



# Friends of the Gorman Nature Center Newsletter

Richland County Park District

Winter 2012-13 Vol 31, No 4

## Visit our “new” Visitor Center

Back in 2001 we opened the addition to our nature center Visitor Center. The new building was designed to be “earth friendly” with geothermal heating, passive solar heating, efficient lighting, flooring from recycled tires, composting toilets, highly efficient insulation, composite beams and exterior siding to eliminate the need for old-growth lumbar, and locally-grown interior hardwood siding. At the time we could not afford to renovate the original end of the building which houses our “animal room”. It was a cold, drafty room, but it is all different now! The new room has been totally renovated to match the rest of our visitor center. Gone is the garage door, cement block walls, spiral staircase, and noisy space heater. In its place is a warm room with hardwood siding, efficient insulation, superior lighting, and beautiful windows overlooking our bird feeders. Still to be completed is the addition of new carpeting, cabinets for the animal tanks, and a renovated bird-feeding area. Thanks to architect, **Marion Zaugg**, who donated the plans for the renovation, to builder, **Rocke Hudson**, who will be donating the new animal cases, and, of course, to you Friends of the Gorman Nature Center, whose contributions paid for the renovations.

That’s not all!! As this newsletter goes to press, we are in the process of replacing our roofing, and installing 104 solar panels on the large south-facing slope of our roof. These photovoltaic panels are expected to generate 100% of our electrical needs in a year’s time! That is especially significant since our building is heated and cooled electrically. The cost of the new system will be partially offset by a grant from American Electric Power. Thanks to Friends of the Nature Center for funding the project, and to **Josh Blevins** of *PV Solar Solutions* and **Perry Kent** of *NRGyInc* who designed and are overseeing the project.

## 2012 at the Richland County Park District

The staff of the Gorman Nature Center is grateful to all of you who contributed in some way to this year’s operation-members, volunteers, board members and park visitors. This was the **34th year** for the Nature Center and the **18th year** for the Richland B&O Trail.

If you haven’t seen our web site, visit [gormannaturecenter.org](http://gormannaturecenter.org) to check on our schedule, maps and other information. Thanks to volunteer webmaster, **Cheryl Harner**, for maintaining the site.

Additional thanks go to our many faithful **volunteers**– **Joshua Chester, Bud & Elaine Consolo, Margaret Hammer, Cheryl Harner, Dean Homerick, Nancy Kennedy, Dave Kracker, Becky Lux, Chris McQuillen, Georgia Payne, Gabi Santiago, Tyrena Smith, Ian Stoffel, Janet Swartz, Linda Tucker, Kim Washington, and Linda Wilson** who keep the Visitor Center open while our small staff is at a school or on the trail. We would like to especially recognize **Nancy Kennedy** who is the remaining charter member of our original Volunteer crew from 1986. Thanks for 26 years of service!

We also thank volunteers **Dave Boals, Ron Jaques, Charlie Marcum, John & Mary Jane Merschdorf, Dave Metzger, Dave Moody, Dick Osgood, Ray Piar, Steve Reynolds, and Terry White** who spent many hours keeping the Richland B & O Trail safe and neatly trimmed.

For the 18<sup>th</sup> year in a row, **Melanie Seaman** and **Fate Christian** maintained our beautiful butterfly garden as well as maintaining the plantings for our new building. Thanks to **Ross Stancato** for maintaining our bluebird boxes.

As in the past, the Richland County Park District is seeking to **purchase** natural areas in our county from **willing sellers**. Thanks to the Ohio grant program called the “Clean Ohio Fund”, up to 75% of the cost of open space purchase can be covered by grant money. The 25% match can be in the form of land donated to the project or from funds raised by the District. The highest priority lands for the District include forests, wetlands, river corridors and bike trail buffer. Do you have or know of some acreage that would be available?

### Green Newsletter

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

Thanks to the following  
**FRIENDS OF THE  
 NATURE CENTER** for  
 their recent support.  
 They helped make 2012  
 a successful year!

