



# Friends of the Gorman Nature Center Newsletter

Richland County Park District

Winter 2009-10 Vol 28, No 4

## *2009 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 **31st year** for the Nature Center and the **15th year** for the Richland B&O Trail.

With the trying economic times and our staff budget being cut 25%, it was probably harder scheduling a program and even hard getting a hold of us. Our smaller staff had to get more done in fewer hours. We did conduct over **450 presentations** to thousands of people who attended our programs for school classes, scouts, clubs, libraries, and public programs. In addition to the programs from our regular staff of **Jan Ferrell, Merrill Tawse, Skip Malaska** and **Steve McKee**, we had special presentations by some guest speakers. **David FitzSimmons** presented some outstanding nature photography programs, **Ken Arthur** presented a geology program, and **Cheryl Harner** shared some of her gardening knowledge. Watch for more great guest speakers in 2010.

Jan Ferrell also conducted her fourth summer "Nature Camp" sponsored by the **Mansfield Noon Optimist Club**. We owe thanks to **Dick Gardner** for many hours of volunteer teaching. Thanks to volunteer **Ralph Hunt** for helping with our monthly "Night Sky" telescope programs.

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

Our deepest 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, Chris McQuillen, Charlie & Ellen Mishey, Peg Parsons, Phil Pendleton, Rinda Sansom, Jordon Tabbert, Linda Tucker, Linda Wilson, and Dot Yontz** who keep the Visitor Center open while our small staff is at a school or on the trail.

For the 15<sup>th</sup> 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 and **Ross Stancato** for maintaining our bluebird trail. We also thank volunteers **Dave Boals, Dick Osgood, John & Mary Jane Merschdorf, Skip Malaska, Dave Moody, and Terry White** who spent many hours keeping the Richland B & O Trail safe and neatly trimmed.

This year two young men served the Park District by completing Eagle Scout Service Projects. A special thanks to the efforts of **Matthew Kennedy** and the many fellow scouts that assisted him as he cleared and cleaned fences along the bike trail. Thanks, too, to **Brian Knowlton** and his boy scout troop, who built a great new bridge at the Nature Center.

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?

## **A Threat to Mohican and its Hemlocks**

In October, the Gorman Nature Center hosted a "summit meeting" of agencies, groups and biologists concerned about an impending threat to our native Eastern Hemlock trees. All agreed that as citizens, we need to be aware of and on the lookout for the Woolly Hemlock Adelgid. This is an introduced insect pest from the orient that has already killed millions of Eastern Hemlocks in the eastern US. The large hemlock stands you might remember from the Smoky Mountains are now gone. We are afraid that the hemlocks of Mohican and the Hocking Hills could be next.



**What to Look For:** The *hemlock woolly adelgid* is an aphid-like insect that covers itself with a white, waxy "wool". Adelgid infestations are easily recognizable by the appearance of tiny "cotton balls" at the base of hemlock needles. The "wool" is most conspicuous on the undersides of branches from fall through spring. The hemlock woolly adelgid feeds on the sap at the base of hemlock needles, disrupting nutrient flow and causing the needles to die and fall off. Without needles the tree starves to death, usually within three to five years of the initial attack.

Think about the hemlocks along the Clearfork in Mohican. Hemlocks play an important role by providing deep shade along creeks, maintaining cool micro-climates critical to survival of trout and other cold water species. The impact of widespread loss of hemlock could trigger changes more significant as those that followed the demise of the American Chestnut in the 1930s and 40s.

The summit was sponsored by the Ohio Div. of Forestry and the Greater Mohican Audubon Society with attendees from the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, OH Biological Survey and others.

**Thanks** to the following  
**FRIENDS OF THE  
NATURE CENTER** for their  
recent support. They  
helped make 2009 a  
successful year!

