



Friends of the Gorman Nature Center Newsletter

Richland County Park District

Spring 2017 Vol 36, No 1

Gorman Nature Center Calendar of Events - Spring 2017

Wed	Mar 1	9 & 10	Moms & Kids (For parents and their pre-school children, sessions 9-10 and 10-11 am, each-and-every Wednesday.) See page 3 for details. (AK & JL)
Sat	Mar 4	9-12 pm	Invasive Plant Identification & Removal Workshop! See page 5 for details! (KB)
Sat	Mar 11	8:30 am	Breakfast w/ the Birds - meet at GNC. Call 419-884-3764 for details. (JL)
Sat	Mar 11	10:00 am	Creative Writing in the Outdoors! Registration required! (AK)
Sat	Mar 11	12-4 pm	GNC Junior Naturalist Series - Surviving the Winter! (AK)
Sat	Mar 18	All Day	Shreve Migration Sensation - for details see: www.happypages.com/migration
Thu	Mar 30	8:30 pm	The Night Sky - a monthly telescope program at GNC - only if the sky is clear. (JL/SM)
Sat	Apr 8	7:30 am	Birds & Breakfast Bird Walk - meet at GNC. (JL)
Sat	Apr 8	10-1 pm	Gorman Nature Center Nature Journaling Club! A new activity for outdoor fun, learning, and camaraderie! See page 3 for details! (KP)
Thu	Apr 20	1:30 pm	Spring Nature Walk for Seniors (AK, KB, JL or SM)
Sat	Apr 22	9-12 pm	Invasive Species Removal Workshop (Garlic Mustard) - meet at GNC. (KB)
Sat	Apr 22	10:00 am	Creative Writing in the Outdoors! Registration required! (AK)
Sat	Apr 22	12-4 pm	GNC Junior Naturalist Series - Surviving the Winter! Registration required! (AK)
Fri	Apr 28	9:00 pm	The Night Sky - monthly telescope program at GNC - only if the sky is clear. (JL)
F-S	Apr 28-30		Mohican Wildlife Weekend - a variety of nature hikes and programs throughout the "Mohican Area" all weekend - see page 5 or www.mohicanwildlifeweekend.com
Thu	May 4	3:30-5 pm	Animal Feeding Days (Help care for the animals each Thursday, 3:30-5:00 p.m., from May 1st – October 31st, each-and-every Thursday.) See page 5 for details. (AK)
Wed	May 10	6:00 pm	Frogs & Fairytales! Learn to identify frogs by call and appearance. Watch a movie about frogs! Fun for the whole family! See page 3 or call 419-884-3764 for details! (AK)
Sat	May 13	7:30 am	Birds & Breakfast Bird Walk - Migration! - meet at GNC. (JL)
Sat	May 13	11-3 pm	4th Annual GNC Rock & Fossil Day! - See page 5 for details!
Thu	May 18	1:30 pm	Spring Nature Walk for Seniors (AK, KB, JL or SM)
S-S	May 20-21		Magee Marsh Lake Erie Bird Watching Weekend! - Call 419-884-3764 for details! (JL/AK/KB)
Sat	May 27	9-12 pm	Invasive Species Removal Workshop (Garlic Mustard) - meet at GNC. (KB)
Tue	May 30	9:30 pm	The Night Sky - monthly telescope program at GNC - only if the sky is clear. (JL)
F-S	June 2-3		Time & Optics 5th Annual Optics Fling - Call 330-674-0210 for details!
S-S	June 3-4		Richland Lithic & Lapidary Society Gem, Mineral, Jewelry, Bead & Fossil Show @ The Richland County Fairgrounds: www.rlls.webs.com
Sat	June 10	9-12 pm	Invasive Species Removal Workshop (Wild Parsnip & Teasel) - meet at GNC. (KB)
Thu	June 15	1-3 pm	Creative Writing in the Outdoors - 10 week series. See page 3 for details. (AK)
Sat	June 17	7:30 am	Birds & Breakfast Bird Walk - meet at GNC. (JL)
Thu	June 22	1:30 pm	Summer Nature Walk for Seniors (AK, KB, JL or SM)
Mon	June 26	9:30 pm	The Night Sky - monthly telescope program at GNC - only if the sky is clear. (JL)
S-S	Aug 5-6	All Day	3rd Annual Richland County Park District Pollinator Festival

All programs free to the public. (AK = Amanda Kriner, KB = Kyle Bailey, JL = Jason Larson, SM = Steve McKee, KP = Kate Peresie)

Green Newsletter

If you would prefer an email version of the newsletter to save paper and postage, please email us at gormannaturecenter@gmail.com. Thanks.

