



Friends of the Gorman Nature Center Newsletter

Richland County Park District

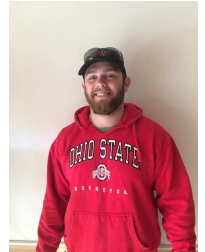
Winter 2015-16 Vol 34, No 4

2015 at the Richland County Park District

If our 2015 report looks similar to our 2014 report, it's because we still have...lots of new stuff happening...

New - For the first time in almost 9 years, the Richland County Park District has hired a new land and facilities manager.

Kyle Bailey began working part-time at the Center in November and he will start working full-time in January. Kyle will be filling part of the role of Merrill Tawse, who retired in 2013, after 32 years of service. Kyle is a recent graduate of Kenyon College, where he earned his undergraduate degree in Biology, and also volunteered at GNC. In his short time with us, Kyle has been busy organizing the RCPD facilities, removing invasive species, coordinating volunteer work crews and working on new facilities and land projects around the park district. Please stop in and welcome Kyle to GNC!



More New - On December 31, 2015, **Jan Ferrell** will retire from the park district after nearly 29 years of service. Jan began her career at GNC back in 1981 as one of the very first park district volunteers. In 1986, she started working part-time for the park district and in 2001 she assumed a full-time role on the staff. Jan has been an indispensable part of the RCPD family for many years. In her time here she has served as the GNC volunteer coordinator, as well as caring for all of GNC's educational animals, teaching thousands of local school children about nature, conducting natural history programs and much more. We cannot thank Jan enough for all of her years of service and we wish her well on her future journeys wherever they may take her. **Thanks, Jan!!**

The staff of the GNC 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 **37th year** for the Nature Center and the **21st year** for the Richland B&O Trail. If you haven't seen our web site, visit gormannaturecenter.org to check on our schedule, maps and other information. Thanks to volunteer webmaster, **Cheryl Harner**, who created the site and maintained it for many years before passing it on to GNC staff members **Amanda Kriner** and **Jan Ferrell** this year.

Additional thanks go to our many faithful visitor center volunteers- **Amy Crutchfield, Larry Doktor, Dean Homerick, Nancy Kennedy, Becky Lux, Chris McQuillen, Rinda Sansom, Janet Swartz, Linda Tucker, Brad Von Blon, Kim Washington, Jordan Wells, Linda Wilson, and Stephanie Witherspoon** 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 29 years of service!

For the 2015 **Make a Difference Day**, over 30 adults and 54 kids "made a difference" by picking up litter on the Richland B&O Trail. Thanks to **Bellville Girl Scout Troops 2131, 2477, 1030 & 154; Bellville Cub Scout Pack #126; Lexington Girl Scout Troops 165, 2142 & 2092; and Lucas Girl Scout Troop 679!** We also owe a very special thanks to **Deb Altman** for organizing this clean-up event!

Many people helped maintain the GNC hiking trails, provide maintenance support, assist with construction projects and remove invasive species: **Craig Adie, Kyle Bailey, Gary Cowell, Jr., Brennan Hamilton, Cade Hamilton, Kris Hamilton, Gary Jones, Les Jones and Jan Trexler Kennedy.**

In addition to programs from our own staff, we heard about Eastern Bluebirds from **Chris McQuillen** at our Bluebird festival, trilobites from **Tom Kottyan** at our Rock & Fossil Day, Monarch butterflies from **Cheryl Harner** & invasive species from **Jennifer Windus** at our Pollinator Festival, dragonflies and damselflies from **Judy Semrock & Larry Rosche**, curious critters from **David FitzSimmons**, beginning spidering from **Sarah Rose.**

Our Richland B&O Trail volunteers for 2015 were: **Keith Elliot, Mike Fisher, Charlie Marcum, John & Mary Jane Merschdorf, Dave Moody, Steve Reynolds, and Terry White** who spent many hours keeping the bike trail safe and neatly trimmed. How many hours, you ask? These faithful volunteers donated over 336 hours- the equivalent of over eight full-time weeks!

