



Friends of the Gorman Nature Center Newsletter

Richland County Park District

Winter 2010-11 Vol 29, No 4

2010 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 **32nd year** for the Nature Center and the **16th year** for the Richland B&O Trail.

A Year of Belt-Tightening: With the trying economic times, our budget request had to be cut in **half** this year! Our reduced staff got spread even thinner, so it was probably hard getting a hold of us and even harder scheduling a program. Our smaller staff had to get more done in fewer hours. Fortunately, a significant part of our budget shortfall was picked up by **Friends of the Nature Center**. The Friends paid for all of the utility and contract expenses for most of the year (power, phone, internet, security, water testing, etc.), and some of the supply line item.

We did conduct over **420 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 another outstanding nature photography program, and **Gary Cowell** presented a program on how to be a citizen scientist with your bird observations. Watch for more great guest speakers in 2011.

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.

Our deepest thanks go to our many faithful **volunteers**— **Mary Lou Bricker, Bud & Elaine Consolo, Megan Dell, Dick Gardner, Kim German, Cheryl Harner, Dean Homerick, Josh Jewell, Nancy Kennedy, Dave Kracker, Chris McQuillen, Peg Parsons, Georgia Payne, Phil Pendleton, Megan Schuster, 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.

For the 16th 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, and **Jon Bell** for work on the grounds. We also thank volunteers **Dave Boals, Skip Malaska, John & Mary Jane Merschorf, Dave Moody, Dick Osgood, Steve Reynolds, Ken Spencer, and Terry White** who spent many hours keeping the Richland B & O Trail safe and neatly trimmed. Thanks also to Boy Scout, **Ben Cox**, who constructed a stretching and exercise station along the bike-trail as part of his Eagle Scout project.

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?

In Search of the Saw-whet

Gorman Nature Center and the Ohio Bird Sanctuary are beginning a joint research project to survey and band Northern Saw-whet Owls in Richland County during their fall migration. A similar project is ongoing in Ross County, headed by Kelly Williams-Sieg. In November, Steve McKee, Jan Ferrell and Janet Ellsworth (Mansfield City Schools Outdoor Education) traveled to Chillicothe to watch Kelly's project in action. That night two of the tiny flyers were picked from the nets where they had been lured by the call of the male Saw-whet, artificially broadcast from speakers nearby. The birds were measured and inspected for their weight, age, sex and other features. A numbered band was then placed around the leg that will identify the bird if captured again in the future.

The birds were then released, flustered, but unharmed to continue on their travels.



Steve McKee, Merrill Tawse, Janet Ellsworth and Brad Strong (Mansfield City Schools) are all licensed banders who will lend their expertise to the project in Richland County. The Ohio Bird Sanctuary Jr. Naturalists will also participate. It will be a valuable, exciting, educational opportunity for these young people who have a great interest in their environment and its preservation.

There will be some initial expenses for the correct mist nets and audio enhancement equipment. Donations to help cover the cost of the project would be gladly accepted and can be made to Friends of the Nature Center.

-by Jan Ferrell

Thanks to the following
**FRIENDS OF THE
NATURE CENTER** for their
recent support. They
helped make 2010 a
successful year!

Volunteers

in 2010

JON BELL
DAVE BOALS **
MARY LOU BRICKER ****
BUD & ELAINE CONSOLO *
MEGAN DELL @
DICK GARDNER ****
KIM GERMAN ****
CHERYL HARNER *
DEAN HOMERICK *
JOSH JEWELL
NANCY KENNEDY ****
TED KMET
DAVE KRACKER **
SKIP MALASKA
CHRIS MCQUILLEN *
JOHN & MARY JANE
MERSCHDORF *
DAVE MOODY
DICK OSGOOD *
PEG PARSONS *
GEORGIA PAYNE
PHIL PENDLETON
STEVE REYNOLDS @
MEGAN SCHUSTER @
KEN SPENCER @
ROSS STANCATO
LINDA TUCKER ****
TERRY WHITE
KAREN WHITMORE @
LINDA WILSON **

**** over 20 years
*** over 15 years
** over 10 years
* over 5 years
@ - new for 2010

EAGLE (SUSTAINING)

FRANK ACKARD
DICK & JOYCE ADAIR
CONSTANCE AU
ANGUS & JANE BARTON
JOEL & MARGARET BLACK
DAVE BOALS
MICHAEL, LINDA & ALLISON
BROGAN
ELVIN BURNELL
LAWRENCE & JOANNE
CHENG
M & C CHENGELIS
DR & MRS CLEMENTS
JAMES & CYNDDE DEWEESE
BARBARA & JIM EAKINS
ANDREW & LYNN FAHMY

