

LITTLE BEAVER CREEK LAND FOUNDATION



WATERSHED WATCH

SUMMER 2008

COME AND SEE US AT THE
COLUMBIANA COUNTY FAIR, JULY
28 THROUGH AUGUST 3, 2008

OHIO BIRD BREEDING ATLAS II BLOCKBUSTER: A SUCCESS

Story by **CAROL F. BRETZ**

Region 53 birders held a blockbuster the weekend of June 6, 2008 and invited birders from outside the area to come in and help document breeding species in Region 53. The Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II, (OBBA II), project is overseen by the Ohio Division of Wildlife and the Ohio State University's Terrestrial Wildlife Ecology Lab. The first Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas was conducted in the mid 1980's and the data collected from 2006-2010 will be compared to the first atlas data to see how individual bird species are faring. Region 53 includes the southern townships of Mahoning County, most of Columbiana County, a small portion of Carroll County and the northern townships of Jefferson County. The planning committee for the Blockbuster consisted of Jim and Becky Kerr, Bob and Denise Lane, Carol Bretz and Jim Dolan.

Partners for the event included the Little Beaver Creek Land Foundation, Beaver Creek Wildlife Education Center, Beaver Creek State Park, the Columbiana County Park District, and OBBA II. The LBCLF provided the meals for the weekend. A Friday evening dinner and program opened the blockbuster. There were about 55 people in attendance at the Wildlife Education Center. Attendees heard remarks from ODNR Director Sean Logan, State Senator Jason Wilson, County Commissioner Penny Traina, OBBA II Coordinator Aaron Boone, Jim McCormack of the Ohio Division of Wildlife and Board Member of the Ohio Ornithological Society, Todd Metz, Beaver Creek State Park Naturalist, Jim Dolan, Region 53 Coordinator, and Jim Kerr of the Wildlife Education Center. Attendees toured the Center and viewed the extensive collection of bird and animal mounts and displays.

Saturday began early with birders electing to canoe the North Fork, bird areas not previously covered in southern Columbiana County, or go to Egypt Swamp in Perry Township to look for marsh birds. Box lunches were provided to birders and at the end of a long, hot day, birders convened at Beaver Creek State Park to eat hotdogs and hamburgers and other good food at the pavilion under the red barn. Afterwards, a few birders traveled up to Pine Lake in southern Mahoning County to call Virginia Rails and Soras.

SEE BIRD BLOCKBUSTER EVENT ON PAGE 3

WILDLIFE SANCTUARY SIGNS AVAILABLE

The Wildlife Sanctuary signs are still available for land owners who wish to purchase them for \$10.00.

The 'Wildlife Sanctuary' signs have been shown to act as a better deterrent than the traditional 'No Trespassing' signs to intruders.

Signs may be purchased at the Little Beaver Creek Land Foundation office at 130 Maple Street in Lisbon from 9:00am to 3:00pm Monday through Friday.

Interested parties wanting to ensure their land will be protected further may contact the LBCLF at 330-420-9507.



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VIP CANOE FLOAT

On May 16, 2008 the Little Beaver Creek Land Foundation held a VIP canoe float down the Little Beaver Creek for state and county officials. This year, the float started at the Beaver Creek State Park, Pioneer Village and went down to Gretchen Locks—about 3 and half miles down stream. The event was done in conjunction with AmeriCorps Week—a time set aside to spotlight the service that AmeriCorp VISTAs are involved in, and to bring awareness to the poverty which exists throughout the country.

The canoes were supplied by the ODNR Wild and Scenic Rivers staff, who also took a macro-invertebrate sampling of the creek. The sample that was obtained that morning indicated that the stream was in good health due to the the number of more



Pictured from left to right are: Dottie Betz, CC Park Board; Steve Roloson, ODNR-W&SR; Sean Logan, Ohio DNR Director; Tom Butch, CC Parks Board; Jim Hoppel, CC Commissioner, and Dan Bing, CC Commissioner



Division of Wildlife, Fisheries employee—Matt Backus

pollutant sensitive macroinvertebrates found. Additionally, Matt Backus from the Division of Wildlife, Highlandtown Fish Management office came and spoke of the excellent small mouth bass population in the Little Beaver Creek.

Participants in the VIP canoe float included: Ohio Division of Natural Resources Director, Sean Logan; Columbiana County Commissioner Dan Bing, Columbiana County Commissioner Jim Hoppel; ODNR, Soil and Water Conservation-Watershed Program Manager, Greg Nageotte; ODNR, Wild and Scenic Rivers- Northeast Region Manager, Steve Roloson; ODNR Wild and Scenic Rivers Greg Marvin; Columbiana County Parks Board Chairman Dottie Betz; Columbiana County Parks Board Vice-Chairman Mike West; Columbiana County Parks Board Commissioner Tom Butch; and Little Beaver Creek Land Foundation Trustee Richard Berg.

After the trip down stream, lunch was served in the pavilion under the barn in the Beaver Creek State Park, which served as a time to converse for some and an opportunity to dry off for others. Overall the float went very well; the rain stopped shortly before we all gathered, the water level was up, and everyone made it back safely!

SUMMER EVENT: EXPLORE THE OUTDOORS WITH YOUR FAMILY

August 9, 2008 will be a day for families, as the Coalition of Columbiana County Conservation Partners with the Col. Co. Head Start and Col. Co. Child Support Enforcement Agency will sponsor "Explore the Outdoors with Your Family Because Time Together Counts." The event will be held from 10:00am to 4:30pm at the Beaver Creek State Park on Echo Dell Rd. Hotdogs, chips, and beverages will be provided from 11:00 until 2:00, activities, workshops, and displays will be held from 10:00 until 2:00, and a stream life presentation will be from 2:00 until 4:30.

