

A PLACE FOR FAMILIES - A PLACE TO LEARN - A PLACE TO EXPLORE - A PLACE FOR NATURE



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fall AND WINTER EVENT CALENDAR

We have a lot of exciting events coming up at the Ohio Bird Sanctuary! One of our new events that we can't wait to share with you is *Easels with Elliott!* At this event, participants will have the opportunity to paint, learn about vultures, watch Elliott the Black Vulture paint, and enjoy some wine! For this event on Nov. 4th & 5th all guests will need to be 21 and older.



Check out our list below of upcoming events for the next few months. Remember, members have the opportunity to register for camps and events first! We would love to have you join us!

November 4th & 5th: 5-6:30pm - *Easels with Elliott*

December 2nd: 5-9pm - *Movie and Game Night* : For children 6-12 yrs old. Enjoy an evening playing games, watching a movie, eating popcorn, and meeting a bird!



December 10th: 1-3pm - *Christmas for the Birds:* Meet Mr. & Mrs. Santa and their favorite reindeer. Admission is a gift for the birds!

January 16th & 28th: 10am-2pm - *Winter Camp* For children 6-12 yrs old. Come join us for games, crafts, hikes, and lots of winter fun!

February 11th: *Love is in the Air!* A celebration of owls. Time and details will be shared in January.

February 20th : 10am-2pm *Winter Camp* For children 6-12 yrs old. More winter fun!

***Registration required for all events.*

*Members will receive notification of registration opportunity first.
Any remaining spots will open to non-members two weeks prior to the event.
See our website for details.*



From the Desk of the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to share with you that our “Spreading Our Wings Capital Campaign” has successfully reached the goal of 3 million dollars!! Recent grants received from the Santa Cruz Foundation Cecil Fund and the Richland County Foundation, and gifts from two Donor Advised Funds of the Richland County Foundation: James C. Gorman Fund and the Blessed to Give Fund, and an anonymous gift has helped us cross the finish line! We are very excited to be able to share with you what capital projects we have completed this year and our plans for the next 18 months.

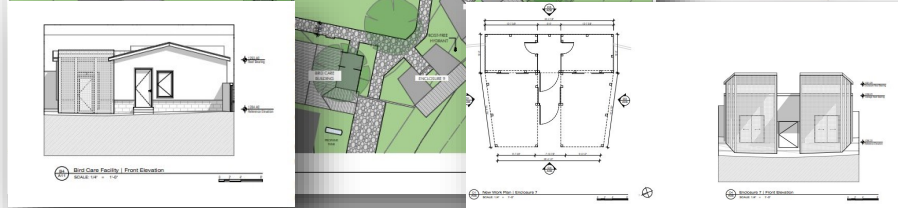


Projects completed ✓

In the first half of 2022, we replaced the roof on the Taylor Family Education Center, added new trail signs, and purchased medical equipment. This fall, the driveway and parking areas were paved by Kokosing Construction and lines were painted by Richland Seal Coating Company. None of us will miss the gravel, dirt, and potholes! Electricians of #668 IBEW installed electrical outlets and lights in our bird enclosures. As the days get shorter and temperatures drop, this upgrade will make early morning bird care easier and remove the need for a spider web of extension cords!

New Avian Encounter Area

In the summer, Woody Woods Tree Trimming Service removed the underbrush and dead trees from an area north of the Taylor Family Education Center in preparation for the construction of the Avian Encounter Area. This new area will create additional habitat for our education birds and a secluded program area for school groups, camps, and special programs. Each enclosure is settled into the hill side and between the trees creating a peaceful setting for birds and guests alike. The location is adjacent to the Education Center which will improve accessibility for audiences. This space will also allow school field trips and camps to learn about birds in an area separate from the current Bird Display Area enjoyed by visitors. A small building will be constructed to provide space for the food preparation and training of the education birds. This will serve the important biosecurity role of separating the care of the educational birds from the care area for injured and orphaned birds in rehabilitative care.



We are anxiously awaiting the construction of this area as it will greatly improve our visitor and program experience and allow for more free flighted behaviors for our education birds.

Visitor Center 2023!

In the fall of 2023, we plan to start renovations of the Visitor Center. Currently, this building houses both education and rehab bird care, staff offices, public restrooms, and gift shop. Renovations will include two small additions that will expand the lobby and add a triage area. The majority of the renovations involve repurposing of existing space to better serve daily operations and improve visitor experience. More details will be available soon!!

Due to an unprecedented increase in construction costs, we need to postpone the Field Classroom and Marsh Boardwalk improvements. Even though we met our goal, it will be necessary to raise additional dollars before proceeding with these improvements.

It is an exciting time for the Ohio Bird Sanctuary and the communities it serves! Thank you for your support! We are all so grateful!

