



Flight Patterns

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Hardin, Logan, Mercer,
Shelby, and Van Wert
Counties in Ohio

Newsletter of the Tri-Moraine Audubon Society

Summer 2014

WEB ADDRESS - <http://www.tri-moraineaudubon.org>

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TMAS ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP PICNIC: Tuesday, July 1, 2014, Ottawa Metro Park, SR 81 just east of Marimor School. You will find the Miami Shelter on your left as you enter the park. It is reserved from 5:30 p.m. until dark. We will eat at **6:30 p.m.** The chapter will provide fried chicken. Members and guests should bring a dish to share, their own table service and beverage. Don't forget your favorite bug spray and unwanted AUDUBON magazine issues for public event giveaways. The picnic offers a wonderful opportunity to get to know your fellow chapter members. Arrive early and enjoy the park. You can walk the perimeter trail or around the lake, try your luck on the disc golf course (bring your own Frisbee/disc), swim (adults \$5, children 3-12 \$3 and free for children under 3) until 7pm weather permitting, or bring your fishing pole (no license required for the retention pond by the Erie Shelter, but required for fishing in the lake). Join us for great food and fellowship.

TMAS BOARD MEETING: Tuesday, July 29, 2014, 7 p.m. All are welcome to attend TMAS board meetings held at the Visitor/Student Services Center, 3900 Campus Dr., OSU-Lima Campus.

TMAS PROGRAM MEETING (SAVE THE DATE): The first program meeting of the year will be held **Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2014, 7:30 p.m.**, at the Visitor/Student Services Center, 3900 Campus Dr., OSU-Lima Campus. Program meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month September through November and January through May. Your fall newsletter will carry full details about the first three exciting programs now being planned for 2014-2015.

21st ANNUAL RECYCLE FUNDRAISER: Past and New volunteers please mark your calendar now for this special fundraiser. Saturday, October 11, 2014 will mark the chapter's 21st year manning Wapakoneta's Drop-off Center. Volunteers work 8 a.m. until noon; 25 volunteers are needed to sort items and to unload vehicles. TMAS receives the proceeds from all recyclables handled. Aluminum cans (dry, crushed if possible) pay best and can be donated at the July 1 summer picnic and at the Sept. & Oct. monthly program meetings. Pick up aluminum cans when you go walking during the summer months and use this fundraiser to get to know other Auduboners. For additional info and to volunteer, call Bob or Carol Bertrand at 419.227.9231

2014 OHIO ACADEMY OF SCIENCE DISTRICT SCIENCE DAY AWARD WINNERS: Four student presentations won \$25 Tri-Moraine Audubon Society Natural Resources, Conservation, Nature Studies Awards at the 2014 OAS District Science Day held March 22 at Ohio Northern University in Ada: Jeremy DeMuth, 8th grade, Miller City-New Cleveland School, "The effect of waste water treatment plants on Coliform and phosphorus levels"; Michael Mormon, 6th grade, Saint Anthony of Padua School, Columbus Grove, "Does manure affect plant growth?"; Dominic Schroeder, 8th grade, Miller City-New Cleveland School, "Effect of agriculture runoff, wetlands, and municipal discharge on water quality"; and Trevor Siefker, 8th grade, Glandorf Middle School, "How cover crops help the soil." Winners were also offered a free one-year dual National Audubon Society/TMAS membership. Judging of entries for Tri-Moraine awards was done by Dr. Jay Mager, ONU Department of Biological and Allied Health Sciences, who presented a letter of recognition and cash award to each winner. Dr. Nancy Woodley and Dr. Leslie Riley from the Department were organizers of the assembly and also assisted Dr. Mager in his determination of potential Audubon awardees. TMAS thanks Drs. Mager, Riley, and Woodley for their help in making a success of this annual chapter awards program.

JOHNNY APPLESEED METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT: Check out "The Cider Press" (newsletter) for the latest programming at the JAMPD. Full details: jampd.com or Facebook (under full name).

NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE BY EMAIL: Contact Bill Askins, chapter membership database chair, at waskins@woh.rr.com. State name, mailing address, email address, and your desire to receive Flight Patterns via email. You will receive an email notice of website availability containing a URL you can click on that will take you to the newsletter (in PDF format) on the chapter's website.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION YOU NEED TO KNOW: When you joined the National Audubon Society (NAS) you automatically became a member of Tri-Moraine Audubon Society (TMAS), your local Audubon chapter. Through most of Tri-Moraine's history, when you became a member of TMAS you also became a member of NAS. The chapter receives a finder's fee for each dual membership it recruits. Tri-Moraine eventually recognized the need for a local membership for a variety of reasons and NAS now permits local membership. You can read about these memberships, the National Audubon & Tri-Moraine Audubon Introductory Dual Membership and our TMAS Supporting Membership, on the chapter website, or you can pick up a membership brochure at a public meeting or event, or you can contact our membership/database chair. The two memberships share many benefits, but only the dual membership includes a subscription to Audubon magazine and free or reduced admission to some Audubon nature centers and sanctuaries.

