



WHY IS CYNTHIA SHEARD SMILING?

BECAUSE HER BARN OWL PICTURE WAS A WINNER IN AUDUBON MIAMI VALLEY'S FIRST STUDENT ART CONTEST MARCH 3.

SEE OTHER WINNERS IN THE SUMMER E-EXTRA EDITION OF THIS NEWSLETTER, AVAILABLE ONLY TO OUR DIGITAL SUBSCRIBERS.

INSIDE THIS PRINT EDITION:

- **CALENDAR, PAGES 4-5.**
- **QUEEN CITY BIRD FESTIVAL, PAGE 6.**
- **THE TRIP TO CRANE CREEK, PAGE 7.**

New grant will aid Big Woods project

Imagine a tall ship in Seattle that offers sailing adventures to teens while teaching them about the marine environment.

Picture a bird oasis built on an abandoned factory site outside of Chicago that offers walks tying Black history with bird migrations.

Consider 40 of these diverse stories and meeting the people behind them, and you have an idea of the experience I had a few weeks ago at the Aullwood Audubon Center with the 2012 recipients of the TogetherGreen Fellows Grants.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am so excited to announce to AMV members that I have been selected as one of this year's fellows!

Every fellow selected (40 in all from across the U.S.) will receive \$10,000 to be used for leadership training, but especially to support conservation action projects that we proposed in our applications. This funding will enable the AMV chapter to move forward with our habitat restoration project in the Hueston Woods Important Bird Area in a big way!

What is TogetherGreen?

Toyota and Audubon created this partnership to encourage the next generation of environmental leaders and to fund innovative conservation projects that benefit the environment and, just as importantly, local communities. Toyota has donated \$20 million over the 5-year grant cycle, the largest grant it has ever given, and the largest Audubon has ever received. AMV also received a TogetherGreen Volunteer Days grant in the first year of funding.

Why Audubon? Audubon chapters and centers have the community-based relationships that many larger

(Continued on page 3)

AMV CHAPTER NEWS

Two win summer scholarships

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

Brian Streng of Oxford will attend the Baja field course this summer in his first year master's Global Field Program. He teaches at Badin High School.

Elizabeth Horton of Monroe will attend the Thailand course as a second-year master's Global Field Program student. She works in business but loves science with thoughts of redirecting her career into animal education and conservation.

Congratulations to both.

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

— Linda Williams

\$5,000 pledged to save land

The Audubon Miami Valley Board recently voted to pledge \$5,000 from our reserve accounts to a project of the Three Valley Conservation Trust to acquire the Fryman property just north of the Black Covered Bridge.

The property includes a portion of Four Mile Creek and a historic 1814 mill race.



The Fryman property

Photo by Hardy Eshbaugh

The 173 acres will be divided into a tract of approximately 128 acres that will remain farm land under a conservation easement, with a second 45 acres designated as a low-impact park under a similar easement.

Your board members think this project fits perfectly with our mission to preserve bird and wildlife habitats.

If you would like to contribute individually, send a check to Audubon Miami Valley, PO Box 556, Oxford, Ohio 45056 designated for the Fryman Project. This is a tax-deductible gift and your opportunity to be proactive for conservation!

— Hardy Eshbaugh



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 2012 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.



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Visit us online at amvboard.wordpress.com/





Garrett Dienno removing Garlic Mustard in the Big Woods.

Photo by Hardy Eshbaugh

Leadership grant will aid Hueston Woods project

(Continued from page 1)

environmental organizations do not. In addition to addressing an environmental problem, the funded project needs to involve community action in a meaningful way that benefits all.

By involving volunteers of all ages, both rural and urban, in removing invasive plant species from the Hueston Woods nature preserve known as the Big Woods, we hope to encourage enjoyment and appreciation of this old-growth forest gem in our backyard.

The native wildflowers and tree seedlings on the forest floor will be protected from being choked out by invasive garlic mustard and honeysuckle. The project also will support the habitat of many bird species breeding in or migrating through the mature hardwood forest.

Hiking the trails of the Big Woods, you will see just a

small remnant of the central hardwood forest that used to stretch across the midsection of the U.S.

We know this is will be a continuing project. We took that on when our chapter decided to adopt the IBA earlier this year. The funding we receive this year will help us buy tools and supplies and to build permanent signs and install footbrushes at the trailheads to prevent the spread of seeds into (or out of) the woods.

And, of course, we'll have to celebrate with an event to be announced in the spring!

Please join us. There will be many ways to help and ways to enjoy the activities that this TogetherGreen grant funding will support.

Thank you to Toyota and to National Audubon Society for this extraordinary opportunity!

— Gail Reynolds, AMV President



CALENDAR

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 10 AMV public program

Bhutan: Birding in the Land of the Thunder Dragon and

Gross National Happiness

Hardy Eshbaugh, Professor Emeritus,

Department of Botany, Miami University

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

In November 2011 the Eshbaughs and Michaels spent two unbelievable weeks traveling in Bhutan, the land of the Thunder Dragon, immersed in the culture and birds of this isolated Himalayan paradise.

