

NEWS HAWK

FALL 2018



NEWSLETTER OF THE OHIO BIRD SANCTUARY

NATURESCAPE IS COMPLETE!

Emily Smith, Program Coordinator

During the summer of 2017, we started the process of building a nature-themed play area at the Ohio Bird Sanctuary. Our goal was to create an area that encourages children to play in and explore the natural world. Over the past year, the Naturescape has developed into an integral part of the Bird Sanctuary. We have been delighted to witness it be utilized by the many families, students, and campers that visit us.



Since the onset of the project, eleven elements have been added to the Naturescape. These include: a Monarch caterpillar tunnel, slack line, eagle's nest, climbing logs, tic-tac-toe board, nature weaving frame, path of animal tracks, a table and chairs made of logs, rope spider web, actual size wingspans of various bird species, and an owl facial disc. The activities found within the Naturescape were designed to encourage open-ended play and exploration. Through play, we hope the Naturescape will help children develop an appreciation for nature and a desire to learn about their environment.

Many hours have been dedicated to the creation of the Naturescape, and it would not have been possible without the support of several organizations and people. Thank you to the Robert and Esther Black fund at the Richland County Foundation for their generous financial support, Corpad for the signs and wingspans, and J&F Construction for donating the pipe for the caterpillar slide. Thank you also to the Page Family for constructing the spider web, Si Carmean for helping build and install the signs, and Brian Smith for installing the owl facial disc.

When the project began, it was hard to imagine the end result. What started as an area characterized by thick brush has been transformed into a unique play area unlike any playground you have ever visited. If you haven't yet, come check out the Naturescape!



This holiday season consider giving a gift that supports the Sanctuary!
We have 3 great gift ideas for your friends, family and co-workers.

Ohio Bird Sanctuary Membership: members receive free admission and a variety of benefits. Membership levels listed on back of newsletter.

Discover Richland Membership Package: 4-in-1 membership to Kingwood Gardens, Buckeye Children's Museum, the Ohio Bird Sanctuary and free tokens to Richland Carrousel Park. \$212 value for \$169. See website for details and availability. www.discoverrichland.org

Adopt-a-Bird: Give the gift of sponsorship of one of our avian ambassadors. Sponsor will receive a plaque and personalized program to meet and photograph the sponsored bird.



From the Desk of the Director

We are excited to announce that the Ohio Bird Sanctuary has received the first Non-profit of the Year award by the Richland Area Chamber of Commerce. The Sanctuary was nominated in September and asked to submit an application. We were evaluated based on core values, goals and overall mission, services provided, financial sustainability, employee practices, community involvement, collaborative efforts, and strategic planning. The Sanctuary staff and board have been actively involved in strengthening all of these elements, and it is an honor to be recognized for these achievements.



This October marked the 30th year anniversary of the founding of the Ohio Bird Sanctuary. Originally called the Richland County Raptor Rehabilitation Center, the Sanctuary has grown because of the efforts and generosity of numerous individuals. One such individual is founding board member and president for over 20 years, Ed Kulka. Ed has been involved through governance, fundraising, cage building projects, and too many others things to list. This picture of Ed was taken in 1988 with Maggie, our first educational Red-tail, and his son Alex. Today, Alex serves on the board of trustees and is part of the dynamic team that will guide the Sanctuary's future.



Ed Kulka and son Alex

This October the Sanctuary and all of us lost a good friend. Mark Arnold was part of the founding board of directors and treasurer for over 10 years. Mark left this earth October 5th and will be greatly missed by all who loved him. Mark was dedicated to the mission of the Sanctuary and continued to remain active and supportive of its programming. Like Ed and many of the founding board members, Mark assisted in construction projects and with the search for a permanent home for the Sanctuary. Mark and his wife Sandi were the driving force behind the *Wings and Talons Art Shows* and many of our early fund-raisers. They provided the organizational skills and financial knowledge necessary for the Sanctuary to establish credibility and a solid future.