KATHERINE FERNYAK
PAM & DAVE FLEMING
LESLIE GARDNER
DON & SHARON GRANTER
PAM & GLENN HARTZ
JOANA HATTERY & JOHN
BORDEN

RON & JUDY JAQUES
MRS ROBERT W JONES
TOM & DEB JONES
DAVE & DIANE KRACKER
KAY & BEN LOCKE
ANNETTE MCCORMICK
STEVE & DEB MCKEE
WILLIAM & JEANNINE MCKEE
DON & DIANA PLANT
BETTY POLLOCK
DEB & RON REED
CHRIS & MARJORIE REINING
MR & MRS ALLEN SANFORD
ANNE & DAVID SEISS
JAMES SHREWSBERRY
DR & MRS RICHARD STOFFER
JUDY & PAUL THEISEN
GREG & SUSAN VIGESAA
ANDREW WALTER
JIM WALTER
JANET WISNER
JIM WALTER

Hawk (sponsoring)

KATHY ADAMS
LOWELL & MARY AMICK
LEE & PATRICIA BAILEY
ROBERT & CANDACE
BRENNER
BOB & JANET CASTOR
PAUL CORBITT
MARY DAMRON
DENNIS & POLLY DAVIS
JOHN & NORMA DOMER
CYNTHIA DORSEY
NORMA DORSEY
WILLIAM E FORT
MIRIAM GILBERT
LINDA & MIKE GOODEN
KINGWOOD ORCHID SOCIETY
MICHAEL & JAYNE KLEIN
MARY KOWALCHIK
EILEEN LEVISON
FRED & LINDA MCKINNEY
NORTH LIBERTY GARDEN
CLUB
BURT & PRUE PRESTON
DENISE RICHARDSON
PETER & SUSAN ROBERTS
SCHRAEDLY ACCOUNTING
TIM SKINNER
D A STEWART
DR JOSEPH & MEBANE
STOLFI
MS JANET SWARTZ
PATRICIA & DEAN WELLS
FRED & JANE WIECHER
LINDA WILSON
PAT WISENBARGER
GENE & GLORIA YARGER

Owl (supporting)

C&B ADDLESBERGER-
FOWLER
HAROLD & LUCY AMSBAUGH
MARK & SANDI ARNOLD
GRETCHEN & LEE BALLYEAT
JON & MELISSA BELL
MR & MRS A V BLACK
CHRIS BOX & FAMILY
BOB & RUTH BROWN
SI & JANE CARMEAN
MICHAEL & CAROL
CHAMBERS
JOHN CLARY
LAURANN CLEVER
JOAN COLLARD FAMILY
GARY COWELL
IRENE DARROW
SUZANNE DAVIS
LARRY EICHER
JAMIE EMERSON
BILL & TONYA FLANEGAN
LOUISE FLEMING
FRIENDS OF ASHLAND PARKS
CAROL FRY
CHRIS & CHARIL FUHRER
PERCY & NANCY HALL
DAVID & LINDA HAMILTON
BUD & SALLY HENDERSON
CHRIS HOFF
TOMMI JOHNSON
JAMES & JENNIFER KIGHT
PAUL & CATHY KNOOP
DEBORAH LECHIEN
SARAH LICHTENSTEIN
DEE LORENTZ
JOYCE & JIM LUMLEY
ELAINE L LYBARGER
ROBERT & DIANA MALONE
JOHN & BARB MCCAMMON
DAVID MILLS
DIANE MORETZ
M&M ERVIN MYERS
DAVE NICKY
MR & MRS ROBERT NYE
LADONNA O'NEAL
M&M CHARLES OTCASEK
ELIZABETH PRITCHARD
JOAN RADER
CAROL REECE
STANLEY RYCKMAN
MELISSA SAPRANO
JULIA SCHILLING
BETTY SCHWIER
RUTH SHINABARKER
DR & MRS RJ SHRILLA
JOAN SMITH
ROBERT, DEBBIE, KATIE
STATLER
KEN & JANET STEELE
CAROLYN STEVENS
TOM & TRACY TAPPAN
DENNIS & DENISE TENISON
LAWRENCE THOMPSON
ROGER TROUTMAN
ALBERT TROYER
MICHAEL UDOLPH
TERRY VAUGHT

BILL WAGENLANDER
NANCY & TOM WEIDEMEYER
ANNE WILLIAMS
J WRASSE & T GROTJOHN
JON & KRISTIN YOUNG
PAULINE ZINDEL

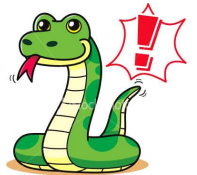
Cardinal, Flock & Fledgling (individual, family & student)