Some of the sessions will include the Park Board's instruction on bicycle safety, the Col. Co. Soil & Water Conservation Districts presentation on wildlife, the Beaver Creek Wildlife Education Centers' seminar on reptiles, and the Little Beaver Creek Land Foundation's watershed education presentation. Other planned activities include crafts by the Girl Scouts, tours of emergency vehicles by Head Start, nature walks by the Beaver Creek State Park Naturalist, and an archery trailer sponsored by the Col. Co. Federation of Conservation Club Inc. ODNR Wild and Scenic Rivers will conduct the stream life session with both macroinvertebrate sampling and fish shocking.

Come out and spend time with your family at the Beaver Creek State Park on August 9th from 10:00am to 4:30pm and see all that nature has to offer!

BIRD BLOCKBUSTER EVENT

There were 23 birders in the field and the list of species documented as nesting was extensive. Over the three day period birders made 672 observations and documented 122 species. A highlight was the discovery on Sunday morning by Jim Dolan and Aaron Boone of nesting Black-throated Blue Warblers up in Pine Run about 100 feet across the state line in Pennsylvania. Unfortunately they can't be counted in the OBBA II this year, but perhaps next year they'll move into Ohio. Their presence is significant because the only record of



A Black-throated Blue Warbler

breeding Black-throated Blue Warblers is from the 1930's in one locality.



Photo of Common Merganser and ducklings by Jim Dolan during the event weekend

The Blockbuster's success was additional confirmation of the outstanding diversity of the watershed. Jim McCormack included Little Beaver Creek as one of the 40 best places to visit in his upcoming book, *Wild Ohio, the Best of Our Natural Heritage*. The Blockbuster results validates the work of the Land Foundation and other partners in protecting and preserving habitat in the watershed. For more information on the OBBA II go to the official website at <http://www.ohiobirds.org/obba2/>.

SUMMER INTERN

Josh Howard, a student from College of the Atlantic (COA) in Bar Harbor Maine, will be working as the Summer Associate through the AmeriCorps program for the Little Beaver Creek Land Foundation. He is originally from the Fort Wayne Indiana area.

This summer Josh will be working to help the LBCLF complete our Watershed Ac-

tion Plan, which will help the Foundation secure funding for future projects.

Josh is a Human Ecology major at COA, whose academic interests include conservation and community organizing. He also studied engineering before attending COA. Thus far, Josh has created our new website (LittleBeaverCreek.com), aided in water sampling, and has begun to do research about the watershed using Geographic

Information software (GIS).

This Geographic Information software will allow us to easily see where different problem areas are in the Little Beaver Creek watershed so we can develop an effective plan to improve water quality and preserve wildlife habitat. Josh will also be participating in volunteer recruitment and public outreach to help get people involved in protecting the watershed.



CONSERVATION LANDSCAPING WORKSHOP



OSM/VISTA, Esther Bardo presents during the workshop

On the 26th of June, the Little Beaver Creek Land Foundation partnered with the Columbiana County Soil and Water Conservation District to hold a Conservation Landscaping workshop.

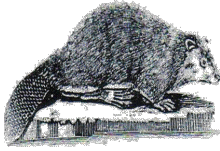
Twenty participants from the county and surrounding area came to the Salem branch of Kent State to learn about watersheds,

alternatives to fertilizer and pesticides, substitutes for manicured lawns, stream bank stabilization, and water conservation strategies.

These various educational practices were present and discussed by LBCLF OSM/VISTA Esther Bardo and CC S&WCD District Program Coordinator Pete Conkle. Specific water conservation practices such as rain barrels and rain gar-

dens, were particularly highlighted and described throughout the workshop.

The LBCLF has fact sheets on Conservation Landscaping, Rain barrels, and Rain gardens. Anyone interested can pick them up at the Lisbon office, call to have a copy mailed out to them, or can view them by downloading the corresponding link on the website.



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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

LITTLEBEAVERCREEK.COM

PRESERVATION AND
PROTECTION FOR FUTURE
GENERATIONS

On July 31, 2008 the Environmental Protection Agency will hold a public meeting pertaining to the Nease Chemical Site Cleanup at the Salem Public Library on E. State St. at 6:30 pm.

LITTLE BEAVER CREEK STREAM CLEAN-UP

On Saturday the 21st of June, twelve volunteers organized by the Little Beaver Creek Land Foundation cleaned approximately ten miles of the Middle and North forks of the Little Beaver Creek in conjunction with the Ohio River Sweep. The event is put on every year by the Ohio River Sanitary Commission which coordinates the cleaning efforts of the Ohio River and its tributaries—one of which is the Little Beaver Creek.

Three canoes left Beaver Creek State Park in St. Clair Township and collected trash in and along the Middle Fork to Sprucevale. An additional three canoes started at Pancake-Clarkson Road and gathered trash down the North Fork to Fredricktown. Volunteers collected eleven bags of trash, twelve tires, three metal 45 gallon drums, and various other metal items and garbage from the stream. Some of the more interesting pieces of trash found were; a wheel barrel, an adding machine, a toilet, and a truck running board. Due to the extensive amount of debris, roughly two dozen tires had to be left on the banks in anticipation of a possible future opportunity to clean the creek.

The Little Beaver Creek Land Foundation would like to thank all the volunteers who came out and participated in the clean-up, Wild and Scenic Rivers for supplying a number of the canoes that were used, the Columbiana, Carroll,

Harrison Solid Waste District for supplying the dumpster, and Beaver Kettle Farms for providing a site for trash collection and lunch. Thanks to everyone involved for making it a great day!



Pictured, from left to right are: OSM/VISTA Esther Bardo, summer intern Josh Howard, ODNR-W&SR Greg Marvin, and Middleton Twshp Trustee Nancy Michaels