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ONLINE at AMVOHIO.ORG

Visit our Bluebird boxes.

Libby Birch on Hog Island.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

# Our AMV activities paint a big picture

As bird watchers, we know that if all we're looking for are the jewels hidden among the trees, we can easily miss the big picture.

So when I sat down and started to list all of Audubon Miami Valley's activities, I was more than just impressed with the big picture. I think you will be, too!

- **Our monthly meetings** address various topics and help us get acquainted with experts from our community – and beyond! See what's coming up, starting on page 3.

- **Field trips each month** get us into the great outdoors to see the wonders (and birds!) within driving distance.

- **Conservation projects** include our new bluebird boxes at the Hueston Woods Golf Course, and the ongoing efforts to rid the park's Big Woods of invasive plants. We are also fighting the Emerald Ash Borer.

- **Citizen science** activities include the well-known annual Christmas Bird Count, February's Great Back-

yard Bird Count, and also specific species counts.

- **Earth Club** is an educational effort we help sponsor for local elementary students. Throughout the school year, Earth Clubs supplement standard indoor classroom instruction with fun activities that kids get in touch with the outdoor world.

- **Annual art exhibits** get both elementary and high school students thinking and learning about birds as they apply their artistic talents to avian portraits.

- **Rosie Bloom Scholarships** from AMV help local educators. Some attend Hog Island's Audubon Camp in Maine to learn about birding and nature – and then pass that knowledge on to their students. We also support graduate students with the cost of Earth Expeditions that take them around the world for "firsthand experience with inquiry-driven education, environmental

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# Young adult effort is part of building new Audubon

When the idea for me to go to Utah for the Audubon Society Convention was proposed at the Audubon Miami Valley board retreat, I was surprised. Until then, I had not even heard of the opportunity. However, that short conversation snowballed into an amazing experience, culminating in not only a greater understanding of how important it is to get our younger peers involved in conservation, but also in a revelation of how I want my own path in conservation to continue.

The 2017 Audubon National Convention was held in Park City, Utah, an otherworldly place framed



by pristine mountains on one end and desert landscapes on another. I had not experienced the landscape before, and now I find myself in awe of it.

The convention's focus was "Elevating Audubon," As I found out,

**Madison Washburn, a Texas A&M student, was Carly Zeis's Youth Leaders Scholarship partner at the Utah convention.**

Photo by Carly Zeis

a key part to preserving our conservation efforts is not only "elevating" our own goals, but making sure others are included and have support to reach their conservation goals, as well.

A large part of this elevating, or goal achievement, is done simply by building a more inclusive and diverse Audubon Society. We need to get

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## AUDUBON AT YOUR HOUSE

In our new feature, Audubon at Your House, Conservation Chair Dick Munson will write in each issue about how to make your garden bird-friendly. And we want to know what goes on at your house. Send a brief book or video review, birding tip or a photo to Audubon at Your House c/o [jhetrick@amvohio.org](mailto:jhetrick@amvohio.org).

### The birder's garden

# Time to think about gardening for guests

Gardening for birds is a concept that has been practiced for centuries. But what is it? Briefly, it means designing your garden to attract birds.

The most important factor is your favorite bird's diet. What do you see them eating in your garden? Insects, worms, seeds at the feeder, berries, other seeds? What does the literature say?

If you wish to provide a living source of food, creating a garden of fruiting plants may be the answer.

But what do you plant? We've all seen the results of planting the wrong plant. Honeysuckle, Japanese barberry, Multiflora rose, and many other non-native, plants have wreaked havoc on our native landscapes.

Unfortunately, these plants have fruits that are irresist-

ible to our birds, which subsequently spread the seeds all over the landscape. The answer is, of course, is to plant native plants.

Why native plants? Several factors favor natives. They are generally well-adapted to the climate, soils, insect pests, and native fauna. They also tend to be good citizens in the gardening world. They don't overrun the rest of the garden and they don't skip around your garden and don't show up where you didn't plant them.