2016 Mansfield Christmas Bird Count

The first question about a Christmas Bird Count is usually, "How was the weather?" Weather plays the primary role in the outcome of most bird counts. Although the winter of 2016-17 has been very mild, the days leading up to the December 17, 2016 Mansfield CBC were bitterly cold. Any standing water was completely frozen except where some ducks were able to keep a small open patch. Even the rivers were about 80% frozen. Things warmed up the night before the count, but a constant drizzle of rain on the frozen roads made for the slickest roads I can ever remember for a CBC. Several of us who were searching for owls at 5:30 am ended up questioning our sanity. "What am I doing on this dangerous road!"

As would be expected with the weather, we had fewer participants and fewer birds— especially waterfowl. We went from a record 1000 American Coots in 2015 to a single bird in 2016. For only the second time in 26 years, we didn't find a single gull. Last year we had 1,502 gulls of four different species!

Most years there are several species competing for the honor of "bird-du-jour", but this year there was nothing that out of the ordinary. There were no new species for this year's count. The best bird this year was one that didn't show up. A rare winter **Ovenbird** had been at a Mansfield feeder for several weeks, but disappeared two days before the count. You will see it listed as a "count week" bird. **Cheryl Harner** found 5 **Snow Buntings**, for only the third record in 30 years.

The only species with a high count this year was the **Black Vulture**, a bird that has been expanding its range rapidly in northern Ohio. Perhaps you have noticed the flock that has been near State Route 13 north of Bellville most of the winter. We tied the high count on **Winter Wrens** with a count of 2.

Finally ... for **40 years** I have had the privilege of being the compiler and participant for the Mansfield Christmas Bird Count. I have had the delight of seeing



Ovenbird

most of the **134 bird species** we have counted over the years. It has been wonderful contacting and interacting with the **187 field workers** and **148 feeder watchers** over the 40 years.

The **new compiler** for the Mansfield CBC will be **Jason Larson** ... but I will keep participating and counting- so it will be good to see you next year!

thanks,
Steve McKee

At the end of the day we had **69 species**. Our count average for the 1980's was 61.4, 1990's was 67.6, 2000's was 69.2, and for the 2010's so far the average is 74.8.



Black Vulture

This was the **56th** Mansfield Christmas Bird Count. December 17, 2016. 5:45 am to 5:30 pm and 6:30-7:00 pm. Temperature 29-39 F. Wind S, 3-12 mph. 2-3 inches of snow on ground. Still water mostly frozen, and moving water 80% frozen. AM & PM overcast and light rain. 16 observers in 9 field parties plus 37 observers at feeders. Total party hours: 50; 28.5 on foot, 21.5 by car, plus 97 hours spent at feeders and 5 hours owling. Total party miles: 348; 13 on foot, 335 by car, plus 40 miles owling. A total of 134 species have been seen over the 56 years. The highest species count was 84, found in 2015. The 2017 Mansfield CBC is scheduled for Saturday, December 16.

A hearty thanks to all those who participated in the **56th** Mansfield Christmas Bird Count: **Field Workers**– Kyle Bailey (2), Gary Cowell (9), David Fisher *, Raymond Fisher *, Howard Gratz (31), Cheryl Harner (9), Jason Larson (4), Chris Laux (27), Steve McKee (40) (compiler), Atlee Miller (3), Karen Pryor *, Hannah Pryor *, Merrill Tawse (37), Albert Troyer (12), Sarah Troyer (5), Andy Troyer (8)

Feeder Watchers– Altman family *, Constance Au (31), Jeannie Auxter (23), Hannah Beam (5), Rhonda Berry (2), Ann Brown (10), Irene Darrow (18), Jan Ferrell (15), Georgeann Fistek (18), Bill Flanagan (7), Larry Gatton (27), Bruce Gorrell (4), Sue Hoffer (10), Dean Homerick (22), April Jackson (11), Gary Jones *, Bob Kline *, Dee Lorentz (8), Pat McGinty (7), Susie Muth (11), Nunn family *, John Precup (3), Ron Reed (34), Virginia Roquemore *, Heidi Sieving (4), Eva Smith (30), David Spain (11), Dick & Sandy Spayde (27), Janet Swartz (4), Jean Taddy (3), Tom Tappan *, Evelyn Thomas (11), Roger Troutman (30), Kerry VanKeuren (12), John Workman *
(# of years participating)
* = first-time participant

-Continued on page 6

GNC Junior Naturalist Series

Saturdays - June - September

This series of programs will cover topics that will help young naturalists begin their journey towards a greater understanding of our natural world. Watch the summer newsletter or call 419-884-3764 for additional details.

