CALENDAR

TRI-MORAINE’S 2012-13 EVENING PROGRAM MEETINGS are scheduled the first Tuesday of the month, September through November and January through May. Meetings are held in the Visitor/Student Services Center, 3900 Campus Dr., OSU-Lima. (Enter campus from Mumaugh Rd.; first building on left). Meetings and events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted. Dates and times appear in the calendar write-ups below. In case of bad weather (level 2 in Allen Co.), meeting cancelations will be posted on WLIO(NBC/channel35) and WOHL(FOX/channel 25).

December 15 & 16 Christmas Bird Counts (CBC)

Christmas Bird Counts, Saturday, Dec. 15, Indian Lake; Sun., December 16, Grand Lake St. Marys. To sign up for the count (or any additional information); see details on page 3 of this newsletter.

Note date change
Program Meeting/ Potluck Dinner
January 8
6:30pm

WINTER BIRDSEED SALE
February 2
9am-4pm

Program Meeting
February 5
7:30pm

 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS, Saturday, Dec. 15, Indian Lake; Sun., December 16, Grand Lake St. Marys. To sign up for the count (or any additional information); see details on page 3 of this newsletter.

ANNUAL PHOTO SAFARI & POTLUCK, Tuesday, January 8, 2013, 6:30pm. Visitor/Student Services Center will open at 6pm. TMAS will provide fried chicken and beverages. Members and guests should bring any of the following—hot or cold dish, salad, rolls, side dish, or dessert and their own table service. Presentations will be given by those attending who opt to share some of their favorite nature photography accompanied by brief narration. A digital projector, laptop, and screen will be furnished. Join fellow nature enthusiasts for a most enjoyable evening.

TMAS BOARD MEETING, Tuesday, January 29, 2013, 7pm. All are welcome to attend TMAS board meetings held at the Visitor/Student Services Center, 3900 Campus Dr., OSU-Lima Campus.

WINTER BIRDSEED SALE, Saturday, February 2, 9am-4pm, DeHaven Home & Garden Center at 15276 US 224 E, Findlay and 775 Shawnee Road, Lima. The winter restocking sale was started at the request of purchasers who lack space to store large quantities of birdseed. The sale is by preorder only. Order forms will be mailed December 26 to those who made purchases any time in 2011 and 2012. If you would like an order form or have questions, contact Anne Smedley at 419.222.3271. You can also download a form from the chapter's website or Facebook page. Mail your completed order form by Friday, January 18, 2013 to ensure sufficient stock on sale day. All proceeds fund local conservation education programs and projects. Remember, prepaid orders only and pickup at either DeHaven location. Volunteers are needed to help those picking up birdseed on the 2nd. Call Bob Bertrand at 419.227.9231 (Lima) if you can help.

WHITEBARK PINE DECLINE IN THE GREATER YELLOWSTONE ECOSYSTEM, Tuesday February 5, 2013, 7:30pm. Dr. Robert Antibus, Professor of Biology and Biology Department Chair, Bluffton University, will be our speaker concerning the Whitebark pine and the unique role of the pine in the Greater Yellowstone. A five needle pine, the Whitebark pine is a keystone species providing food, shelter and habitat for a wide range of animals at high elevations in the northern Rocky Mountains. Today Whitebark pine is being threatened over much of its range by a combination of threats including: mountain pine beetle, introduced blister rust, fire suppression and climate change. Topics for discussion will include the extent of this damage, how potential loss of this species threatens a range of dependent organisms, and what if anything can be done to stop the loss of Whitebark pine? Dr. Antibus is active on the Johnny Appleseed Park Board since 1993 and the Blanchard River Watershed Partnership. This program is co-sponsored by The Johnny Appleseed Metro Park District.

“Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better.” — Albert Einstein. (Need a nature quote like this one? Search brainyquote.com.)
GBBC
February 15-18
Citizen-Scientist Volunteers needed
This year for the first time anyone, anywhere worldwide can participate in the 14th Great Backyard Bird Count. Citizen scientists, classrooms, and families can help document a "snapshot" of birds by participating in a free, educational, easy, and best of all, FUN way! All ages and skill levels are welcome. From February 15-18, 2013 record and report online the birds in your backyard or neighborhood at www.birdsource.org or search online for The Great Backyard Bird Count. Learn more by clicking on the "How to Participate" prompt and check out how to submit your checklist on the toolbar at the masthead. GBBC reports in 2012 were the most detailed snapshot ever recorded for birdlife in the U.S. and Canada. These reports provide useful information to scientists tracking changes in the numbers and movements of birds from year to year, just as winter is about to melt into spring.

Save this Date
Program Meeting
March 5, 2013
Plan now to attend TMAS’s annual field trip to the Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area to watch and identify waterfowl, ducks, hawks, owls, and much more on Saturday, March 23, 2013. This is an excellent way to meet TMAS members and enjoy an early spring birding trip. You can check on line for a map and directions for driving. We will carpool on the day of the fieldtrip.

