Beaver Creek Wetlands Association

Volume 38, Issue 2
Spring 2024

# The Spotted Turtle

Swamp Roses

Ah, spring. A time to celebrate the return of sunshine, songbirds and some seriously stunning blooms.

Photo by Mike Abel

*This Eastern kingbird takes flight from its perch at Siebenthaler Fen*

*Marsh marigolds in the warm sun near the boardwalk at Siebenthaler Fen*

Photo by Mike Mushala

Photo by Mike Abel

*Midland painted turtles sunning on a fallen tree at Siebenthaler Fen*

## CALENDAR

**Please sign up to volunteer or attend these walks or events. Visit** beavercreekwetlands.org/event

### April

Knollwood Garden Party Volunteer
Saturday, Apr 13, Shifts available

Earth Day Cleanup
Thursday, Apr 18, 11:00 am – 3:00 pm
Osborn Park, Fairborn

Roots of Stewardship: Native Land Management and Settlement Patterns
Saturday, Apr 27, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Beavercreek High School

### May

BCWA Barn Sale
Saturday, May 4, 9:00am – 2:00pm
Phillips Park Barn

BCWA 36th Anniversary Celebration
Saturday, May 11, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm
Hope Hotel, WPAFB

### June

BCWA Presents Native Plants: Nurturing Nature and Our Community
Saturday, Jun 8, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
Coy Middle School, Beavercreek

Pollinator Expo Volunteer
Wednesday, Jun 12, Shifts available
Wright Memorial

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# President's Message

It's springtime! Skunk cabbages have long since emerged from underground, red-winged blackbirds are singing from their perches, and the year's first dragonflies and butterflies should appear any time. Meanwhile, as the natural world cycles through its seasons, the work of BCWA moves forward as well. Ongoing highlights include projects at the Jim Amon Biodiversity Reserve (a new boardwalk – wow – with improved access coming soon) and, just north of the Dave Nolin Wetland Reserve, acquisition and restoration of another 23 acres of wetland and buffering upland. Spring forward indeed! As always, BCWA's work is a community project and we rely critically on volunteers. Whether with binoculars or with a hammer, we hope to see you out there!

– David Goldstein

BCWA Board President

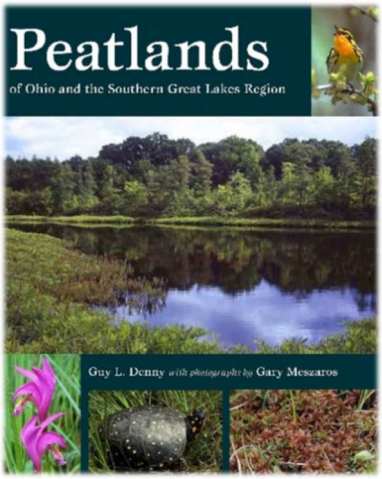
# BCWA's 36th Anniversary Celebration

**You're invited to celebrate 36 years of conservation in the Beaver Creek Wetlands!**

**Saturday, May 11, 2024**

**Hope Hotel & Richard C. Holbrooke Conference Center**
**10823 Chidlaw Road**
**Dayton, Ohio 45433**

**11:00am Reception with Cash Bar**
**11:30am Lunch served**
**12:00pm Program and Keynote Speaker**




*Guy L. Denny's new book and topic for his presentation*

Guy L. Denny is an interpretive naturalist, writer and photographer who was Assistant Chief of the Department of Natural Areas and Preserves (DNAP) from 1976 to 1994, and Chief from 1994 to 1999. He was Executive Director of the Ohio Biological Survey from 2006 to 2007 and also has served as Vice President of the Ohio Environmental Council, Secretary/Treasurer of the Outdoor Writers of Ohio, advisory board member of The Trust for Public Lands (Ohio), and as trustee for several other Ohio conservation organizations. Guy wrote the Bogs & Fens section of Ohio's Natural Heritage, published by the Ohio Academy of Science Press in 1979. He recently drafted the Articles of Dedication for Daughmer Savanna and wrote its management plan as a volunteer at DNAP. Guy lobbied to prevent DNAP from being eliminated from state law in 2010. He is one of the three incorporators of the Ohio Natural Areas and Preserves Association (ONAPA) and now serves as their board president.