**Next issue:** We'll begin to discuss specific native plants that are well-suited for the Oxford area. In the meantime, begin your Internet search for native plants of the Midwest.

— Dick Munson, Conservation Chair



#### 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 three times a year. 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. ♻️

Deadline for the winter 2017 issue is November 1. Send contributions to [jhetrick@amvohio.org](mailto:jhetrick@amvohio.org) or to Newsletter, P.O. Box 556, Oxford, Ohio 45056

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### Words on birds

## Ackerman's book gives insight on bird brains

I recommend *The Genius of Birds* by Jennifer Ackerman. It is an amazing book on bird behavior and brain function, based on both exotic species and those found in your own backyard, from many different corners of the world.

Ackerman not only tells the story of recently discovered 'genius of birds' based on cutting-edge research, but she also delves into the latest findings of the bird brain and how these findings are changing our perception of intelligence.

It is an engaging, interesting, and thought-provoking read, suitable for a wide range of ages.

Please give it a look!

— Carly Zeis



## **AUTUMN 2017 CALENDAR**

**SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 10**

### **Big Woods, Hueston Woods State Park**

The Big Woods at Hueston Woods State Park is a tiny remnant of the beech-maple forest that once stretched in a broad band from southwestern Ohio to its northeastern corner. This forest type is dominated by the ghostly gray trunks of beech trees along with varying proportions of sugar maple, red and white oaks, and white ash.

Horticulturist Dick Munson will lead the walk. The group will meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Big Woods Parking Area (straight ahead from the Brown Road park entrance). The guided walk will end around noon.

Pack a lunch if desired and bring binoculars if possible.



**MONDAY SEPTEMBER 11, 7:30 P.M.**

### **A Honey of a Bee: Fascinating Facts from Our Flower-Loving Friends**

**Randy C. Morgan, Emeritus Curator-Insectarium, Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden**

2nd Floor Community Room, Lebanon Citizens National Bank, 30 Park Place West

The familiar honey bee *Apis mellifera* is a vitally important agricultural pollinator threatened by many human activities. It is also a behaviorally fascinating insect.

This talk celebrates honey bees' sophisticated social organization, intimate association with flowers, and past and present relationships with humans. We will also explore the wonderful ways honey bees sense their world and communicate with nest mates, including their astonishing waggle dance language.

Randy holds an M.S. in entomology

from the University of Wisconsin. He worked at the Cincinnati Zoo Insectarium for 32 years and is now retired from his position as Curator of Invertebrates, Reptiles & Amphibians.

At the zoo he managed a diverse collection of live insects and other small animals for public educational display and developed a world-class exhibit. He has received significant recognition and awards for his work.

He has been a beekeeper for nearly 40 years, is active in the South Western Ohio Beekeepers Association and loves to share his passion for honey bees and the other little animals that propel and shape our living world.



**Randy Morgan**

**SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 23, 9 A.M.—3 P.M.**

### **Hike-A-Thon Plus**

This year's Hike-A-Thon Plus will benefit 4 Paws for Ability, a global service dog agency that has a local presence.

Miami is one of 13 universities where students socialize dogs as part of their journey to becoming service dogs. Miami students will have dogs in training present and will be selling products to benefit 4 Paws.

The Hike-A-Thon starts at 9 a.m. and lasts until 3 p.m. at the Miami University Natural Areas in Oxford.

Audubon members will be in the bird blind with binoculars and a bird identification poster.

We also will lead bird hikes in the morning and will have a tent set up with Audubon information and children's activities.

We need volunteers to help with the children's activities. Sign up at the Sept. 11 chapter meeting, or contact Linda Williams at [lwilliams@amvohio.org](mailto:lwilliams@amvohio.org).

**MONDAY OCTOBER 9, 7:30 P.M.**

### **A Runaway Hobby**

**Dave Russell, Miami University**

2nd Floor Community Room,

Lebanon Citizens National Bank, 30 Park Place West

What started as a sociable birding competition between childhood friends morphed into a frenzied quest to the four corners of the continent in the pursuit of 600 species. Join us for an evening of fun and adventure as we crisscross North America chasing birds.