AUDUBON SHADE GROWN COFFEE
If your birdwatcher enjoys a good cup of coffee in the morning while checking out the birds on their feeders, you might want to consider purchasing some bird-friendly coffee for them. Bird-friendly coffee is grown in a manner that both preserves habitat for migratory birds and resident birds in central and South America, and does not involve pesticides and fertilizers. As a result the coffee is often certified as being organically grown. You can usually find Audubon bird-friendly coffee in the organic section of your local grocery store, or check on line sources. One reliable source is www.audubonshadegrowncoffee.com; Audubon Shade-Grown Coffee-Make a Difference with Every Cup!

WAPAKONETA INTERIM RECYCLE FUNDRAISER REPORT
On Saturday, October 13, twenty four chapter members manned Wapakoneta’s Drop-off Center for the 19th consecutive year for this fundraising project. Our check for all recyclables handled won’t be received until the New Year. We’ll let you know results in the spring issue of this newsletter, but we want to thank the following volunteers who handled all those cans, glass jars, plastic bottles, etc. and unloaded vehicles: Judith Magee, Liz Vogt, Priscilla West (Ada); Mary Neelley (Alger); Caitlin Wintersteller (Cridersville); Evelyn Prater, Rick Prater (Harrod); Bob & Carol Bertrand, Eric Broughton, Andy Cutter, Kaly Jolliff, Candy Newland, Abby Prater, Lois Rissier, Arianna Smedley, Jason Smedley, Shirley Wolf (Lima); Eric Juterbock (Rushsylvania); Beth Seibert (Spencerville); Mary Andrews, Dianne Knipp, Greg Koerner, Phil Valentine (Wapakoneta). The new adjustable feed conveyer belt to sort the plastics is great! Thanks also to all those who brought their recyclable materials to the center that day.

FALL BIRDSEED SALE RESULTS
Co-chair Anne Smedley reports that the November sale raised $1,548.07 (including donations). TMAS thanks all our purchasers, the media outlets that helped to publicize the event, DeHaven Home and Garden Showplace for providing both Findlay and Lima store locations for the sale and all the other great backup support, and Northland Quick Print for printing the sale fliers. Thanks also to our volunteers who picked up and distributed seed in their communities, toted all those bags (almost 4e tons), prepared mailing labels, mailed and distributed fliers, made and put up posters, and provided customer service: Judith Magee (Ada); Mary Neelley (Alger); Joanne & Bob Antibus, Ivan & Rachel Friesen (Bluffton); George Bilbrey (Delphos); Lynn Harris (Findlay); Evelyn Prater (Harrod); Don & Mary Rosenbeck (Jackson Center); Bob & Carol Bertrand, David Betts, John Daley, Tom Sciranka, Anne & Jason Smedley, Rita & Wayne Thelen (Lima); Bill Angel, Jan Heinrich (St. Marys); and Dianne Knipp, Marla Koerner (Wapakoneta).

CAMP MYEERAH HABITAT RESTORATION UPDATE
Tri-Moraine Audubon continues its involvement in the restoration of approximately 90 acres of warm season grasses and forbes at Camp Myeerah near Bellefontaine Ohio. The areas to be planted have received a total of three applications of herbicide after the ground was initially cleared through a combination of bush-hogging, use of a hydro-axe and US Fish & Wildlife’s Bobcat tracksteer with a forestry head to clear away the autumn olive and honeysuckle which had overrun the fields.

A burn plan was generated with the intent to use fire to further “knock back” the autumn olive, but that may not be possible. Because of how well established the autumn olive was, there is very little thatch to carry the flames and generate sufficient heat to kill off the autumn olive. Another complication in using fire is that the US Fish & Wildlife burn team will likely be involved in cleanup work associated with Hurricane Sandy.

Presently, the plan is to plant the prairie seed this winter – with or without a burn occurring prior to seeding. Fire would be used in the future to manage the newly seeded prairie along with seasonal spot application of herbicide to control any autumn olive that survives. Once the prairie grasses are well established, fire would become the primary management tool.
AUDUBON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

The Tri-Moraine Chapter will be coordinating two of the Audubon Christmas Bird Counts in Ohio: Indian Lake (Saturday, 15 December 2012) and Grand Lake (Sunday, 16 December 2012). The CBCs offer an opportunity to participate in a little winter birding, and perhaps see some of the winter visitors to our area – especially those that usually do not hang out in our yards. Most importantly, we are collecting very useful data as “citizen scientists.” The data contained in the more than a century of Audubon CBCs is a very valuable source of information about birds (this is the 113th count!). The volume of data obtained during the years of CBCs could not have been acquired in any other way. And, there are lots of data – the more than 2200 counts take place in all 50 states and all Canadian provinces, and extend into the southern tropics of this hemisphere. Furthermore, the data could be especially important for the Grand Lake count, since the St. Marys River and Grand Lake represent one of the Important Bird Areas in the Tri-Moraine region.

