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Useful Websites

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We're happy to provide you with the Audubon Miami Valley's spring newsletter. AMV plans a full line-up of meetings and events this summer and fall. You can find details both in this newsletter and at our website, amvohio.org



National Grant Awarded to AMV

Hard work on the part of chapter president, Linda Williams, secured a grant for the establishment of a Pollinator Garden in Oxford. It will be located at the west entrance to the Oxford Community Arts Center and will extend along the walkway towards the Children's Garden. The planting of native plants and flowers attracts insect, birds, butterflies and bats which then spread pollen-thereby insuring the plants' propagation. More than three quarters of the world's food crops rely in part on pollination by insects and other animals. AMV is a member of the mayor's committee working towards making Oxford a "Pollinator City."

The garden will have plant identification signs with linkage to Audubon.org/plants for birds. At this website you can enter your zip code and a list of plants selected by Audubon experts will appear for your area. You can then print a custom plant list for your garden. Nurseries that sell native plants are also listed and pictures of the birds attracted by each plant are a nice addition. As the project moves forward there will be opportunities to sign up to help.

Pollinator Habitat Project Completed at ODOT's Morning Sun Outpost

Motorists and butterflies have welcomed a vibrant transformation taking place at the Morning Sun Outpost, a maintenance and storage facility managed by the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT). A five-acre portion of the facility now hosts



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a pollinator habitat plot that was designed, implemented, and funded by volunteer members of the Shady Hollow Longbeards, a wildlife conservation club based in Camden. The project is located near the intersection of State Routes 177 and 732, about three miles southwest of Camden, in Preble County. The club's goal was to establish a lush stand of native grasses and wildflowers to benefit resident and migrant pollinators, enhance the property's aesthetic qualities, and eliminate the need to periodically mow idle land.

The group approached ODOT officials in early 2017 and received enthusiastic support for the project. ODOT is a major partner in the Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative, a statewide coalition of organizations working to develop pollinator habitat and to educate Ohioans about the critical importance of pollinators. Club volunteers drafted a proposal, met with ODOT representatives, and eventually signed a formal agreement allowing the project to move forward.

Volunteers devoted a full year to preparing the plot, using several applications of herbicides to eliminate invasive weeds, such as tall fescue, wild carrot, and Canada thistle. In mid-June 2018, they planted the area using a special no-till drill capable of planting the fluffy seeds of warm-season vegetation. Composed of five species of grasses and over 40 species of wildflowers, the seed mix will establish a diverse, native plant community that provides blooms from May through October.

Favorable summer weather permitted several species to germinate, grow, and even bloom, and by mid-September the nascent plot boasted the showy flowers of black-eyed Susan, several legumes, sunflowers, and three species of milkweeds. Not surprisingly, migrating monarch butterflies were abundant.

Although the project was designed with insect pollinators in mind, the plot will benefit a host of other wildlife, including songbirds. The club erected eight nesting boxes that will attract bluebirds, tree swallows, and wrens. The structures were hand-crafted from cedar by members of Boy Scout Troop 107, of West Alexandria. Shady Hollow Longbeards is a chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, an international not-for-profit organization and leader in wildlife habitat conservation that has spent more than \$488 million conserving over 17 million acres of habitat in North America. Since the chapter's inception, in 1996, it has worked within its local service area to create and enhance over 1,200 acres of wildlife habitat on private and public lands.

In 2006, the group restored a 16-acre oak savanna on the Woodland Trails Wildlife Area, an ODNR-Division of Wildlife property just north of Camden. More recently, the club developed a wildlife area within Hueston Woods State Park. Located adjacent to Hedgerow Road, the project features 14 acres of native prairie, vernal pools, hiking trails, a wildlife observation blind, and interpretive signage.



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The EcoReps Organization



EcoReps is an on-campus organization, at Miami University of Ohio, made up of students with the collective goal to raise awareness of sustainability and resource management across Miami's campus. EcoReps has many projects created with the intent to make sustainable living accessible and routine for students.

