



• **CHILDREN FOUND MUCH TO DO AT THE 2011 QUEEN CITY BIRD FESTIVAL, PAGE 7.**

• **TREES ARE FOR BIRDS. NEWSLETTERS CAN GO BY E-MAIL. SIGN UP AT MEMBERSHIP@AMVOHIO.ORG**



Summer 2011
Volume 36

the quarterly newsletter of Audubon Miami Valley, in Ohio's Butler and Preble Counties

Thanks, Hardy, for 3 good years

Hardy Eshbaugh has reached his term limit as president of Audubon Miami Valley chapter, but he has left a lasting legacy.

For three years, Hardy has worked tirelessly to search out the most thought-provoking program speakers, to support the research of our banding stations, to find new resources to support our education and conservation efforts and to develop community partnerships.

Hardy's insatiable enthusiasm, apparently unending energy, and "can-do" attitude have made his term an exciting time to be on AMV's board.

He has been successful in securing local, state and national grants, including the Toyota TogetherGreen grant from National Audubon Society. This has enabled our chapter to move forward in new areas, notably:

- a new bird blind in Miami University Natural Areas designed by architecture students,
- scholarships to local educators for global field work through Earth Expeditions (see Page 6), and
- partnership with Avian Research and Education Institute and Hueston Woods on the Queen City Bird Festival.



Photo by Gail Reynolds

Outgoing Audubon Miami Valley President Hardy Eshbaugh made friends with this Cincinnati Zoo resident during a 2009 field trip. Hardy recounts his years as chapter president on Page 3.

Hardy served on the board of National Audubon Society for several years and is well-known and highly regarded in the field of conservation for his contributions.

It has been our great fortune to have Hardy as our chapter president, and I, for one, am very glad he will be continuing on the AMV board as Past President.

He is an inspiration!

— Gail Reynolds, 2011-2012 President

AMV CHAPTER NEWS

Veteran officers elected

During the May chapter meeting, the following Audubon Miami Valley board officers were elected for 2011-2012:

- Gail Reynolds, President
- Neil Poppendeck, Vice-President
- Tim Tolford, Secretary
- Neil Poppendeck, Treasurer
- Hardy Eshbaugh, Past President (1 year)

Elected as members-at-large of the board were Janet Ziegler, Mickey Simonds and Sarah Michael.

Mailing maven needed

If you're looking for a way to help out Audubon Miami Valley but you aren't in a position to commit to chair a committee or work on the board, we may have the job for you.

We are looking for some willing hands to learn how to recruit volunteers and organize the chapter's bulk mailings.

Each year, we mail the newsletter four times and do a couple of fund-raising mailings. The 475-piece newsletter mailings take about 1½ hours with three

additional volunteers. The annual gift and seed sale mailings take more or less time.

The mailing coordinator uses supplied mailing labels presorted by zip code. Most mailings need only to be sealed and delivered to the post office. To learn more or to volunteer, contact Membership Chair Liz Woedl at membership@amvohio.org.

Beissinger honored

Dr. Steven R. Beissinger, who earned a B.S. and M.S. in Zoology at Miami University, was recently awarded the William Brewster Memorial Award for 2010 from the American Ornithologists' Union.

He was honored for publication of the most meritorious body of work on birds of the Western Hemisphere over the past decade and for his work on the conservation of parrots.

He currently holds the A. Starker Leopold Chair in Wildlife Biology at the University of California, Berkeley, where he is a professor of Conservation Biology.

Beissinger was recognized for making outstanding research contributions to three major areas of ornithology. While a student at Miami, Beissinger was an early member of Audubon Miami Valley.



OUR VISION

We envision a world where humankind accepts the obligations of being part of nature, especially the obligation of stewardship. We seek to shape a culture in which the violation of nature is socially, politically, and morally unacceptable. In short, we seek a culture of conservation and an environmental ethic.

OUR MISSION

Audubon Miami Valley works to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity.