The more counters we have participating, the more fun we can have and the more birds we are likely to tally. All are welcome; less experienced birders will flock with more experienced birders, so everyone's eyes and ears will be useful. Although it is okay to show up at the last minute to participate, it is really helpful in organizing the count efficiently if the coordinator knows in advance (at least the night before) how many counters there will be. To sign up for the count, (or for any additional information), please contact Eric Juterbock (419-995-8360 (day), 937-488-2606 (evening), juterbock.1@osu.edu (email), or, surface mail at 4240 Campus Drive, Lima, OH 45804. To be considered an official count, we must be out for at least eight hours, but individual counters need not participate for the full time. In addition to the counters roaming the 15-mile diameter count circle, one may participate by tallying the birds that visit a feeder located within the circle. Assigned routes for the mobile counters generally involve both road and foot travel. Remember to dress appropriately and to bring such needed items as binoculars, bird guides, food and drinks, etc. Please note that ODNR apparently has yet to be concerned for the CBCs or their participants, since they have again scheduled an additional weekend of deer gun season to coincide with the first (and most popular) weekend of the official CBC count period (the dates of which have been established for years). Except for some park lands, we will need to stay out of the woods. I do have some orange vests available if you wish to wear orange and do not usually wear that color.

We will meet at 0730 hrs. (a.m.) for both counts – in order to finalize the census routes and be counting by 0800. For the Indian Lake count, meet at the McDonald's in Russell's Point. For the Grand Lake count, meet at the McDonald's at the mall at the intersection of SR 29 and US 33 in St Marys.

CERTIFIED VOLUNTEER NATURALIST

This spring, the Johnny Appleseed Metro Park District in cooperation with the Allen County Ohio State University Extension and the Tri-Moraine Audubon Society will be offering an Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist training program. An Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist (OCVN) is an individual with a passion for the natural world. Members of the OCVN program share their knowledge, talents, and skills as they help with community education and land stewardship through volunteer service. The OCVN program focuses on three components: training, volunteer service, and advanced education. To be certified, volunteers must attend 40 hours of a combination of classroom and field instruction and must provide 20 hours of volunteer service within the first year. In order to continue the certification, members must complete 20 volunteer hours and 8 hours of advanced education each subsequent year.

The Allen County OCVN course will meet Tuesday evenings from 6:00-9:00 pm at the Johnny Appleseed Metro Park District's McElroy Environmental Education Center starting on January 22. The ten-week course will also include two Saturday field experiences. The course is scheduled for the following dates: January 22, 29 (6-9pm); February 5, 12, 19, 26 (6-9pm); March 2 (9am-2pm); March 5, 12, 19 (6-9pm); April 2 (6-9pm); and April 6 (9am-2pm).

For more information or to receive an application, please contact Chris Fetzer, Volunteer Coordinator, at the park district (419-221-1232) or Tracy Oriens at The Ohio State University Extension. Each applicant must complete a registration form, pay the class fee, and have a formal background check done.

Topics will include: Ecological Concepts; Ohio Plants & Forests; Soil; Weather; Watersheds & Aquatic Biology; Reptiles & Amphibians; Insects & Spiders; Birds; Mammals; Invasive Species & Land Stewardship; Historic Ohio; and Nature Interpretation.

You can now find Tri-Moraine Audubon Society information on Facebook. Look for information about field trips, important bird sightings, and upcoming events. Check out the information and become a Facebook friend. Be sure to click the “LIKE” button for TMAS updates as they occur. Look for the TMAS cardinal logo.

Have you checked out our Facebook page? Did you know you can post your own special bird and nature photos? Did you enjoy a past program meeting? Be sure to tell us on Facebook how much you enjoyed a field trip or program meeting. Your comments will guide programming in the future and it is more interesting when we have a variety of postings. Please give it a try and share some of your favorite photos.
President's Comments: a Holiday Wish

Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening by Robert Frost

Whose woods these are I think I know.  
His house is in the village though;  
He will not see me stopping here  
To watch his woods fill up with snow.

My little horse must think it queer  
To stop without a farmhouse near  
Between the woods and frozen lake  
The darkest evening of the year.

He gives his harness bells a shake  
To ask if there is some mistake.  
The only other sound's the sweep  
Of easy wind and downy flake.

The woods are lovely, dark, and deep.  
But I have promises to keep,  
And miles to go before I sleep,  
And miles to go before I sleep.

My hope for all of you is that you are able to get away and spend some time in the woods this winter. Put aside your other commitments for an hour and just sit and watch, meditate, relax amidst the wonders of nature. I once had the opportunity to spend an hour just sitting warmly, in a wood during a heavy snow. The silent hush of the snow and the wildlife that appeared when everything was quiet made it one of my favorite outdoor memories. During the hustle and bustle of life, give yourself the gift of an hour or two sitting in the woods of some park or nature area. The woods truly are lovely, dark, and deep, but they can also be refreshing, relaxing, calming, inspiring, and so much more if you just make some time.

Have a wonderful holiday season and I hope to see you at one of our many activities in 2013.

President, Eric Broughton