Harner and Guy Denny. At the Jerome Fork river they found a Great Blue Heron rookery! Some of the young were still on the nest. In the evening, Merrill Tawse and his volunteers set up nets to catch bats but none were caught. A few bats flew over. During the evening, Tim Leslie, Dick Stoffer, and Louise Fleming both heard and saw Virginia Rails and Soras.

Other volunteers for the day include Bianca Davis, Delores Cole, Lloyd and Norma Wygant, Bill Fleming, Doug Culler, Brian Golias, Jack and Lalle Laughlin, Steve Huber, and Hal Newhouse, who lent us the canopy. Audubon Wetlands Preserve was acquired by GMAS with a Clean Ohio grant and deeded to the Ashland County Park District.

Final counts for the day included 10 dragonfly species, 13 butterfly species, 43 bird species, and 165 plant species.

Thanks to all who contributed to make this day a success.

—Louise Fleming



Hickory Hairstreak—one of 13 butterfly species found at Audubon Wetland Preserve on 7/5/08. Photo by Cheryl Harner

BOBOLINKS AND BUTTERFLIES FESTIVAL

The Bobolinks and Butterflies Festival at Byers Woods on June 28 was a great deal of fun. The day started off with the traditional bird walk at Byers Woods, and there were eventually 3 groups of people on bird walks taking in that bodacious Bobolink habitat and the "Bobs" flying there.

Black Swamp Bird Organization and Stucker Meadow Native Plants had displays and merchandise for the shopping savvy. The Ashland County Park District had hot dogs and chips for sale, while an Ashland Chautauqua actor portrayed Henry David Thoreau. Several GMAS members helped the locals view Bobolinks through Su Snyder's scope, and folks signed a petition to thank the park for providing this habitat for grassland birds.

While the weather did threaten rain all day, sunshine was actually a bigger factor, as my reddened skin will testify. Thanks to an anonymous donor, GMAS has two new tents to protect us from rain and sun. (article continued on page 2)

GMAS CALENDAR*(continued from page 1)*

***Sat. Nov. 8** 9AM-11AM. Bird Walk at Secrest Arboretum, 1680 Madison Avenue, Wooster, Ohio. Meet at Visitor Pavilion.

***Sat. Nov. 22** 9AM-11AM. Bird Walk at Byers Woods, located 4 miles south of Ashland, just east of State Route 60 on CR 1754. Meet in the parking lot.

***Sat. Dec. 13** 9AM-11AM. Bird Walk at Malabar Farm, located near Pleasant Hill Lake on Bromfield Road in Lucas. Meet at the Visitor's Center. GMAS Holiday Party following walk at the Malabar Inn. For more information see www.gmasohio.org.

***Sat. Dec. 20** Ashland Christmas Bird Count. To participate, contact Tim Leslie at 419-289-2926.

***Sat. Dec. 27** No Bird Walk at Byers Woods today.

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And butterflies? Warren Uxley gave a wonderful program highlighting the need for host plants in butterfly gardens. Our GMAS butterfly garden is a great collection of native plants and although the wind limited the butterfly sightings, we had at least 7 species throughout the day. These pocket gardens of habitat can make a huge difference, if we all would plant a few native plants in our own yards.

*—Cheryl Harner***PICNIC ON THE PRAIRIE**

Blue skies and sunshine were the perfect compliment to the Sunday Aug. 3rd afternoon picnic at Stucker Meadow, a back yard prairie created by Don Beam, GMAS' Holmes county representative.

The view-scape of flowers, forbs and grasses became an adventure as Don lead a small group into the sea of 5-6' tall plantings. He pointed out many unusual and some state listed species, all of which were collected in the mid-Ohio region. Big Bluestem grass and Prairie Dock towered overhead, while Rose-pink and Prairie Loosestrife decorated the knee to ankle range.

