Myeerah Nature Preserve Planting Project

Donnie Knight, Private Lands Biologist, US Fish and Wildlife Service, is currently working on a Myeerah Nature Preserve planting project adding to the long term Pollinator Project, building habitat for butterflies and other insects in a large prairie patch.

We need TMAS and other volunteers interested in planting the plugs. The areas have holes dug and some plants are sitting out ready to plant. The holes (photo at left) with flags are for butterfly milkweed once it arrives. Please pass the word that help is needed. Questions or volunteering? Contact Donnie directly at donald.knight@fws.gov.

Bird Banding is for Everyone!

Scientists catch wild birds, place a small metal bracelet on their leg, and release the birds unharmed. This bracelet, or band, carries a unique number allowing the scientist (or any other person encountering the bird) to determine when and where the band was placed. This allows scientists to monitor the survival of local birds, determine the movement patterns of migrant birds, or examine a suite of other things. So what do non-scientists get out of bird banding? They get to spend time outdoors admiring nature and contributing to the generation of new information. It is also very exciting to check the nets, not knowing what might have flown in it. When a bird is captured, one can admire the fine plumage details or other traits unique to that species of bird. Ever see the bristles around the mouth of a flycatcher? Ever consider the variation in the amount of white on the tail of goldfinches? Ever want to know how hard a cardinal can bite? Beginning bird watchers will likely encounter birds they have never seen before. Even artists visit the banding site to sketch birds that would normally be too far away to draw. If you would like to visit a banding site, contact Jackie Augustine at augustine.63@osu.edu or Anne Smedley at jsmedley@wcoil.com.

Jackie’s banding dates for the 2015 season are: May 27; June 17, 24; July 8, 22; August 5, 19, 29; Sept 12, 27; and October 10, 24.

Licensed Bird Bander, Anne Smedley, is looking for help with the Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship program. There will be 8 banding sessions at Lippincott Bird Sanctuary between May 21st and August 8th. Each session begins at approximately 6am and lasts for 7 to 8 hours. No experience is necessary, but bird ID skills are helpful. Volunteers will help carry and set up equipment, write down data and help handle birds. Two or three volunteers are needed each day. You do not need to commit to all 8 sessions. Please contact Anne Smedley at 419-222-3271 or jsmedley@wcoil.com if you are interested.
TMAS BOARD MEETING, Tuesday, July 28, 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 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP PICNIC: Tuesday, July 7, 2015, 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. At this year’s picnic Jackie Augustine will provide a presentation on birding by ear. Birds are not only fun to watch, they are fun to hear as well. Jackie will discuss the songs of common birds, give hints as how to remember them, and suggest resources to learn more. We will see you there!

TMAS PROGRAM MEETING (SAVE THE DATE): The first program meeting of the year will be held Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2015, 7:30 p.m., at the Visitor/Student Services Center, 3900 Campus Dr., OSU-Lima Campus. Keep your eyes out for more information on this program.

21st ANNUAL RECYCLE FUNDRAISER:
Past volunteers mark your calendar now for this special fundraiser. Saturday, October 10, 2015 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 7 summer picnic and at the Sept. & Oct. monthly program meetings. Pick up aluminum cans when you go walking during the summer months for this event 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.

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 “10/15 M”, that means your dual membership expires in October of 2015. 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.

More Pictures from Bird Banding provided by Cheryl Erwin
BIG BIRDING DAY 2015: The weatherman’s warning of a bad storm around 3 p.m. did nothing to deter the ten intrepid birders from TMAS from eve
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terns,
You should have received our Annual Appeal letter in recent days. Your financial support will help us continue projects we have begun in two IBAs (Important Bird Area) in our region; Myeerah Nature Preserve in Logan County and St.Marys River/Grand Lake, St.Marys (Auglaize and Mercer Counties). Needs outlined in the Annual Appeal letter will help us continue habitat restoration and the development of new wetlands habitat. Please return your Annual Appeal letter soon. Your donation will be recognized with a note of thanks. It is exciting that new and developing projects in our service area continue to build and restore 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.

Habitat conservation and restoration is needed now more than ever. Urban and city sprawl, loss of habitat, and dangers like domestic cats all contribute to declines in bird population. Keeping up with the latest current events news and publications is easier through website and Facebook updates. Facebook sites provide good current information via the National Audubon Society, Cornell Lab of Ornithology (Ithaca, NY), Cedar Bog Nature Preserve, West Central Ohio Birders. Liking these sites on Facebook will get you into the loop of program updates, special bird sightings, and fieldtrip ideas for the family.

May election results for Tri-Moraine officers included John Daley, Treasurer, and Evelyn Prater, Member at Large. Both are two year terms. Evelyn has also graciously agreed to fill the Hospitality Chairman position. THANK YOU to all officers and Chairpersons for another great year!

Please consider becoming an officer in the future. Recently two Member-at-Large positions were appointed, and we continue to look for members that will actively participate in the chapter as an officer. Sheryl Maier, Cridersville and Eric Broughton, Lima serve in these newly created positions, thank you both for helping your chapter grow. We are looking for a Treasurer to assume those duties. Currently, John Daley is continuing to be our Treasurer, but after a long number of years serving in this position, he wishes to retire. (John has agreed to help the new Treasurer become established and will help with next year’s budget plan.) Your special talents may be needed. What qualifications? Knowing Quick Books and attending six TMAS Board meetings per year are the basic requirements. Call Dianne at 419.234.7015 for more details.

A big Thank you goes to Environmental Education Weekend chairmen, Eric Broughton and Don Rosenbeck and their committee for all of your hard work in making the 36th EEW a success. The program for the weekend included many excellent opportunities to be out of doors and learn about the natural world via first hand experiences. The weather was great. All of the campers enjoyed a wide variety of educational sessions designed to inform even the youngest campers. Without TMAS Volunteers this program would not be possible. Many thanks also to the presenters of the education sessions and to the cooks and helpers in the kitchen.

Plan now to attend the Annual Membership Picnic, Tuesday July 7, 2015 at Ottawa Metro Park (see calendar of events). We look forward to seeing you there. Invite your family to attend with you and until then…Wishing you good birding!

Dianne