To purchase tickets, scan the QR code or visit https://beavercreekwetlands.org/annual-meeting/. Early bird ticket price is $25 until April 22, 2024. Tickets increase to $30 beginning April 23, 2024. Reservations are required by May 5, 2024.

A special thanks to our sponsors James Investment and Oregon Printing!

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# Native Thickets and Indigenous Agriculture

Wild plums and hazelnuts grew throughout Ohio prior to European colonization. These dense thickets provided valuable habitat for creatures and produced edible fruits and nuts. There is ample evidence Indigenous peoples managed edible thicket orchards including species such as sweet crabapple, persimmon, wild plum, hawthorn and hazelnut. Early European accounts speak of massive, impassable "crab orchards" that native tribes maintained. To this day there are places named "Crab Orchard" in Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee and other states.

Photo by Austin Miller

*A large American wild plum thicket in late April in Beaver Creek Wetlands Reserve*

Unfortunately, these native thicket species are becoming more uncommon as they are edged out of any existing habitat by invasive plants like callery pear, autumn olive and bush honeysuckle.

Recently extensive wild plum, hazelnut and sweet crabapple colonies were found at Dave Nolin Wetlands Reserve. We are grateful for the astute eyes of Ohio botanist Daniel Boone who visited the reserve and quickly picked out the plum and sweet crabapple hidden amongst the invasive bushes (in winter!) Hazelnut was found scattered throughout but was especially prominent along a mowed pipeline right of way. Eastern wahoo and native hawthorn were also found, along with common thicket-associated catbrier (or greenbrier) vines (*Smilax* sp.) and black cherry trees. Daniel Boone has described native thickets as the rarest and most imperiled communities - they are shaded out of new forests, intentionally removed from grasslands, and absolutely decimated by habitat loss caused by invasive plants and development.

With management and care these native thicket remnants will thrive and could become a stunning example of a "Crab Orchard" in Southwest Ohio. The first priority is the removal of invasive plants from the thicket areas. Invasive shrubs can grow through the dense shade of the thickets and eventually overtop them, shading them out of existence. All these native thicket plants demand light and are capable of 'suckering', or sprouting from their roots, so their response to being freed from invasive plant pressure will be tremendous. It is interesting to note that this suckering doesn't allow for the counting of tree rings to determine age because the colonies consistently produce new stems as the old ones die back. Consequently, it is very possible some of these native thicket colonies are hundreds of years old, making them essentially old-growth communities. We just have no way of knowing the age.

Shortly after removing invasives, we will be able to collect fruit from these local populations to be germinated in a nursery and transplanted in BCWA properties. The importance of conserving the local genotypes of these thicket species (or any native species) cannot be emphasized enough. These plants have adapted to local conditions and have likely lived in the area for over 10,000 years since the last glaciers receded. Local genotypes may have special relationships with the fungi, plants, and creatures that have lived alongside them for eons, but unfortunately, these relationships have not been thoroughly explored or studied. There is no replacement for these local genotype plant communities and they should be cherished and widely propagated.

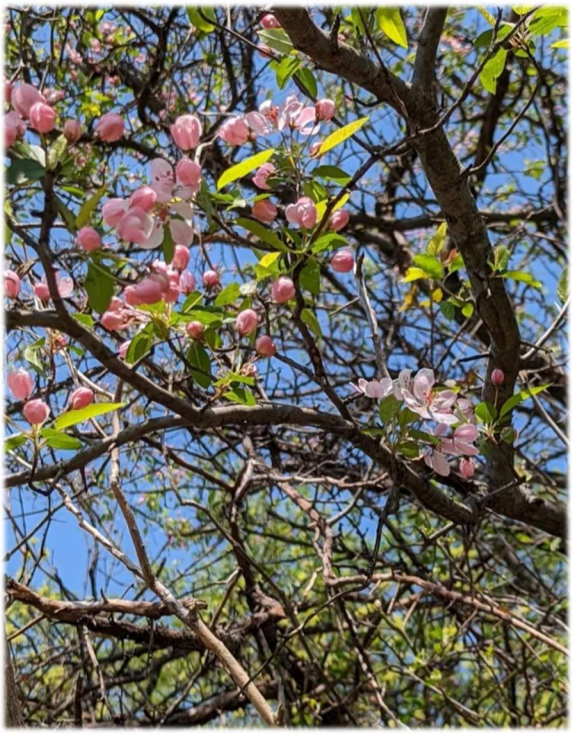


Photo by Dan Boone

*Pink blooms of sweet crabapple in spring*

*See page 11 for an excerpt from "The History of Montgomery county" published in 1882.*

