



Friends of the Gorman Nature Center Newsletter

Richland County Park District

Winter 2011-12 Vol 30, No 4

Mary Kowalchik remembered

A long-time friend of Gorman Nature Center, Mary Kowalchik, passed away on September 26 at the age of 91. Back in 1980, Mary was seated next to GNC director Steve McKee at a garden club conference where they were both featured speakers. As they talked, they discovered a mutual interest in birds and wildlife. Later, as the need arose, Mary was hired as a part-time naturalist at GNC, where she worked for 17 years.

Mary was an eager student of the natural world, especially if it had to do with birds. Having no children of her own, she said, "I always tell people that my children all wear feathers." She was a noted photographer and presented many slide programs at GNC about wildlife, often incorporating personal stories about her wildlife rescues.

Mary is probably best remembered for her love and interest in Bluebirds, and to many in the Mansfield area, she was known as the "Bluebird Lady". She began "bluebirding" in the mid-40's in Michigan and continued raising bluebird broods until recently. In 1998 she received the coveted Blue Feather Award from the Ohio Bluebird Society for her pioneering efforts and dedication to nature education.



2011 at the Richland County Park District

The staff of the Gorman Nature Center is grateful to all of you who contributed in some way to this year's operation- members, volunteers, board members and park visitors. This was the **33rd year** for the Nature Center and the **17th year** for the Richland B&O Trail.

If you haven't seen our web site, visit gormannaturecenter.org to check on our schedule, maps and other information. Thanks to volunteer webmaster, **Cheryl Harner**, for maintaining the site.

Additional thanks go to our many faithful **volunteers**- **Mary Lou Bricker, Bud & Elaine Consolo, Dick Gardner, Kim German, Cheryl Harner, Dean Homerick, Josh Jewell, Nancy Kennedy, Dave Kracker, Becky Lux, Chris McQuillen, Georgia Payne, Phil Pendleton, Heather Rita, Tyrena Smith, Janet Swartz, Linda Tucker, Karen Whitmore, and Linda Wilson** who keep the Visitor Center open while our small staff is at a school or on the trail. We would like to especially recognize **Dick Gardner, Nancy Kennedy** and **Mary Lou Bricker** who are the remaining charter members of our original Volunteer crew from 1986. Thanks for 25 years of service!

We also thank volunteers **Dave Boals, Skip Malaska, John & Mary Jane Merschorf, Dave & Jason Metzger, Dave Moody, Dick Osgood, Steve Reynolds, and Terry White** who spent many hours keeping the Richland B & O Trail safe and neatly trimmed.

For the 17th year in a row, **Melanie Seaman** and **Fate Christian** maintained our beautiful butterfly garden as well as maintaining the plantings for our new building. Thanks to **Ted Kmet** for his hours of mowing, **Ross Stancato** for maintaining our bluebird boxes.

As in the past, the Richland County Park District is seeking to **purchase** natural areas in our county from **willing sellers**. Thanks to the Ohio grant program called the "Clean Ohio Fund", up to 75% of the cost of open space purchase can be covered by grant money. The 25% match can be in the form of land donated to the project or from funds raised by the District. The highest priority lands for the District include forests, wetlands, river corridors and bike trail buffer. Do you have or know of some acreage that would be available?

Green Newsletter

If you would prefer an email version of the newsletter to save paper and postage, please email us at gormannaturecenter@gmail.com. Thanks.

Thanks to the following
**FRIENDS OF THE
 NATURE CENTER** for
 their recent support.
 They helped make 2011
 a successful year!

Volunteers

in 2011

DAVE BOALS **
 MARY LOU BRICKER *****
 BUD & ELAINE CONSOLO *
 DICK GARDNER *****
 KIM GERMAN ****
 CHERYL HARNER *
 DEAN HOMERICK *
 JOSH JEWELL
 NANCY KENNEDY *****
 TED KMET
 DAVE KRACKER **
 BECKY LUX @
 SKIP MALASKA
 CHRIS MCQUILLEN *
 JOHN & MARY JANE
 MERSCHDORF *
 DAVE METZGER @
 JASON METZGER @
 DAVE MOODY
 DICK OSGOOD *
 GEORGIA PAYNE
 PHIL PENDLETON
 STEVE REYNOLDS
 HEATHER RITA @
 TYRENA SMITH @
 ROSS STANCATO
 JANET SWARTZ @
 LINDA TUCKER ****
 TERRY WHITE
 KAREN WHITMORE
 LINDA WILSON **