We want to thank **Janet Cramer** and all of the following gardens club members-**Regina Berg, Jennifer Hurst, Jan Trexler Kennedy, Shayne Marhofer, Michelle Moritz and Josh Werner**, for work on the new pollinator garden, dedicated to the memory of **Marjorie Gorman.**

The following helped with our new GNC festivals- bluebirds, reptiles, pollinators & rocks: **Gay Abrams, Kay Abrams, Susie Boyer, Bill Byrley, David Grove, Lawrence Hull, Carolyn Kelley, Pam & Tom Kottyan, Joel Likins, Mike McCullough, Pam Lauer, Mick Pinka, Walt Upchurch and Linda Welch.**

Assisting with programs and trail maintenance were our RCPD junior volunteers for 2015 were: - **Gavin Altman, Samantha Altman, Evan Gongwer, Katelyn Grove, Natalie Grove, Sammi Grove, Logan Harriman, Savanna Harriman, Simon Manning, Gavin Prosser, and Katie Troyer.**

The following volunteers assisted with the GNC participation in the 2015 Richland County Fair who assisted with display staffing, programming, etc.: **Maria Bon, Amy Beth Crutchfield, Katelyn Grove, Natalie Grove, Sammi Grove, Logan Harriman, Savanna Harriman, Dean Homerick, Pam Homerick, Garet Litwiler, Chris McQuillen, Rinda Sampson, Jan Swartz, Linda Tucker, Brad Von Blon, and Stephanie Witherspoon.**

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.

Thanks to the following
**FRIENDS OF THE
NATURE CENTER** for
their recent support.
They helped make 2015
a successful year!

Volunteers

in 2015

CRAIG ADIE @
RHONDA BERRY @
AMY BETH CRUTCHFIELD
LARRY DOKTOR
KEITH ELLIOT
MIKE FISHER *
CHERYL HARNER **
DEAN HOMERICK **
WILIETTA JOHNSON-
UHLER @
GARY JONES @
LES JONES @
NANCY KENNEDY *****
BECKY LUX
CHARLIE MARCUM
CHRIS MCQUILLEN **
JOHN & MARY JANE
MERSCHDORF **
DAVE MOODY *
STEVE REYNOLDS *
RINDA SANSON ***
JANET SWARTZ
LINDA TUCKER *****
BRAD VON BLON @
KIM WASHINGTON *****
JORDAN WELLS
TERRY WHITE *
LINDA WILSON ***
STEPHANIE WITHERSPOON

***** over 25 years

**** over 20 years

*** over 15 years

** over 10 years

* over 5 years

@ - new for 2015

EAGLE (SUSTAINING)

DICK & JOYCE ADAIR
CONSTANCE AU
DAVE BELLIS
MICHAEL, LINDA &
ALLISON BROGAN
DR & MRS CLEMENTS
PAUL CORBITT
TIM CULLER
JIM & CYNDDE DEWEESE
KATHERINE FERNYAK
PAM & DAVE FLEMING
PAM & GLENN HARTZ
JENNIFER HURST & JOHN

MUMAW
NANCY & BRUCE JACKSON
TOM & DEB JONES
DAVE & DIANE KRACKER
GAIL & CHRIS LAUX
KAY & BEN LOCKE
MARY MASSIE
JEANNINE MCKEE
STEVE & DEB MCKEE
OLIVE MILLER
DON & DIANA PLANT
RICHARD POFFENBAUGH
CHRIS REINING
ANNE & DAVID SEISS
NELSON & STANA
SHOGREN
JAMES SHREWSBERRY
DA STEWART
DICK & CATHY STOFFER
JANET SWARTZ
JUDY & PAUL THEISEN
GREG & SUSAN VIGESAA
JIM WALTER
JANET WISNER

Hawk (sponsoring)

MARY AMICK
JO & VIN BLACK
ROBERT & CANDACE
BRENNER
M & M CHENGELIS
MARY DAMRON
IRENE DARROW
DENNIS & POLLY DAVIS
CYNTHIA DORSEY
ANDREW & LYNN FAHMY
WILLIAM E FORT
CHRIS & CHARIL FUHRER
CHRIS HOFF
MRS ROBERT JONES
KINGWOOD ORCHID
SOCIETY
SARAH LICHTENSTEIN
ED & BECKY LUX
LORRAINE MOORE
ERVIN & CAROL ANNE
MYERS
BOB & SANDY NYE
CAROL O'MARA
M&M CHARLES OTCASEK
DEB & RON REED
JIM & JANICE REED
MARY RHODES
TIM & JAN RHODES
DENISE RICHARDSON
PETER & SUSAN ROBERTS
MELISSA SAPRANO
SCHRAEDLY ACCOUNTING
JOAN SMITH
NANCY & TOM

WEIDEMEYER
MARILYN WEILER
LINDA WILSON
PAT WISENBARGER

Owl (supporting)

