



The HOUSE WREN

Bulletin of the Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland

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Visit our website at www.clevelandaudubon.org

May, 2014

Annual Dinner set for June 7th

It has been traditional for the ASGC to hold its Annual Meeting and Dinner at varied locations. Recently, we have held the meeting at Holden Arboretum, Squire Valleevue Manor House, and Shaker Lakes. This year, we are meeting at the **North Chagrin Nature Center**.



North Chagrin Nature Center

Begin the afternoon with a nature walk led by John Lillich in the North Chagrin Reservation. Enjoy the trails and myriad opportunities to view wildlife in the beautiful Metroparks system.

After your hike, partake of appetizers and social hour with trustees and other members.

Be sure to arrive in time for the business meeting starting at five o'clock. We have a new constitution for members to consider and vote on. The meeting will include the election and introduction of trustees and officers, and our yearly awards.

Dinner is served at five-thirty and promises to feature our usual delicious repast. Bring an appetite!

Our night's program will commence at approximately six o'clock. We are pleased to have Patrick Coy and Karin Tanquist present "**Birds and Beasts in Botswana and Beyond.**" Pat and Karin lived in the region for 14 months in 2010-11, and concluded their sojourn with a

four-month safari across the most remote reserves of Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe and Botswana. They saw more than 600 species of birds, canoe-camped down the mighty Zambezi River, and had lions, leopards, hyenas, hippos, elephants and much more in their campsites in what was certainly the trip of a lifetime. You won't want to miss this program!

Details:

- 3pm—Nature walk
- 4pm—Appetizers/social hour
- 5pm—Chapter meeting
- 5:30—Dinner
- 6:00—Program

Cost: \$20 per person.

Reservations requested:

Please call 216-556-5441 or email auduboncleland@hotmail.com.

Directions: From I-90, East or West, exit at Rt. 91 (SOM Center Rd.) and turn left (south). Continue past Chardon Road and Strawberry Lane to Buttermilk Falls Parkway Entrance on the left.



Hummingbirds at home

Hummingbirds have returned and they are looking for your feeders. The best recipe for nectar is one part table sugar to four parts water.



Photo: B. Stripling

Heating the nectar helps dissolve the sugar and kill mold spores and bacteria to prevent fermentation. Contaminated nectar can be fatal to the hummers. In hot weather it should be replaced every few days or when any mold growth is seen. It is not necessary to color the nectar red as food coloring may harm the hummingbird. Most feeders have red plastic parts or you can hang a red ribbon on it.

With a little bit of work, your backyard can host these tiny miracles. Hummingbirds are attracted to flowering plants such as:

(Continued on page 2)

From the Nest...

I'd like to welcome John Weber to our Board of Trustees. John is a CPA and has been giving us invaluable tax advice. He is taking the position of Assistant Treasurer.

Thank you for your support during the last nine months of this newsletter's makeover. I couldn't have done it without my contributors: Jim Tomko, John Lillich, Ed Buckles, Sarah Mabey, Diann Rucki, and many others who sent



photos and offered ideas and encouragement. This is the last issue until September, but please keep the ideas coming!

—Alison DeBroux, Editor

President's Post

Our trustees have been working hard on many fronts. I am happy to announce that Alison DeBroux will be chairing our Education Committee [pending Board approval].

At our Novak Sanctuary we have

been busy brushhogging the open fields and repairing the bluebird homes. At the Molnar Sanctuary three to four acres of buckthorn have been brushhogged. The very next day a hawk was using the open field for a hunting area.

Come to our Annual Dinner to learn about what plans are in store for this coming year and also to enjoy food and conversation with other ASGC members.

Take care and enjoy the beauty of nature.

—Mark J Demyan, President

The saga continues...

Hach-Otis Sanctuary: "The Dream Forest of Ohio"

(With subdivisions and interstate highways still a thing of the future, John Lillich wondered why Ed Hach was so concerned about preserving his 40 acres. Here, John answers this question, and finishes his history of the Hach-Otis Sanctuary, continued from the April issue of *The House Wren*.)

Looking at the local history, I believe I have come to understand his decision. During the early 1930s the Dodd farm in nearby Pleasant Valley was sub-divided into one half acre building lots. The Covert farm, just across Chardon Road from his home, was platted and a sub-division surveyed. Although the Covert sub-division was later vacated and no one could foresee our inter-state highway system, I believe Ed had a clear vision of what was coming to this area.