***** over 25 years
 **** over 20 years
 *** over 15 years
 ** over 10 years
 * over 5 years
 @ - new for 2011

EAGLE (SUSTAINING)

FRANK ACKARD
 DICK & JOYCE ADAIR
 CONSTANCE AU
 ANGUS & JANE BARTON
 DAVE BELLIS
 MICHAEL, LINDA & ALLISON
 BROGAN
 ELVIN BURNELL
 LAWRENCE & JOANNE
 CHENG
 M & C CHENGELIS

DR & MRS CLEMENTS
 PAUL CORBITT
 TIM CULLER
 JAMES & CYNDDE DEWEESE
 ANDREW & LYNN FAHMY
 KATHERINE FERNYAK
 LESLIE GARDNER
 BETTY GATTON
 DON & SHARON GRANTER
 PAM & GLENN HARTZ
 NANCY & BRUCE JACKSON
 RON & JUDY JAQUES
 MRS ROBERT W JONES
 TOM & DEB JONES
 KINGWOOD ORCHID SOCIETY
 DAVE & DIANE KRACKER
 ANNETTE MCCORMICK
 JEANNINE MCKEE
 STEVE & DEB MCKEE
 DON & DIANA PLANT
 DEB & RON REED
 CHRIS & MARJORIE REINING
 ANNE & DAVID SEISS
 JAMES SHREWSBERRY
 DR & MRS RICHARD STOFFER
 HELEN TAYLOR
 JIM WALTER
 JANET WISNER

Hawk (sponsoring)

KATHY ADAMS
 LOWELL & MARY AMICK
 JO & VIN BLACK
 ROBERT & CANDACE
 BRENNER
 MARY DAMRON
 IRENE DARROW
 DENNIS & POLLY DAVIS
 CYNTHIA DORSEY
 BARBARA & JIM EAKINS
 JAMIE EMERSON
 WILLIAM E FORT
 LINDA & MIKE GOODEN
 STEVE & SUSAN JAMES
 MIKE & STEPHANIE
 MULHERIN
 NORTH LIBERTY GARDEN
 CLUB
 R OTTO & L HERING
 CAROL REECE
 PETER & SUSAN ROBERTS
 SCHRAEDLY ACCOUNTING
 TIM SKINNER
 JOAN SMITH
 D A STEWART
 DR JOSEPH & MEBANE
 STOLFI
 JANET SWARTZ
 TOM & TRACY TAPPAN
 BILL WAGENLANDER
 MARILYN WEILER
 PAT WISENBARGER

Owl (supporting)

C&B ADDLESBERGER-
 FOWLER
 HAROLD & LUCY AMSBAUGH
 BRIAN & MEGHAN BACIN
 CHRIS BOX & FAMILY
 BOB & RUTH BROWN
 SI & JANE CARMEAN
 JOHN CLARY
 LAURANN CLEVER
 JOAN COLLARD FAMILY
 GARY COWELL
 BRUCE & GENEVA CUMMINS
 SUZANNE DAVIS
 JOANNE DAWSON
 GUY DENNY
 JOHN & NORMA DOMER
 NORMA DORSEY
 LARRY EICHER
 JANET & BILL ELLSWORTH
 MARY & DON FISHER
 LOUISE FLEMING
 CAROL FRY
 CHRIS & CHARIL FUHRER
 NANCY & SID HALL
 PERCY & NANCY HALL
 DAVID & LINDA HAMILTON
 BUD & SALLY HENDERSON
 CHRIS HOFF
 ROBERT & COLLEEN
 JACKSON
 TOMMI JOHNSON
 ELLEN JONES
 JAN & GARY KENNEDY
 JAMES & JENNIFER KIGHT
 MICHAEL & JAYNE KLEIN
 TJ KMET
 PAUL & CATHY KNOOP
 MARGO KOSTECKA
 DEBORAH LECHIEN
 EILEEN LEVISON
 SARAH LICHTENSTEIN
 JOYCE & JIM LUMLEY
 ELAINE LYBARGER
 ROBERT & DIANA MALONE
 JOHN & BARB MCCAMMON
 DAVID MILLS
 DIANE MORETZ
 M&M ERVIN MYERS
 DAVE NICKY
 BOB & SANDY NYE
 BETTY POLLOCK
 ELIZABETH PRITCHARD
 JOAN RADER
 DEB & RON REED
 LOLA RIESTER
 MELISSA SAPRANO
 JULIA SCHILLING
 BETTY SCHWIER
 DEAN SHELDON
 RUTH SHINABARKER
 DR & MRS RJ SHRILLA
 ROBERT, DEBBIE, KATIE
 STATLER
 KEN & JANET STEELE
 DENNIS & DENISE TENISON
 ROGER TROUTMAN
 ALBERT TROYER