The Audubon Miami Valley newsletter is published four times a year, as the seasons change.

Deadline for the autumn 2011 issue is August 1. Send contributions to Newsletter@amvohio.org or to Newsletter, P.O. Box 556, Oxford, Ohio 45056

- Judi Hetrick is editor.
- John Blocher is proofreader.
- Caitlin Stone designed the Meadowlark logo.



The newsletter is printed by Letterman Printing in Oxford on 100 percent recycled paper.

Visit us online at <http://www.amvohio.org/>



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Supporting architecture students constructing a bird blind in the Miami University Natural Areas is one of the accomplishments of Hardy Eshbaugh's AMV presidency.

Recently, members of the Bogan Elementary School Earth Club (right) used the blind during a field trip.

Photo by Gail Reynolds



Eshbaugh exits after 3 terms happy, proud

With May's election, my three-year term as president of Audubon Miami Valley comes to an end, and I pass the baton on to new president Gail Reynolds.

For me it has been a memorable three years. And even though it is difficult to single out the most memorable events of my term, certain ones stand out.

The Toyota TogetherGreen Volunteer Days grant, AMV's collaboration with the Bird Blind project and five amazing architecture students from Miami University led by Max Streeter under the auspices of the Miami University Natural Areas continues to be an inspiration for me.

We just finished AMV's third year of involvement in the Queen City Bird Festival, and this year we took the lead in putting on the event. Sarah Michael made it happen in ways none of us could have imagined. So many individuals volunteered their time and talents in making the wonderful world of birds come alive for more than 148 children and their families. One needed only to see their faces while listening to Chad Smith, Fred Shaw and Doug Feist to know the event was a rousing success.

Our support of Avian Research and Education Institute and HRBC in their bird banding efforts has been a resounding success in support of both Important Bird Areas and education.

Our programs have ranged from Wild Ohio to the Antarctic to the life history and behavior of Manikins.



"For me it has been a memorable three years. ... all of you have made it happen."

— W. Hardy Eshbaugh

Our field trips introduced us to the Fernald Preserve, Wolfcreek Habitat and Rescue, Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge and Crane Creek among others.

The after-school program in partnership with the Environmental Mobile Unit has flourished.

We have been able to help many graduate students and local teachers travel all over the world with Earth Expeditions, and we have been a very strong supporter of the Hog Island Camp in Maine.

I cannot tell you how happy and proud I am of what our chapter has accomplished these past three years, and all of you have made it happen.

Please support Gail and continue to volunteer for the betterment of birds, other wildlife and their habitat.

— W. Hardy Eshbaugh, 2008-2011 President



CALENDAR

SATURDAY JUNE 4

Big Bugs

Marvel at a 20-foot tall praying mantis, enormous ants marching over the hill and a colossal dragonfly hovering over the pond as sculptor David Rogers brings his gigantic, realistic insects made from natural materials to Glenwood Gardens. This family field trip with Gail Reynolds will delight young and old alike.

For more information and pictures, visit www.GreatParks.org/BigBugs. Admission; \$7 adults, \$5 for children 2 to 12. Children under 2 are admitted free.

Meet at 8:30 a.m in the old Wal-Mart parking lot on South Locust Street, near the Oxford McDonald's site. Bring a sack lunch or plan to eat at the park café.



FRIDAY-SUNDAY JULY 8-10

Midwest Native Plant Conference

The 3rd Annual Midwest Native Plant Conference will be held at Bergamo Retreat Center in Dayton, Ohio July 8-10. A variety of recognized leaders will present informational sessions, workshops and field trips to explore native landscaping and native plant communities — forests, wetlands, and prairies — together with the diverse wildlife that depend on these habitats.

Vendors will offer native plants, books, artwork and other items. This year, conference proceeds will benefit the The Nature Conservancy in Ohio's Sunshine Corridor Project, Marianist Environmental Education Center, and Cedar Bog Association. Learn more about the conference at www.midwestnativeplants.org.