The organization has created specialty recycling containers devoted to recycling items such as batteries, ink cartridges and plastic bags that cannot traditionally be recycled. These have been distributed throughout all residence halls and are placed very conspicuously. These are then collected by EcoReps at the beginning of each week and are recycled at the proper locations. Additionally, EcoFacts are sent electronically to each residence hall once per week, communicating a fact about the environment or especially helpful tips about ways of being sustainable in the dorms.

A project dating back to the creation of the organization, is the trash audit. This glamorous activity involves going through an entire day's worth of trash in a residence hall and picking the pieces out that could have been recycled. Each trash bag is weighed before the audit begins and the amount of trash picked out that could have been recycled is weighed at the end of each audit. The amount of recyclable material is calculated as a percentage out of the total trash weighed. This is done for almost every residence hall every semester and creates excellent data for how that hall is doing in terms of its recycling.

Lastly, a very significant and effective project that this organization does, is the water bottle project! The Water Bottle Project was started three years ago due to the amount of disposable water bottles that EcoReps found in the trash during trash audits. EcoReps wanted to have a way to reduce the number of disposable water bottles found in the trash, so the organization decided to start a project in which high-quality, reusable water bottles were given to the incoming freshman class. In the first year of the project, 1,000 bottles were handed out at MegaFair. This past year, it was 1,700 bottles. The organization hopes to continue to grow the project and maintain the high quality of the bottles provided. The organization is very grateful for the support of all sponsors, as without them, the project would not be possible.

An Expedition in Interconnectedness

As an English as a Second Language Teacher and environmentalist, I am constantly looking at our world through a variety of environmental and social justice lenses. I find that not only is our world small, but its people, their physical, social, and emotional health, and natural resources, are all invariably interconnected. This summer, I was fortunate to have the opportunity to study sustainable practices and models of conservation



education on a 10-day trip to Thailand. Some of these were simply breathtaking sights, deep discussions, inquiry projects, mindfulness and meditation exercises, and reforestation. These types of activities stood beside our experience with local traditions, food, and culture. In comparison to my previous expeditions in Mexico and Peru, this course felt much more like a once-in-a-lifetime experience targeted at introspection and acknowledgements of interconnections (with others and the natural surroundings). We split our time between the Khao Yai National Forest and Wat Pa Sukato, a forest monastery approximately 6 hours Northeast of Bangkok.

After leaving we journeyed to the forest of Khao Yai National Forest where we were unexpectedly greeted by an adolescent Asian elephant who was migrating singularly in search of his own herd. This was beyond expectation- not only because it is the lush and rainy season, but because Asian elephant numbers continue to decline as they are an endangered species. Though there is great effort in maintaining ranges, there is continued habitat fragmentation (down to 15% of their original range) as a backdrop to continued poaching for tusks and exploitation for tourist attractions.

While habitat and species conservation have been some of the focal points in my Global Field Program (GFP) studies the last two years, this year mindfulness was a new component of the course and the group worked with Buddhist monk, Phra Paisan Visalo, Thailand's abbot of Wat Pa Sukato and spiritual leader. We remained with Phra Paisan for the second half of the course. Whether in the forest for hours of quiet observation and contemplation, or in the sala of the monastery grounds, there was a deep reverence for each moment and every living being.

Interdependence among and between humans and nature is the core principle that guides preserving and conserving local habitats. This is a perspective that can translate beyond Thailand to Western societies in our progress towards more advanced and successful implementation of 'green' practices and advocacy through environmental education. Habitual and enhanced exploitation of natural resources occurs through production intended to fulfill human desires and happiness through material consumption.

While the goal is not to change all behaviors and live the lifestyle of a monk, there is a powerful lesson in awareness. In simply being aware of what it takes to grow a grain of rice (as we were involved in organic rice planting), what will happen if the Great Hornbill, a key species that is a predictor of forest health, becomes extinct, or how the dredging of a local waterway impacts the life of the river, the surrounding habitats, and the life of the local people, one can be better informed and make their own evaluation of what should occur in terms of conservation. It is consuming without awareness that proliferates environmental degradation, sometimes in lands the consumer will never even see.