## Volunteers

in 2009

DAVE BOALS \*\*  
MARY LOU BRICKER \*\*\*\*  
BOB CASTOR  
BUD & ELAINE CONSOLO \*  
RICHARD GARDNER \*\*\*\*  
KIM GERMAN \*\*\*  
CHERYL HARNER  
DEAN HOMERICK \*  
RALPH HUNT \*\*\*\*\*  
JOSH JEWELL @  
NANCY KENNEDY \*\*\*\*  
TED KMET  
DAVE KRACKER \*\*  
SKIP MALASKA  
CHRIS MCQUILLEN \*  
JOHN & MARY JANE  
MERSCHDORF  
CHARLES & ELLEN MISHEY \*\*\*  
DAVE MOODY  
DICK OSGOOD \*  
PEG PARSONS \*  
PHIL PENDLETON @  
RINDA SANSO \*\*  
ROSS STANCATO @  
JORDON TABBERT @  
LINDA TUCKER \*\*\*\*  
TERRY WHITE  
LINDA WILSON \*\*  
DOT YONTZ \*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\* over 25 years  
\*\*\*\* over 20 years  
\*\*\* over 15 years  
\*\* over 10 years  
\* over 5 years  
@ - new for 2009

## EAGLE (SUSTAINING)

FRANK ACKARD  
DICK & JOYCE ADAIR  
CONSTANCE AU  
ANGUS & JANE BARTON  
JOHN & PETER BLACK  
MICHAEL, LINDA & ALLISON  
BROGAN  
ELVIN BURNELL  
M & C CHENGELIS  
DR & MRS CLEMENTS  
ROBERT & DOROTHY  
DENTON  
JAMES & CYNDE DEWEESE  
ANDREW & LYNN FAHMY  
KATHERINE FERNYAK  
PAM & DAVE FLEMING  
LESLIE GARDNER

MIRIAM GILBERT  
DON & SHARON GRANER  
JACK HATTERY  
JOANA HATTERY & JOHN  
BORDEN  
RON & JUDY JAQUES  
MRS ROBERT W JONES  
DAVE & DIANE KRACKER  
ANNETTE MCCORMICK  
STEVE & DEB MCKEE  
WILLIAM & JEANNINE MCKEE  
DON & DIANA PLANT  
ANNE & DAVID SEISS  
JAMES SHREWSBERRY  
DR & MRS RICHARD STOFFER  
JUDY & PAUL THEISEN  
JIM WALTER

## Hawk (sponsoring)

KATHY ADAMS  
LOWELL & MARY AMICK  
MR & MRS A V BLACK  
JOANNE & DAN BLAY  
LYNN COOKE  
PAUL CORBITT  
MARY DAMRON  
DENNIS & POLLY DAVIS  
JOHN & NORMA DOMER  
CYNTHIA DORSEY  
BARBARA & JIM EAKINS  
WILLIAM E FORT  
CHRIS & CHARIL FUHRER  
VIRGINIA GERHARDSTEIN  
KINGWOOD ORCHID SOCIETY  
MICHAEL & JAYNE KLEIN  
MARY KOWALCHIK  
MIKE & STEPH. MULHERIN  
NORTH LIBERTY GARDEN  
CLUB  
R OTTO & L HERING  
DENISE RICHARDSON  
PETER & SUSAN ROBERTS  
MR & MRS ALLEN SANFORD  
SCHRAEDLY ACCOUNTING  
TIM SKINNER  
MAXINE SMITH  
D A STEWART  
DR JOSEPH & MEBANE  
STOLFI  
MS JANET SWARTZ  
GREG & SUSAN VIGESAA  
PAT WISENBARGER

## Owl (supporting)

HAROLD & LUCY AMSBAUGH  
DONALD BACIN  
GRETCHEN & LEE BALLYEAT  
JON & MELISSA BELL  
THE BOTTORF FAMILY  
JOHN & TEE A CARTER  
JOHN CLARY