Afterwards, a potluck picnic and fried chicken (generously provided by Riedners) were enjoyed by 24 members of our local society. A brief meeting was held, highlighted by bird sightings -enjoyed and shared- during the meeting. Three points went to John Precup for the first sighting.

After dining, many clambered on-board a tractor pulled trailer to enjoy the view from the summit of the Beam property. A few walked the route, hoping to burn off some of the outrageous calories consumed shortly before!

Thanks to Don and his family for their kind hospitality, providing the drinks and sharing their lovely back yard prairie with the Greater Mohican Audubon Society.

AUDUBON OHIO STATE ASSEMBLY OCTOBER 18-19, 2008**MEET, LEARN, GET ACTIVE, AND HAVE FUN IN RICHLAND COUNTY**

Audubon Ohio invites you to its third biennial State Assembly on October 18-19 in lovely Bellville, Ohio. This year's Assembly will feature nationally prominent speakers, engaging workshops, enjoyable outings, and best of all, the opportunity to mingle with your fellow birders and activists of all ages in the Mohican Hills during the peak of fall color.

The Assembly will run from 10AM until 9PM. on Saturday, October 18, with optional outings offered on Sunday morning, October 19. Keynote addresses will be presented by Dr. Lonnie Thompson, a noted climate researcher and winner of the 2007 National Medal of Science, and Ted Eubanks, a nationally-recognized expert on how to turn enthusiasm for birds and wildlife into conservation action.

The Assembly will feature three tracks of concurrent 90-minute workshops, with three workshops in each track. One track will focus on protection of Important Bird Areas; one on hands-on restoration; and one on engaging young people to be conservation leaders today and in the future. One of our featured workshop presenters in the last track is Sharon Stiteler, the "Bird Chick" from Minnesota (www.birdchick.com).

On Sunday morning we will offer optional outings to nearby birding hotspots, including the Ohio Bird Sanctuary just 20 minutes away near Mansfield.

The Assembly will be held at the Quality Inn and Suites, offering special room rates for the Assembly, and conveniently located at the Bellville Exit (Exit 165) on I-71. Lunch and dinner will be held across the street at the Dutch Heritage Restaurant. Rooms are also available nearby at the Comfort Inn, which features an indoor water park for families with younger children.

Registration for the Assembly will open on August 18. The 2006 Assembly drew 200 participants, and this year's version will be just as popular. More information about the Assembly and how to register for it will be available through the Audubon Ohio website, www.audubonohio.org. If you would like to ensure receipt of registration materials, call Audubon Ohio at 614-224-3303, or send us an e-mail message at Ohio@Audubon.org. ☺

AUDUBON OHIO'S STATE ASSEMBLY

GREATER MOHICAN AUDUBON OFFERS TWO FIELD TRIPS

Show your support for carbon free birding! At the Audubon Ohio's State Assembly, please join the Greater Mohican Audubon Society as they hit the B&O Rails-to-Trails bike path on Sunday morning October 19th at 8AM and 9AM.

Choose from two offerings for the lean and green:

8AM Biking to Butler and Beyond: Bring your bike along to the conference and enjoy the camaraderie of some of Mohican's best birders, or rent a bike (arranged through GMAS) from Y-Not Cycles in Lexington. Either way our guides Gary Cowell and Randy Carmel will show you the local hot spots for those fabulous fall birds. The scenic trail becomes even more beautiful in fall's palette of color. A four-hour trip, with plenty of stops to focus on interesting passerines and the occasional raptor. Trip starts and returns to the hotel parking lot on Oct. 19, 8AM - 12:00 noon, just in time to grab lunch on your way home.

No Charge for this trip, however donations to GMAS will gladly be accepted. Bike rental is available at \$25.00 for the entire morning.

9AM Walk and Roll—Accessible Stroll: Join Greater Mohican Audubon Society as they burn calories, not carbon on this wheelchair accessible hike on the B&O Bike Trail. Enjoy the crisp October air and all the birds you can see for free! Life is good, and you will enjoy the enthusiasm of our local group while they search out the nearby foliage and fields for birds seen from our bike trail. This trip will be lead by local bird expert Greg Miller.