FROGS & FAIRYTALES

Wednesday, May 10 - 6:00 p.m.

Bring your pillows and blankets at 6:00 pm to watch a familiar frog fairy tale inside the nature center before we explore outside to look for real frogs in the ponds! If you are interested in arriving after the movie is over for the "frog hunt" only, we will venture outside at 7:30 pm. Call GNC to find out more about the movie or for details about the rest of the program!

CREATIVE WRITING IN THE OUTDOORS

10 week series - Thursdays from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. June 15th - August 24th, 2017 - Ages 10-18

This class will be a chance for kids who are interested in getting their creative juices flowing! It will be great opportunity for students who love to write and want more practice, as well as students who don't usually enjoy classroom style writing projects, to get outside and do something fun. We will use nature as an inspiration for building stories, creating poems, expanding vocabulary and more! Students should dress for the weather as each session will be outside and bring their own writing journals and other writing materials. There is no cost for this program, but registration is required as there will be a limit on class size. Please call GNC at 419-884-3764 to register or if you have any questions.

Gorman Nature Center Nature Journaling Club

Saturday, April 8 - 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Calling all Artists, Wannabe Artists and Nature Lovers in and around Richland County! You're invited to join a new group -- the Gorman Nature Center Nature Journaling Club -- for outdoor fun, learning, and camaraderie. The plan is to meet every other Saturday morning at various outdoor locations to draw and write in our journals. We will mix it up. A little nature study, a little sketching, a little hiking, maybe a little technique instruction, a little poetry, a little eating together, a little more sketching, etc. We will share with and learn from each other. Our first meeting is Saturday, April 8th, 10:00 - 1:00, at GNC. In your backpack: Bring some basic drawing/writing supplies, a clipboard or folder to hold your paper (if not using a bound journal), your lunch, and something to sit on (such as a garbage bag) to protect you from damp ground. Parents are encouraged to participate with (and monitor) children who have a genuine interest in nature drawing. You can sign up for this through Just Walk Richland at Meetup.com (<https://www.meetup.com/JustWalkRichland/events/238093433/>) or contact Kate Peresie on Facebook.

THE NIGHT SKY

Thu., Mar. 30 [8:30 p.m.], Fri., Apr. 28 [9:00 p.m.],
Tue., May 30 [9:30 p.m.] & Mon., Jun. 26 [9:30 p.m.]

Come learn a bit about the moon and stars, view some constellations and planets, take home a free star chart and have all of your astronomical questions answered. Guests should be able to view spectacular constellations, a planet or two, (like Jupiter or Saturn) and maybe even a few galaxies! Telescopes and binoculars will be available for use, but please feel free to bring your own. These events will be held ONLY if the sky is clear. If the program is canceled, please inquire about our astronomy email list and additional program information. What could be more fun than an evening of astronomy at Gorman Nature Center? Participants will meet at the GNC visitor center.

GNC MOMS & KIDS

Wednesdays - 9:00 & 10:00 a.m.

Join us each-and-every Wednesday for GNC's Mom's & Kids program! Each weekly program is designed for parents and their pre-school aged children. There are two, identical sessions, one from 9:00-10:00 a.m. and one from 10:00-11:00 a.m. Sessions are free and open to the public. Program content varies from week-to-week, focuses on a nature-related topic and is delivered in a manner appropriate to pre-school aged children. Prior to each session, we send out an update to let parents know what the upcoming session will be about, remind kids to bring nature-related show-and-tell items, what to wear, etc. For more information or to inquire about being added to our email listing, please call 419-884-3764.

Friends of Gorman Nature Center

Support the Friends of Gorman Nature Center

Supporting the Friends of GNC is an investment.

Donations and sponsorships from the Friends of Gorman Nature Center are vital for sustaining the excellent opportunities that our staff offers to the public.

Schools

FOGNC donations allow the RCPD to offer free educational programs for schools in Richland County year round. The GNC staff receives field trips at the nature center and will also travel to schools to teach in-class.