Continued page 11 under Native Thickets

# In My Backyard – Actions for Individuals

## Neighbor to Neighbor – Talking About Climate Change

Talking about climate change can be hard. I know, because I've been trying to do it for about 5 years as a part of a non-partisan climate advocacy group that focuses on getting the federal government to address the causes and impacts of climate change. Although I meet fewer and fewer people who still deny the reality of climate change, I meet a lot of people who are overwhelmed, uncomfortable, or defensive around the topic. I understand those responses because the lifestyle that my family and my neighbors enjoy is largely made possible by the fossil fuel economy that I grew up in and still benefit from. Climate change is hard to grasp because of the sheer size of the threat and how the impacts are so unevenly distributed. Huge wildfires in Texas, blizzards in California and beautiful spring-like days in Ohio in February.

I also understand that things need to change and change more quickly.

I'm not a scientist, but I believe in scientific consensus, and well over 95% of scientists in fields related to climate say that climate change is real and accelerating. Most also say we are moving too slowly to respond. I'm writing this on Wednesday, February 28, 2024, after being awakened by a weather app at 4:00 am with a tornado warning. In February. On Monday of this week, my wife Ruth and I went on a beautiful bike ride in 65-degree weather. In February. While weather and climate are two different things, and no one weather event should be attributed to climate change, the mild winters in many parts of the country, the wildfires and droughts in other parts, and even extreme rain and snowfall events tell me there is a trend that can't be denied. I've lived in this part of Ohio all my 73 years and this is not a February that I recognize.

What can a person do? Actually, a lot. We can start by letting our elected officials know we want climate-friendly policies at every level of government. The issue is too big to address simply through individual actions alone.

We can also support the transition to a cleaner economy. We can consider climate in our purchasing decisions. We can make choices about where we go, how we get there and whether we can be more efficient in our errands by consolidating or eliminating trips. We can choose to incorporate more native trees and plants in our yards. We can eat more plant-centered meals. We can take advantage of tax incentives when we need to upgrade HVAC systems or kitchen appliances or shop for a car. We can research and sign up for clean energy options or maybe even investigate installing home solar. We can support well-designed clean-energy projects. None of these things will be enough individually, but trends add up. Coal usage in the United States is declining rapidly as cleaner alternatives become cheaper. The same thing can happen with other fossil fuels. Almost nobody depended on petroleum products for most of human history and then within about 200 years, it became hard to imagine a different way of life. We will transition to something new; the question is when, how, and at what cost.

Supporting your local wetlands association is also important because wetlands sequester a lot of carbon. You can volunteer to protect those wetlands. "Think globally, act locally," has been around since at least the 1970s. Working in the wetlands has been a good way for me to work off a little climate anxiety and to help preserve a precious resource.

One last thing; please talk about climate change, even if it is hard and confusing. It is too important a topic to avoid. If you'd like to know more about getting involved in climate advocacy, you can email me: bob.steinbach@gmail.com

– Bob Steinbach

BCWA Volunteer and Climate Advocate

### What Are YOU Doing?

What actions, big or small, are you already doing to help combat climate change? BCWA wants to know! Send an email listing the ways you help protect the planet. We may add your activities on our social media pages or in our next newsletter.

Your ideas may inspire others to take action! Maybe you will be inspired by a new idea!

Email Beth Edsall, Outreach Director at bedsall@beavercreekwetlands.org using the subject, "Climate Action."

## Ohio Wildlife Income Tax Checkoff

Over the last 36 years, The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) has been an outstanding partner in preserving the Beaver Creek Wetlands. Their partnership has been especially crucial at Siebenthaler Fen, Beaver Creek Wildlife Area, and Zimmerman Prairie. Please remember them when doing your taxes this year. You may donate part of your Ohio income tax refund by selecting "Ohio Wildlife" or "State Nature Preserves" on your Ohio tax form. Contributions made on your tax return are considered deductible charitable donations. Donations can also be made easily through personal tax preparation software or with your professional tax advisor.