LAURANN CLEVER  
JOAN COLLARD FAMILY  
GARY COWELL  
IRENE DARROW  
SUZANNE DAVIS  
NORMA DORSEY  
LARRY EICHER  
BILL & TONYA FLANEGAN  
LOUISE FLEMING  
CAROL FRY  
GLORIA & TOM GARRISON  
DAVID & LINDA HAMILTON  
BUD & SALLY HENDERSON  
JOHN & VICKI HERMAN  
MARYANNE & BEN IRWIN  
TOMMI JOHNSON  
DOUG JONES  
JAMES & JENNIFER KIGHT  
TJ KMET  
PAUL & CATHY KNOOP  
DEBORAH LECHIEN  
EILEEN LEVISON  
SARAH LICHTENSTEIN  
JOYCE & JIM LUMLEY  
LOUISE LUTZ  
CHARLOTTE & BOB MABEE  
ROBERT & DIANA MALONE  
DOROTHY MCCLURE  
DAVID MILLS  
DIANE MORETZ  
M&M ERVIN MYERS  
DAVE NICKEY  
LADONNA O'NEAL  
BETTY POLLOCK  
BURT & PRUE PRESTON  
JEN, CHARLES & JAMES PRINZ  
CAROLL & ELIZ PRITCHARD  
JOAN RADER  
DEB & RON REED  
STANLEY RYCKMAN  
MELISSA SAPRANO  
JULIA SCHILLING  
BETTY SCHWIER  
RUTH SHINABARKER  
DR & MRS RJ SHRILLA  
JOAN SMITH  
KEN & JANET STEELE  
CAROLYN STEVENS  
TOM & TRACY TAPPAN  
LAWRENCE THOMPSON  
MADELINE THOSS  
ROGER TROUTMAN  
ALBERT TROYER  
MICHAEL UDOLPH  
NANCY & TOM WEIDEMEYER  
MARILYN WEILER  
PATRICIA & DEAN WELLS  
ANNE WILLIAMS  
JON & KRISTIN YOUNG  
PAULINE ZINDEL  
SHIRLEY ZODY

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

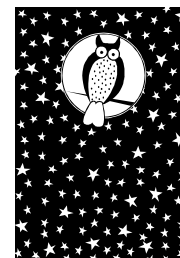
C&B ADDLESBERGER-  
FOWLER

HELEN BARTLETT  
LINDA BOWMAN  
CHRIS BOX & FAMILY  
DIANE & MARK BRANDON  
BYRON BURNETT JR  
JAY & DANA BYRD  
JOYCE CURRY  
BONNIE DARLAK  
ELSIE DEWOLF  
NANCY DOLLARD  
BILL FISHER  
MARY & DON FISHER  
EMILEE FRAIZER  
RICK GARDNER  
KATIE GERWIG  
JOETTA & ALBERT GOODMAN  
DOROTHEA GRIFFITHS  
CHERYL & MICHAEL GURSKI  
AGNES HALEY  
PERCY & NANCY HALL  
JAMES & ANITA HAWKINS  
WILLIAM & MARY HAYES  
ROBERT & COLLEEN  
JACKSON  
ELIZABETH JENSEN  
ALENA KALASHNIK  
JAN & GARY KENNEDY  
SCOTT & LISA KIGER  
TIMOTHY L LESLIE  
GEORGE LOESCH  
ED & CALLIE MACARTHUR  
HALLIE MASON  
BRYAN MCCLELLAND  
ROBERTA MOORE  
ARIEL MORNINGSTARR  
EDWARD MUCHOW  
MR & MRS ROBERT NYE  
ELAINE OSWALD  
TOD & DOREEN PETIT  
WILLIAM & EUDORA  
PONTIOUS  
JASON, SAMUEL & JONATHON  
POWELL  
SHIRLEY PURCELL  
ANITA REEHAL  
MARGARET REMY  
DAVE & DEBBIE ROBERTS  
CLAUDINE ROBERTSON  
THOMAS ROTHAAAR  
MIKE SHAFER  
GLENN SHEAFFER  
LYNN SILOY  
JIM & CAROL SKEEN  
LARRY & ELAINE SMITH  
ROGER & ANN STILLION  
CHRISTINE SUTTER  
BEVERLY SWANGER  
CHUCK & LINDA TUTTLE  
RITA WALSH  
CHARLES F WHITE  
GERALDINE WITCHEY  
TERRY WOLF  
BERND & CAROL ZIMMERMAN