Gail Laux



VOLUNTEERING AT OBS

Amanda Hull, Program Development Director & Volunteer Coordinator

Even with all the incredible volunteer help the Sanctuary already receives, we are always in need of more volunteers! We need you! Volunteering is an excellent way to give back to your community and feel a sense of purpose. Come be a part of our mission and help us reach our goals!

We have multiple positions for volunteers to find something that aligns with their personal interests. Continue reading to discover a few of our volunteer positions.

- **Front Desk Volunteers** are the first person guests see when they visit us! These volunteers do an amazing job greeting and talking with the public, assisting with phone calls, and handling admission and gift shop purchases. These volunteers have helped grow the Sanctuary to have more visitors than ever before!
- **The Program Volunteers** help with the craziness of camps, home school, fieldtrips, or other education programs here at the Sanctuary! These volunteers truly have patience and tons of energy to work with kids of all ages! In the past year, we've been very successful with countless field trips, 9 weeks of summer nature camps, and completion of the 2021-2022 homeschool program.
- **Trails and Grounds Maintenance Volunteers** are the backbone to the Sanctuary. From the Bird Enclosure area, parking lot, Education Building, to our 90 acres of trails, these volunteers keep all areas up and running. With leadership from staff member, Taylor MacDonald and Board member, Dave Siebold, these volunteers do an amazing job with the up-keep of the Sanctuary. As a special shout-out, I would like to say a special thank you to the volunteers who removed fallen trees after the storm in April. With over 10 sizable trees down across the trails, these volunteers worked tirelessly to get them removed as quickly as possible.
- For the Sanctuary's special events, like Mohican Wildlife Weekend and our Fall Family Festival, we are always in need of an extra set of hands for assistance! **Special Event Volunteers** help with anything from parking, to watching over the Treehouse Classroom, to helping kids slingshot pumpkins! These volunteers always bring additional excitement to our events!

With all these positions and volunteer help, how does OBS staff like to say thank you?! We like to show as much appreciation to our volunteers as possible. As a volunteer, every hour spent volunteering goes toward a "Bird Buck" amount. Bird Bucks can be spent on anything from gift shop merchandise, personalized educational programs like a Raptor Up-close presentation, to specific volunteer only items! The Sanctuary staff also holds two volunteer recognition events. A volunteer summer cookout and a winter luncheon. In 2022, volunteers were able to attend the very first *Easels with Elliott* painting session! Lastly, volunteers get the benefit of an insightful view of daily bird training sessions and other encounters. Volunteers get to see first hand what the Ohio Bird Sanctuary does best - work with birds!

Volunteering at the Ohio Bird Sanctuary is an enjoyable way to give back to your community and support our mission. If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out to amandahullobs@gmail.com or call the Sanctuary (419-884-4295). Applications can also be found on our website or in the Visitor Center.



JUNIOR NATURALIST

By Emily Tackett, Director of Operations

Perhaps you have caught a glimpse of some teenagers in tie-dye t-shirts during a visit to the Sanctuary. If so, then you have seen our Junior Naturalists in action! The Ohio Bird Sanctuary Junior Naturalists are a group of students ages 13-18 years old. They come from all different schools (some local and some farther away), but all of them have a love for animals and the outdoors! Our Junior Naturalists are involved at the Sanctuary as volunteers throughout the year, and the group also meets about once per month to learn about various environment topics.



When completing their volunteer shifts at the Sanctuary, they tackle many grounds and trails projects. From gardening and hedge trimming to maintaining the meadow and trails, they help keep the Sanctuary looking nice! They have also assisted with running the front desk in the Visitor Center. While at the Sanctuary, the Junior Naturalists monitor seven bluebird boxes that are located on the property and collect water sampling data for Richland Soil and Water Conservation District!

They are also a huge part of helping at our events such as Mohican Wildlife Weekend and the Fall Family Festival.

In addition to their hard work, we do have a lot of fun! This past year, the group was visited by Mohican State Park Naturalist Kyle Casey to teach us about reptiles, visited Lowe Volk Nature Center collaborating with their program for teenagers, went kayaking at Pleasant Hill, and took a tour of Malabar Farm. The Junior Naturalists also completed serviced projects on Kelleys Island and at Pleasant Hill.

Junior Naturalist

If you know a student 13-18 years old that is interested in becoming a Junior Naturalist (or if you want to learn more about the program), please reach out to:

Emily Tackett
419-884-4295 or
emilytackettobs@gmail.com





VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



At the Ohio Bird Sanctuary, the things we do would not be possible without volunteer help. From covering the front desk, to working on the trails, to extra help with our special events, volunteers make it all attainable. The Sanctuary has numerous amazing volunteers who donate their time and effort towards our cause!