Our world is connected and continued education in current environmental issues, conservation initiatives, and sustainable practices- at both the individual and business levels, will help humanity continue to make gains in restoring our natural surroundings. The restoration of nature, is the restoration of ourselves as we too are a part of nature.

Biography:

Margaurita Cueva is an English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher and Cultural Competency Champion at Ridge Junior School in West Chester, Ohio. She completed this expedition through Project Dragonfly as a graduate student with Miami University working towards her Masters in Teaching Biological Sciences



Kid's Corner



Have you heard of the Marge & Charles Schott Nature PlayScape? This is an area where natural features are designed for open-ended creative play located at the Cincinnati Nature Center in Milford. Plants, soil, and water can be touched and manipulated, not just observed, to stimulate the senses and promote a sense of wonder. Picnic on the grass or relax on a bench while your children play. [click here to learn more](#)

What is a Nature PlayScape?

Cincinnati Nature Center's Nature PlayScape is intentionally designed to provide children with opportunities for unstructured play in a resilient version of local natural habitats. Native plants, fallen logs, boulders, rocks, water and soil create forest and field habitats for children to explore. The Nature Center's Nature PlayScape contains very few man-made structures (swings, slides, etc.) and strives to re-create the kind of childhood experience many parents and grandparents had in nature when they were young.

Why does Cincinnati Nature Center need a Nature PlayScape?

Part of the Nature Center's mission is to "inspire passion for nature." A Nature PlayScape helps fulfill the mission by giving children the opportunity to explore and play freely in nature. Research indicates that children who play frequently in nature may develop a comfort and familiarity with the natural world that reaches into adulthood. Because children are not permitted off-trail elsewhere on the Nature Center's property, and few families have a diverse natural setting in their own backyards, the Nature Center provides a place where children can explore nature without compromising the rest of our 1,020 acres of habitat. The Nature PlayScape concentrates the impact of play to one small area and protects the more pristine parts of the property.



Eight Easy Ways to Reduce Your Plastic Waste

If there's one material we can't seem to live without, it's plastic. And there's a reason for that: It's cheap, durable, and lightweight, making it perfect for everything from iPhones to eyewear. But what makes plastic so useful for humans is exactly what makes it a nasty environmental contaminant—it spreads easily and takes forever to degrade, finding its way to our lands and oceans where it wreaks havoc on wildlife. To date, at least 700 species of marine animals, including shorebirds, have been entangled by plastic or mistaken it for food. The result is often suffocation or starvation.

Since the 1950s, we've generated 8.3 billion metric tons of the stuff, of which a scant nine percent has been recycled. And by 2050, scientists predict the oceans will stock more plastic than fish. But as problematic and worrisome as all of this is, completely cutting plastic from our lives is impossible at this point. Reducing your



plastic use, however, is surprisingly easy and pain-free. You're not going to end the problem overnight, but here are some simple tricks to waste less.

1. Cut Out Plastic Cutlery—Especially When Ordering In

Have you ever tried to cut a piece of broccoli with a plastic fork? Yeah, not fun. And yet Americans use [100 million](#) plastic utensils every day, much of which comes wrapped in even *more* plastic. When ordering food online, opt out of receiving plastic utensils—it's often as easy as just checking (or unchecking) a box. That's it. And if you're ordering takeout in person or over the phone, ask the restaurant to skip the plastic flatware. Better yet: Try cooking for yourself. Although the idea is radical, home-cooked food is often healthier and it produces way less waste.

2. Party Plastic-Free

Let's be honest, no post-college party needs those red Solo cups, which may take [450 years](#) to decompose. So why not use real cups? Whether you're hosting a dinner party or bridal shower, one great way to reduce plastic waste is to simply use real tableware. If you don't have enough, ask friends to bring extras (people tend to care more about food than whether or not the plates match). The downside, of course, is cleanup, but there are even [guides for that!](#) And if you've got a dishwasher, well, you've really got no excuses. If you still feel that the burden of cleanup is too great (or you're serving booze, which might lead to wobbly hands), avoid the plastic tableware and at least opt for [sustainable](#) products instead.

