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**AMV 2023 OFFICERS**

President  
Neil Poppendeck

Vice President  
Liz Woedl

Treasurer  
Beverly Thomas

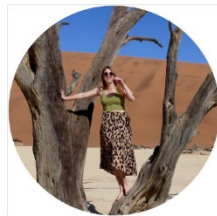
Secretary  
Gail Reynolds

We're happy to send you Audubon Miami Valley's (AMV) Fall newsletter. AMV plans a full line-up of meetings and events this Fall. Find the details both in this newsletter and at our website [audubonmv.org](http://audubonmv.org)

**Rosie Bloom Scholarship Winners**

Each year, the Audubon Miami Valley supported Rosie Bloom scholarship is awarded to a local educator interested in furthering conservation and environmental education. This year's scholarship recipients are:

**Aaron Ettinger** of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. Aaron is a graduate student in Miami University's Advanced Inquiry Program (AIP). Aaron is a sixth-grade science teacher at Litchfield CLC in Akron, Ohio. This summer Aaron traveled to the Galápagos Islands to study the forces of evolutionary, geologic, and social change through work with ECOS, a newly established local Galápagos organization grounded by its start as a program of Ecology Project International.



**Andrea Haugen** of Cincinnati, Ohio. Andrea is a senior animal trainer and educator for the Cat Ambassador Program at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden. She is also a graduate student at Miami University studying conservation biology. This summer, Andrea traveled to Australia, where she "dove" into the conservation and education opportunities of the Great Barrier Reef, the global center of marine biodiversity.

**Miami University Community Hike-A-Thon: Join the Fun**

The Hike-a-Thon is a wonderful family event for all ages with different levels of hikes, activities, and displays from environmental groups. The event celebrates the outdoors and will show off the exciting progress of the Oxford and Miami Trail systems. AMV is excited to participate in this community event once again. We will have binoculars for your use along with an experienced birder in the bird blind to help identify birds.



**Event Details**

Saturday, September 9th  
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
[DeWitt Cabin Trailhead](#)  
4831 Oxford Trenton Road  
Oxford, OH 45056

## MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Marlene Hoffman

Randy Morgan

Beth Davis

Peggy Branstrator

Mark T. Gilmore

Kathryn Yurek

## APPOINTED COMMITTEE CHAIRS

### Advocacy

Peggy Branstrator

### Conservation

Dick Munson

### Education

Libby Birch

Beth Davis

### Field Trips

Eric Hollins

### Finance

Beverly Thomas

### Membership &

### Publications

Alexandria Horne

### Programs

Dan Gladish

### Publicity

Liz Woedl

Contact us

AudubonMV@gmail.com



## Meet AMV's Newest Board Member - Amy Costanzo

We are thrilled to welcome our newest board member, Amy Costanzo. Amy's love for the outdoors began with her upbringing in Wisconsin. She, and her husband Jon, own and manage Quail Ridge Conservation Area (QRCA) near Camden, OH. Their property has been managed extensively for wildlife since 1996. While Amy had always enjoyed seeing birds in nature, she joined countless others who adopted birding as a hobby during the early pandemic years. Amy is excited to bring her passion for conservation and participate in achieving the goals of AMV.

## Audubon Miami Valley's Annual Bird Seed Sale



It's that time again; time for the AMV annual bird seed sale! Attract the birds you love to your yard year-round and support our organization at the same time! Your support of the Audubon Miami Valley Bird Seed Sale is essential to the success of our educational programs and scholarships. You'll also ensure the survival of birds over the winter and have many hours of bird-watching pleasure in the comfort of your own home!

We will be mailing seed order forms and making them available on our website within the next few weeks. See our website at [audubonmv.org](http://audubonmv.org) for more information.

### **Save the Date - Seed Pickup**

Friday, October 13 from 4pm to 6pm

Saturday, October 14 from 9am to 12pm

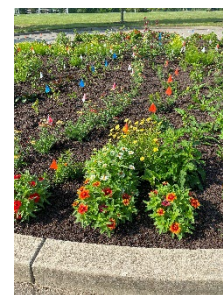
[Shademakers Nursery & Landscape](#)

304 West Collins Street

Oxford, Ohio 45056

## Oxford Community Park Pollinator Garden

A recent AMV project has been a pilot project with the City of Oxford to begin implementation of the city's recently passed Landscape Naturalization Master Plan. Two areas in the Oxford Community Park were converted from turf grass to native plants. One area, near the pool, is now a 900 sq ft pollinator garden and an area near the sand volleyball court is a 1200 sq ft mini-prairie. Audubon Miami Valley funded the plants for the pollinator garden and AMV members helped city staff with planting. Signs at the two areas include mention of AMV.