I am truly grateful for all Mark's support but my fondest memories are of his rye sense of humor. One of the things Mark loved to do was prank call me using a disguised voice claiming he had a "bird problem". This could range from I am driving behind a truck full of turkeys that are escaping to having a "buzzard" attacking his grill. He always made me laugh and brighten my day. Unfortunately, one day our fun bantering caught up to us. A gentleman called to say he had hundreds of parakeets that needed a home and would I take them. I assumed it was one of Mark's pranks and did not respond to the man in an appropriate manner. To say the least I apologized and immediately called Mark to say we would have to stop the prank calls so I did not offend someone again. We both had a good laugh out of it, and to this day, I miss those comical phone calls.

Mark and Sandi's adult children have continued the family's legacy of supporting the Sanctuary. Their son Max completed his Eagle Scout project in 2005, which provided the landscaping that borders the parking lot at the Visitors Center. Molly annually supports the Sanctuary by providing items from the Annual Appeal wish-list.

Mark taught us how to be a good friend, take the time to stay connected, and to laugh so hard your belly hurts. Rest in peace dear friend.

Gail Laux



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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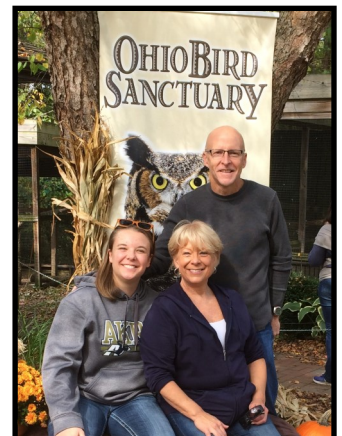
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Mark Arnold with his wife, Sandi and daughter, Molly. (son, Max not pictured)



THE BALD EAGLE'S RETURN

Mary Meixner, Curator of Birds

If you visited the Sanctuary this past summer, you probably noticed a new enclosure under construction. We are happy to report that it is finished and occupied by one of our newest Bald Eagles! When I was an intern at OBS six years ago, we did not have any eagles on site, so it is exciting to welcome our third one. The growth in the number of eagles at OBS mirrors the growth in wild eagle populations over the past few decades. It is no surprise to see eagles occupying territory again near lakes, rivers, reservoirs, etc. Why is this so amazing? Because within the last fifty years, Bald Eagles have made an extraordinary comeback.



In the 1960s, there were just over 400 nesting pairs of Bald Eagles in the lower 50 states. That number means there were less than nine pairs per state. Several factors led to the near extinction of the Bald Eagle. These included habitat loss, over-hunting of prey species and of the eagles themselves (something that had begun as early as the 1800s), and the pesticide DDT. The use of DDT for pest control led to it contaminating water sources and fish, the eagle's primary food. Through biomagnification, the concentration of DDT increased as it moved up the food chain. Thus, while there may not have been a large concentration of DDT in just one fish, by the time it accumulated in an eagle's body, the concentration of DDT could increase as much as 200 times. The unusual thing about DDT was the way it affected eagles and other birds of prey. It did not cause death in the birds themselves; rather, it affected their eggs. The pesticide caused the egg shells to be so thin that they were crushed by the incubating parents resulting in the inability to reproduce.

DDT was banned by the EPA in 1972, but bringing the species back from danger would take a lot more effort. The Bald Eagle was added to the Endangered Species Act, which gave more protection to the birds and their habitat, including crucial nesting sites. Preserving existing habitat and reintroducing the species to areas where the population had been decimated also played a huge role in their recovery. The American Eagle Foundation used a captive breeding program in which non-releasable eagles produced viable eggs that could be hatched in captivity. The eaglets were released into the wild once they were old enough. Gus, a 30-year-old eagle who has been an OBS resident for the past 5 years, was one of the first Ohio eaglets to be hatched by natural parents in the wild. In his life time the population of nesting eagles in Ohio has grown from 4 to 221 active nests.

