

# NEWS HAWK

SPRING 2017



## Jr Naturalist and Jr Volunteers Powering up for Seventeenth Season

Jan Ferrell, Naturalist



The Jr. Naturalist and Jr. Volunteer program for youth 13-17 yrs kicked off the year by attending the ODW Diversity Conference in March on the Ohio State University Campus. This conference was a wonderful opportunity for the students to learn about Ohio's biodiversity.

In April, the group volunteered at Gorman Nature Center where grounds manager, Kyle Bailey, taught them about invasive plants. The target plant for the day was garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) which was introduced by settlers for food and medicinal purposes in the late 1800's. It can grow in the sun or shade and is displacing many of our native woodland shade plants. Along with 50 students from Lexington Jr High, the group helped gather 30 large garbage bags of the weed for removal.

The end of April the Mohican Wildlife Weekend provided a time for the students to "give back" to OBS by being the backbone of the volunteer core who ran the weekend's events. Running craft tables, selling refreshments, set-up and clean-up were all part of the tasks these energetic teens and their parents accomplished on this fun and informative weekend.

In May the youth will participated in a Spider Survey with Sarah Rose from OSU, to determine what species of spiders inhabit OBS. June will include a canoe adventure on the Muskingum River. July the Jr Naturalists (members who have been in the program for 2 yrs) will be taking a grand adventure to Lake Erie. They will stay at the Kelleys Island Field Station and spend the weekend studying snakes, water quality, plankton and fish at OSU Stone Lab on Gibraltar Island. The Jr. Naturalist will also have additional opportunities to learn about the birds, plants and glacial grooves on Kelleys Island. The weekend will conclude with Putt putt, kayaking, astronomy and a service project.

## SUMMER DAY CAMPS



**CRITTER CAMP (June 12-14 & 19-21)** This camp is for your animal-lovers! We'll explore adaptations of, habitat for, and issues with all kinds of animals: mammals, reptiles, amphibians, insects, and birds (of course!)

**YUCK CAMP (July 10-12)** Think slimy, gooey, gross, and smelly! This camp will focus on some of the "yucky" aspects of nature: scavengers, decomposers, fungi, etc. We'll turn over logs and muck in streams, so prepare to get a little dirty.

**OUTDOOR SURVIVAL CAMP (July 31-August 2 & Aug 7-9)** This camp focuses on primitive outdoor skills such as fire-building, shelter-building, water purification, and resource-gathering. We'll also discuss orienteering skills and basic first aid on the trail.

Camps for ages 6 -12 years of age

9am-1pm

Limited Space

\$90/child

## Note from Director



Every parent enjoys boasting about the accomplishments of their children. Here at OBS we are no different. Four of our juvenile raptors have blossomed into exceptional ambassadors for their species. This spring Elliott the Black Vulture and Winnie the Screech-Owl turned two, Blaze the Peregrine turned three and Kevin our Osprey celebrated his first year. All four are unable to be returned to the wild for various reasons and have adapted well to their new roles in our educational program.

Elliott has magnified his educational role by attracting area vultures to perch on top of his enclosure. They are an impressive site and we have incorporated their daily appearance into our educational fieldtrips. Blaze stuns her audience with her beauty and intelligent gaze as staff brag about her species' aerial maneuvers. Kevin jumps to the front of his enclosure to engage visitor and give them an up close look at his adaptations for hunting fish. Winnie greets visitors as they enter the lobby with her melodic trill and has been a regular traveler for outreach programs.



WINNIE

ELLIOTT

BLAZE

KEVIN

We are grateful for the support of individuals and the community through donations, memberships, grants and gifts. This generosity allows us to care for these exquisite feathered friends and to offer programs that enrich lives and empower individuals to be good stewards.

*Gail Laux*

### COME JOIN US ON SATURDAYS!

The Sanctuary offers two programs free to the public on Saturdays. Saturday's at 1pm a staff member presents an information program with one of our educational birds. These encounters allow for up close photos and to learn about the species and its personal story that brought it to the Sanctuary. Saturday evenings at 7pm (April-November) staff takes two of our birds to the Mohican State Park Lodge for a family-friendly informative presentation.



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### Evening Owl Encounter

June 2, 10, 16 & July 1 8:30-9:30 pm

Experience the Sanctuary at night! Enjoy a short presentation in the Education Center by naturalist, Jan Ferrell followed by owl calling and chance to see and hear the owls that inhabit the Sanctuary.

Registration required  
 Limited to 20 participants.