Ohio's natural areas and endangered wildlife income tax checkoff programs have fostered the return of bald eagles, peregrine falcons, and trumpeter swans to the state's skies. Donations made through the state income tax form help ODNR protect natural areas and scenic rivers, reintroduce endangered wildlife and preserve wetland habitat.

– Shandah Brannen

BCWA Admin Coordinator

*Learn More: https://ohiodnr.gov/buy-and-apply/support-odnr/donate-to-odnr/tax-donation*

## Planning on Planned Giving

Why do we give to charities? Maybe it is to champion a cause or to support a person we care about…or maybe it's the tax deduction! There are many "why's" – and many "how's." While we often default to sporadic small gifts, for those who can, there are powerful ways to pursue a more significant planned giving, which can benefit a charity and benefit the donor.

Planned giving is a significant gift made as part of the donor's estate plan or financial plan, either during life or after death (or both!). People don't have to be rich to make a planned gift, and donors don't have to choose a charity instead of their family. Let's take a look at some general options – stay tuned for more articles that will take a deeper dive and explanation for each!

### Lifetime Planned Giving

Donors can make recurring planned gifts during their lifetime and enjoy income tax benefits. This is often done through Qualified Charitable Distributions from IRAs. Lifetime planned giving can also be done through a fund created at a community foundation, where donors contribute to the fund each year, and then decide when to make distributions to certain charities over time.

### Testamentary Planned Giving

Many people incorporate charitable gifts as part of their estate plans – sometimes as a lump sum or percentage to a charity, and sometimes as a "backup" beneficiary, if all the primary beneficiaries are gone. This can be done through a Last Will, Trust, or direct beneficiary designation (on an IRA, life insurance, etc.). Depending on the circumstances, this can generate great estate tax and income tax benefits.

– Brittany O'Diam, Esq.

*We asked Brittany to provide this information as a Certified Elder Law Attorney by the National Elder Law Foundation. Learn more about Brittany at https://oedayton.com/our-team/*

# Ring-Necked Pheasants at Siebenthaler Fen

Friday, February 9, 2024, was the second time in ten years I saw ring-necked pheasants at Siebenthaler Fen. I had just rounded the corner past the kiosk and I had the camera set for BIF (birds-in-flight). Suddenly there was an explosion as a bird launched. Owing to the noise and the color my first reaction was ruffed grouse. I just pointed the camera from the nip and fired off a couple of shots. But then a male ring-necked pheasant flew up and headed south and I realized what it was. This made it a very special day at Siebenthaler Fen.

– Mike Mushala

# The Local Option

In the short time since the last BCWA newsletter, 2023 was confirmed as the hottest year on record, and alarms have been raised that both circulation in the Atlantic Ocean and ecosystem function of the Amazon rainforest – two critical mediators of global climate – are nearing tipping points for unrecoverable disruption. The imperative for reducing fossil fuel consumption, thereby slowing the release of greenhouse gases that drive climate change, becomes ever clearer.

In the US, fossil fuel (petroleum, coal, natural gas, etc.) use is driven by demand in several broad sectors of the economy (Figure 1a). If we consider just petroleum fuels – the largest energy source in the US, but also one of the most polluting – the picture is different. Transportation, which relies heavily on petroleum, is far and away the biggest consumer (Figure 1b). And one portion of the transportation sector – aviation – stands out as the most difficult to move away from petroleum. Moreover, $CO_2$ emissions from airlines have grown 4-5% per year since 2010, and the increasing demand is projected to continue (Figure 2).

The airline industry can address this issue in many ways, including building more energy-efficient aircraft, substituting "sustainable" jet fuels, like biofuels, for petroleum (or electric power and batteries for some smaller planes), and managing air travel (increasing seats per plane, flying with fuller cabins). Airplanes also contribute to climate change in other ways. For example, contrails, clouds of water vapor that form during flights through high–altitude humid air, trap heat that may account for as much as one–third of aviation's impact on climate. Contrails might be reduced by simple adjustments of flight paths or more non-stop flights.

At the same time, we as consumers can do our part, too. Flying economy (to maximize seating capacity) and choosing non-stop itineraries can help. But the most directly effective contribution is the obvious one: fly less. Pretty much any other form of travel has a lower carbon footprint (Figure 3).