3. Say Bye-Bye to Balloons

Many balloons are made of plastic, and when they get away, they can travel for [thousands of miles](#) before touching down. Some birds mistake them for food, and others mistake them (or their ribbons) for nesting material. "We see this all of the time," says Steve Kress, executive director of [Audubon Project Puffin](#). "One time, I found a ribbon tangled around a puffin in its burrow. It said on the balloon, 'Angry Birds.' Birds aren't the only animals that balloons harm either; they pose dangers to all other manners of wildlife. So, go ahead and ditch the balloons at your next big celebration. And if you're worried about deflating the fun, try some other options. If you're feeling crafty, make [tissue garlands](#) or [paper lanterns](#). And if you're feeling lazy, just buy a banner instead—non-plastic, of course.

4. Take Advantage of Tap Water

Evian. Fuji. Smart Water. They all sound special—but are they really any healthier or tastier than tap? Not really. In most parts of the world with public, potable water, tap is just as safe to drink as the stuff that comes in plastic. It's also often as tasty—[or tastier](#). Globally, we spend more than [\\$100 billion](#) each year on bottled water, a sharp contrast to the pennies you pay to turn on a faucet. Yet another reason to love tap. So how can you take advantage of this incredible public resource? Find a reusable bottle that you love, and don't let it leave your side. If you have trouble finding a place to refill it, check out [WeTap](#) or [Dopper](#), Smartphone tap maps. If you still occasionally fall victim to Big Water's advertising ploys—who *doesn't* want Jennifer Aniston's Smart Water glow?—try to reuse the bottles as much as possible. No one will ever know.

5. Skip the Plastic Straws

Ah, the humble straw: American staple, transporter of sodas and iced coffee, an entertaining bubble machine—and also a major threat to wildlife, as anyone who's seen an [impaled sea turtle](#) can attest. Ridding straws from your life is no easy feat. Americans alone use [500 million](#) of them each day, after all. Most of the time they are provided without consent and thrown out thoughtlessly. But they can also be necessary—especially if you suffer from certain medical conditions.



If you don't need these suckers, don't use them. Tell your server to skip the straws as soon as you sit down at a restaurant, or use a refillable cup at your local coffee shop. And if you do need to use a straw, try a sustainable alternative. There are straws made of [bamboo](#) and [paper](#), [stainless steel](#) and [titanium](#). Heck, there are even [straws made of straw](#)! But my personal favorite is [pasta straws](#). Bloody Mary, anyone?

6. Buy Bulk Foods

Food and packaging containers account for [nearly half](#) of all trash in landfills, according to the EPA, and buying bulk can help stem that stream. So go ahead, instead of picking up that small jar of peanut butter, spring for five pounds of the salty goodness. If you do, you'll save money, trips to the grocery store, and plastic waste. According to [NC State University](#), buying peanut butter in bulk, for example, can save families seven pounds of landfill waste per year. Other items that will yield large savings in plastic waste when bought in bulk include staples such as noodles, rice, and beans, according to [One Green Planet](#).

7. Get Better at Recycling

While everyone knows they should be recycling by now, even the best of us still don't always get it right. Turns out, we recycle only a fraction of the plastic waste we produce, and that's partly due to poor recycling techniques. You do, in fact, need to rinse out your containers, for example. Otherwise they might contaminate plastics around them and end up in a landfill. Also, avoid tossing out recycling in a used plastic bag. What might seem like a smart twofer turns out to be potentially damaging to [recycling machinery](#). And now that [China stopped accepting our recycling](#), try to avoid buying plastics numbered 3-7, which include common food products like single-serving yogurt cups (another reason to buy bulk!). Many U.S. municipalities can no longer recycle them. "People think that they've done their good deed for the day by throwing plastic in the blue bin," says Shilpi Chhotray, the senior communications officer for [Break Free From Plastic](#). But in reality, she says, much of that "recycling" just ends up as trash due to human error.

8. Actually Remember Your Reusable Bag

Look, you probably already have plenty of reusable bags, but the tricky part is remembering to take them anywhere. "Bringing your own bags is a no-brainer, but a lot of people don't do it," Kress says. "And those little plastic bags are a big problem." Here's your solve: Store one in everything you take with you—your purse, backpack, gym bag—and if you drive to the store, in your car. You want bags everywhere. There's just one hard part: When you return from home, don't forget to put them back. And if you're still worried, you'll forget them, just add "reusable bag" to your shopping list.

