



Greater Mohican Audubon News

YOUR LINK TO TOMORROW'S ENVIRONMENT

www.audubon.cjb.net

FALL 2006

GMAS CALENDAR

***Sat. Sept. 9** 9AM-11AM. Beginner's Bird Walk at Secrest Arboretum, 1680 Madison Avenue, Wooster, Ohio. Meet at Visitor Pavilion.

***Sep. 15 – Nov.15** Fourth annual Fall Hiking Spree. See our website at <http://www.geocities.com/greatermohican/> for a registration form and article in this issue for more information.

***Sat. Sep. 23** 9AM-11AM. Beginner's Bird Walk at Byers Woods, located 4 miles south of Ashland, just east of State Route 60 on CR 1754. Meet in the parking lot. Monthly meeting of the GMAS Board will be held after the walk.

***Sun. Oct. 8** midnight-midnight. Big Sit—24 hours of counting birds at Malabar Farm. See article in this issue for more information

***Sat. Oct. 14** 9AM-11AM. Beginner's Bird Walk at Malabar Farm, located near Pleasant Hill Lake on Bromfield Road in Lucas. Meet at the Gift Shop at the Big House.

***Sat. Oct. 28** 9AM-11AM. Beginner's Bird Walk at Byers Woods, located 4 miles south of Ashland, just east of State Route 60 on CR 1754. Meet in the parking lot. Monthly meeting of the GMAS Board will be held after the walk.

***Sat. Nov. 11** 9AM-11AM. Beginner's Bird Walk at Secrest Arboretum, 1680 Madison Avenue, Wooster, Ohio. Meet at Visitor Pavilion.

***Sat. Nov. 25** 9AM-11AM. Beginner's Bird Walk at Byers Woods, located 4 miles south of Ashland, just east of State Route 60 on CR 1754. Meet in the parking lot. Monthly meeting of the GMAS Board will be held after the walk.

***Sat. Dec. 9** 9AM-11AM. Beginner's Bird Walk at Malabar Farm, located near Pleasant Hill Lake on Bromfield Road in Lucas. Meet at the Gift Shop at the Big House.

***Sat. Dec. 16** Ashland Christmas Bird Count. Call Tim Leslie at 419-289-2626 for more information.

***Sat. Dec. 23** No bird walk nor monthly GMAS meeting this month. Merry Christmas!!

GMAS'S INCREDIBLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

While preparing the year-end reports, board members were stunned by the total number of accomplishments accrued by our organization. Encompassing a huge geographic district, Greater Mohican Audubon Society had about 27 extremely active local members. Part of the goals for '05-06 was to increase membership, and we have already nearly doubled membership. The following is a complete list of the goals accomplished and our major goals as outlined for next year as prepared by a majority of the Board of Directors in July of 2006.

Accomplishments, 05-06

- Partnered with Malabar Farm State Park and Richland County Master Gardeners to plant native prairie garden—paid by local grant funds
- Oversaw bluebird trails at Byers Woods, Jamison Creek, Malabar Farm, and Pleasant Hill
- Monthly birdwalks at Byers Woods, bimonthly at Secrest Arboretum and Malabar Farm
- Planning committee Mohican Wildlife Weekend 2006, bird walks, spotting scopes and butterfly program.
- Planning committee and spotting scope volunteers at Shreve Migration Sensation 2006
- Partnered with WCAS and Firelands Audubon on several field trips
- Continued partnership with Ashland County Park District and Secrest Arboretum
- Numerous programs on bird i.d., butterfly gardening, backyard bird feeding and bats.
- Bird-a-thon '06—112 species
- Christmas and summer bird counts, Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas
- Annual picnic
- Speakers—Mary Kowalchik, Casey Tucker, Don Plant and Cheryl Harner
- Volunteers at Malabar Farm
- Programs in schools, nursing homes, WNCO radio, OARDC, Central Farm and Garden, Mohican Wildlife
- Hiking Spree '05
- New 3'x4' A-frame signs to advertise GMAS at events
- Memberships in Ohio Ornithological Society and Ohio Bluebird Society
- Conducted surveys of species requested by Ashland Parks District, Wetlands at Rt. 250 and Blackfork
- Used grant to pay appraisal of wetland at Rt. 250.
- Website reactivated and updated
- Received collaborative grant to purchase laptop and data projector for educational purposes
- Extensive activism on behalf of Rt. 250 wetlands. Grant to pay for land appraisal, expert botanist brought in, Level 3 wetland declared due to rare plant species: *Acorus americanus*

Accomplished, One-Year Goals

- Revisited membership categories and membership form
- Continued work with Malabar Farm to develop bird survey
- Continued partnering with Shreve Migration Sensation, Mohican Wildlife Weekend, and Ashland County Park District
- Continued monthly and bimonthly birdwalks
- Birdathon 06

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ELECTION RESULTS

July marked a new year for Greater Mohican Audubon. Year-end reports were due and a new board took over leadership roles. We would be remiss if we did not acknowledge the handiwork and leadership of **Dr. Louise Fleming**, a founding member of this Audubon chapter as well as the inaugural president. Louise, who will continue as the Ashland county representative has guided the course for GMAS' many years of growth and success. Be sure to read the news item covering the goals set and met for the 2005-06 year. Our accomplishments have been many thanks to the hard work of a core group of nature loving enthusiasts.