MICHAEL UDOLPH
 NANCY & TOM WEIDEMEYER
 ANNE WILLIAMS
 SUE WINK
 J WRASSE & T GROTJOHN
 DON & PEGGY WYATT
 JON & KRISTIN YOUNG

Cardinal, Flock & Fledgling (individual, family & student)

RICHARD ARNDT
 MARK & SANDI ARNOLD
 DONALD BACIN
 HELEN BARTLETT
 BYRON BURNETT JR
 NORMA CUMMINS
 JOYCE CURRY
 MYCHAL DEEB
 NANCY DOLLARD
 JILL DURBRIDGE
 TOM & BEV FASIG
 BILL FISHER
 RICK GARDNER
 KATIE GERWIG
 JOETTA & ALBERT GOODMAN
 DOROTHEA GRIFFITHS
 CHERYL & MICHAEL GURSKI
 JAMES & ANITA HAWKINS
 ELIZABETH JENSEN
 MARGARET JOYCE
 TIMOTHY L LESLIE
 GEORGE LOESCH
 DEE LORENTZ
 CHARLOTTE & BOB MABEE
 BRYAN MCCLELLAND
 ROBERTA MOORE
 ARIEL MORNINGSTARR
 LADONNA O'NEAL
 ELAINE OSWALD
 TOD & DOREEN PETIT
 SHIRLEY PURCELL
 DAVE & DEBBIE ROBERTS
 THOMAS ROTHAAAR
 JUDY SEMROC
 GLENNA SHEAFFER
 JIM & CAROL SKEEN
 LARRY & ELAINE SMITH
 ROGER & ANN STILLION
 CHRISTINE SUTTER
 RITA WALSH
 HARRY & JOAN WIRSTROM
 GERALDINE WITCHEY
 TERRY WOLF
 BERND & CAROL ZIMMERMAN

Green Newsletter

If you would prefer an email
 version of the newsletter to
 save paper and postage,
 please email us at
 gormannaturecenter@gmail.
 com. Thanks.

Gorman Nature Center

Calendar of Events - Winter 2011-2012

Sun	Dec 11	2:00 pm	Annual “Waterfowl Watch” at nearby reservoirs - meet at GNC
Sat	Dec 17	all day	Mansfield Christmas Bird Count - call (419) 884-3764 for details
Wed	Dec 21	9 & 10	Moms & Kids (for parents and their pre-school children, sessions from 9-10 and 10-11 am) (MT)
Wed	Dec 28		Moms & Kids cancelled
Sat	Dec 31		Mohican Christmas Bird Count - call 419-884-3764 for details
Wed	Jan 4	9 & 10	Moms & Kids
Sat	Jan 7	9:00 am	“Snowy Owl Safari” - participate in the Snowy Owl invasion, if one is near (see page 4) (SM)
Wed	Jan 11	9 & 10	Moms & Kids
Thu	Jan 12	1:30 pm	Winter Nature Walk for Seniors at GNC (SM or JF)
Wed	Jan 18	9 & 10	Moms & Kids
Sun	Jan 22	2:00 pm	“The World through the Microscope Lens” -examine microscopic creatures from our ice-covered ponds and other natural items with the aid of a microscope. See page 4 for details. (MT)
Wed	Jan 25	9 & 10	Moms & Kids
Thu	Jan 26	7:00 pm	The Night Sky - a monthly telescope program at GNC- only if the sky is clear (SM)
Sat	Jan 28	4:00 pm	“A Murder of Crows” - hear about the “hows and whys” of the famous Mansfield crow roost, and then car-pool to see them gather for the night (SM)
Wed	Feb 1	9 & 10	Moms & Kids
Sat	Feb 4	1:00 pm	“Scatology! Who did that?” a walk to search for scats and other signs “remaining” from animals. See page 4 for details. (MT)
Wed	Feb 8	9 & 10	Moms & Kids
Sun	Feb 12	2:00 pm	“Searching for Skunks” - Skunk cabbage that is! A car-pool field trip to seek the first spring wildflower (SM)
Wed	Feb 15	9 & 10	Moms & Kids
Sat	Feb 18	9-11 am	“A Bird in the Hand” - spend Saturday morning with the birds for this hands-on, “bird’s-eye” view of winter birds and bird banding (SM)
Wed	Feb 22	9 & 10	Moms & Kids
Sat	Feb 25	7:00 pm	The Night Sky - a monthly telescope program at GNC- only if the sky is clear (SM)
Sun	Feb 26	3:00 pm	Mohican Native Plant Society annual potluck dinner & program, call for 419-884-3764 details - all welcome
Wed	Feb 29	9 & 10	Moms & Kids
Sat	Mar 3	10:00 am	“Girls Who Look Under Rocks” - a program for all ages of female nature lovers! PowerPoint program on female naturalists, hands-on animals and hike (weather permitting). (JF)