Take It to the Next Level

If you've already mastered these tips, it might be time to up your plastic-free game. Chhotray calls this the culture of "leveling up." These tips are "a good place to start," she says, "but a terrible place to stop." If your favorite restaurant gives out single-use plastics, for example, ask them to switch to sustainable alternatives. If that doesn't work, try circulating a petition in your community. The next step is to engage at the civil level to put local laws on the books that reduce plastic waste. ([In July, for example, Seattle will enact a ban on plastic straws and cutlery](#)). "Take your practice and get people involved in your cause," she says. "The idea is that we have to move away from individual change to this culture of leveling up."

This article appeared on the National Audubon Society website May 31, 2018, attributed to Benji Jones.





Recap: Audubon Miami Valley Bird Exhibition and Festival

On March 30, 2019 AMV hosted the 8th Student Art Exhibition involving students attending local school districts (K -12). The exhibition emphasized learning about Birds of the Midwest or Birds of the Mississippi Flyways as well as how Climate Change is affecting bird populations and behaviors. There was a total of 180 entries and 6 schools participated. The event also featured live birds from Hueston Woods State Park, a puppet show by puppeteer Chris Rowlands, and several bird activities for students to try.

In Memory: William Henry Thompson III



"A bright light in the birding community has gone dark. Bill Thompson III, the co-publisher and editor of Bird Watcher's Digest was overtaken by pancreatic cancer on March 25, 2019." Bill was the publisher and editor of Bird Watcher's Digest and the author of numerous books on birds and nature. "In addition to his work with the magazine — a family business that was founded by his parents — Bill was the author of The New Birder's Guide to Birds of North America, Bird Homes and Habitats, and other books, and the co-host of the podcast "This Birding Life." A few years ago, he founded the American Birding Expo, which, in 2018, attracted lots of birders and more than 120 exhibitors to Philadelphia. He was also a talented musician. The birds could not have had a better friend or a more influential voice on their behalf."

-Bird Watching Daily

Upcoming Field Trips



Longbeard Prairies at Hueston Woods State Park- Saturday, June 15, 2019

In 2014, the Shady Hollow Longbeards, Preble County's chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, initiated a long-term plan to enhance wildlife habitats on a 14-acre parcel along Hedgerow Road within Hueston Woods State Park. Volunteers eradicated exotic vegetation before planting 34 species of native grasses and wildflowers, and used excavating equipment to improve a vernal pool, which was also planted with native vegetation. Adding signage, a trail system, an observation blind, footbridge, and wildlife nesting structures completed their plan. In 2018, the Longbeards completed a pollinator habitat project on a 5-acre plot at the ODOT's Morning Sun Outpost, just north of the entrance to Hueston Woods. A partner in the Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative, a statewide coalition of organizations working to develop pollinator habitat and to educate Ohioans about the critical importance of pollinators, their objective was to establish a diverse stand of native grasses and wildflowers to benefit resident and migrant pollinators, enhance the property's aesthetic qualities, and eliminate the need to periodically mow idle land. We will meet at the TJ Maxx parking lot (on Locust Street across from McDonald's) at 8:00 am and proceed to the Hedgerow Rd. parking lot on the south side of the grassland wildlife project area in Hueston Woods. The tour will be led by Eric Hollins with assistance from habitat project managers. After a tour of the Hedgerow project area, we will drive to the ODOT facility to visit the pollinator project.

Cox Arboretum- Saturday, September 14, 2019

Part of the Five Rivers Metropark system, Cox Arboretum is a 189-acre facility located on the south side of Dayton. The Arboretum offers 2.5 miles of trails through mature forests and colorful meadows. There is an excellent range of native wildflowers and mature trees in a 100-acre hardwood forest at the rear of the Arboretum. Nine specialty gardens provide inspiration for gardeners wishing to make sustainable plant choices. Our leader for this trip will be experienced horticulturalist Dick Munson. The trip will leave at 7:30



a.m. from the TJ Maxx parking lot (on Locust Street across from McDonald's) for the one-hour drive to the Arboretum. Those wishing to do so may get together for lunch in the Dayton area before returning to Oxford in the afternoon.