WATCH THOSE RENEWAL NOTICES FROM NAS: NAS does not include membership expiration dates on its renewal notices. Look in the upper right-hand corner of the mailing label on this newsletter. If it reads "10/14 M", that means your dual membership expires in October of 2014. If it reads "02/15 SM", that means your supporting membership expires in February of 2015. If you want to pay your dual membership way ahead, that's your call, but the chapter is receiving dual membership dates extending out to 2021.

ACCURATE MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION: Our chapter does not share its membership information with others. Please help us keep up-to-date records by contacting our membership database chair by phone at 419-339-9751, by email (see above), or via the chapter's post office box. Please report incorrect information on your mailing label, upcoming change of address, change of email address, or new telephone number.

PLANTING SEEDS from Don Rosenbeck: Over the weekend of May 2-4, 2014, we celebrated a ribbon cutting at Camp Myeerah for the sale of the property from the Girls Scouts of Western Ohio to the City of Bellefontaine Parks and Recreation. Tri-Moraine Audubon Society holds a conservation easement on the property. This ensures Camp Myeerah will be a natural area to be enjoyed by future generations into perpetuity. It occurred to me, as I was driving to Camp Myeerah to begin setting up for the 35th annual Environmental Education Weekend (EEW), that but for seeds planted some 35 years ago, there would be no EEW this year. The "seeds" I refer to here are the Tri-Moraine Audubon chapter's now traditional weekend focused on environmental education coupled with the decision that Camp Myeerah would be the perfect site to hold such an event. With 449 acres of diverse habitat including woods, stream, lake, pond, wetland and grassland there is nowhere else in the area that offers a better place for EEW. It was this association with Camp Myeerah that sprouted into the Tri-Moraine Audubon chapter's involvement in seeking a means of keeping the camp open for public recreation while protecting its natural features. But what garden doesn't have more than one variety of plants? Here too, other "seeds" sprouted to give life to Myeerah as a public natural resource. The Trust for Public Land played a vital role in the acquisition of the property by determining the most likely source of funding to purchase the property, assembling volumes of material from Tri-Moraine and others supporting the importance of Myeerah as a natural area, preparing the actual grant proposal, and navigating all the legalities of purchase including a conservation easement to ensure Myeerah remains a natural area. We owe much to the Clean Ohio Fund for providing the monetary means of protecting this important natural area. Yet another "seed" which sprouted in this garden is that of the environmental stewardship and leadership exhibited by the Girl Scouts of Western Ohio. The Girls Scouts recognition of the value of Myeerah as a public resource and their willingness to work toward that end speak volumes. There were other options that would have been simpler and more expedient, but the Girl Scouts chose the path that would be for the greatest public good, and good for the Girl Scouts as Myeerah is open and available for the Scouts use as well. There is one more important "seed" that completes this garden. What good is a fantastic natural area if there is no one to manage it on a year to year basis? It is the foresight and commitment of the Parks and Recreation Department of the city of Bellefontaine that took on the challenge of operating Myeerah. And it is flourishing! Myeerah is open dawn to dusk to the public. Make the trip to explore this latest addition to the Bellefontaine Joint Recreation District.

Black Swamp Raptor Rehabilitation Center Needs Your Help

Those who attended our April "Live Owls" program know what a great program it was. The Black Swamp Raptor Rehabilitation Center is asking for your help. The all-volunteer Center needs aquariums, all sizes, cracked or not. In order to feed the birds, they have to raise their own mice. They can also use old blankets and bath towels, paper towels, and monetary donations. All donations can be delivered to Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District headquarters or you can bring donations to the summer picnic. Whatever you can do will be appreciated. Thanks!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: A dedication of Myeerah was held by The City of Bellefontaine on May 3, 2014 to celebrate the recent acquisition of former Camp Myeerah (with the help of Tri-Moraine Audubon Society through the Trust for Public Land, Clean Ohio Fund). The Trust for Public Land coordinated the transfer of this property to the City of Bellefontaine from The Girl Scouts of Western Ohio. Tri-Moraine Audubon Society now holds a conservation easement on all of the 449 acres. With this additional conservation easement, the land will be held in its current natural condition. A five member Myeerah Management Group has been formed to oversee the conservation easement and to ensure that Myeerah remains a natural setting for public use. Three Myeerah Management Group members are Tri-Moraine Audubon representatives; two from the City of Bellefontaine. Our gratitude is extended to everyone that may have helped along the way to save this land for public use. Photos of the event can be seen on our Facebook page and everyone involved is grateful for this day of celebration. Thank you, City of Bellefontaine, for accepting this new park into your stewardship.