Bhutan is host to a remarkable number of bird species including several endemics and endangered species. The Black-necked Crane winters here and is a species of special concern, while the White-bellied Heron is endangered, numbering fewer than 50 individuals. Bhutan is known for several colorful pheasants.



Hardy Eshbaugh

Join us for a vicarious trip through dramatic landscape with glimpses of the avifauna and other wildlife.

Hardy Eshbaugh is a retired Professor of Botany who taught for 45 years at Miami University. His interest in birds began as a child, continued as a student at Cornell University, found him serving as a graduate assistant in ornithology at Indiana University, and serving as a working Board member of the National Audubon Society.

“We must protect the forests for our children, grandchildren and children yet to be born. We must protect the forests for those who can’t speak for themselves such as the birds, animals, fish and trees.”

—Qwatsinas (Hereditary Chief Edward Moody),
Nuxalk Nation

Audubon Miami Valley meets the second Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. All meetings are free and open to all. We usually meet in the 2nd Floor Community Room of Lebanon Citizens National Bank, in uptown Oxford, Ohio. This newsletter will note when any meeting is held in a different venue.

MONDAY OCTOBER 8 AMV public program

Bermuda’s Paradise Lost:

The Story of the Bermuda Petrel

A film by Deirdre Brennan, Creator and Producer

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

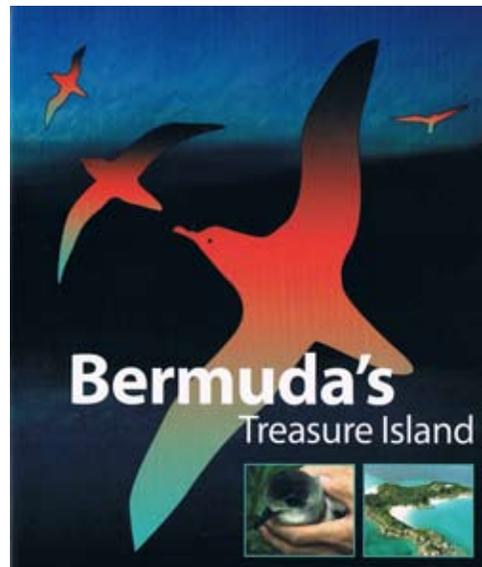
Bermuda’s legendary seabird, the Cahow, was thought to be extinct for more than 300 years. It was rediscovered in 1951 on a few rocky islets

where miraculously it survived undetected over the centuries.

Step back in time to pre-colonial Bermuda on Nonsuch Island. This once-barren island was restored by one man, David Wingate, who planted 800

native trees and shrubs in order to create a suitable habitat for one of the world’s rarest sea birds, the Bermuda Petrel (the Cahow).

Nonsuch Island is now a refuge for all of Bermuda’s native flora and fauna. This film tells the compelling story of one man’s devoted conservation effort to save a critically endangered species.



CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 24

The Hefner Lecture

**Geerat Vermeij,
Department of Geology,
University of California at Davis**

(Topic, time and location
to be announced.)

Geerat Vermeij earned his Ph.D. in Biology and Geology from Yale University and is a Distinguished Professor in the Department of Geology at University of California, Davis.

An evolutionary biologist and paleontologist, his interests include marine ecology and paleoecology; the functional morphology of marine mollusks; the coevolutionary reactions between predators and prey and their effects on morphology, ecology and evolution.

He may be best known for his work chronicling the “arms race” among long-extinct mollusks and their predators. Blind since the age of 3, Vermeij has published nearly a hundred scientific papers and his books include *Evolution and Escalation: An Ecological History of Life*; *A Natural History of Shells*; *Nature: An Economic History*; *The Evolutionary World: How Adaptation Ex-*



Geerat Vermeij

plains Everything from Seashells to Civilization; and the autobiography *Privileged Hands: A Scientific Life*,

He has received a MacArthur Award and the Daniel Giraud Elliot Medal from the National Academy of Sciences. He served as editor for *Evolution*, has a world-class collection of shells, and has been called “an intrepid field naturalist and explorer of the coasts of nearly every continent.”

MONDAY NOVEMBER 12 AMV public program

Naturalists' Perspective on Costa Rica and the Impacts of Global Change

**Hays Cummins, Western Program, and Donna McCollum
Institute for the Environment & Sustainability, Miami University**

7:30 p.m., 2nd Floor Community Room, Lebanon Citizens National Bank,

One of the many interests Hays Cummins and Donna McCollum have in common is their love for work in the field.

That love has taken each of them to locations as varied as Belize, the Bahamas, Curacao, and the wetlands of Butler County, Ohio.

The two will share with us insights formed during recent field work in Costa Rica, and they will show their best examples of nature photography from there.