Public

FOGNC funds assist in maintaining the GNC trails and the B&O Bike Trail for public enjoyment year round. Our staff also offers over 100 programs every year to the public free of charge. These programs include excellent opportunities for educational field trips and lectures from experts in their fields. Without FOGNC sponsors we would not be able to provide these unparalleled free opportunities to the public.

Conservation

FOGNC donations are also used to protect and maintain park district land. The RCPD's desire is to keep our land in pristine condition for the enjoyment of the public for years to come.

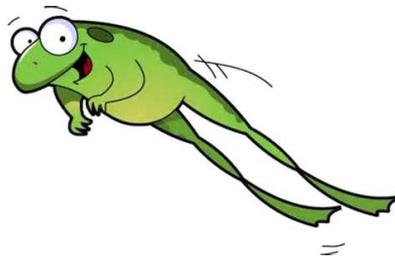
The Richland County Park District is dedicated to introducing and interpreting our region's natural heritage to the citizens of Richland County.

The Richland County Park District operates two primary facilities: The Gorman Nature Center and the Richland B&O Bike Trail.

Both of these properties are supported by funds from the Friends of the Gorman Nature Center which is a 501(c)(3) non-profit.

HOP TO IT!

Become a Richland County Park District Volunteer Today!!



With all of the land, trails and activities that the RCPD oversees, it is impossible to do everything without the help of our amazing crew of dedicated volunteers. If you are willing to volunteer your time and talent with us then we would love to have you join our volunteer family. RCPD volunteers have flexible hours as well as a variety of duties to choose from, including docents, program presenters, indoor and outdoor maintenance, trail work, invasive species removal, nature center greeters, special events and much more!

Call us at 419-884-3764 or email us at: gormannaturecenter@gmail.com for more information!

GNC Rock & Fossil Day!

Saturday, May 13, 11 am - 3 pm

Spend the day here at GNC learning all about fossils, minerals, rocks and geology! Who knows what kind of amazing things you might see! Bring your rocks and fossils for identification! Visit all of the displays filled with geological wonders! There might even be a few things to purchase! Free stuff for kids! Join Tom Kottyan at 12:00 for a presentation on Fossil Ammonites, too! This event is sponsored by the Richland County Park District and the Richland Lithic and Lapidary Society.

Animal Feeding Days

Thurs., May 4 - Thurs., Oct. 26 from 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Have you ever wondered about how we take care of all of the GNC educational animals? If so, then join us each-and-every Thursday for Animal Feeding Day! GNC has over 40 native animals, used for display and educational purposes, and it takes a lot of work to keep them happy and healthy. This is an opportunity for kids of all ages to get up-close-and-personal with all of our animals. Participants will help with the feeding of the animals, assist with cage cleaning and changing water bowls and much more. This is also an excellent chance for some hands-on time with snakes, turtles, frogs, toads and salamanders. For more information call GNC at 419-884-3764.

Invasive Species Removal Workshops

Sat., April 22, Sat., May 27, Sat., June 10
from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - All Dates

Are you interested in learning more about the non-native, invasive plants in our area and how to combat them? A short informational session, with examples of invasives you might encounter in our area, will be followed by some hands-on invasive removal in our fields and prairies. Our spring workshop sessions will focus on the removal of garlic mustard, wild parsnip and common teasel. Extra pruners and shovels will be needed. Bring work gloves! Call 419-884-3764 for details!



A celebration of wildlife, habitat, heritage, and natural history.

April 28-30 2017

Mark your calendars

For the 16th Annual

Mohican Wildlife Weekend

www.MohicanWildlifeWeekend.com

Eleven program sites:

Gorman Nature Center, Ohio Bird Sanctuary,
Mohican State Park & Resort, Mohican State Park Lodge,
Mohican Outdoor School, Mohican Memorial State Forest,
Malabar Farm State Park, Lowe-Volk Nature Center,
Pleasant Hill Lake Park, Charles Mill Lake Park,
Wolf Creek Grist Mill

Many programs listed on the website!