David E. Russell received his B.S. in Entomology from University of California Davis and his master's and doctoral degrees in Molecular Systematics from Miami University.

A Senior Lecturer of Intro and Environmental Biology at Miami, he teaches a number of biology and ornithology courses. He's a Master Bird Bander and certified North American Banding Council Trainer, he is the co-founder and Research/Education Director for the Avian Research and Education Institute.



## **AUTUMN 2017 CALENDAR**

**SATURDAY OCTOBER 12, 4 P.M.**

### **A Century of Climate and Land-Use Impacts on California's Birds and Mammals**

218 Pearson Hall at Miami University

A founding member of Audubon Miami Valley returns to Oxford on Oct. 12 for a seminar on the effects of climate change.

Dr. Steven Beissinger, Department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management at the University of California, will present the results of the Grinnell Resurvey Project.

Beissinger was a Miami University student when he became a founding member of AMV. Years later

he served on the board of directors of the National Audubon Society. He received his undergraduate and master degrees from Miami University and his doctorate from the University of Michigan.

He is the current President of the American Ornithological Society and the recipient of the AOU's Brewster Medal recognizing him as their 2010 outstanding researcher for his work on Western Hemisphere birds.

**SATURDAY OCTOBER 14**

### **Rentschler Forest MetroPark**

With almost 400 acres, the Rentschler Forest MetroPark includes about a half-mile of frontage along the Great Miami River, acres of woodland, remnants of the old Miami-Erie Canal, a prehistoric Indian earthwork, and a reconstructed wetland.



Rentschler is just a 40-minute drive from Oxford, off Route 4 just east of Hamilton. Expert naturalist Sam Fitton will lead our walk.

The trip will leave at 8 a.m. from the TJ Maxx parking lot (on Locust Street across from McDonald's) and return to Oxford in the afternoon.

Pack a lunch if desired and bring binoculars if possible.

**WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 18, 7:30 P.M.**

**THE 2017 HEFNER LECTURE**

### **The Serengeti Rules**

**Sean Carroll**

Location to be announced

This year's Hefner lecture, subtitled "The Quest to Discover How Life Works and Why it Matters," will be delivered by Sean Carroll, an award-winning scientist, author and educator.

He leads the Department of Science Education of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and is the Allan Wilson Professor of Molecular Biology and Genetics at the University of Wisconsin.

As an internationally recognized evolutionary biologist, Carroll has conducted laboratory research on the genes that control animal body patterns and play major roles in the evolution of animal diversity.

Carroll has received the Benjamin Franklin Medal in Life Sciences and has been elected to the National Academy of Sciences.

He is also a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

**For field trip information, including any last-minute changes, contact trip coordinator Jim Michael at [jmichael@amvohio.org](mailto:jmichael@amvohio.org).**

**FRIDAY OCTOBER 27 & SATURDAY OCTOBER 28**

### **AMV Bird Seed Sale**

Whistle Stop Drive Thru  
304 West Collins

It's time again to sustain both your backyard birds and the work of Audubon Miami Valley by stocking up on bird seed.

This is the 39th year the seed sale will support our educational programs and scholarships. And you'll ensure the survival of the native bird population by feeding through out the winter.

Look for sale brochures, check [www.amvohio.org](http://www.amvohio.org) or call Marlene Hoffman at 513- 461-9639.



## **AUTUMN 2017 CALENDAR**

**MONDAY NOVEMBER 13**

### **Ohio's Prairie Heritage**

**Dave Nolin, Conservationist**

2nd Floor Community Room, Lebanon Citizens National Bank, 30 Park Place West

**P**rairies have long been part of the North American landscape. This program will explore Ohio's pre-settlement prairies, the role Native Americans played in maintaining them, and subsequent destruction of nearly all of Ohio's prairies after European settlement.