C&B ADDLESBERGER-
FOWLER
LUCY AMSBAUGH
ELIZABETH AU
NATALIE BOYDSTON
ELVIN BURNELL
LAURANN CLEVER
JOAN COLLARD FAMILY
LISA COVINGTON
GARY COWELL
BRUCE & GENEVA
CUMMINS
JOYCE CURRY
SUZANNE DAVIS
JODIE DEES
LARRY DOKTOR
JOHN & NORMA DOMER
NORMA DORSEY
LARRY EICHER
VICKI EICHOF
JENNIE EKLUND
MARK & PAM ELLIS
TOM & BEV FASIG
MARY & DON FISHER
LOUISE FLEMING-
DUFALA
RON & NANCY FOLTZ
CAROL FRY
GRATTON & LINDA
HAMILTON
TOMMI JOHNSON
MARGARET JOYCE
JAMES & JENNIFER
KIGHT
HEATHER LAHER
DEBORAH LECHIEN
EILEEN LEVISON
ELAINE L LYBARGER
ROBERT & DIANA
MALONE
JOHN & BARB
MCCAMMON
CHRIS MCQUILLEN
DAVID MILLS
DIANE MORETZ
DAVE NICKEY
BETTY POLLOCK
BILL & EUDORA
PONTIOUS
ELIZABETH PRITCHARD
DAVE & DEBBIE
ROBERTS
ARLYN RUSH

JULIA SCHILLING
DR & MRS RJ SHRILLA
TOM & CLARA
SIEGENTHALER
ROGER TROUTMAN
MICHAEL UDOLPH
LARRY & JEAN VON BLON
FAMILY
LINDA WELCH
PATRICIA WELLS
ANNE & CLIFF WILLIAMS
HARRY & JOAN
WIRSTROM
DON & PEGGY WYATT
JON & KRISTIN YOUNG

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

BOB & RUTH BROWN
STEVE & BETH CAGAN
DEBORAH CLINE
GREG & LESLIE
CORNETT
AMY BETH CRUTCHFIELD
BILL FISHER
PEGGY FRASZ
RICK GARDNER
INGRID & TOM GRIFFITHS
NANCY & SID HALL
JAMES & ANITA HAWKINS
CHESTER & ELAINE
LARSON
GEORGE LOESCH
JOYCE & JIM LUMLEY
CHARLOTTE MABEE
MASSIE-FINNEY FAMILY
BRYAN MCCLELLAND
MAHLON & DONNA
MCKEE
ROBERTA MOORE
ARIEL MORNINGSTARR
LADONNA O'NEAL
SHIRLEY PURCELL
REDMOND FAMILY
CONNIE & ART RISHER
AMY & JEREMY SECRIST
GLENN SHEAFFER
JIM & CAROL SKEEN
DAVID & TAMMY SMITH
LARRY & ELAINE SMITH
BILL & CINDY SMYTHE
ROGER & ANN STILLION
ELLEN TIETJEN
RITA WALSH
J WRASSE & T
GROTJOHN