MONDAY SEPT. 12

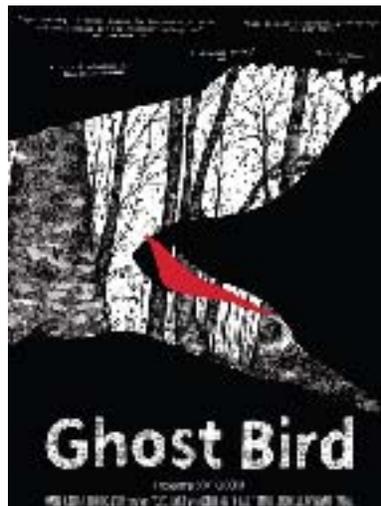
AMV public program

Ghost Bird, a film

Dave Russell and Hardy Eshbaugh, Moderators

7:30 p.m., 2nd Floor Community Room,
Lebanon Citizens National Bank,
30 Park Place West, Oxford, Ohio

Ghost Bird, a spell-binding, award-winning documentary, takes a small item from recent history, the alleged discovery of the extinct ivory-billed woodpecker near a small, depressed Arkansas town in 2005, and the media and scientific hoopla that ensued and turns it into a cosmic lament for the forest primeval and man's search for environmental redemption.



"Scott Crocker's documentary poses questions that will haunt you in their insistence that we have yet to reckon with the philosophical and spiritual ramifications of the diminishment of our natural world."

– Ella Soper Jones,
York University

MONDAY OCT. 10 AMV public program

Fall Harvest: Facts and Lore

Karen Cody, Fernald Preserve Naturalist

7:30 p.m., 2nd Floor Community Room, Lebanon Citizens National Bank, 30 Park Place West, Oxford, Ohio

Do you know what tree nut was a precursor to today's campaign buttons?

Do you want to predict what this winter will be like just by cutting open a seed?

During this program we'll explore the facts and lore of the wild autumn harvest. On display will be

various nuts, berries, roots and other native natural offerings of the Eastern forest. Sampling is a must for a real taste of the season!

Did you know, some people carry a nut as a good luck charm and prefer it to a left hind foot of a rabbit or a four-leaf clover? Down on your luck, need the nut? Join us this eve-

ning and you will get to take home your very own good luck charm!

Karen Cody, Fernald Preserve naturalist, believes that few things influence people of all ages as much as a first-hand encounter with the natural world. Please join us. She'll have you looking at the ordinary in quite extraordinary ways.



THURSDAY NOV. 3

The Robert A. Hefner Lecture, by David E. Guggenheim

Miami University

Tentatively scheduled for 8 p.m., 102 Benton Hall, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio

David E. Guggenheim, the “Ocean Doctor,” offers a unique perspective — ranging from a tiny submarine 2,000 feet beneath Alaska’s Bering Sea to the hallways of Washington, D.C. — on the wonder of the oceans around us and the critical issues they now face.

The marine scientist, ocean explorer and submarine pilot is also a Washington-based conservation pol-

icy leader at The Ocean Foundation where he serves as Senior Fellow and Director of its Cuba Marine Research and Conservation Program.

One of his most interesting research areas is the Gulf of Mexico, particularly the waters and reefs off Cuba. His March 2011 journey from Cape Horn at the tip of South America to the Cape of Good Hope at the tip of South Africa (with

stops in the Falkland Islands, South Georgia Island, and the Nightingale Islands), followed the footsteps of some great explorers and encountered incredible wildlife including penguins, albatross, seals, dolphins and whales.

His lecture is tentatively scheduled for 8 p.m. in 102 Benton Hall, on Miami University’s Oxford campus.

MONDAY NOV. 14 AMV public program

Bahamas Birds, Babes and Beaches

John and Karen Shrader, Dayton Audubon Society

7:30 p.m., 2nd Floor Community Room, Lebanon Citizens National Bank, 30 Park Place West, Oxford, Ohio

The Bahama Islands lie just a short distance off the coast of Florida, and are famous for their “babes and beaches.” But did you know the islands are home to a few endemic species of birds — including a swallow, hummingbird, and yellowthroat — found nowhere else?