# Gorman Nature Center

## Calendar of Events - Winter 2009-2010

Wed	Dec 9	9 & 10	<b>Moms &amp; Kids</b> (for parents and their pre-school children, sessions from 9-10 and 10-11 am) (MT)
Sat	Dec 12	10:00 am	Annual <b>"Waterfowl Watch"</b> at nearby reservoirs - meet at GNC
Wed	Dec 16	9 & 10	Moms & Kids
Sat	Dec 19	all day	<b>Mansfield Christmas Bird Count</b> - call (419) 884-3764 for details
Wed	Dec 23		Moms & Kids
Wed	Dec 30		Moms & Kids cancelled
Sat	Jan 2		Mohican Christmas Bird Count - call for details
Wed	Jan 6	9 & 10	Moms & Kids
Sat	Jan 9	2:00 pm	<b>"Backyard Birds"</b> - learn about the birds that visit your backyard and how to become a "citizen scientist"- online link to Cornell and the "Annual Great Backyard Bird Count" (SM and Greater Mohican Audubon)- see pg 4.
Wed	Jan 13	9 & 10	Moms & Kids
Tue	Jan 19	7:00 pm	<b>The Night Sky</b> - a monthly telescope program at GNC (SM)
Wed	Jan 20	9 & 10	Moms & Kids
Sun	Jan 24	2:00 pm	<b>"The World through the Microscope Lens"</b> -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 27	9 & 10	Moms & Kids
Sat	Jan 30	9-11 am	<b>"A Bird in the Hand"</b> - spend Saturday morning with the birds for this hands-on, "bird's-eye" view of winter birds and bird banding (SM)
Wed	Feb 3	9 & 10	Moms & Kids
Sat	Feb 6	10 am	<b>"Snake, Rattle &amp; Roll"</b> - snakes may be cold-blooded, but you don't have to be in a cold sweat around snakes- learn about local snakes and overcome your fears (SM)
Wed	Feb 10	9 & 10	Moms & Kids
Thu	Feb 11	1:30 pm	<b>Winter Nature Walk for Seniors</b> at GNC (SM or JF)
Wed	Feb 17	9 & 10	Moms & Kids
Sun	Feb 21	2:00 pm	<b>"Scatology! Who did that?"</b> a walk to search for scats and other signs "remaining" from animals. See page 4 for details. (MT)
Wed	Feb 24	9 & 10	Moms & Kids
Sat	Feb 27	1:00 pm	<b>"Cabin Fever Reliever"</b> - need to get outside? How about a hike at Mohican to stretch those legs and look for early signs of spring. (SM)
Sun	Feb 28	3:00 pm	Mohican Native Plant Society annual potluck dinner & program, call for details - all welcome
Fri	Mar 5	7:00 pm	<b>"Guess Who's Coming for Dinner?"</b> - learn about the habits and habitats of the owls in Ohio. It'll be a hoot! (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:

Name _____
Address _____ _____
Phone (optional) _____

Please clip and send to:

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

<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")

## Do you like watching Backyard Birds?

Saturday, January 9 at 2:00 pm

*It is easier than you think to become a "Citizen Scientist".*

If you are one of the millions of Americans who enjoy feeding birds and watching your feathered flock at a backyard feeder, you can help Cornell University collect valuable scientific information. By registering for Project Feeder Watch, your backyard birds will be added to the data for bird populations all across America. Counting Northern Cardinals, American Goldfinches, House Sparrows, and other common birds can help provide clues to the changes in bird populations, as they are impacted by urbanization, global warming and other natural trends.

It is easier than you might think. Let your friends and neighbors in Audubon help you identify birds, and walk you through the easy process of registering for the Great Backyard Bird Count. Join us at Gorman Nature Center.

Local merchants, Wayne's Market and Sandy Hill Fruit Farm, will provide door prizes and discounts on bird seed for your feeders! Meet other bird-feeder watchers and learn more about our fascinating Ohio winter birds!



## Scatology! "Who did that?"

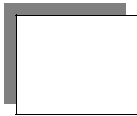
Sunday, January 24 at 2:00 pm

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.

## THE WORLD THROUGH THE MICROSCOPE LENS

Sunday, February 21 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 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  
Cynnde DeWeese  
Marion Zaugg  
Nature Center Staff  
(full or part-time)  
Steve McKee  
Merrill Tawse  
Jan Ferrell  
Skip Malaska  
Chad Byrnes  
Cheryl Hamner

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