Foregoing air travel implies staying closer to home, and that might sound unexciting. But it doesn't have to be! That is the message behind Alistair Humphreys' new book, *Local: A Search for Nearby Nature and Wildness* (Figure 4). Humphreys has rowed across the Atlantic, hiked across the "empty quarter" of Saudi Arabia, and been named the National Geographic Society's "Adventurer of the Year." But, in *Local,* stimulated by his commitment to reducing his carbon footprint from air travel, Humphreys extols the virtues of exploration close to home. Humphreys obtained a 20 x 20 km map, marked into 400 1 $km^2$ plots, with his house at the center. Approximately weekly, for a year, he set out to explore one of those plots. Humphreys states his premise early in the book: "From the very first square, it became clear how much of interest there was on my map, so long as I acted on the assumption that everything was interesting."

Humphreys' writing is highly engaging, and it is punctuated by well–chosen quotes from others (Thoreau seems to be a favorite). Each day's venture induced Humphreys to go home and research various topics suggested by his observations. The result was ruminations on topics ranging from local history and community to global agriculture and the natural world.

Humphreys' take-home message on backyard amazement brings to

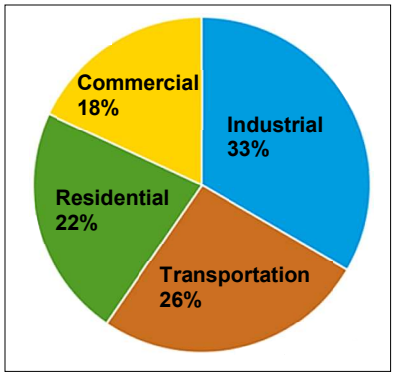



*Figure 1a: Consumption of primary fossil fuels in the US in 2020. (Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration)*

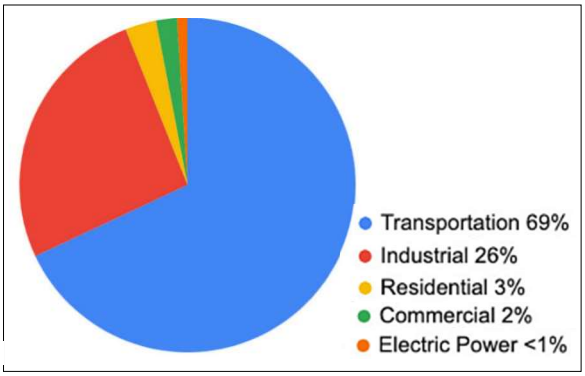



*Figure 1b: Consumption of petroleum fuel in the US in 2019. (Source: https://alternativeenergy.procon.org/how-the-united-states-uses-oil/)*

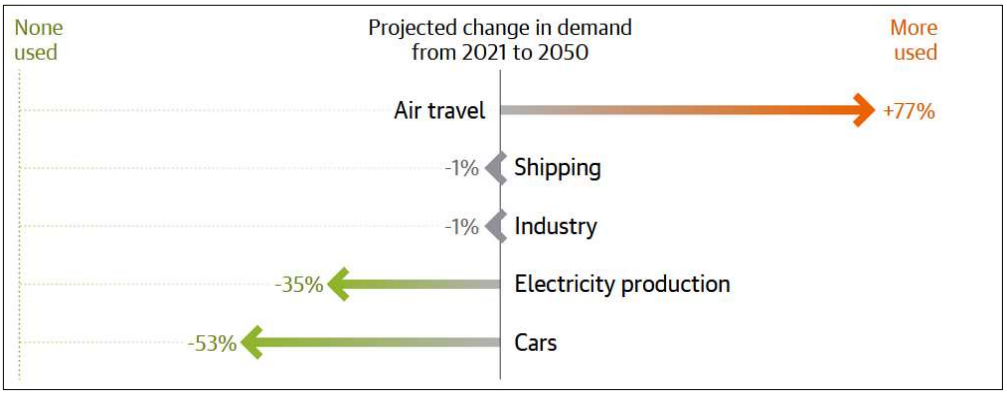



*Figure 2: Aviation is uniquely projected to continue increasing the use of petroleum fuels. (Source: The Guardian, 9 February 2024)*