A number of other unique subspecies are also found on the islands, including a parrot and the very rare Bahama Nuthatch. If you are eager to plan a trip to get

out of the cold this winter, join John and Karen Shrader, Dayton Audubon Society members, as we explore our neighbors in the sunny Bahamas.

The Shraders are avid world birders and also enjoy photography. For almost two decades, they served as Field Trip Chairs for the Dayton Audubon Society, and John Shrader has served as chapter President. He is an M.D. associated with the Kettering Medical Center.

MONDAY DEC. 12 AMV public program

Eyes Along the River: A Journey through Time

Jim Williams, naturalist, educator

7:30 p.m., 2nd Floor Community Room, Lebanon Citizens National Bank, 30 Park Place West, Oxford, Ohio

Join us for a story of the Ohio River. We will explore some of the natural and cultural history of the river from the late 1700s to the present. We will look at some of the changes in the flora, fauna and people and how transportation changed the face of the river forever.

Jim Williams was born and raised in Greater Cincinnati. His ancestors

came to Southwest Ohio in the late 1700s by flatboat. He attended the University of Cincinnati earning a bachelor’s degree in education with a major in the biological sciences. While teaching high school in Cincinnati, he earned a Master of Arts in Teaching at Miami University. He has worked with the Hamilton County Park District.

Audubon Miami Valley meets the second Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the 2nd Floor Oxford Community Room, Lebanon Citizens National Bank, unless noted otherwise. All meetings are free and open to all. The bank is at 30 Park Place West in the center of uptown Oxford, Ohio.





Earth Clubbers brave bridge

The field trip for Marshall Elementary School Earth Club was rained out last year, but this year the trip was on despite a prediction of rain.

It didn't rain, but the trails of Bachelor Preserve were full of lots of mud!

It did not dampen spirits, though, and a stream study turned up crawdads (one was carrying her eggs), salamanders and dragonfly nymphs.

Facilitator Sharon Edwards was excited to find a water penny, an invertebrate that is only found in clean water.

Many students bravely tried out the swinging bridge for the first time.

Learn more about Earth Club trips and see more photos in the AMV Newsletter Summer E-Extra edition, available only by e-mail.

Photo by Gail Reynolds

Educators off to cloud forest, Great Barrier Reef

Audubon Miami Valley has awarded summer scholarships to two educators for Earth Expeditions.

Shena Ashcraft of Hamilton is very excited to be involved in conservation work at the Monteverde Cloud Forest in Costa Rica. Shena teaches at Elda Elementary School in Ross.

Joey Flowers, also of Hamilton, will be off to Australia to study the Great Barrier Reef. She is well-suited



to this expedition, as she has a degree in Aquatic Biology and is a certified scuba diver. Flowers teaches sixth grade at St. Joseph Consolidated School in Hamilton.

Congratulations to both adventurous young women!

Earth Expeditions are graduate field courses, a partnership between Miami University's Project Dragonfly and the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden, with community projects worldwide.

— Gail Reynolds





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More than 50 volunteers coordinated activities at the May 14, 2011, Queen City Bird Festival at Hueston Woods. Above, a child makes a feeder from a pine cone. Kids could also play nature-related games such as "name that bird," make masks, and learn bird identification. See more in the AMV Newsletter e-mail only E-Extra edition.



The cardinal on the left is Libby Birch, who made her own costume. She's with AMV conservation chair Dick Munson at the Queen City Bird Festival.

Photos by
 Sarah Michael



the newsletter of
Audubon Miami Valley
Volume 36, Summer 2011 issue
P.O. Box 556, Oxford OH 45056

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an incorporated,
non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization in
Butler and Preble Counties of Ohio

**“The bluebird carries the
sky on his back.”**
— Henry David Thoreau

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