No Charge, but donations to GMAS gladly accepted. 9AM -11AM on Sunday Oct. 19. Meet at the hotel parking lot. ♿

GMAS ELECTION RESULTS

On June 14, the following GMAS Board Members were elected for the 2008/09 term, running July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009.

- Σ President: Cheryl Harner
- Σ Vice-president: Erwin Riedner
- Σ Secretary: Jean Taddie
- Σ Treasurer: Bianca Davis
- Σ Wayne County Rep: Su Snyder
- Σ Ashland County Rep: Sam Weyrick
- Σ Richland County Rep: Gary Cowell
- Σ Holmes County Rep: Don Beam

The following Committee Chairs were accepted:

- Σ Membership Chair: Mary Ellen Bolt
- Σ Newsletter Chair: Su Snyder
- Σ Bird Walks: Gary Cowell & Su Snyder
- Σ Young Birders: Lisa Durham
- Σ Audubon at Home: currently vacant
- Σ Byers Butterfly Garden: Sam Weyrick
- Σ Council of Ohio Audubon Chapters: Louise Fleming
- Σ Web Master: Cheryl Harner

LAKE ERIE RAPTOR SEMINAR, SEPTEMBER 27-28, 2008

On September 27-28, 2008, the Ohio Ornithological Society (OOS) and Black Swamp Bird Observatory (BSBO), are featuring presentations by raptor experts sharing their knowledge about the fascinating and intriguing group of birds classified as raptors. Seminars will take place at the Maumee Bay Resort & Conference Center with field trips to four local birding hotspots. Saturday evening will feature dinner with keynote speaker Brian Wheeler, author of *Raptors of Eastern North America* and *Photographic Guide to North American Raptors*. Displays will include live raptors courtesy of *Back to the Wild*, a wildlife rehabilitation center in Castalia, Ohio. Sunday will offer a field trip to Lake Erie Metropark, a premier hawk-watching location in Brownstown, Michigan, to witness the spectacle of migrating raptors.

For more information, costs and registration form, call BSBO at 419-898-4070 or visit www.bsbobird.org



Gary Cowell checks out native plants with Don Beam's expert help at the Bobolinks and Butterflies Festival at Byers Woods. Photo by Cheryl Harner

The Greater Audubon News is the quarterly newsletter of the Greater Mohican Audubon Society. Four issues per year are part of your membership to the local chapter. Please renew your membership promptly to help us keep the rates as low as possible. Please check your address label to determine when your membership expires. Send dues to GMAS, P.O. Box 907, Ashland, OH 44805. Thank you.

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YOUR LINK TO TOMORROW'S ENVIRONMENT • SERVING ASHLAND, RICHLAND, WAYNE & HOLMES COUNTIES

MEMBERSHIP

GREATER MOHICAN AUDUBON SOCIETY

The GMAS membership offers local newsletter and events and helps us to fund our programs. Each Chapter Supporter will receive a free nametag to wear at chapter functions.

Make checks payable to:

Greater Mohican Audubon Society,
P.O. Box 907, Ashland, OH 44805

Chapter Code S72

Chapter Supporter

\$10 – GMAS Membership Only

Chapter Supporter plus Donation

\$30 – 1 year GMAS Membership plus a GMAS T-shirt
Size – M L XL – Please circle size

NAME _____

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Would you like to help with programs? _____yes _____no

To join the National Audubon Society, please go to www.audubon.org

Chapter Code S72

beam.10@osu.edu

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Cheryl Harner - President

Greater Mohican Audubon Society (GMAS) is dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of birds and other wildlife through environmental education and the conservation and restoration of habitat.

MISSION

P.O. BOX 907 • ASHLAND, OH 44805

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