The Bald Eagle was delisted from the Endangered Species Act in 2007 when the number of nesting pairs was recorded at nearly 10,000. Although the species is no longer "endangered", they still deserve awareness and care. Current threats to the population include habitat loss, environmental pollution, collisions with motor vehicles and stationary structures (windmills, power lines, etc.), and lead poisoning. The Bald Eagle is both a predator and a scavenger; it will feed on carcasses left behind by hunters, often ingesting lead shot still present in the meat. Lead stays in the bird's body, accumulating to toxic levels that can cause death. The Sanctuary has received 6 eagles that suffered from various types of poisoning.

This past fall we received a Juvenile Bald Eagle that exhibited neurological symptoms similar to lead poisoning. Through testing, we determined that it was not lead but rather West Nile virus which was causing these symptoms. This virus is transmitted by a mosquito but eagles usually contract it by feeding on infected prey,

again owing to their scavenging habits. The neurological problems caused by this virus cannot always be reversed. Thankfully, this eagle survived, but her vision is compromised and she is not able to be released.



What does all of this mean for us? Eagles still need our awareness and help. Simple choices such as using steel shot instead of lead, reduce use of pesticides, and getting involved in preserving natural areas can make a difference for eagles and other wildlife. This is why it is so important to have eagles at OBS where visitors can see them up close, appreciate their beauty, and learn their value. People who care are people who act, and when these birds inspire us to care, we can act in ways that will preserve them for years to come.

"The eye does not forget what the heart has seen." ~African proverb



Fall Family Festival a Success!

Thank you to everyone who came out and supported us for our annual Fall Family Festival! Despite the cold temperature, we had a great turn-out!

Our Fall Festival was filled with fun activities for everyone! These included visiting our birds, taking a walk on the Adventure Trail, playing games, making crafts, and listening to a presentation from Lake Erie Nature and Science Center.



As part of our Adventure Trail, we had six birds of prey stationed along the trail (A Turkey Vulture, Harris' Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, and Barn Owl). Visitors had the opportunity to take pictures and ask questions about each species. Various activities for kids were also located along the trail. Some of these included a slingshot, migration game, and a catapult. Crafts were available for children including buckeye necklaces, pinecone spiders, tie dye, face painting, and more!

We had the pleasure of having Lake Erie Nature and Science Center present some of their wildlife ambassadors during the festival. Lake Erie Nature and Science Center is a rehab facility located in Bay Village, OH. The animals they presented were a flying squirrel, skunk, snake, rabbit, box turtle, and painted turtle.

Proceeds from the Fall Family Festival will go towards feeding our many resident birds! It requires over \$2,000 a month to feed the educational display and birds in rehabilitative care. Proceeds from the food sold during the festival support our Junior Naturalist Program.

Thank you to our volunteers, Jr. Naturalists, staff, board members, and sponsors that made this year's festival a success! **This year's sponsors were:**

Roby Foster Miller Earick Insurance, Corpad, and Mechanics Bank.

Hoot & Scoot Trail Race

We had over 70 participants at the first Hoot & Scoot Trail Race. Runners ranged in age from 5 to 75. Runners could choose between a 2 or 4 mile course. Added incentive on the 2 mile race was if the runners out ran our "turkey" they received a free membership.

Congratulations to the winners of the "Beat the Bird" challenge:

Chris May, Andy Fulton, Shannon Gledhill, Kolby Wasserbeck, Sage Brewer, Lyle Beveridge, Sophia Gladhill and Sydney Boyd.



Thank you to our corporate sponsors

4 Mile Race

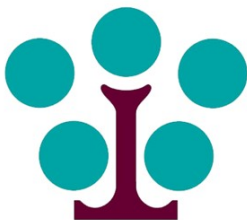
Top Male
 Joel Fox 30:59
 Chris Au 32:23
 Landon Walker 33:48
 Dan Aquino 33:56
 Aaron Watts 34:37

Top Female
 Brielle Miller 43:102
 Broegan Sautter 43:123
 Morgan Bennett 50:10
 Gail Sautter 53:08
 Angie Moore 53:16

2 Mile Race

Top Male
 Chris May 18:38
 Andy Fulton 19:47
 Shannan Gledhill 21:07
 Hayden Gray 22:43
 Kolby Wasserbeck 24:34

Top Female
 Sophia Gledhill 21:06
 Sydney Boyd 25:23
 Sarah Laux (Turkey) 25:42
 Michelle Boyd 26:16
 Jennifer Greene 26:20



ESB Investments Inc.