Participants will receive an owl field guide and CD (one per family)  
 Members: \$2/ person or \$5/family

Non-members: \$5/person or \$10/family

# Science and Global Citizenship Go Hand in Hand at OBS

## Julie Schwartz, Youth Program Coordinator

When children are connected with the natural world, they tend to be much better citizens of it; taking responsibility for their actions and the effects that they have. Now, by "Global Citizenship", think big, not political. We're talking about the idea that we all live, as citizens, on this same big planet Earth. Here at the Ohio Bird Sanctuary, we continually seek ways to engage children with nature (through classroom outreach, field trips, nature camps, home school sessions, family events, Junior Volunteers, Junior Naturalists etc.) Are they fun? YES! Are they educational? YES! But, do they inspire kids toward positive action for the environment (Global Citizenship)? The answer is YES!

Recently, at our monthly program for students who are home schooled, we were sharing some staggering statistics regarding trash, resource usage, and pollution in our country as well as ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle in our everyday lives. Inspired at the thought that litter is a major source of pollution in our waterways and ultimately our oceans, not to mention that it's dangerous to wildlife, the kids decided we should see who among them could pick-up the most litter during our hikes. When hearing that plastic bags take 500 years to decompose and plastic water bottles take 1000 years, the kids were determined to either use only reusable versions of both or to be certain to recycle them! We also discussed repurposing items and even made art entirely from trash. This idea was carried through to the children's crafts offered here at OBS during our recent Mohican Wildlife Weekend. Everything the kids could make, with the exception of t-shirts, was repurposed from trash! Paper was recycled and shredded to make pollinator seed bombs, water bottles were cut and painted to make beautiful flower bouquets or just kept whole and turned into colorful hummingbird feeders.



Another impressive example of how carefully planned and executed programming empowers better citizens of our world was seen on Earth Day from our Junior Volunteers and Junior Naturalists. These young people, aged 13-18, took part in removal of Garlic Mustard, an invasive species of plant, from Gorman Nature Center. Working early on a Saturday morning is generally not a favorite activity for teenagers, just in case you didn't know. But, there were no complaints from this group. They were taught how to identify the plant, the importance of its removal to the health of the ecosystem and they got to work...removing more than 30 giant garbage bags of it! You can bet that when they see it growing somewhere now, they'll be able to identify it, discuss the importance of its removal, and waste no time removing it.

It has been my experience in working with kids for many years that they want very much to have a positive impact. They often don't know what to do, how to do it, what plans are realistic, or have a place to execute realistic plans that they do have. I'm certain our programming can bridge that gap for many kids. If we provide the knowledge/exposure, the skills/resources, and the setting, then the sky is the limit.

"Be the change you wish to see in the world." ~Gandhi



NEWSLETTER OF THE OHIO BIRD SANCTUARY

# NEWS HAWK

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## Ohio Bird Sanctuary

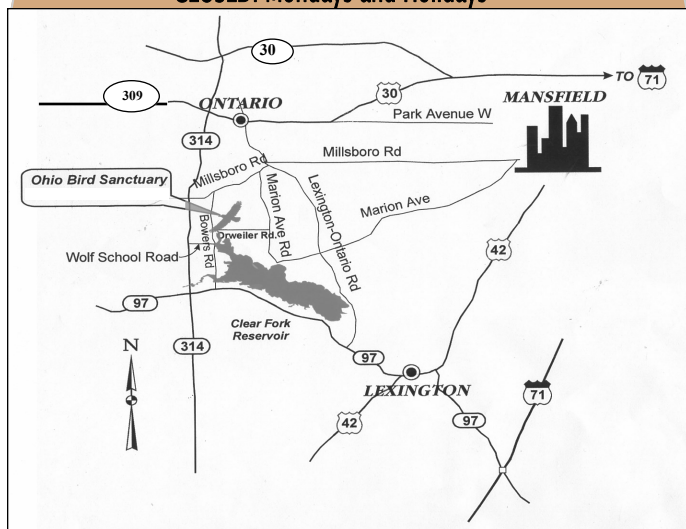
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OPEN  
Tuesday - Saturday 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM  
Sunday 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

CLOSED: Mondays and Holidays



For more directions, Please see our Website.

## Membership

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



**Owl \$25**

Receive Newsletter and invitations to special events

**Hawk \$50**

Owl benefits & Mug

**Eagle \$100**

Owl benefits & T-Shirt

**Osprey \$500**

Eagle benefits & a live-bird presentation



To become a member, please fill out the informational box below and enclose a check to: *Ohio Bird Sanctuary*

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