Forest Run Metropark – Sunday, October 13, 2019

Forest Run MetroPark, located in Ross Township has a variety of natural landscapes and habitats within 342 acres. Our visit will include the Timberman Ridge and Wildlife Preserve Areas of Forest Run. Highlights of the Timberman Ridge Area include 9.1 miles of natural trails and a spectacular scenic overlook with an observation deck. The Area is currently being restored to a natural landscape, which includes grasslands, prairie, woodlands, wetlands, a stream corridor, bottom-land floodplain, and cold-water springs. Wildlife Preserve Area consists of 82 acres of former farmland with a creek, woods, a prairie, meadows, and a wetland, all of which provide diverse habitat for wildlife. Wildlife expert Sam Fitton will lead our visit to Forest Run. We'll meet at 8:00 a.m. at the TJ Maxx parking lot (on Locust Street across from McDonald's) for the half-hour drive to Forest Run. Pack a picnic lunch or snacks if desired and bring binoculars if possible.

Elk Creek Metropark – Saturday, November 9, 2019

At over 800 acres, Elk Creek MetroPark in Madison Township is the largest park within the Butler County Metroparks system. This beautiful natural setting provides views of the wooded hills and rolling meadows forming the walls of the creek valley. Hiking trails are routed throughout the woods and along Elk Creek, which runs the length of the park. Elk Creek was created in 2016 when a new 456.3-acre parcel of land known as Meadow Ridge was combined with the 352-acre Sebald Park, which had been owned and managed by MetroParks since 2014. We'll meet at 8:00 a.m. at the TJ Maxx parking lot (on Locust Street across from McDonald's) for the 35-minute drive to Elk Creek. Pack a picnic lunch or snacks if desired and bring binoculars if possible.

Brookville Lake Area – Saturday, December 8, 2019

Ornithologist Dr. David Russell will again lead us on a birding tour of the Brookville Reservoir area between Liberty and Brookville, Indiana. We'll visit a number of good spots around Brookville Lake as well as Whitewater State Park, looking for migrating ducks, geese, gulls, sandhill cranes and other species. The group will meet at 7:30 a.m. at the west end of the Wal Mart parking lot (on US 27, north of Oxford). Pack food if desired and bring binoculars if possible.

Upcoming Audubon Miami Valley Programs

Audubon Miami Valley will meet the second Monday of September, October, November and December in the 2nd floor conference room of the Lebanon Citizens National Bank (LCNB) building, 30 West Park Place, Oxford, OH. These meetings are free and open to the public.

May 13, 2019

Presenter - Randy Morgan, Emeritus Insectarium Curator, Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden
"The Leaf-Cutting Ants: Advanced Agricultural Civilization by Instinct"

The social complexity of Leaf Cutting Ants is second only to that of humans. They dominate the Neotropics and nest in a fortress city with millions of task-specialized workers farming fungus for food on freshly cut leaves. Their relentless leaf harvesting behavior stimulate primary plant productivity in nature but also devastates human crops. Come meet our fungus-growing friends and foes: The leaf cutting ants.



Randy holds an M.S. in entomology from the University of Wisconsin. He worked at the Cincinnati Zoo Insectarium for 32 years and is now retired from his position as curator of Invertebrates, Reptiles, and Amphibians. At the Zoo he managed a diverse collection of live insects and other small animals for public education display, developed a world-class exhibit and received significant recognition and awards for his efforts. He has worked extensively with leaf cutting ants in the field, in laboratory observation nests and in



public exhibits for nearly 40 years. Randy loves to share his passion of these incredible insects and other life, animals that propel our living world.

