

**OUCH!  
AND OMG!  
ON AN EARTH  
EXPEDITION**  
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**TALKS & TRIPS &  
TALKS & TRIPS!  
OUR SPRING  
CALENDAR**  
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# audubon

MIAMI VALLEY



Spring 2013,  
Volume 38

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

## **FROM THE PRESIDENT**

# AMV prepares to write more chapters of success

Did you know our Miami Valley chapter is well known at the state and national levels of the Audubon network? For an all-volunteer chapter, we do a LOT!

We have been recognized with awards and grants for our after-school Earth Club program, our Rosie Bloom scholarships for educators, our partnerships with bird-banding research stations (AREI, Avian Research and Education Institute; HBRC, Hummer/Birdbanding Research Collaborative), and for community volunteer events.

Of course, none of this would be possible without our members and community supporting us through dues, donations, and buying bird seed and native plants from our fund-raising sales.

We are grateful for the many grants and sponsorships from local foundations, businesses and organizations that fund our annual Art Contest and Bird Festival. This year, we received a grant from the Toyota/

Audubon Togethergreen Fellows program for our new conservation project in the Hueston Woods IBA (Important Bird Area).

So, as we approach the busy spring season, please mark your calendars with the following AMV events, in addition to our wonderful program meetings and field trips listed in the calendar on pages 4-6.

### **SATURDAY MARCH 9** **AMV Art Contest**

Join us from noon to 4 p.m. at Alumni Hall on Miami's campus to celebrate the artistic talents of students in our area as they learn about birds along the Mississippi Flyway. (*Look for article on page 2.*)

### **SATURDAY APRIL 20** **Save the Big Woods**

Come to Hueston Woods for this volunteer opportunity on Earth Day weekend for some hands-on conservation work. We'll pull invasive garlic mustard in the beautiful Big Woods Nature Preserve. Garlic mus-

tard can crowd out native wildflowers and tree seedlings in this mature woodland habitat.

From Oxford, drive north to the end of Brown Road, turn left onto the park's loop road, and turn into the first parking area on the right.

A morning shift will work 10 a.m.-noon/ Lunch will be provided by the Aullwood Audubon Center from noon to 1, followed by an afternoon work shift 1-3 p.m.

All tools and gloves provided, and Hueston Woods will provide water.

Because we are working in a sensitive habitat with steep slopes, this is a project for adults only — volunteers must be 16 years old or older.

If you would like to be involved, please contact: greynolds@amvohio.org by April 18, so we order enough lunch for everybody!

### **SATURDAY MAY 18** **AMV Bird Festival**

By popular demand, our renamed

**(Continued on page 3)**

## AMV ART CONTEST



Last year's inaugural contest attracted a crowd.

## March 9 art contest to show 200 student entries

The bird-themed artwork of nearly 200 area K-12 students takes flight on Saturday, March 9, in an exhibit at Alumni Hall on the Miami University campus from noon to 4 p.m. The exhibit in the hall's rotunda and atrium is free and open to the public.

Works on display come from students participating in the Audubon Miami Valley K-12 Student Art Contest.

Last year, students from Fairfield City Schools, Middletown City Schools, Talawanda City Schools, Montessori Academy of Cincinnati, and McGuffey Montessori School in Oxford submitted 170 entries.

This year, students from two additional school districts, Eaton and Ross, will participate.

For their entries in this year's contest, students will have identified, researched, and then interpreted Birds of the Midwest and Birds of the Mississippi Flyway.

Their works will be fun and fresh, beautiful and varied. Come and enjoy!

— Janet Ziegler, contest chair,



### 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 summer 2013 issue is June 1. Send contributions to [jhetrick@amvohio.org](mailto:jhetrick@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 [amvohio.org](http://amvohio.org)



## SIGHTINGS



## Bald Eagles land at park

Hueston Woods is home to at least one adult Bald Eagle and one juvenile, according to park naturalist Chad Smith. This photo of an eagle landing near a parking lot was taken by Hamilton nature photographer Pat Bell. See more of his photos on the park's Facebook page.

© Patrick Bell

## Cock-of-the-Rocks on display

Hardy Eshbaugh caught this image of a male Andean Cock-of-the-Rocks while he and his wife, Barb, were in Colombia recently with Jim and Sarah Michael and a group from the Cincinnati Nature Center. Eshbaugh writes: "Early one morning at the end of January [we] walked down a hill in the town of Jardin and were rewarded by seeing as many as 20 male Andean Cock-of-the-Rocks displaying on a communal lek. It was an experience of a lifetime".



## AMV prepares to write more chapters of success

(Continued from page 1)

"Audubon Miami Valley Bird Festival" returns. This free, fun, family-friendly event at the Hueston Woods Nature Center is a favorite for many reasons:

- From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., kids can earn a nature patch at the arts and education activity booths.
- Children also can learn to use binoculars on a birdwatching walk.