**Volunteers**

in 2012

DAVE BOALS \*\*  
 JOSHUA CHESTER @  
 BUD & ELAINE CONSOLO \*\*  
 MARGARET HAMMER @  
 CHERYL HARNER \*  
 DEAN HOMERICK \*\*  
 RON JAQUES  
 NANCY KENNEDY \*\*\*\*\*  
 DAVE KRACKER \*\*  
 BECKY LUX  
 CHARLIE MARCUM @  
 CHRIS MCQUILLEN \*\*  
 JOHN & MARY JANE  
 MERSCHDORF \*  
 DAVE METZGER  
 DAVE MOODY  
 DICK OSGOOD \*\*  
 GEORGIA PAYNE  
 RAY PIAR @  
 STEVE REYNOLDS  
 HEATHER RITA  
 GABI SANTIAGO @  
 TYRENA SMITH  
 ROSS STANCATO  
 IAN STOFFEL @  
 JANET SWARTZ  
 LINDA TUCKER \*\*\*\*  
 KIM WASHINGTON \*\*\*\*  
 TERRY WHITE  
 LINDA WILSON \*\*

\*\*\*\*\* over 25 years  
 \*\*\*\* over 20 years  
 \*\*\* over 15 years  
 \*\* over 10 years  
 \* over 5 years  
 @ - new for 2012

**EAGLE  
 (SUSTAINING)**

DICK & JOYCE ADAIR  
 CONSTANCE AU  
 ANGUS & JANE BARTON  
 DAVE BELLIS  
 JOEL & MARGARET BLACK  
 MICHAEL, LINDA & ALLISON  
 BROGAN  
 ELVIN BURNELL  
 M & C CHENGELIS

DR & MRS CLEMENTS  
 PAUL CORBITT  
 TIM CULLER  
 JAMES & CYNDDIE  
 DEWEESE  
 KATHERINE FERNYAK  
 LESLIE GARDNER  
 BETTY GATTON  
 DON & SHARON GRANER  
 NANCY & BRUCE JACKSON  
 RON & JUDY JAQUES  
 MRS ROBERT W JONES  
 TOM & DEB JONES  
 DAVE & DIANE KRACKER  
 GAIL & CHRIS LAUX  
 KAY & BEN LOCKE  
 ANNETTE MCCORMICK  
 JEANNINE MCKEE  
 STEVE & DEB MCKEE  
 OLIVE MILLER  
 DON & DIANA PLANT  
 RICHARD POFFENBAUGH  
 CHRIS & MARJORIE REINING  
 ANNE & DAVID SEISS  
 JAMES SHREWSBERRY  
 DR & MRS RICHARD  
 STOFFER  
 MRS HELEN TAYLOR  
 JUDY & PAUL THEISEN  
 ANDREW WALTER  
 JIM WALTER  
 ALBERT & CAROLYN  
 WEEKLEY  
 FRED & JANE WIECHER  
 JANET WISNER

**Hawk  
 (sponsoring)**

KATHY ADAMS  
 LOWELL & MARY AMICK  
 LUCY AMSBAUGH  
 JO & VIN BLACK  
 BECKY & TIM BOTTORF  
 BUD & ELAINE CONSOLO  
 IRENE DARROW  
 DENNIS & POLLY DAVIS  
 CYNTHIA DORSEY  
 BARBARA & JIM EAKINS  
 JAMIE EMERSON  
 ANDREW & LYNN FAHMY  
 WILLIAM E FORT  
 PAM & GLENN HARTZ  
 KINGWOOD ORCHID  
 SOCIETY  
 DENISE RICHARDSON  
 PETER & SUSAN ROBERTS  
 SCHRAEDLY ACCOUNTING  
 TIM SKINNER  
 JOAN SMITH  
 D A STEWART  
 MS JANET SWARTZ  
 TOM & TRACY TAPPAN