(See Cummins' class syllabus and links to a multitude of images at <http://jrscience.wcp.muohio.edu/tropics/costaricacourse.html>)

Cummins is Professor of Geography, an affiliate of the Department of Geology, an Affiliate and Fellow of the Institute for the Environment and Sustainability and the former Harrison Scholars Professor in the Honors and Scholars Program.

He teaches in the Western Program, where he directs the Inquiry

Center.

He has taught more than 70 international field courses and is a founding Co-Director of both Project Dragonfly and Earth Expeditions.

Donna McCollum has been with the Miami's Master of Environmental Science program since 2007.

She is Environmental Monitoring Coordinator and is responsible for many natural science service-learning initiatives, such as the Butler County Stream Team.



QUEEN CITY BIRD FESTIVAL

85 volunteers + 500 attendees = successful Bird Festival Number 5

The combination of more than 85 volunteers, more than 500 visitors and clear, sunny skies helped make the 5th Annual Queen City Bird Festival on May 12 a big success.

The volunteers included Talawanda High School students and teachers; Miami University faculty, staff and retirees; local musicians; members of Audubon Miami Valley; and friends from the greater Oxford community. They staffed “booths” offering art and educational activities to elementary-aged children.

Children had the opportunity to learn about feathers and feet, binoculars, bird banding, bird songs, bird identification, how birds are unique, and how they adapt to their environment. They made bird mobiles, stuffed-bag birds, and created bird “tags”

The children also:

- learned about Monarch Butterflies from Jim Williams.
- heard Native American stories from Fred Shaw,
- saw some of the Hueston Woods’ rescued raptors with Chad Smith, and
- learned about some exotic birds, brought by Cory Christopher from the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden.

Meanwhile, adults could visit booths to buy bird art and paraphernalia, to learn about native plants, bird banding, to buy native plants from AMV’s annual sale, and to see the winning art from the

AMV Student Art Contest held in March.

Tip Ziegler, registrar extraordinaire for the day, logged impressive data tallying attendees. While 476 people officially registered and were “banded” and entered for the free raffles, Tip estimates that over 530 people attended.

Of the 476 registered, 303 were adults and 173 were kids (149 elementary students and 24 middle school, high school, and home-schooled students).

Of the 303 adults, 128 were attending for the second time or more, 175 for the first time. Ninety-five adults came from Butler County and 80 were from outside Butler County. Of the 128 returnees, 100 were from Butler County and 28 were from outside the county.

By sponsoring the festival, Audubon Miami Valley is reaching a broader, more varied audience and is teaching the next generation the

Thank you, sponsors!

This year’s Queen City Bird Festival sponsors were:

Audubon Miami Valley
Butler Rural Electric Cooperative
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Hueston Woods State Park
Oxford Community Foundation
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Ellen Buerk



Ethan Cirrito, a 5-year-old first-time festival attendee, made this bird tag. See more festival photos in the E-extra edition of this newsletter. Photo by Gina Cirrito

beauty and joy of birding.

A special thanks to all the volunteers who made this event such a success! And a special thanks to the donors of raffle items, and sponsors!

— Sarah Michael

Cal Conrad
Richard & Mary Daniels
Kerstin & Craig Erickson
Ann Geddes
Frank House
Hardy & Barb Eshbaugh
David & Valerie Hodge
Jim & Sarah Michael
Gail Paveza
Neil & Mary Poppendeck
Jim Reid

(Continued on page 7)



FIELD TRIP



Field trippers Jenny Madewell, Mickey Simonds, Larry Gersbach, Linda Williams and Bill Wilson (front row) backed by Jim Reid, Bob George and Chuck Holliday. Photo courtesy of Jim Reid, Bill Wilson, and an unknown snapper.

Crane Creek trip yields 144 species, 'life birds'

On May 15, 16 and 17, a group of enthusiastic birders enjoyed seeing 144 species of birds in beautiful habitat on the annual Crane Creek Safari to northwestern Ohio. A number of "life birds" were added to the group's list.

The highlight of the trip, as always, was the boardwalk at Magee Marsh. Here we saw 25 species of warblers. (Another highlight was a late night run for ice cream.)

It was a team effort, Linda Williams got us off to a great start with a large container of brownies, Chuck

Holliday helped with the driving and Bill Wilson shared the discoveries made by his keen eyes and ears. Everyone joined in the fellowship.

The Miami University Natural Areas and their field manager, Jim Reid, sponsored the trip. Part of the proceeds will be used to purchase birdseed for the Natural Areas birdblind.

We have booked May 7, 8 and 9 for next year's trip. It fills up fast, so if you are interested in joining us, let Jim know at reidje@muohio.edu.

— Jim Reid

Thanks to all of our Bird Festival sponsors!

(Continued from page 6)

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Dolly & Jim Thomas
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Allan Winkler & Sara Penhale

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