- We get to see live birds from Raptors, Inc. and Hueston Woods.
- Everyone can explore the vendor booths and learn from local environmental organizations.
- Food & drink concession available.

At 3:30 p.m. our keynote speaker will be Brian Jorg from the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden. Rumor has it, he may bring some live

bird friends with him from the zoo...

Gardeners, don't forget to tell your friends that our Native Plant Sale will also be held at the Bird Festival.

This is TRULY a community volunteer-driven event, so when a friendly Audubon member calls you to help out for a couple of hours, please say, "YES". I promise, it will be fun!

— Gail Reynolds, AMV President



## CALENDAR



### **SATURDAY MARCH 9** **AMV Art Contest**

Lauren Walker's blue jay was a blue-ribbon winner at last year's inaugural art contest, featuring area students. See this year's winners from noon to 4 p.m. at Miami's Alumni Hall.

### **SATURDAY MARCH 16** **Mount Airy Forest**

The Mount Airy Forest, established in 1911, was one of the earliest urban reforestation projects in the United States, and is the largest park in Cincinnati's park system. It covers an impressive 1,471 acres and includes natural areas, planned landscapes, buildings, structures, and landscape features.



The numerous hiking trails, bridle paths, walls, gardens, pedestrian bridges, and various other improvements within Mount Airy Forest reflect the ambitious park planning and development that took place in Cincinnati in the early- to mid-20th century.

The once-barren land now includes 700 acres of reforested hardwoods, 200 acres of forested evergreens, 269 acres of wetlands, 170 acres of meadows, and a 120-acre arboretum.

Sam Fitton will lead the trip. We will leave Oxford from the former Walmart parking lot (on Locust Street next to McDonald's) at 7 a.m. and return to Oxford in the afternoon.

For those wishing to join the group at the park, projected arrival time is about 7:45 a.m. Pack a lunch.

### **MONDAY MARCH 18** AMV public program

### **Botanical Travels from Coast to Coast**

#### **David Brandenburg, Dawes Arboretum, Newark, Ohio**

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

Botanist David Brandenburg has traveled circuitous routes across North America — either by himself or with kindred spirits — looking for fascinating plants.

He sometimes finds these species with advance knowledge of their general locations, other times by serendipity.

He will spend an evening with Audubon Miami Valley reliving some of the highlights from these botanical adventures, where most days ended in a pup tent on the side of the road or in \$20-a-night lodgings.

His decades of field work throughout North America culminated in the 2010 publication of *National Wildlife Federation Field Guide to*

*Wildflowers of North America*, which he will sign during his visit.

Brandenburg, taxonomic botanist at the Dawes Arboretum, worked as a field botanist for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and served as curator of the herbarium at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden in New York.

Brandenburg lectures, leads hikes, and conducts hands-on workshops on cultivated plants, trees, shrubs, grasses, sedges, aquatic and wetland species, wood anatomy, and other topics.

He has a lifelong passion for economic botany: how plants are used as foods and flavorings, medicines, perfumes, cosmetics, textiles, dyes, and construction materials.



**David Brandenburg**



**MONDAY APRIL 8** AMV public program

## **Bird-Friendly Communities**

**Anne Balogh, Grange Insurance Audubon Center, Columbus, Ohio**

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



**Anne Balogh and Ohio's state bird**

The new Strategic Flyway Plan considers creating bird-friendly communities as one of Audubon's five main conservation strategies.

Balogh will talk about some exciting programs at the Grange Insurance Audubon Center, such as Lights Out and Audubon at Home, focusing on what individuals and communities can do to be bird-friendly. Topics will include native, non-native and invasive plants; "bird-scaping" and bird-friendly building; and citizen science.

Balogh grew up in Northeastern Ohio, but her love of conservation

and environmental education has led her to many wonderful places to live and work. She worked multiple seasons as a biological technician for the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center in Washington D.C.

She has been a bird bander in Virginia, Montana, Pennsylvania and Ohio, an instructor in Yellowstone National Park, a raptor counter in Minnesota, and is now conservation manager at the Grange Center.

Balogh has a B.S. in environmental science from Allegheny College and an M.S. in biology from Towson University.

**SATURDAY APRIL 13**

## **Warbler Walk**

We'll have another delightful visit to the rural Indiana property of Kathy Hunter and Ron Huffmeier. The land just west of Brookville Lake features stunning old-growth forest along with open grassy areas and lovely streams. We are sure to find a nice variety of birds while walking through this attractive setting.

Pack a lunch, and we will dine on the deck of our hosts' home overlooking the woods. We will leave from the new Walmart parking lot on U.S. 27 / College Corner Pike north of Oxford at 7 a.m. and return after lunch.



**TUESDAY APRIL 16** AMV public program

## **Spring Is in the Air**

**Dave Russell, Department of Zoology, Miami University**

7 p.m., Room 218, Pearson Hall, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio

Each spring millions of birds emigrate from the tropics back to the temperate region and the boreal forest.