BILL WAGENLANDER  
 MARILYN WEILER  
 PATRICIA & DEAN WELLS  
 ANNE & CLIFF WILLIAMS  
 PAT WISENBARGER

**Owl  
 (supporting)**

BRIAN & MEGHAN BACIN  
 DON BEAM  
 LINDA BOWMAN  
 CHRIS BOX & FAMILY  
 BOB & RUTH BROWN  
 SI & JANE CARMEAN  
 JOHN CLARY  
 LAURANN CLEVER  
 GARY COWELL  
 BRUCE & GENEVA CUMMINS  
 MARY DAMRON  
 SUZANNE DAVIS  
 JOHN & NORMA DOMER  
 LARRY EICHER  
 MARY & DON FISHER  
 BILL & TONYA FLANEGAN  
 LOUISE FLEMING  
 CAROL FRY  
 NANCY & SID HALL  
 GRATTON & LINDA  
 HAMILTON  
 PAUL HAMRICK  
 BUD & SALLY HENDERSON  
 TOMMI JOHNSON  
 MARGARET JOYCE  
 JAMES & JENNIFER KIGHT  
 MICHAEL & JAYNE KLEIN  
 DEBORAH LECHEN  
 EILEEN LEVISON  
 SARAH LICHTENSTEIN  
 GINGER LONG  
 JOYCE & JIM LUMLEY  
 ELAINE L LYBARGER  
 ROBERT & DIANA MALONE  
 JOHN & BARB MCCAMMON  
 DAVID MILLS  
 DIANE MORETZ  
 M&M ERVIN MYERS  
 DAVE NICKEY  
 BOB & SANDY NYE  
 BETTY POLLOCK  
 WILLIAM & EUDORA  
 PONTIOUS  
 ELIZABETH PRITCHARD  
 MELISSA SAPRANO  
 JULIA SCHILLING  
 RUTH SHINABARKER  
 DR & MRS RJ SHRILLA  
 ROGER TROUTMAN  
 MICHAEL UDOLPH  
 NANCY & TOM  
 WEIDEMEYER  
 J WRASSE & T GROTHJOHN  
 DON & PEGGY WYATT  
 JON & KRISTIN YOUNG

**Cardinal,  
 Flock &  
 Fledgling  
 (individual, family &  
 student)**

MARK & SANDI ARNOLD  
 DONALD BACIN  
 NORMA CUMMINS  
 JOYCE CURRY  
 JULIA DILLE  
 TOM & BEV FASIG  
 BILL FISHER  
 RICK GARDNER  
 JOETTA GOODMAN  
 INGRID & TOM GRIFFITHS  
 CHERYL & MICHAEL GURSKI  
 JAMES & ANITA HAWKINS  
 RYDER HENSLEY  
 DAVID KEINATH  
 SCOTT & LISA KIGER  
 GEORGE LOESCH  
 CHARLOTTE MABEE  
 BRYAN MCCLELLAND  
 ROBERTA MOORE  
 ARIEL MORNINGSTARR  
 LADONNA O'NEAL  
 TOD & DOREEN PETIT  
 SHIRLEY PURCELL  
 STEVE & CATHY RAU  
 DAVE & DEBBIE ROBERTS  
 JUDY SEMROC  
 GLENNA SHEAFFER  
 JIM & CAROL SKEEN  
 ROGER & ANN STILLION  
 JESSICA SULLIVAN  
 CHRISTINE SUTTER  
 RITA WALSH  
 HARRY & JOAN WIRSTROM  
 GERALDINE WITCHEY  
 TERRY WOLF

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.