Our 2006-07 GMAS Board has been posted to the website, and also on the cover of this newsletter. Most are familiar faces, having served in the past. Our secretary is a new and welcome addition to our board. **Jean Taddie** teaches technology in real life, and brings terrific skills and abilities to our board. **Dr.**

Richard Stoffer, remains as our Treasurer and one of our favorite field guides, bringing his biology experience to the field. **Sam Weyrick** moves from Secretary to Vice President, and will continue to work goodwill with Ashland park district and Byer's Woods. Yours truly, Cheryl Harner, has served as technology chair (web-rat) adds the additional duties as President. The plan for 2006-07 is much like that of the past; Let good people do good work educating and offering programs to our community, and have a great time on field trips. The main reason folks continue to join GMAS is for the camaraderie as well a chance to learn from some fantastic bird, butterfly, dragonfly, reptile and botany fans. Not much that flies, creeps, crawls or grows is left un-inspected on our outings. Hope this is the year you will join the fun. See you in the field!

—Cheryl Harner
President, GMAS

ANNUAL SUMMER BIRD COUNT

Three birdwatchers from the Ashland area drove the roads and walked the fields June 7th thru June 21st. The three observers spent a total of 71 hours in the field and watching their feeders. We use the Ashland Christmas Bird Count Circle for this count, which is 15 miles in diameter, with the center being the "S" curve on Ohio 511 south of Ashland. Those participating in the count were Gary Cowell Jr., Louise Fleming, and Tim Leslie.

This was the seventh Summer Bird Count for Ashland; we use these records to watch the trends of the nesting birds in our area. We added six new species to our list of 125 species seen on this count over the seven-year period. They

were Hooded Merganser, Bald Eagle, Common Nighthawk, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Blue-winged Warbler, and Purple Finch. There were a total of 102 species reported this year, with a total of 5956 individual birds. Most species had a near or above average count this year. The ones that were below average this year were Double-crested Cormorant, American Kestrel, Wild Turkey, Northern Bobwhite, American Crow, Tree Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, and Bobolink.

For more information about the local count, contact Tim Leslie at 419-289-2626, or write to the Greater Mohican Audubon Society at P.O. Box 907, Ashland, Ohio 44805 or visit our web site at www.geocities.com/greatermohican

GMAS'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS

(continued from page 1)

- Continued educational presentations
- Continued recruiting new members (+20), board members, volunteers, officers
- Four programs, three newsletters
- Membership development— new officers and members

One-Year Goals

- Website goals: ad-free site, establish a domain; www.gmasohio.org
- Continue to enlarge web presence- members photo form
- Develop sponsorships for bird-a-thon
- Name in public—Richland Co. and Holmes Co.
- Clean Ohio grant for wetlands
- Continue Mohican Wildlife Weekend
- Continue Shreve Migration Sensation
- Seminar at Byers Woods— promote grasslands/Bobolinks
- Advocate for Mohican State Forest
- Web site hosting for advocacy of Mohican State Forest
- Offer a handicap accessible bird walk once a year.

FALL HIKING SPREE

Hikers must send in completed registration forms and money for shields and sticks by November 30th to GMAS, P.S. Box 907, Ashland, Ohio 44805. Shield and sticks may be picked up at the following locations AFTER December 15th:

- Richland County - Gorman Nature Center, 2295 Lexington Avenue, Mansfield 419-884-3464
- Ashland County - Ashland Soul & Water Conservation, 804 U.S. 250 E., Ashland 419-281-7645
- Wayne County – Wooster City Parks Department, 241 S. Bever Street, Wooster 330-263-5207

Registration forms can be found at the GMAS web site at www.geocities.com/greatermohican.

ASHLAND CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Please join area birders on the Ashland Christmas Bird Count on Saturday, December 16th. No matter what your birding skill level, please consider participating. It's fun and we can use your help. For more information, call Tim Leslie at 419-289-2626.

GREATER MOHICAN AUDUBON TAKES A LEADERSHIP ROLE

Focusing on conservation and awareness, many of Greater Mohican Audubon's members have taken a leadership role in the preservation of Mohican forest. A recent issue involves Columbia Gas and their clear-cut rights-of-way throughout the forest and out lying areas. Columbia has maintained it needs larger clear cuts to monitor transfer lines and well-heads situated within Mohican State Park and Forest. Several environmental groups have banded together to dissuade Columbia, sighting the uniqueness of the unbroken forest situated on a ravine and centered on a hemlock gorge. Steve McKee, Director of Richland County Parks, fears "Columbia's proposal would not only eliminate a great deal of prime wildlife habitat, but extensive forest fragmentation would allow for mass invasions of

non-native species like multi-flora rose, garlic mustard, starlings and nest parasitic cowbirds. The Mohican that is one of the richest biological treasures in Ohio would be changed forever."