This fallout enriches our lives and renews our energy. Whether in the field or at a banding station, one cannot help be impressed by the diversity of these travelers.

How to cope with such a wave of spring returners? Dave Russell will try to bring our ears and eyes back in shape after eight months absence.

Russell is a professor who teaches ornithology at Miami University and runs the Avian Research and Education Institute bird banding station at Hueston Woods State Park.



**Dave Russell**

He and his wife, Jill, also do research on Boreal Owls in the summer while teaching in Alaska.



**SATURDAY MAY 4**

## **Boone County Cliffs State Nature Preserve**

**B**oone County Cliffs State Nature Preserve derives its name from the 20- to 50-foot cliffs of conglomerate rock that rise above a small tributary to Middle Creek in Boone County, Kentucky.

The cliffs originated from out-wash materials from Kansan-age glaciers deposited 700,000 years ago. They are considered to be among the finest examples of glacial deposits in Kentucky.

The preserve features mature woodland on steep hillsides. The forest consists of many species including sugar maple, basswood,

beech, white oak, white ash, and slippery elm.

The preserve is home to uncommon salamander species as well as a great diversity of both nesting and migratory songbirds.

Sam Fitton will be our guide. We will leave Oxford from the former Walmart parking lot (on Locust Street next to McDonald's) at 6:30 a.m. and return in the late afternoon. For those wishing to join the group at the Preserve, projected arrival time is about 7:45 a.m.

Pack a lunch.



Blue Marble photo courtesy of NASA Johnson Space Center

**SATURDAY APRIL 20**  
**Save the Big Woods**

**MONDAY APRIL 22**

**Earth Day**

SEE PAGE 1

**MONDAY MAY 13** AMV public program

## **A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Hog Island**

**Ben and Lynne Mattox, Talawanda Schools, Oxford, Ohio**

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

**B**en and Lynne Mattox used an AMV scholarship to spend a week at Audubon's Hog Island workshop for environmental educators in Maine in July.

They will present a slide show documenting the experience and share how the workshop has influenced their teaching of environmental concepts this year.

Both are veteran Talawanda School District teachers and Miami University graduates. Ben has a B.S. in Biological Education and an M.A.T. in Biological Science. Lynne is an Intervention Specialist (Special Education teacher) who includes environmental concepts in her lessons. Lynne has a B.S. in Special Education and an M.A.T. in Biological Science.



**Ben and Lynn Mattox**

**SATURDAY JUNE 1**

## **Four-Mile Creek Metropark**

**T**he Davidson Woods (formerly part of the Hueston Farm & Forest Preserve) are part of the Four Mile Creek MetroPark within Hanover Twp., Butler County.

Davidson Woods is dominated by a mature beech/maple forest containing 468 acres. In the spring, wild flowers carpet the forest floor. Many spring warblers and flycatchers

can be found.

Hardy Eshbaugh will lead this trip, leaving at 6:30 a.m. from at the former Walmart parking lot on Locust Street next to McDonald's.



## **EDUCATION: EARTH EXPEDITION**



Photo of Brian Streg and the whale is taken from a screen shot of a video taken by Lori Sams.

***“I had a real connection to another intelligent species that was multiple times my size”***

I would first like to thank the Audubon society for their support in my continuing education courses and the opportunity to have a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

I am a fifth-year teacher at Badin High School in Hamilton, teaching Biology and Environmental Earth Science. I have two major passions, traveling and education. I try to bring those two together whenever I can.

The Audubon scholarship supported my trip to Baja California, Mexico, on an Earth Expedition Trip as part of the Global Field Program through Miami University. The 10-day excursion was split between a remote ranch called Rancho San Gregorio and the Vermilion field station on the Sea of Cortez in Bahía de Los Ángeles, Baja California.

This course was part of my pursuit of a master’s degree in Zoology. This particular course was an introduction to field methods and the inquiry process, which will translate very well into my class instruction by the way I structure my lessons and field exercises on the school grounds.

My best moment on the trip was when I got to go snorkeling with a pilot whale that decided to investigate me. This female whale with an offspring swam right up to me and around me for about two minutes, coming within three feet of me.

It was an incredible moment where I had a real connection to another intelligent species that was multiple times my size. I estimated that the whale was about 15 feet in length. It was a terrifying yet thrilling moment.



**Brian Streg took this photo of mangroves on a volcanic island with an iPhone. He writes:**  
***“Looking at the island you would never have guessed that behind the hill is this area of mangroves. These areas are perfect examples of nature’s way of protecting and caring for itself. The way that they serve as nurseries and help protect and build shoreline has always fascinated me.”***

One of the reasons that I love travel is that it can provide these moments when species and habitats become real to you.

I am now passionate about this region of Mexico and know it is worth preserving on a personal level, rather than just from a scientific standpoint.

— Brian Streg



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Audubon Miami Valley is  
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socially, politically, and  
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