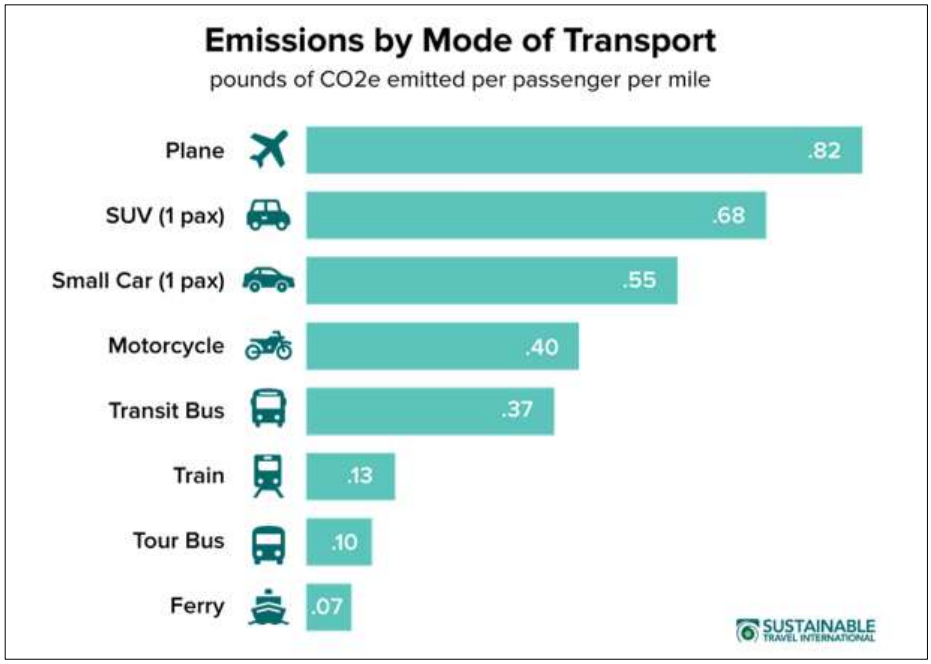
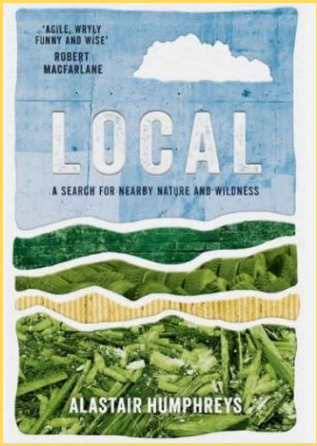



*Figure 3: CO2e measures the carbon footprint of various forms of transportation based on their global warming potential. From [https://sustainabletravel.org/issues/carbon-footprint-tourism/](https://sustainabletravel.org/issues/carbon-footprint-tourism/)*




"...if I neglect local landscapes in favour of exotic places, it is a further slide into being unaware about nearby nature, and then not caring or being aware about its demise, and so doing nothing to call it out."

– Alastair Humphreys

*Figure 4*

Photos by David Goldstein

*Figure 5: Left: A blood bee, genus Sphecodes; Right: A narcissus bulb fly, Merodon equestris*

mind another project. During the pandemic, Martin Dohrn, a renowned nature filmmaker, who has worked with the likes of David Attenborough, directed his cameras to his own British garden. The resulting film, "My Garden of a Thousand Bees," aired on PBS and is fantastic. Dohrn cataloged more than 60 species of bees in his garden and observed behaviors as eye-catching as anything he'd filmed during his years of global travel.

I am happy to advocate for this geographically close approach to broadening horizons. I did take one international trip by air in 2023, to the Peruvian Amazon, and I will admit that the pink river dolphins, poison dart frogs, and macaws were awe-inspiring. But I also have taken to observing my local environment here at home more closely. Just this past year, in my front garden, I encountered blood bees, lemon cuckoo bumble bees, bumblebee-mimicking narcissus bulb flies, and numerous other new-to-me species (Figure 5). So much to learn!

Going just slightly farther afield increases the diversity of environments many-fold. With just a short walk from my front door, I can explore the local neighborhood, creek, and park. With just 20 minutes of driving, I can step onto a boardwalk in the Beaver Creek Wetlands. How cool is that! Natural history, community development, municipal water supply – there is no end to the topics one might be stimulated to explore not far from home.