In the early 40s, Ed and his wife began consulting with fellow members of the Burroughs Nature Club. C. M. Shipman and the Hachs came up with a plan and in 1944 the plan was implemented. The EDWARD HACH WILDLIFE SANCTUARY was realized. The Sanctuary was donated to the Burroughs Nature Club. The



Spring in Hach-Otis

Photo: J. Lillich

Hummingbirds at home

(Continued from page 1)

Trumpet creeper will climb a fence or a dead snag. *Coralbells* come in a bewildering number of varieties. The masses of tiny flowers always draw hummingbirds. *Jewelweed* is one of the most important sources of late-summer nectar for migrant ruby-throated hummingbirds. *Scarlet gilia* comes in shades from white and pink to orangish and purple, but the red form is most

following year C.M. Shipman and Harold T. Clark, a local philanthropist, began talking to the owner of Beech Hills Farm, Harrison G. Otis, hoping to acquire additional land for the Wildlife Sanctuary. Mr. Otis was a son of the Waite Hill Otis family, founders of the Otis Elevator Company. Harrison had plans to build a large estate home at the farm. By 1946 an arrangement was concluded and a portion of Beech Hills Farm was added to the Sanctuary. This brought the total number of acres to 81.

The next hurdle to present itself was the question, who is willing and able to look after this new sanctuary? The Burroughs Nature Club was certainly willing, but not being incorporated, was not able to hold title to any property. As it happened, the Cleveland Bird Club (now Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland, ASGC) was incorporated and already owned a 160-acre wildlife sanctuary in Aurora, Ohio. Hach-Otis Wildlife Sanctuary became Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland's second sanctuary.

Through the remainder of the 40s, 50s and into the 1960s, Hach-Otis remained pretty much undisturbed and rarely visited. The 1960s saw construction begin on our Inter-State highway system. Access to more rural areas now took minutes instead of an hour or more. With more home sites being developed, came more pressure on Hach-Otis. Audubon became aware that the Sanctuary was

attractive to hummers. *Cardinal flower* is the quintessential hummingbird plant, bearing intense red blossoms in summer and early fall. *Trumpet honeysuckle* has long, tubular flowers (in yellow, orange, and red varieties). *Beebalm* is available in a range of cultivars and colors.

Hummingbirds need more than just nectar. To draw hummers, create a complex, varied backyard with staggered blooms that also includes feeders, perches, a natural abundance of



being misused by horseback riders, snowmobiles, collecting fire wood and even the tapping of maple trees for sap. Audubon Trustees began to look for help. In 1972 the Ohio legislators passed the Ohio Natural Areas Act. This act created a new division within the Ohio Department of Natural

Resources (ODNR). This was called the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves (DNAP). ASGC trustees approached DNAP to make Hach-Otis a dedicated State Nature Preserve. In 1977, after approval from DNAP's Natural Areas Council, Hach-Otis was dedicated as Ohio's 22nd State Nature Preserve. It is owned and managed by ASGC, but protected by Ohio's Natural Areas Act.

At the dedication, I was asked to become the local manager of Hach-Otis for ASGC. I am now in my 38th year in this volunteer position. Two and a half years ago I married Carol, and she has become my very able right hand, helping me to look after the Sanctuary. Last year Bill Kennelly, an old friend and immediate neighbor of Hach-Otis, became an ASGC Trustee and is my backup and helper at the Sanctuary.

Audubon invites you to come and visit Hach-Otis. The Sanctuary is open from sunrise to 4:00 PM, seven days a week all year long. There are two loop trails that total about a mile and a half. Please remember that Hach-Otis is not a park, it is a Sanctuary and Nature Preserve. All State of Ohio rules and regulations are posted and apply.

Hach-Otis Sanctuary &
State Nature Preserve
37142 Skyline Drive
Willoughby Hills, Ohio
N 41 35.488'
W 081 24.700'

—John Lillich

insects, and places to hide when predators are near. Avoid using toxic garden chemicals—after all, as much as 60 percent of a hummingbird's diet is actually made up of tiny insects, spiders, and other arthropods, so the birds are providing some natural pest control.

Help scientists learn more about hummingbirds and how to save them through the Hummingbirds at Home project at Audubon.org/citizenscience.

—Jim Tomko/Scott Weidensaul

In Case You Missed It!

4/12/14—Our night Frog Walk was one the best we have ever had! This was partly due to the excellent weather, almost a full moon, and to the Fellenstien family who directed us to some excellent ponds. We had a great group of hikers with keen interest and a quiet nature. We heard spring peepers (almost a deafening cacophony), wood frogs, western chorus frogs, and American toads. We were treated to some male toads who were very unaffected by our presence and sang away even with our lights on them. Their vocal sacks were filled almost to bursting. We were able to capture a small female bullfrog, a couple of



Wood frog

Photo: J. Tomko

American toads, several spring peepers and a red spotted newt for examination and immediate release. Two red-backed salamanders (one normal color and one red phase), two two-lined salamanders, and a wood frog were observed and released. This was a fantastic amphibian night!