A local organization named Mohican Protection Group, Inc. has been formed to spear head the movement to protect Mohican from this and future threats. The GMAS website has a page dedicated to Mohican and suggestions for being actively involved in the preservation of the last of the large forests in mid-Ohio. See www.geocities.com/greatermohican for more details or call Steve McKee at Gorman Nature Center 419-884-3764 to ask how you can help.

FUN AND SUCCESSFUL OWL PROGRAM AND GMAS PICNIC

Two Audubon events were well attended in the first week of August. Owl-Pollousa, held at Gorman Nature Center had 97 people in the audience enjoying the "Got Owls?" power-point program presented by Julie Davis and Jen Sauter of Delaware. After the program many people enjoyed viewing live owls from the Ohio Bird Sanctuary on display. There were also owl "skins" and owl pellets to aid in the educational process. The many children in attendance seemed to especially enjoy these.

The GMAS annual picnic was held at Malabar farm on Sunday August 6. Thirty-one people gathered on the lawn across from the new Visitor's Center and enjoyed chicken and many varieties of salads, side dishes and desserts as we shared potluck. Certificates were awarded to Gary Cowell and Tim Leslie for over "500 hours for service" in the last year. Past-president Dr. Louise Fleming received a plaque commemorating her 7 years of service as GMAS' Founding President.

The weather cooperated with plenty of sunshine as the group took a bird walk and enjoyed an array of butterflies and dragonflies as well.



*On 8/8/06, Dr. Louise Fleming was recognized for 7 years of service as GMAS' Founding President
Photo by Cheryl Harner*

THE BIG SIT – OCTOBER 8TH

Please join us for the 14th Annual International Big Sit as GMAS Ace Birders spend 24 hours sitting in a 17-foot circle counting birds. We start at midnight on Sunday, October 8th in front of the Bailey Farm Bicentennial Barn, just across Pleasant Valley Road from the Malabar Farm Inn, which is just west of St. Rt. 603. Help us detect more than the 47 bird species we tallied last year. For more information, contact Tim Leslie at 419-298-2626.

RECORD BREAKING BIRD-A-THON

Three members of the Ace Birders broke last year's record 111 species on Sat. May 20th during the GMAS annual bird-a-thon. The team of Tim Leslie, Gary Cowell Jr., and Su Snyder tallied 112 species, including a late Redhead, 10 Short-billed Dowitchers and a Black Tern. Areas birded were located in all four Counties served by the GMAS—Ashland, Richland, Holmes, and Wayne.

GMAS & FIRELANDS AUDUBON SOCIETY OUTING

A joint field trip to Sheldon Marsh with Firelands and Greater Mohican Audubon Societies on May 21st was an enjoyable outing. Many warblers, including Canada Warbler, were tallied during the visit. A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was also a real treat. Dean Sheldon, who's family was the previous owner of the property, and Gary Obermiller, who currently works at Sheldon, shared some history of the property.

THRUSH WALK

Gary Cowell Jr. led a group of nine birders on a walk at Mohican State Forest on the evening of June 9th. All three thrushes that the group was hoping for were found: Veery, Hermit Thrush, and Wood Thrush. An added bonus was a Winter Wren that flew up and perched about 20 feet away from the group and sang for so long that everyone put down their binoculars and were talking and enjoying the moment. Then a Carolina Wren chased him from his perch and took over the singing for a nice comparison of two great wrens.

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MEMBERSHIP

GREATER MOHICAN AUDUBON SOCIETY

Chapter Code S72

The GMAS membership offers local newsletter and events and helps us to fund our programs. Each new Chapter Supporter will receive a free nametag to wear to chapter functions.

- Chapter Supporter plus National Audubon Society \$30 - 1 yr. Introductory rate
- Chapter Supporter \$10 - Annual Fee
- Chapter Supporter plus Donation \$30 - Donation - get 1-year chapter supporter membership
(Receive a free GMAS T-shirt Indicate Size: M L XL)

Make checks payable to Greater Mohican Audubon Society.

- Check one: I prefer to be notified about the newsletter by email.
 I prefer to receive the newsletter by mail.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, & ZIP _____

Phone No. _____

Email Address _____

- I DO I DO NOT want to receive mailings from National Audubon Society.

Mail membership form to: GMAS, P. O. BOX 907, Ashland, OH 44805

MISSION
 Greater Mohican Audubon Society (GMAS) is dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of birds and other wildlife through environmental education and the conservation and restoration of habitat.

P.O. BOX 907 • ASHLAND, OH 44805

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