Gorman Nature Center sponsored events:

Saturday:

Guided Spring Nature Hike!, 8 am, Kyle Bailey
Attracting Pollinators w/ Native Plants!, 10 am, Jason Larson
Nature's Movers and Shakers!, 12 pm, Amanda Kriner
Hands-on Animals!, 2 pm, GNC Staff & Volunteers

Sunday:

Advanced Birding - High Biodiversity, 8 am, Jason Larson
Attracting Pollinators w/ Native Plants!, 10 am, Jason Larson
Butterfly Banquet!, 12 pm, Amanda Kriner
Hands-on Animals!, 2 pm, GNC Staff & Volunteers

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 44907-3027

Name _____
Address _____

Phone (optional) _____

____ \$2.00 Fledgling (student)
____ 5.00 Cardinal (individual)
____ 10.00 Flock (family)
____ 25.00 Owl (supporting)
____ 50.00 Hawk (sponsoring)
____ 100.00 Eagle (sustaining)

Enclosed is my membership donation for \$_____
(please make checks payable to "Friends of the Nature Center")

Bird Count Results

Total: 69 species, about 25,381 individuals

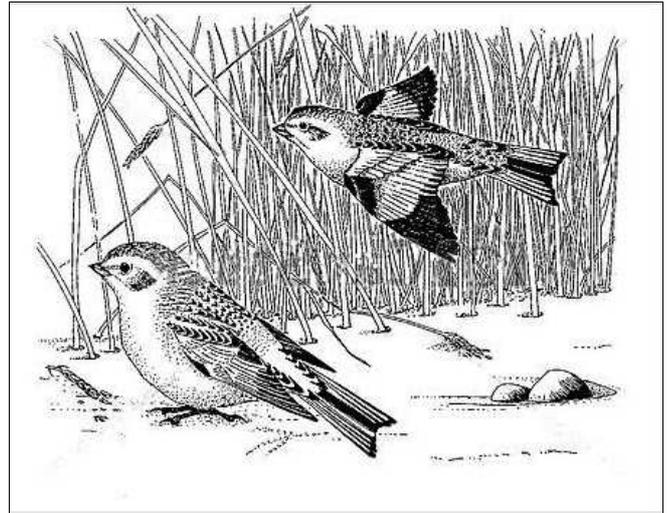
Snow Goose cw
 Canada Goose 953
 Wood Duck 1
 Gadwall 3
 Am. Black Duck 8
 Mallard 163
 Northern Shoveler 1
 Northern Pintail 1
 Canvasback 1
 Bufflehead 1
 Ruddy Duck 8
 Wild Turkey 127
 Pied-Billed Grebe 3
 Great Blue Heron 5
 Black Vulture 29*
 Turkey Vulture 2
 Bald Eagle 1
 Sharp-shinned Hawk 1
 Cooper's Hawk 4
 Red-shouldered Hawk 7
 Red-tailed Hawk 24
 American Kestrel 1
 American Coot 1
 Killdeer 2
 Rock Pigeon 465
 Mourning Dove 239

E. Screech Owl 6
 Barred Owl 1
 Belted Kingfisher 4
 Red-bellied Woodpecker 74
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 3
 Downy Woodpecker 109
 Hairy Woodpecker 32
 Northern (Yel-sh) Flicker 12
 Pileated Woodpecker 11
 Blue Jay 203
 American Crow 20,000 (roost)
 Horned Lark 16
 Carolina Chickadee 53
 Black-capped Chickadee 3 chickadee sp. 152
 Tufted Titmouse 165
 Red-breasted Nuthatch 10
 White-br. Nuthatch 128
 Brown Creeper 4
 Winter Wren 2
 Carolina Wren 24
 Golden-crowned Kinglet 8
 Eastern Bluebird 91
 American Robin 7
 Northern Mockingbird 1
 European Starling 269
 Cedar Waxwing 5
 Snow Bunting 5
 Ovenbird cw

Yellow-rumped Warbler 4
 Amer. Tree Sparrow 85
 Fox Sparrow 2
 Song Sparrow 54
 Swamp Sparrow 3
 White-throated Sparrow 33
 White-crowned Sparrow 9
 Dark-eyed Junco 405
 Northern Cardinal 310
 Red-winged Blackbird 3
 Eastern Meadowlark 1
 Common Grackle 30

Brown-headed Cowbird 46
 House Finch 141
 Purple Finch 2
 American Goldfinch 238
 House Sparrow 566

*** new record high
 "cw" seen count week**



Snow Buntings



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
 Cheryl Harner
 Eric S. Miller
 Marlon Zaugg
 Nature Center Staff
 (full or part-time)
 Jason Larson
 Amanda Kriner
 Kyle Bailey
 Steve McKee
 Stephanie Witherspoon
 Stephanie Wollman
 Anthony Arata

Address Service Requested

gornamnaturecenter.org
 419-884-3764
 Mansfield OH 44907-3027
 2295 Lexington Ave



Non-profit Organization
 U.S. Postage
PAID
 Mansfield OH
 Permit No. 121