Gorman Nature Center

Calendar of Events - Winter 2015-2016

Wed	Dec 2	9 & 10	Moms & Kids (AK/JL)
Sat	Dec 5	10:00 am	What's Up Duck? Annual Waterfowl Watch at nearby reservoirs. Meet at GNC! (SM & JL)
Sat	Dec 12	8:30 am	Breakfast with the Birds! Call 419-884-3764 for details. (JL)
Mon	Dec 14	7:00 pm	The Night Sky - a monthly telescope program at GNC- only if the sky is clear. (JL/SM)
Wed	Dec 16	9 & 10	Moms & Kids (AK/JL)
Sat	Dec 19	All Day	Mansfield Christmas Bird Count - call 419-884-3764 for details.
Sat	Dec 26	All Day	Mohican Christmas Bird Count - call 419-884-3764 for details.
Wed	Jan 6	9 & 10	Moms & Kids (AK/JL)
Sat	Jan 9	8:30 am	Breakfast w/ the Birds - meet at GNC. See page 4 for details or call 419-884-3764. (JL)
Sat	Jan 9	1-4 pm	GNC Junior Naturalist Series - Winter Birds! See page 4 for details. (JL)
Wed	Jan 13	7:00 pm	The Night Sky - a monthly telescope program at GNC - only if the sky is clear. (JL/SM)
Wed	Jan 20	9 & 10	Moms & Kids (AK/JL)
Sat	Jan 23	7:00 am	Castalia Pond/Medusa Marsh Birdwatching Trip. Call 419-884-3764 for details. (JL)
Fri	Jan 29	7:00 pm	Owl Prowl - come join us for an informative program about Ohio owls followed by a hike to find them! See page 4 for details or call 419-884-3764. (JL)
Wed	Feb 3	9 & 10	Moms & Kids (AK/JL)
Fri	Feb 5	7:00 pm	Owl Prowl - come join us for an informative program about Ohio owls followed by a hike to find them! See page 4 for details or call 419-884-3764. (JL)
Sat	Feb 13	8:30 am	Breakfast w/ the Birds & The Great Backyard Bird Count - meet at GNC. See page 4 for details or call 419-884-3764. (JL)
Sat	Feb 13	9-11 am	A Bird in the Hand - spend Saturday morning with the birds for this hands-on, "bird's-eye" view of winter birds and bird banding. See page 4 for details. (SM)
Sat	Feb 13	8:00 pm	The Night Sky - a monthly telescope program at GNC - only if the sky is clear. (JL/SM)
Wed	Feb 17	9 & 10	Moms & Kids (AK/JL)
Thu	Feb 18	1:30 pm	Winter Nature Walk for Seniors - meet at GNC. (AK, KB, JL or SM)
Sat	Feb 20	10-11 am	Home Composting Workshop! Participants will receive full system, including worms, as well as instructions on vermicomposting do's & don'ts. Registration and payment required by February 8th. Call 419-884-3764 for details. (AK)
Sat	Feb 20	1-4 pm	GNC Junior Naturalist Series - Mammals! See page 4 for details. (AK)
Sat	Feb 27	All Day	Ohio Natural History Conference - for details see: www.ohiobiologicalsurvey.org
Wed	Mar 2	9 & 10	Moms & Kids (AK/JL)
Fri	Mar 11	8:00 pm	The Night Sky - a monthly telescope program at GNC - only if the sky is clear. (JL/SM)
Sat	Mar 12	All Day	Shreve Migration Sensation - for details see www.happypages.com/migration
Wed	Mar 16	9 & 10	Moms & Kids (AK/JL)
Sat	Mar 19	8:30 am	Breakfast w/ the Birds - meet at GNC. See page 4 for details or call 419-884-3764. (JL)
Sat	Mar 19	1-4 pm	GNC Junior Naturalist Series - Trees! See page 4 for details. (JL)

All programs free to the public. (AK = Amanda Kriner, KB = Kyle Bailey, JL=Jason Larson, 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 Gorman Nature Center
2295 Lexington Ave.
Mansfield OH 44907-3027

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")

A Bird in the Hand

Saturday, February 13 at 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 with the birds for this hands-on, "bird's-eye" view of winter birds and bird banding. Steve McKee will catch wild birds at the GNC feeders and apply numbered metal bands to their legs. Fun for all ages. This activity will take place in conjunction with Breakfast with the Birds and The Great Backyard Bird Count!

Owl Prowls

Friday, January 29 and February 5 at 7:00 pm

Ever wonder what happens at Gorman Nature Center after dark? Well here is your chance to find out! Join the GNC staff for a winter evening owl prow! Participants will learn all about local owls, get to see an Eastern Screech Owl up-close-and-personal and then take a hike out into the GNC woods to "hoot and holler" for our resident owl species! Meet at the GNC visitor center and remember to dress for the weather.

Breakfast with the Birds

Saturday, December 12, January 9, February 13 and March 19 at 8:30 am

Too cold for a bird walk in the out-of-doors? Join us inside for Breakfast with the Birds! Participants will enjoy a variety of hot and cold beverages, fruit and apple cider doughnuts while watching and learning all about the common winter birds that visit our feeders. These programs are free, but if you partake of the breakfast bounty, donations are requested to cover the cost of the food and beverages. Participants will meet in the animal display room at the GNC visitor center. A bird hike will follow for those interested.

GNC Junior Naturalist Series

Saturday, January 9, February 20, March 19 & April 9, 1-4 pm

This series of programs will cover topics that will help young naturalists begin their journey towards a greater understanding of our natural world. Programs will begin with an indoor informational session and conclude with a hike or activity to enforce and practice what they have learned. Topics covered will include winter birds, mammals, trees and geology. Registration is required and cost of the series is \$20 (field guides and materials). This will cover the cost of our required field guide which participants will get to take home. Participants may attend as many or as few sessions as they are interested in, but the registration fee will cover all 4 programs. Ages 12-18. Call 419-884-3764 for additional details and to register.



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
Cynnde DeWeese
Marion Zaug
Nature Center Staff
(full or part-time)
Jason Larson
Amanda Kriner
Kyle Bailey
Steve McKee
Jan Ferrell
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