The Annual Appeal letter was sent in early April after determining what some of our priorities might be in two of the IBAs (Important Bird Areas) in our area, Myeerah in Logan County and St. Marys River-Grand Lake St. Marys (Auglaize and Mercer Counties). Needs for the Myeerah IBA include rebuilding docks and steps at the lake, refrigeration and equipment needs in the lodge, dormitory updates and repair, signage for trails and public areas, continued work of habitat restoration, and the completion of a natural prairie. If you have not returned your Annual Appeal letter, please consider doing so soon. Your donation is needed at this time for both IBAs and to proceed with other planned conservation projects. Your donation will be recognized with a note of thanks/tax receipt and listing in a future newsletter if that option is checked. These are exciting developments in our service area and great opportunities to be part of building and restoring habitat. It isn't often that we are in a position to build upon the work of those who had a vision to keep our natural world unmarred. For your convenience, find an annual appeal form at the end of my message.

The April 1 program meeting, "Live Owls", presented by Diane Myers of the Black Swamp Raptor Rehabilitation Center was a great success. The meeting was attended by 103 persons of all ages and the BSRRC has been invited to return to present a program with other birds of prey.

May election results for Tri-Moraine officers included Dianne Knipp, President and Candace Newland, Secretary. Both are two year terms. A big THANK YOU goes out to Mary Neeley for serving as Hospitality Chairperson for many years and coordinating many picnic details and program refreshments. A big THANK YOU also goes out to officers and chairpersons that have given many hours to Tri-Moraine's executive committee work, field trips, and program meetings. Without great officers, TMAS programming would look very different. Please consider becoming an officer in the future. Your special talents may be needed.

Wishing you good birding! Dianne



Tri-Moraine Audubon Society - 2014 Annual Appeal

Name (please print) _____

Street Address, PO Box, Apt. No. _____

City, State, ZIP Code _____

Here is my/our donation of \$_____. Direct gift to: Area of greatest need Camp Myeerah Grand Lake St. Marys. Please make check or money order payable to Tri-Moraine Audubon Society and mail to Treasurer, Tri-Moraine Audubon Society, PO Box 5648, Lima OH 45802-5648. Tri-Moraine is a registered charitable trust in the state of Ohio.

Check here for acknowledgment as a contributor in a future newsletter. No amounts will be listed. If box is not checked, you will be listed as an anonymous donor.



Serving Allen • Auglaize • Hancock • Hardin • Logan
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Summer 2014 Newsletter

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Comments made by Dianne Knipp, TMAS President, on May 3, 2014 at the Myeerah Rededication Ceremony:

The Board of Directors of the Tri-Moraine Audubon Society, a chapter of the National Audubon Society, is excited about a new partnership with the City of Bellefontaine to maintain Myeerah as a natural preserve.

We extend sincere thanks to The Trust for Public Land and The Girl Scouts of Western Ohio for their efforts in making this endeavor a reality. What a glorious opportunity we have to share thanks for the many people who saw a new beginning for Myeerah. Your help as we worked to develop this new partnership is to be commended and we thank you for your dedication in making this truly public land.

Tri-Moraine has had a long association with Camp Myeerah. An annual Environmental Education Weekend has been held here since 1980. When MacDonell Lake became so polluted by agricultural runoff that it was no longer able to be used, Tri-Moraine assisted with a Clean Ohio Fund grant submitted by the GS to build a wetland to restore lake quality. Along the way Tri-Moraine also obtained an Audubon Ohio grant for wetland signage, worked on the boardwalk, and submitted its own Clean Ohio Fund grant application entitled "Myeerah Forest and Wildlife Conservation Area." Later Tri-Moraine received a Clean Ohio Fund Conservation Easement Agreement and now has added an additional easement which covers all of the property and is designed to permanently protect this natural setting.

Our vested interest in Myeerah is also based on a commitment, investment, and partnership with other groups to keep Myeerah as natural as possible. We watched the increasing encroachment of invasive autumn olive in the meadow areas, which was first tackled by hand. After two years of volunteer efforts proved to be ineffective, the decision was made that given the magnitude of the invasive problem, we needed a greater involvement with other capable groups interested in conservation. The end result was a partnership including the GS, Logan County Pheasants Forever, Tri-Moraine Audubon Society, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Autumn olive is not easy to eradicate and weather has often been uncooperative. Currently ninety acres of grassland are in the process of being restored. A project for a twelve and a half acre pollinator patch of wildflowers for butterflies and hummingbirds still remains in the plan for development as weather permits. The chapter is looking forward to other habitat improvement projects utilizing the partnership/grant approach.

Camp Myeerah is a designated Important Bird Area or IBA and an IBA dedication ceremony was held on May 2, 2004. The IBA program is a focal point for Audubon's bird conservation work and the National Audubon Society is part of a global effort to establish IBAs worldwide. The most severe threats to bird populations are habitat based. Keeping that in mind, Tri-Moraine has collected spring data at the Myeerah IBA covering 156 species tallied since 1981.

Here we are ten years and a day rededicating this IBA to the enjoyment and use of generations to come. Tri-Moraine would like to extend its continued support of Myeerah for the vital role it can play now and in the future, educating the present and future generations in the wonders of nature and enhancing our partnership role in environmental stewardship. Thank you.