An awesome way to learn about volunteering at the Sanctuary is through people who already volunteer! Meet Bette Backus and Rhonda Berry in our Volunteer Spotlights and enjoy a special note from James King.



Meet **Bette Backus!** She is one of our amazing front desk volunteers that regularly volunteers on Wednesdays and weekends! Bette has donated over 400 hours in 2022 alone! After growing up in Michigan and working in Indiana for 10 years, she has settled here in Ohio with her husband. Bette has always loved animals and has bird feeders placed around her house! In 2018, Bette sadly suffered from a shoulder injury, so she was introduced to volunteering at the Sanctuary as a way to get out and meet people in the area. Despite being an introvert, her favorite part of volunteering has been talking to people and telling them about the Sanctuary. When asked who her favorite resident bird is, Bette has two answers: Winnie the Screech Owl and Saint Alice the Bald Eagle. Winnie loves keeping Bette company in the Visitor Center by constantly whinnying and trilling! With Alice, Bette has enjoyed the journey of watching her mature, especially getting to see her head slowly turn white! Come say hello to Bette at the desk, and she might even have Remy, her little assistant and grandson, there to help!



Meet **Rhonda Berry**, another incredible front desk volunteer who is here weekly! Rhonda has donated thousands of hours throughout her 6 years of volunteering at the Sanctuary. She lives in Mansfield with Denny, her husband, and enjoys spending time with her daughter and son in law, Jill and Ben. Rhonda is proud of her grandson, Tyson, who recently got out of the marines. After retiring from Mansfield City Schools in 2020, she has been enjoying her “retirement job” of becoming an Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist. She loves giving back to her community as a lifelong Mansfield Resident. Despite being an active birder, Rhonda did not get to visit the Sanctuary very often, so now she is making up for lost time through volunteering! Her absolute favorite part about volunteering at the Sanctuary is making guests laugh, smile, and feel welcomed while visiting. Rhonda believes this is not a difficult task since people love the birds and the Sanctuary. From Rhonda, herself, “It’s the easiest job I’ve ever had.” Visit Rhonda and Winnie, her favorite resident, in the Visitor Center! You’re guaranteed to leave with a smile.

Message from “Mr. Jim”

James King is one of the most upbeat and devoted volunteers here at the Sanctuary. James, or Mr. Jim as we call him, has been an amazing addition to our educational programming! Mr. Jim has regularly helped with the home school program, summer nature camps, and more. He is always energetic and kind to the children, all while being an amazing assistant to staff. Be careful, Mr. Jim will probably beat you in a race to the Education building and call you a slow-poke! Let’s hear a special note from James: “I first became involved in nature camps when we lived in Fremont, and I volunteered for Sandusky County Parks, where I also completed the OSU Extension course to become an Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist. Three years ago, when I retired, my wife and I decided to return to Mansfield, where both of us had grown up. We were excited to explore the many naturalist programs in Richland County, and along the way, a friend introduced us to Ohio Bird Sanctuary. I was so impressed with the mission of OBS and the enthusiasm and dedication of the staff and volunteers! I absolutely love being involved in the programming for kids and families, especially nature camps. I hope to inspire in campers a sense of joy and wonder for our amazing natural world!”





Ohio Bird Sanctuary
3774 Orweiler Road
Mansfield, OH 44903

NEWS HAWK



Non-profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Mansfield, OH
Permit # 114

Or current resident

Visitor Center and Trail Hours

Tuesday-Saturday 10 am - 4 pm Sunday 12 - 4 pm
Closed Monday and Holidays

Admission

\$5/Adult \$3/Child (3-15 years old) & Military/Veteran
Members are Free

419-884-HAWK

OHIOBIRDSANCTUARY.COM

Giving Tuesday



November 29th!

Support the Sanctuary on this National Day of Giving!

<https://richlandgives.mightycause.com/organization/Ohio-Bird-Sanctuary>



KEEP US FLYING!

There are so many ways you can be a part of our mission!
Become a Member... Become a Volunteer...

Make a Donation to support bird care or the Wings Maintenance Fund.



MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

Owl - \$25 (Individual)

Free admission for one individual.

Hawk - \$50 (Family)

Free admission for one household.

Falcon - \$100 (Family & Friends)

Hawk level benefits plus free admission for 4 guests and a \$10 Gift card.

Eagle - \$500 (Supporter)

Hawk level benefits plus free admission for 8 guests, a \$25 Gift card, and a tour.

All members receive discounts and early notification on special events.

A gift to the *Wings Maintenance Fund* supports the management and care of the preserve and grounds.

A gift to the *General Fund* supports daily operations and the care of the birds.

Name _____ Cell Phone _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Email _____

Please designate if for a Membership _____ General _____ Wings Maintenance Fund _____