All programs free to the public. (JF=Jan Ferrell, MT=Merrill Tawse, SM=Steve McKee)



I am eager to help support natural history education in Richland County and to receive your quarterly newsletter. Please enroll me in “Friends of the Nature Center” at the following level for one year:

Please clip and send to:

Friends of the Nature Center
2295 Lexington Ave.
Mansfield OH 44907

Name _____
Address _____ _____ _____
Phone (optional) _____

<input type="checkbox"/> \$2.00 Fledgling (student)
<input type="checkbox"/> 5.00 Cardinal (individual)
<input type="checkbox"/> 10.00 Flock (family)
<input type="checkbox"/> 25.00 Owl (supporting)
<input type="checkbox"/> 50.00 Hawk (sponsoring)
<input type="checkbox"/> 100.00 Eagle (sustaining)

Enclosed is my membership donation for \$_____ (please make checks payable to “Friends of the Nature Center”)

SNOWY OWL SAFARI

Saturday, January 7 at 9:00 am

Every few years Ohio experiences an invasion of Snowy Owls from the north. This winter is shaping up to be one of the biggest invasions on record. If there has been a Snowy Owl spotted within driving range, we will car-pool to see it. If not, we will take on a different winter adventure. Please join us.



The World as seen through the Lens of a Microscope.

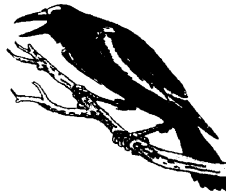
Sunday, January 22 at 2:00 pm

Discover the microscopic creatures living in our ponds, or what the cells of mosses look like. Participants will have an opportunity to examine microscopic animals, feathers, fur, plants and soil with the aid of several microscopes. Join us for this program that will include short trips outside to collect specimens. For more information call the Gorman Nature Center at 419-884-3764.

A Murder of Crows

Saturday, January 28 at 4:00 pm

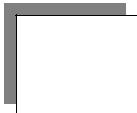
Why a "murder" of crows? "Murder" is the collective noun for a bunch of crows (like a "herd of antelopes, "troop" of monkeys, "school" of fish, or a "pandemonium" of parrots). Mansfield certainly has a bunch of crows. We will explore why all those crows are here and how they behave. After some discussion, we will car pool to see the nightly roost as it gathers for the evening. There will be thousands of crows- a good size murder!



Scatology! "Who did that?"

Saturday, February 4 at 1:00 pm

Join us as we hike through the fields to the back woods as Nature Sleuths and examine the life of a "scatologist". We will visit some of the "crossroads" of some of our resident wildlife to locate scats and other animal signs. Learn what can be told from these about the animal's comings and goings. Dress for the weather for this easy hike.



A red X in the box at the right means that it is time to renew your "Friends of the Nature Center" membership. Thanks for your support!

Published quarterly by
 Friends of the
 Gorman Nature Center
 Park Commissioners
 Eric S. Miller
 Cyndee DeWeese
 Marion Zaugg
 Nature Center Staff
 (full or part-time)
 Steve McKeel
 Merrill Tawse
 Jan Ferrell
 Anthony Arata

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