# Gorman Nature Center

## Calendar of Events - Winter 2012-2013

Sun	Dec 9	2:00 pm	<b>“What’s Up Duck?”</b> annual “Waterfowl Watch” at nearby reservoirs - meet at GNC
Sat	Dec 15	all day	<b>Mansfield Christmas Bird Count</b> - call (419) 884-3764 for details
Wed	Dec 19	9 & 10	<b>Moms &amp; Kids</b> (for parents and their pre-school children, sessions from 9-10 and 10-11 am) (MT)
Wed	Dec 26		Moms & Kids <b>canceled</b>
Sat	Dec 29		Mohican Christmas Bird Count - call 419-884-3764 for details
Wed	Jan 2	9 & 10	Moms & Kids
Sun	Jan 6	2:00 pm	<b>“Winter Woods Walk”</b> - explore GNC trails for winter animal life, signs and tracks (MT)
Wed	Jan 9	9 & 10	Moms & Kids
Tue	Jan 15	7:00 pm	<b>The Night Sky</b> - a monthly telescope program at GNC- only if the sky is clear (SM)
Wed	Jan 16	9 & 10	Moms & Kids
Fri	Jan 18	1:30 pm	<b>Winter Nature Walk for Seniors</b> at GNC (SM or JF)
Wed	Jan 23	9 & 10	Moms & Kids
Sat	Jan 26	7:00 pm	<b>“Full Moon Walk”</b> - explore the GNC trails by moonlight! (SM)
Wed	Jan 30	9 & 10	Moms & Kids
Sat	Feb 2	9-11 am	<b>“A Bird in the Hand”</b> - spend Saturday morning with the birds for this hands-on, “bird’s-eye” view of winter birds and bird banding (SM)
Wed	Feb 6	9 & 10	Moms & Kids
Sun	Feb 10	2:00 pm	<b>“Mammals of Our Area”</b> - skins, skulls and a hike at GNC to explore the world of local mammals- see page 4 for details (MT)
Wed	Feb 13	9 & 10	Moms & Kids
F-S	Feb 15-17		<b>Owls of North America Symposium</b> - at Mohican, sponsored by Ohio Ornithological Society and Greater Mohican Audubon Society - see <a href="http://www.ohiobirds.org">www.ohiobirds.org</a> .
Wed	Feb 20	9 & 10	Moms & Kids
Sun	Feb 24	2:00 pm	<b>Mohican Native Plant Society</b> annual potluck dinner & program, call 419-884-3764 for details - all welcome- program: Dan Boone speaking on “Stemless Blue Violets”
Wed	Feb 27	9 & 10	Moms & Kids
Sun	Mar 3	2:00 pm	<b>“Are They Still In There?”</b> - a hike at GNC to look for winter insect homes (MT)



All programs free to the public. (JF=Jan Ferrell, MT=Merrill Tawse, SM=Steve McKee)



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**

Name _____
Address _____
_____
Phone (optional) _____

<input type="checkbox"/> \$2.00 Fledgling (student)
<input type="checkbox"/> 5.00 Cardinal (individual)
<input type="checkbox"/> 10.00 Flock (family)
<input type="checkbox"/> 25.00 Owl (supporting)
<input type="checkbox"/> 50.00 Hawk (sponsoring)
<input type="checkbox"/> 100.00 Eagle (sustaining)

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

## Winter Woods Walk

Sunday, January 6 at 2:00 pm

To the woods we go, seeking the drumming woodpeckers, squandering squirrels and the tracks that tell the tales of other winter animals. While exploring the Nature Center's trails, participants will attempt to catch a glimpse of our wildlife that remain active in the winter months. Join us for this winter hike. Meet at the visitor center dressed for the weather.



## A Bird in the Hand

Saturday, February 2 from 9-11 am

Watching a bird at your feeder or in a tree is great, but seeing one up close is very special. Spend Saturday morning (Groundhog's Day!) with the birds for this hands-on, "bird's-eye" view of winter birds and bird banding. We will catch wild birds at our feeders and apply numbered metal bands to their legs. Fun for all ages.



## MAMMALS OF OUR AREA

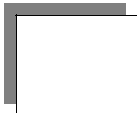
Sunday, February 10 at 2:00 pm

Ohio is home to a wide variety of mammals, from the small secretive shrews to the abundant urban deer. Participants will have the opportunity learn about the natural history, examine skin and skulls as well as some live examples of this interesting group of animals. Following an indoor program, a hike along the nature center's trails will seek out signs and examples of some of our resident mammals. Join us, dressed for the weather.

## Are they still in there?

Sunday, March 3 at 2:00 pm

With the waning of winter we can still find some occupied and some now-vacant homes left from a variety of insects. Come explore with us as we look for some of the insect galls, protective casements and empty nursery chambers found throughout the nature center's diverse habitats. Join us and dress accordingly for this rambling hike.



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  
Eric S. Miller  
Cynde DeWeese  
Marion Zaugg  
Nature Center Staff  
(full or part-time)  
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