NEWS HAWK

“ON MY HONOR” - EAGLE SCOUT PROJECTS



Three impressive young men are completing their requirements to receive the honor of Eagle Scout by assisting the Sanctuary with improvement projects. Thank you to Jacob Walter, Mason Hardman and Benton Drake for all their hard work.

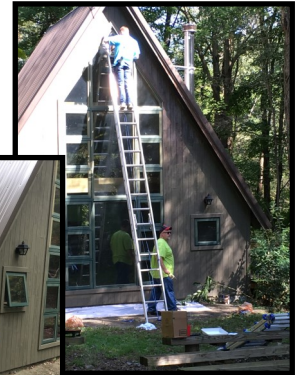


Jacob Walter's project was to paint the south side of the Taylor Family Education Center and install the signage. This required acquiring the paint, power washing the building, recruiting and managing volunteers for painting, and creating the pattern and installing the sign.



Thank you Sherwin Williams Store # 1128 for the generous donation.

Mason Hardman's project was to give "Apollo's Hide-a-Way", our Field Classroom, a coat of paint inside and out, stain all the windows and sills, and build an activity table. His project required obtaining paint and stain, coordinating volunteers, and designing and constructing the table.



Thank you to Sherwin Williams #1128 and Smith True Value of Bellville for the donation of paint and stain.



Benton Drake's project will be completed the end of November. Benton will be utilizing an artisan well drilled by Jamison Well drilling that will feed a stream through the octagon flight area for eagles and osprey to hone their skills for hunting fish. The project will include digging the stream bed, putting in pipes and drains, lining the stream with plastic and stone and coordinating all the volunteer labor and equipment needed.



Tuesday
November 27th
2018

#GIVINGTUESDAY™

The International Day of Giving this year will be Tuesday, November 27th. You can support your favorite non-profit through online platforms.

Support the Ohio Bird Sanctuary through the local platform of RICHLAND GIVES or FACEBOOK.

Both platform offer matches and incentives to maximize your gift.

Thank you for supporting the organizations that enhance our lives.

Link for RICHLAND GIVES
<https://richlandgives.mightycause.com/organization/Ohio-Bird-Sanctuary>

Link for FACEBOOK
<https://business.facebook.com/donate/326784461438478/>



Go to richlandgives.org



Hit the search icon



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Decide if you want to give



Hit the donate button



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NEWSLETTER OF THE OHIO BIRD SANCTUARY

NEWS HAWK

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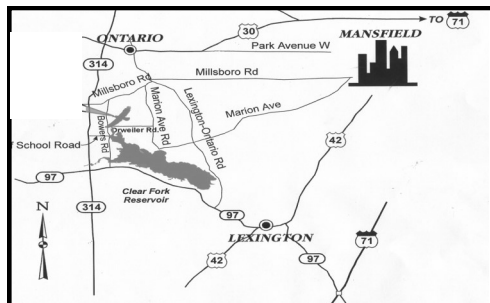
www.OhioBirdSanctuary.com

Visitor Center and Trail Hours

Tuesday-Saturday 10 am - 4 pm
Sunday 12 pm-4 pm

Closed Monday and Holidays

Admission to Bird Display Area
\$1/Child \$3/ Adult



For directions, Please see our Website.

Membership

Your membership supports our programs and the care of the education birds.



Owl \$25

Annual newsletter and free admission to bird display area.

Hawk \$50

Owl member benefits plus free admission for two guests .

Falcon \$100

Owl member benefits plus free admission for unlimited number of guests and an OBS mug.

Eagle \$500

Eagle member benefits plus a OBS t-shirt and free admission to OBS special events.



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