Starting in the 1960s, Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm staff undertook the first planting project in Ohio. That became the catalyst for a statewide effort to protect and restore the few remaining natural prairies here.

This talk will also focus on one of those sites, Huffman Prairie on

Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, and explore its rich diversity.

Dave Nolin grew up in Fairborn, Ohio and has lived in Dayton all his life. He attended Wright State University, where he received a B.S. degree in 1980 and an M.S in 1984.

He worked as a conservationist at Five Rivers MetroParks from 1985 until 2015.

He pioneered the use of conservation easements to help support the Five Rivers MetroParks mission of protecting the Miami Valley's natural heritage.

He worked with Three Valley Conservation Trust, helping establish



**Dave Nolin**

conservation easements that protect productive farmland, conservation areas along river corridors and sensitive natural features deserving of protection.

Dave received the Wally Edwards Conservationist of the Year Award from the Three Valley Conservation Trust in 2015.

**A**udubon Miami Valley chapter meetings are held during the school year at 7:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month (except January) in the 2nd floor Community Room, LCNB building, 30 Park Place West in uptown Oxford. (We note when the location changes.) All meetings are open to the public.

**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 11**

### **Marianist Environmental Center**

**T**he Marianist Environmental Education Center is an environmental education community in the Catholic tradition.

The Center preserves and acts in communion with the land and educates other communities in sustainability through ecology-based simple living, social justice and spirituality.

The Mount St. John Nature Preserve covers more than 100 acres of oak-hickory woodland, natural and created wetlands, Eastern tallgrass prairie, and meadow.

The front field lies in the floodplain of the Little Beaver Creek, and the trail to the woods crests a glacial esker that is one of the highest points in Greene County. This diversity supports an impressive variety of plant and animal life, including an estimated 425 species of plants,

nearly 60 of butterflies and more than 100 of birds.

The prairie is one of our region's most successful restored prairies, home to a variety of grasses and forbs, wet seeps and a pond.

A complete trail guide to the Nature Preserve can be found at [https://meec.center/files/attachments/section/Nature\\_Trail\\_Guide.pdf](https://meec.center/files/attachments/section/Nature_Trail_Guide.pdf).

Our visit to this remarkable site will be hosted by Tara Poling, Program Coordinator at MEEC, who will meet us there around 9:00 a.m.

The trip will leave at 7:30 a.m. from the TJ Maxx parking lot (on Locust Street across from McDonald's) and return to Oxford in the afternoon.

Pack a picnic lunch and bring binoculars if possible.



**SATURDAY DECEMBER 9**

**Brookville Lake Area**

Ornithologist David Russell will again lead us on a birding tour of the Brookville Reservoir area between Liberty and Brookville, Indiana.

We'll visit a number of good spots looking for migrating ducks, geese, gulls, sandhill cranes and other species.



The group will meet at 7:30 a.m. at the west end of the Walmart parking lot (on U.S. 27, north of Oxford).

Pack a lunch if desired and bring binoculars if possible.



**Merry Christmas Bird Count!**

**Gather at 7 a.m. Saturday Dec. 16 at the Miami University Ecology Research Center on Somerville Road for the Christmas Bird Count.**

**Dress warmly and wear boots for walking. Wear a bright jacket and bring binoculars if possible. Counters work in groups, so both experienced counters and newbies are welcome.**

**Bring your own table service and a covered dish to share for lunch. As the photo above by Liz Woedl shows, both a delicious meal and hilarity can ensue.**

**MONDAY DECEMBER 11**

**Global Climate Change: Sound-bytes vs. Critical Investigations**

**Mark Boardman,**

**Professor Emeritus, Miami University**

2nd Floor Community Room,

Lebanon Citizens National Bank, 30 Park Place West

The words “global climate change” and “global warming” can elicit gut-wrenching reactions.

Emotions about climate change and global warming are good, but without being coupled with data (versus alternative facts or telephone game information), our reaction and response might be hyperbolic or hysterical, rather than deliberate and measured.