September 9, 2019

Presenter - Hardy Eshbaugh, Department of Biology, Miami University
"Birding in the land of the Aztecs: Mexico Revealed"



The avifauna of Mexico includes approximately a total of 1,118 species. Of these species, 87 are rare or accidental, 10 have been introduced by humans, 108 are endemic, and five more breed only in Mexico though their non-breeding range is larger. Hardy Eshbaugh is a retired professor of Botany who has traveled extensively in Latin America. His interest in birds began at home and in grade school and professionally at Cornell University and Indiana universities.

October 14, 2019

Presenter – Theresa Culley, Department of Biology, University of Cincinnati
"Ornamentals Escaping into the Wild: The Story of the Callery Pear Tree"

Known popularly as the 'Bradford', 'Aristocrat', or 'Cleveland Select' pear tree, the Callery pear (*Pyrus calleryana*) has been rapidly spreading across the US within recent years. We will explore the history of this popular ornamental tree, why it has been spreading, and what can be done now to slow its invasion. Theresa Culley, a Professor and Chair of Biological Sciences at University of Cincinnati, studies the role of ornamental horticulture in plant invasions. A native of California and a graduate of the Ohio State University she chairs the Invasive Plant Assessment Committee of the Ohio Invasive Plants Council and is a member of Ohio Department of Agriculture Invasive Plant Committee.



November 7, 2019

Hefner Lecture Series – Sponsored by Audubon Miami Valley

Presenter – Dr. Kay Holekamp, Department of Integrative Biology, Michigan State University
"A Hyena's Tale"



Each year, Audubon Miami Valley sponsors a lecture at The Hefner Museum of Natural History. This year's lecture will feature Dr. Kay Holekamp at the annual Hefner Lecture on November 7th, 2019. Place and time to be announced. Dr. Kay Holekamp is the University Distinguished Professor of Integrative Biology and Director of Michigan State University's interdisciplinary program in Ecology, Evolutionary Biology & Behavior. Her Hefner Lecture will be "A Hyena's Tale" for an all-ages audience.

November 11, 2019

Presenter – Craig Williamson, Department of Biology, Miami University
"Worldwide warming of lakes: will we sink or swim?"

Climate change is leading to a warmer and wetter world, with more extreme events. What does this mean for the clean, freshwater in lakes that is both essential for life on Earth as we know it, and yet threatened by human activity? Come hear a limnologist's tale of many lakes. Craig Williamson is a global change limnologist serving as the Ohio Eminent Scholar of Ecosystem Ecology at Miami University.



December 9, 2019

Presenter - Jim McCormac

"A Romp through Ohio's Flora and Fauna"



This program will be a pictorial adventure; a wander through Ohio's varied habitats with visits to flora and fauna great and small. We'll look at well-known plants and animals, and obscure species that few have heard of or encountered. Overarching all is the importance of ALL the cogs of the ecological wheel, and the need to protect everything. Jim worked for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for 31 years as a botanist, and later specializing in wildlife diversity projects, especially involving birds. He has authored or coauthored six books, including Birds of



Ohio (Lone Pine 2004); and Wild Ohio: The Best of Our Natural Heritage (Kent State University Press 2009). The latter won the 2010 Ohioana Book award. He is a coauthor of the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II book. Jim writes a column, Nature, for the Columbus Dispatch, and regularly publishes a natural history blog. He has written numerous articles in a variety of publications, and has delivered hundreds of presentations throughout the eastern United States. He was named 2015 Conservation Communicator of the Year by the Ohio League of Sportsmen. Jim is an avid photographer, shooting a range of natural history subjects. He has had hundreds of photos published in various forums.

To see the Audubon Miami Valley Public Calendar
copy this link into your web browser:
<https://tinyurl.com/y5n7y5au>



OUR MISSION

Audubon Miami Valley works to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity.

The Audubon Miami Valley newsletter is published three times a year.

Alexandria Horne is the editor. John Blocher is the proofreader.

Caitlin Stone designed the AMV Meadowlark logo.

The newsletter is printed by Letterman Printing in Oxford on 100% recycled paper.

If you would like to contribute content to the newsletter, please send your content to ahorne@amvohio.org or to Newsletter, P.O. Box 556, Oxford, Ohio 45056

Contribution deadline for the Fall 2019 newsletter is August 1st.

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