RICHARD ARNDT
DONALD BACIN
HELEN BARTLETT
LINDA BOWMAN
BYRON BURNETT JR
TOM COOK
BRUCE & GENEVA CUMMINS
NORMA CUMMINS
JOYCE CURRY
GUY DENNY
ELSIE DEWOLF
NANCY DOLLARD
BILL FISHER
MARY & DON FISHER
RICK GARDNER
KATIE GERWIG
JOETTA & ALBERT GOODMAN
DOROTHEA GRIFFITHS
INGRID & TOM GRIFFITHS
CHERYL & MICHAEL GURSKI
NANCY & SID HALL
JAMES & ANITA HAWKINS
MICHAEL HERMAN
ROBERT & COLLEEN
JACKSON
MARGARET JOYCE
DAVID KEINATH
TIMOTHY L LESLIE
GEORGE LOESCH
CHARLOTTE & BOB MABEE
BRYAN MCCLELLAND
ROBERTA MOORE
ARIEL MORNINGSTARR
ELAINE OSWALD
TOD & DOREEN PETIT
SHIRLEY PURCELL
SUE RICE
DAVE & DEBBIE ROBERTS
CLAUDINE ROBERTSON
KATHY SHAWVER
GLENN SHEAFFER
JIM & CAROL SKEEN
LARRY & ELAINE SMITH
LORI STEPP
ROGER & ANN STILLION
BEVERLY SWANGER
RITA WALSH
BAILEY & CAMDEN WALTER
HARRY & JOAN WIRSTROM
GERALDINE WITCHEY
TERRY WOLF
BERND & CAROL ZIMMERMAN

Gorman Nature Center

Calendar of Events - Winter 2010-2011

Sun	Dec 12	2:00 pm	Annual “Waterfowl Watch” at nearby reservoirs - meet at GNC
Wed	Dec 15	9 & 10	Moms & Kids (for parents and their pre-school children, sessions from 9-10 and 10-11 am) (MT)
Sat	Dec 18	all day	Mansfield Christmas Bird Count - call (419) 884-3764 for details
Wed	Dec 22	9 & 10	Moms & Kids
Sat	Dec 25		Merry Christmas!
Wed	Dec 29		Moms & Kids cancelled
Sat	Jan 1		Mohican Christmas Bird Count - call for details
Wed	Jan 5	9 & 10	Moms & Kids
Sat	Jan 8	2:00 pm	“The Big Year” - Greg Miller talks about his big year birding and the upcoming movie on the topic - a major motion picture on “competitive birding”? - see page 4 for details!!
Wed	Jan 12	9 & 10	Moms & Kids
Wed	Jan 12	7:00 pm	“Wide-Eyed World: Current Photo Projects” - amazing nature photographer, Dave FitzSimmons is back for another eye-pleasing program- see page 4 for details
Wed	Jan 19	9 & 10	Moms & Kids
Thu	Jan 20	1:30 pm	Winter Nature Walk for Seniors at GNC (SM or JF)
Sun	Jan 23	2:00 pm	“Winter Woods Walk” - explore GNC trails for winter animal life, signs and tracks (MT)
Wed	Jan 26	9 & 10	Moms & Kids
Sun	Jan 30	2:00 pm	“Snake, Rattle & Roll” - 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 (rescheduled from last year’s snowed-out program) (SM)
Wed	Feb 2	9 & 10	Moms & Kids
Sun	Feb 6	7:00 pm	The Night Sky - a monthly telescope program at GNC (SM)
Wed	Feb 9	9 & 10	Moms & Kids
Sat	Feb 12	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 16	9 & 10	Moms & Kids
Sun	Feb 20	2:00 pm	“Secrets in Skulls” -an examination of a variety of animal skulls to determine what they were and what they ate (MT)
Wed	Feb 23	9 & 10	Moms & Kids
Fri	Feb 25	7:00 pm	“Guess Who’s Coming for Dinner?” - learn about the habits and habitats of the owls in Ohio. It’ll be a hoot! Dress for a hike if the weather permits. (JF)
Sun	Mar 13	3:00 pm	Mohican Native Plant Society annual potluck dinner & program, call for details - all welcome



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”)

THE BIG YEAR

Guest speaker: Greg Miller
Saturday, January 8 and 2:00 pm

Greg Miller, a Holmes Co resident, spent 1998 on a competitive quest to see the most number of birds in North America. The adventure was chronicled in a book and will be the subject of a new major motion picture, with Jack Black playing a role based on Greg Miller's character (that's right, the same Jack Black as "School of Rock"). The film, starring Black, Steve Martin and Owen Wilson will be a humorous look at "competitive birding". Greg Miller, who served as a consultant for "The Big Year" movie, will be here to speak about his birding and film-consulting adventures.



JACK BLACK AND GREG MILLER

Wide-Eyed World: Current Photo Projects

Wednesday, January 12 at 7:00 pm

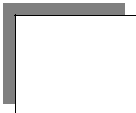
Sigma Pro photographer Dave FitzSimmons will share some of his recent projects, from producing yearly landscape calendars to pursuing new directions in impressionism. Dave will share wonderful waterfalls, amazing macro, and a handful of his latest Curious Critters images.



Secrets in Skulls

Sunday, February 20 at 2:00 pm

Do birds have teeth? Why are the squirrel's front teeth orange? How are the teeth patterns of plant eaters different from those of meat eaters? From larger to smaller skulls we will examine a variety of skulls to answer these questions. Join us for this indoor program.



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
Cynde DeWeese
Marion Zaugg
Nature Center Staff
(full or part-time)
Steve McKee
Merrill Tawse
Jan Ferrell
Skip Mataska
Anthony Arata

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