Global climate change and global warming are real and happening today. We are living in a global experiment largely caused by human activity.

Belief in global climate change is optional, participation is not.

This talk provides data-based information on several principal measures of climate change.

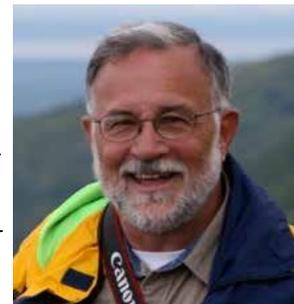
We'll examine changes in nighttime temperature, upper atmospheric temperature, ocean changes, and polar ice changes.

Mark Boardman grew up in the Virgin Islands where the wonder of nature awakened and directed his education.

He earned an A.B. in Geology from Princeton University and a Ph.D. in Marine Sciences from the University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill).

After teaching for three years in Brazil (1978-1981), he joined the geology faculty at Miami University, where he taught a variety of environmental courses on campus, led dozens of international environmental field courses in the tropics, and was Director of the Institute of Environmental Sciences.

Currently, he is on the external advisory board for the marine sciences program at the University of the Virgin Islands and is Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Three Valley Conservation Trust.



**Mark Boardman**



# AMV's activities paint big picture

(Continued from page 1)

stewardship, and global understanding.” This year, we also helped send Miami student Carly Zeis to the national Audubon convention in Park City, Utah.

- **Taking Root** is a campaign to plant 2 million trees by 2020 in the tri-state region around Cincinnati. That's one tree for every one of us who lives here!

- **Hike-a-Thon** at the Miami University Natural Areas this year is set for Saturday Sept. 23 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Audubon is always a presence to both help staff this major event and enjoy the hikes!

- **Communication activities** include both this three-times-a-year newsletter and our Web site: [amvohio.org/](http://amvohio.org/)

### **A couple notes on communications:**

- We want to know what you want to know about. Tell newsletter editor Judi Hetrick at [jhetrick@amvohio.org](mailto:jhetrick@amvohio.org).

- Did you know that this newsletter is available both on paper and via e-mail? You can help divert some of AMV's money away from paper, printing and postage -- and toward the activities listed above -- by changing from a paper subscription to e-mail. Just contact Membership chair Bev Thomas at [bthomas@amvohio.org](mailto:bthomas@amvohio.org).

— Linda Williams, AMV President



**Check the boxes!**  
Find out about our bluebird boxes -- and who has been living in them this summer. The story is in the Newsletter Extra online at [amvohio.org](http://amvohio.org)

# Audubon needs youth, diversity to grow

(Continued from page 1)

younger generations and minority groups invested in local, national and global conservation efforts.

Many of the sessions and workshops discussed building volunteering and membership efforts, with each session offering great tips and advice for how to get people involved. One program is iMatter, which is a youth-centered, action-oriented program that gives school-age students the opportunity to make their own programs about climate issues, to take action, and to see results.

One session was dedicated to getting under-involved or under-represented groups more invested in Audubon and other conservation efforts. Of all the sessions, this one impressed me the most and imparted what I believe was the most important message: We need diverse, well rounded community involvement to make a difference in our conservation efforts.

I loved being able to see so many attendees from all over the United States, and from several different coun-

tries! I was able to meet other passionate birders. It was a wonderful and insightful experience, and I want to thank Audubon Miami Valley for allowing me to represent our group. I also thank the National Audubon Society for offering scholarships for youth leaders to attend the convention. I was partnered with a peer from Texas A&M, and we're planning to collaborate on some projects with other scholarship attendees.

This experience has helped me make an even stronger commitment to my path in conservation. After this convention, I genuinely believe that no matter how small the effort, every person can contribute something to further conservation. Recycling, building bird feeders, even just simply paying attention to and enjoying the nature around you, is still doing something to raise awareness.

With all that said, happy birding, everybody!

— Carly Zeis

**Carly is AMV's Miami University liaison. She's a junior majoring in zoology who was born and raised in Cincinnati.**



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