—Jim Tomko

The Squawk



Send your comments, questions, or complaints to auduboncleland@hotmail.com or via snail mail to our regular address.



...and salamanders

I was watching the weather and predicting that the Ambystomid salamander migration to the vernal pools to breed would be tonight (4/5/14) and here is what I found at about 10:30!

—JT

More about eagles...

Our Novak eaglet has hatched! If you look low and right (right next to adult) there is a white fuzz ball getting fed teeny, tiny shreds of something or other! I will bet it just hatched today or yesterday (4/5/14)! Sorry for the poor quality picture—it is with my old ("dumb") cell phone through my pretty nice spotting scope. As of 4/22, the eaglet appears well-fed!

—JT



Upcoming Events

ASGC Annual Meeting and Dinner Saturday, June 7th North Chagrin Nature Center

3:00pm—Nature Walk led by John Lillich
4:00pm—Appetizers
5:00pm—Meeting to elect officers/trustees, etc.
5:30pm—Dinner
6:00pm (or so)—Program

Cost: \$20 per person
Reservations requested. Please call 216-556-5441
Or email auduboncleland@hotmail.com

Saturday Afternoon Backyard Naturalist Series

Please join us in September, when our series continues with the return of Dr. Lisa Rainsong and

"Insect Songs"

Field Trips



May 16 7:30pm "Veery Virtuoso" Aurora Sanctuary

The Veery has a magical, ethereal, downward spiraling, flute-like song that should be heard in the twilight woods to make you feel it in your soul! This bird is in the thrush family and is one of the thrushes that spends all summer with us nesting and raising its young in a well-built nest usually on or near the ground. These woodland birds are beginning to lose nesting habitat due decreasing understory and leaf litter in our forests. Join us to enjoy a wonderful concert of Veery, wood thrush, and other forest birds singing their evening songs claiming their territory. Meet at the Aurora City "Mulch" parking lot on the south side of Pioneer Trail a few hundred yards east of Page Road in Aurora.

June 13 7:30pm "Twilight Trek" Novak Sanctuary

The time surrounding sunset is often very active for our local wildlife. The daytime creatures are preparing to settle in for the night and the nocturnal prowlers are beginning to stir. Let us see and hear the denizens of our sanctuary moving about to seek a meal, take a drink or find a mate. Often we discover raccoon, opossum, fox, muskrat, beaver, and deer, not to mention all the wondrous bird "call to roost" songs. Meet at the Novak Sanctuary parking lot on the east side of Townline Rd. about a mile north of State Route 82 in Aurora.

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CLEVELAND (S 70)

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message at 216-556-5441

Or send an email to
auduboncleveand@hotmail.com

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A Wry Smile



Court Transcripts:

Q: So, besides your wife and children,
do you have any other animals or pets?

LaDue Reservoir a treat for birders

Our “Wheelin’ for Waterfowl” caravan (3/29/2014) was a great success! We began at La Due Reservoir and faced almost solid ice cover, but there was open water around the causeway and at several spots near the shoreline and the mouths of some tributaries.

While waiting for folks to gather, a mature bald eagle landed on the ice near the island to pull some frozen fish from his “freezer”! We had great views of it.

Of course Canada geese were in good numbers but so were tundra swans and red-breasted mergansers. We also saw: wood ducks, gadwall, American wigeon, mallard, canvasback, ring-necked duck, bufflehead, hooded merganser, common merganser, pied-billed grebe, horned grebe and American coot. We watched a belted kingfisher perch, waiting for the opportunity to catch his breakfast.

We moved on to a private lake that

was ice-free and added redhead, lesser scaup, ruddy duck, and rarest of all, red-necked grebe! By this time some of us had to depart but a few hardy souls ventured with me to Berlin Reservoir about 30 miles south and we all braced ourselves against the arctic-like winds and the beginning of a pelting rain as we watched a pair of ospreys exchange a stick in a courtship ritual. We also added a common loon to our list. I saw a common golden-eye but could not relocate him for the rest of the group.

Hundreds of gulls were at Berlin including herring gull, ring-billed gull, and Bonaparte’s gull.

We finished up with lunch at Guido’s in Ravenna and shared nature stories. It was a great trip with 15 or 16 (depending on if you count my golden-eye) species of ducks, three species of grebes and one species of loon. Join us next year!

—Jim Tomko

ASGC Annual Meeting and Dinner
Saturday, June 7th
North Chagrin Nature Center

DATED MAIL