The poet Mary Oliver provides Humphreys' first top-of-chapter quote: **"Instructions for living a life. Pay attention. Be astonished. Tell about it."** If you happen to follow those instructions in the Beaver Creek Wetlands, let us know what you find!

– David Goldstein

BCWA Board President

# Winter Volunteering in the Wetlands

## Saturday Crew

In the field, volunteers cut and treated invasive woody vegetation in Hagenbuch Reserve and cut down standing cattail stalks in Little Beaver Creek Prairie.

## Monarch Waystation Crew

Volunteers began spring cleaning in early March by raking the sycamore leaves, trimming the grass, and breaking up the standing dead stalks from last year's growth.

## Spotted Turtle Trail

Our winter outdoor work started with completing the 16-foot, south ramp of the new James P. Amon Biodiversity Reserve boardwalk. Volunteers completed five more boardwalk bump-outs. Twenty newly assembled benches were transported to Amon Reserve, fifteen of which were placed along the boardwalk. The remaining five will be placed as work is completed.

*Volunteers (left to right) Jeff McPherson, John Braun and Skip Beehler enjoying the sites along the new boardwalk at Amon Reserve*

*The new purple martin homes at Amon Reserve*

Photos by Ken Moran

The new community gourd housing for purple martins was installed as part of phase three. Migrating "scouts" should be in our area soon. Keep your fingers crossed that the scouts choose our new gourd housing!

## Cover Mapping

Cover mapping volunteers continued to collect data at James P. Amon Biodiversity Reserve during the winter months. They completed approximately 64.5 acres bringing the total to 366 acres mapped.

## Equipment Maintenance

In early February, Jim Schneider and I checked and greased our equipment, and changed the tractor implements to the woodchipper.

– Skip Beehler

Land Management Committee Chair

# Volunteer Rally

Photo by Beth Edsall

*Approximately 60 people attended our Volunteer Rally on February 24*

Thanks to the many new and current volunteers who attended our 2nd annual Volunteer Rally at Peace Lutheran Church in Beavercreek on Saturday, February 24, 2024. Participants heard presentations about the many options we have to volunteer for BCWA and what to expect when volunteering. They then had the opportunity to speak with individuals who lead our volunteer events.

Volunteers are an essential part of BCWA. If you missed the rally but are interested in our volunteer opportunities, visit our website at https://beavercreekwetlands.org/volunteer/, scroll to the bottom, and sign up! I'll be in touch soon.

– Beth Edsall

Outreach Director

## Educational Programs Open House

BCWA held its first open house for volunteers interested in helping with educational programs. BCWA staff, Shandah Brannen and Beth Edsall discussed the general preparation, setup and teaching of the programs. Four programs were displayed as examples so Beth and Shandah walked through the lesson plans for each program. Volunteers received a hands-on experience with the "Runoff Race" activity in the "Wonders of Wetlands" program. These programs need leading and supporting teachers. For those apprehensive about teaching the programs, we also offer shadowing opportunities to observe and minimally help with the programs.

If you are interested in volunteering with BCWA's educational programs, please contact Shandah at sbrannen@beavercreekwetlands.org.

*Monarch Tagging program display*

*Volunteers ready to learn about BCWA's educational programs*

*Volunteers Don Shipley and Candi Meyer demonstrate how wetlands improve water quality by filtering out sediments*

Photos by Shandah Brannen

## Schedule an Educational Program

BCWA educational programs are tailored for kindergarteners through adults. If you are interested in an educational outing for your group, class or school, please contact Beth Edsall at bedsall@beavercreekwetlands.org. Girl Scout troops wanting to earn badges may register on our website at https://beavercreekwetlands.org/girlscouts/.

Photo by Shandah Brannen

*Volunteers Frank Schober and Jaya Das Schober at the Adventure Summit at Wright State University*

Photo by Mike Mushala

# News & Notes

## Earth Day Cleanup

BCWA the City of Fairborn and Wright-Patterson Air Force Base are teaming up for another volunteer cleanup. Join us to help make our community green! Earth will thank you!