*The garden in bloom*



*AMV volunteers hard at work*

This is just the most recent effort by AMV to increase native plants in Oxford. Previous efforts include the pollinator garden at Oxford Community Arts Center and memorial trees at Howell Park. Thank you to the amazing volunteers who spent many evenings planting, weeding, and watering! The garden is in full bloom and looks amazing! Be sure to stop by and see this wonderful pollinator garden! Want to create a pollinator garden of your own? Check out the National Audubon Society article [How to Make Your Yard Bird-Friendly](#)



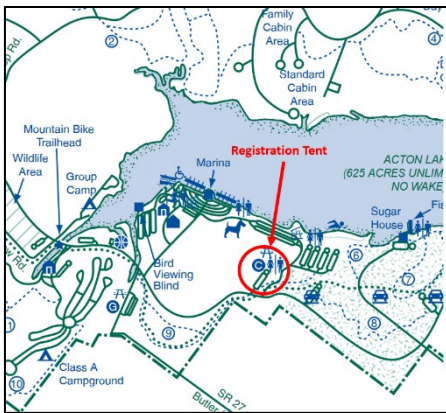
# Fall Volunteer Day at Hueston Woods State Park - Volunteers Needed!

Audubon Miami Valley Volunteer Day at the Hueston Woods State Nature Preserve area known as the Big Woods, will be **Saturday, October 28 from 10am to 12:30pm**. Pizza will be provided.

This area of the preserve is designated as a local Important Bird Area (IBA). AMV adopted this IBA as a stewardship project in 2012. These woods are special because they are a small remnant of the mature Beech-Maple Forest that used to cover much of Ohio. The purpose of our work is to protect the diversity of the woodlands from invasive plants that crowd out the beautiful wildflowers that bloom in April, such as Spring beauty, Dutchman's breeches, and Trilliums, the native shrubs and understory trees such as Spicebush and Pawpaw, and the tree seedlings that regenerate the forest. Wildlife of all kinds, including nesting birds and migratory birds depend on this mature woodland habitat.



Volunteers at Hueston Woods volunteer day



Volunteers should dress for the weather, and for off-trail work: long pants and athletic shoes or boots - no flip-flops or shorts, please! Gloves and tools will be provided. Please bring your own water bottle. We will be hand-pulling and digging invasive plants in the nature preserve. Honeysuckle and garlic mustard are the biggest offenders.



Please register with Gail Reynolds, [greynolds27@gmail.com](mailto:greynolds27@gmail.com) so we know how many pizzas to order! Thank you.

We will be meeting at the Maple Grove Picnic Area. This area is on the west side of the lake near the marina. There will be signs directing you to the registration tent. [Visit our website for more information](#)

## Upcoming Field Trips



Each month (excluding July and August) AMV sponsors a field trip to a regional site of special interest. All are welcome on AMV field trips. Please join us even if you are not an experienced birder. Good walking shoes, personal water supply, insect repellent and sunscreen are recommended for the terrain we may encounter on these outings. More information is available on the events page of our web site [audubonmv.org](http://audubonmv.org). For questions, email AMV field trip coordinator at [eric\\_hollins@hotmail.com](mailto:eric_hollins@hotmail.com).

### **September 16, 2023 – Indian Creek Farm**

Location: 2550 Indian Creek Road, Oxford, OH 45056



Over the past two decades, the [Ann Geddes farm](#) on Indian Creek Road has benefitted from restoration projects to improve and diversify wildlife habitats on this unique property. Sam Fitton will lead this hike. Any bird resident to or visiting Butler County is likely to find a favorite habitat niche within this preserve. To assist human access, at least two golf carts will be available at this event. Please bring a personal lunch if you would like to join us for an informal picnic mid-day. Meet at the destination at **9:00 am**. Look for the AMV flag marking the correct driveway entrance.

[2550 Indian Creek Rd - Google Maps](#)



## **October 1, 2023 – Iverson Forest** (Indiana)

Location: 2349 Airport Road Centerville, IN, 47330



In 1993, John Iverson, Professor Emeritus of biology, Earlham College, began conserving his 76-acre property, which is adjacent to Earlham's old-growth forest (Wildman Woods) and is a critical part of the largest contiguous tract of forest remaining in Wayne County, Indiana. To date, he has planted over 65,000 trees, created 55 wetlands (two-thirds of them dug by hand), militantly fought the battle against invasives, and permanently protected the entire system with a conservation easement. With limited parking on site, we will meet at Cope Environmental Center's south parking lot at **9:00 am** and car-pool to our destination.