Thursday, April 18, 2024
11:00am – 1:00pm
Osborn Park
51 Erie Ave, Fairborn

Gloves and trash bags are provided. For more information contact Danielle Trevino at Danielle.Trevino.1@us.af.mil.

## Roots of Stewardship: Native Land Management and Settlement Patterns

Beaver Creek Wetlands Association and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources present a fascinating exploration of the Little Miami River corridor. Discover insights from plant community research by Dave Nolin, shedding light on historical land use in the Dayton, Ohio region. Talon Silverhorn of the Eastern Shawnee Tribe offers a glimpse into the past with a brief history of Oldtown, once a thriving Shawnee village along the river's floodplains. Learn about the ongoing development of Great Council State Park at Oldtown, where an interpretive center and restored native prairie will immerse visitors in the area's rich history. Dive into this captivating slice of local heritage!

This is a free event, but registration is required. Seating is first come, first serve.

*Dave Nolin*

*Talon Silverhorn*

Saturday, April 27, 2024
10:00am – 12:00pm
Doors open at 9:30am
Beavercreek High School
2660 Dayton Xenia Road

Scan to Register

Copies of Dave Nolin's latest map, "Native Landscapes of the Dayton, Ohio Region in 1800," will be available for purchase at the event! Map sales will benefit BCWA. Visit https://beavercreekwetlands.org/event/roots-of-stewardship/ to register or scan the QR code.

## BCWA Barn Sale

Saturday, May 4, 2024
9:00am – 2:00pm
Phillips Park Barn
2090 Dayton Xenia Road

Stop by Phillips Park Barn for all your lawn and garden needs! All sales benefit BCWA.

Donate to the sale! Bring your used garden tools and yard equipment you no longer need. Please be sure items are in working order. Drop items off at Phillips Park Barn on Saturday, April 13 or Saturday, April 27 from 9:00am – 4:00pm.

For more information, visit https://beavercreekwetlands.org/event/barn-sale/

# Wetland Wows – Coming Soon!

Dragonflies are important elements of wetlands, playing key roles as predators both in and above the water (as larvae and adults, respectively). Interested in these charismatic insects? Check out the new website of the Ohio Odonata Society, https://www.ohioodonatasociety.org/

Photo by Mike Mushala

*Blue dasher dragonfly found at Siebenthaler Fen*

Photo by David Goldstein

*Calico pennant dragonfly both found at Oakes Quarry*

Photo by Mike Abel

*Redbud blooms at Koogler Wetland Prairie Reserve*

Photo by Mike Mushala

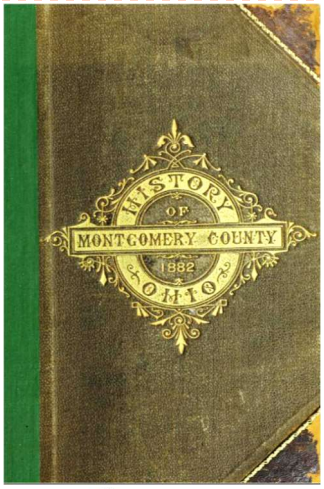
*Common Gallinule at Siebenthaler Fen*

## Native Thickets Continued from page 3

"The history of Montgomery county, Ohio, containing a history of the county," written by W.H. Beers & Co, tells of an early account of the prairies, thickets, and oak-hickory forests that grew where the city of Dayton, Ohio is today.

> "There were also small prairies north of First st and west of Wilkinson; some of them of half an acre, but most smaller. There were also five prairies east of St. Clair st and south of First, separated from each other by small strips of timber.
>
> Between these prairies, the center plat was a dense mass of hazel bushes and plum thickets, hawthorn trees and occasional clumps of forest trees. East of Mill st to Webster, and between First and Loury st, there was a heavy growth of hickory timber, with here and there oak and walnut. From Webster st east down the hill, there were jack oaks, plum thickets and thorn trees."

*https://archive.org/details/historyofmontgom01whbe, page 548 (Use the slider to find the page.)*




– Austin Miller

BCWA Board Trustee

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technical@beavercreekwetlands.org
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bedsall@beavercreekwetlands.org

**Newsletter Editors**
Carol Amon, Jim Amon, Beth Edsall and Lois Gschwender

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*Dutchman's breeches at Pearl's Fen on March 17, 2024*

*Photo by David Goldstein*