[2349 Airport Road - Google Maps](#)

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## **November 18, 2023 – Salamander Run**

Location: 4821 Layhigh Rd, Hamilton, OH 45013



Salamander Run, a MetroParks of Butler County property, features several hiking trails through a variety of prairie and forest habitats. In the fall, this park is occupied by resident and migratory species that may include Red-tailed Hawk, Pileated Woodpecker, Bluebirds, and Cedar Waxwing. Our outing will be led by Randy Morgan, who has developed a unique familiarity with this park and its birdlife. Meet at the destination at **9:00 am**.

[4821 Layhigh Road - Google Maps](#)

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## **December 2, 2023 – Brookville Lake Area**

Location: 3170 South Old Dunlapville Road Liberty, IN, 47353



Ornithologist Dr. David Russell will once again lead us on a birding tour of the Brookville Reservoir area between Liberty and Brookville, Indiana, visiting several good spots around Brookville Lake as well as Whitewater State Park, looking for migrating ducks, geese, gulls, sandhill cranes and other species. The destination location is the Dunlapville Boat Ramp parking area at Brookville Reservoir. Please arrive at **8:00 am**. Please bring a personal lunch if you would like to join us for an informal picnic mid-day.

[3170 South Old Dunlapville Road - Google Maps](#)

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## **Upcoming Audubon Miami Valley Programs**

AMV programs will be held on the following dates at 7:30 PM. Be sure to view each program description to see if it will be held in-person or virtually. These programs are free, open to the public, and typically run until 9:00 PM.

**Meeting location:** our in-person programs will be held in the upstairs Community Room at Lebanon Citizens National Bank (LCNB) located at 30 West Park Place in Oxford. An elevator is available if needed.

### **September 11, 2023 - Preble County Historical Society: Present and Future**

Presenter: Lisa White

Location: In-person at Lebanon Citizens National Bank (LCNB)



Lisa White

Lisa moved from the Bellbrook/Centerville area to Preble County in 2014. She has been married to her husband of 22 years and has 2 children, Jake, who is a Sophomore at Miami University studying Media and Communications, and Tatum, who recently graduated with a degree in English Education. Lisa started working part-time for the Preble County Historical Society in 2020 and quickly moved to a full-time position. She is currently the Executive Director of Business, Marketing, and Education. During the program, Lisa will tell us about what the Preble County Historical Society is working on and what they plan for the future.



**October 9, 2023 – Beavers, Deer, Native and Invasive Plants, in the Great Miami River Riparian Habitat**

Presenter: Janet Deardorff

Location: In-person at Lebanon Citizens National Bank (LCNB)



*Janet Deardorff*

Janet Deardorff is a PhD candidate at Miami University in the Ecology, Evolution, and Environmental Biology program and is in the final year of her PhD studies. She earned her Bachelor of Science at Ohio Northern University in Environmental Science and Field Biology and a masters in Botany at Miami University. During her time at Miami, she has worked under Dave Gorchov and Thomas Crist looking at beaver habitat use at multiple spatial scales in Ohio. Her master's work on beavers' use of Amur honeysuckle spurred her interest to continue throughout her PhD work to study beavers and the plants they eat. Currently, her research focuses on why beavers are using certain habitats in Ohio, as well as beaver and white-tailed deer herbivory interactions on Amur honeysuckle and native woody species in riparian areas.

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**November 13, 2023 – Solar Cookers: A Simple Technology Providing Extraordinary Benefits in the World's Poorest Regions**

Presenter: Ruth Holton-Hodson

Location: Virtual only via Zoom



*Ruth Holton-Hodson*

Ruth Holton-Hodson spent her 35-year career as a consumer and health policy advocate serving in executive positions in government, philanthropy, and non-profits. Ruth spent almost 10 years at The California Wellness Foundation as a Special Projects Director and then Director of Public Policy. Prior to that, she served as Executive Director for California Common Cause where she ran two successful statewide initiative campaigns on campaign finance and ethics reforms. Now retired, Ruth serves as Vice President of the Board of Solar Cookers International and the Vice Chair of the Board of The California Budget and Policy Center, works with several non-profits in a volunteer capacity, and is an artist. View the events section of our website for more information on how to attend this digital event.

<http://www.audubonmv.org/calendar>

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**December 11, 2023 – To be announced** (check [audubonmv.org](http://www.audubonmv.org) for more information)





#### **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. Caitlin Stone designed the AMV Meadowlark logo. The paper version of the newsletter is printed by The Oxford Copy Shop on 100% recycled paper.

If you would like to contribute content to the newsletter, please send your content to [audubonmv@gmail.com](mailto:audubonmv@gmail.com) or to Newsletter, P.O. Box 556, Oxford, Ohio 45056. Contribution deadline for the Winter 2023 newsletter is December 1<sup>st</sup>.

**We seek to shape a culture in which the violation of nature is socially, politically, and morally unacceptable.**

