

Public Is Invited

Marietta Natural History Society

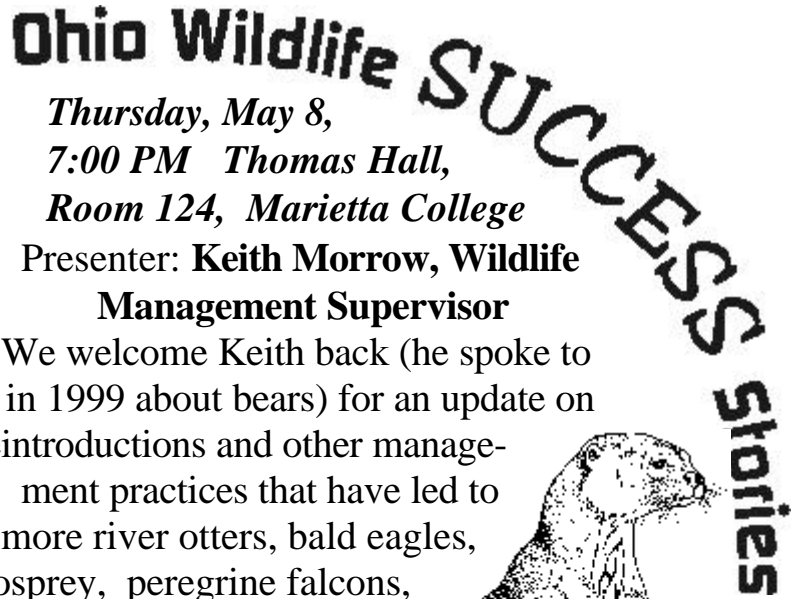
Spring 2003 Newsletter



Thursday, April 10, 7:00 PM
Thomas Hall, Room 124
Marietta College

Presenter: Richard Gary,
Entomologist with Ohio
Department of Health

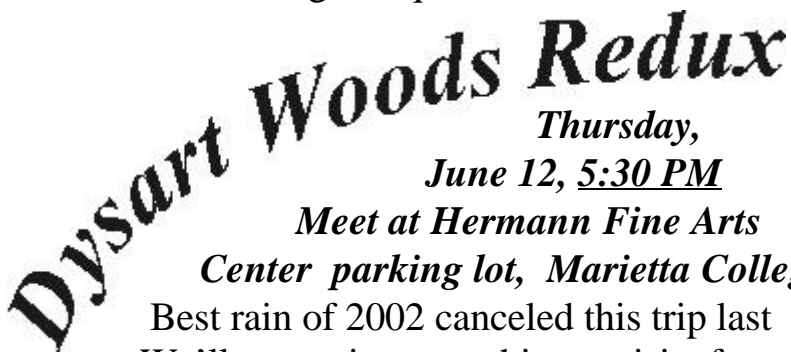
Richard will discuss the biology of mosquitos, breeding habitats, and the false notion that established wetlands breed hordes of disease transmitting mosquitoes.



Ohio Wildlife
Thursday, May 8,
7:00 PM Thomas Hall,
Room 124, Marietta College

Presenter: Keith Morrow, Wildlife
Management Supervisor

We welcome Keith back (he spoke to us in 1999 about bears) for an update on reintroductions and other management practices that have led to more river otters, bald eagles, osprey, peregrine falcons, and more!



Thursday,
June 12, 5:30 PM

Meet at Hermann Fine Arts
Center parking lot, Marietta College

Best rain of 2002 canceled this trip last year. We'll try again to see this exquisite forest, never timbered and preserved as seen by early settlers. The 455-acre farm was deeded to Ohio University in 1962 and has been subject of much research. We will carpool 75 minutes each way.

Special Programs

Wildflower Search

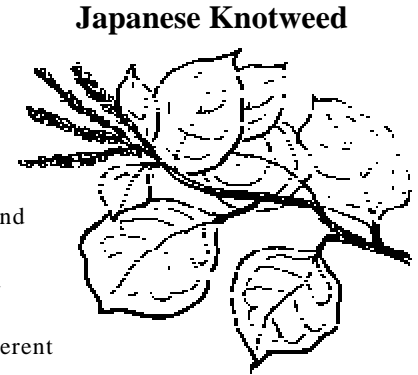
Sunday, April 13; 1:00 PM

Fern Walk

Sunday, June 8; 1:00 PM



Invasive Info. Invasive plants found in Washington County have been the subject of an ongoing series of articles by Marilyn Ortt in the MNHS Newsletter (see below), and the ecological impacts of such species is well documented. Indeed, non-native plants, animals and microbes cost the United States an estimated \$100 billion annually. Now there is an official Federal Web site with information on invasive species education, monitoring, prevention and control. There are profiles of 50 of the more intractable trespassers, and visitors can access databases and find resources according to geographic location, including information for different states. Visit the site at www.invasivespecies.gov.



Dame's Rocket: A Pretty Face on a Spreading Problem by Marilyn Ortt

In May and June, some shaded stream terraces and moist roadsides have masses of flowers ranging from white to purple. The racemes of 4-petaled flowers, each about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch across, are at the top of alternate-leaved stems up to 3 feet tall. These can be very showy and will be growing so plentifully that it is easy to assume they are a native species. In growth form and flower color, they can easily be mistaken for tall wild phlox but that species has 5-petaled flowers.



Dame's Rocket (*Hesperis matronalis*) is native to Europe and arrived on these shores as an easily grown garden flower. Unfortunately, like other horticultural species that are invasive and non-native, they have readily spread beyond the garden fence when the habitat is right.

In Europe, it is called Dame's violet but with the same scientific name, of course. That is a significant value of scientific names: common names for the same species may vary from country to country or even within a watershed but *Hesperis* (Greek for sunset) *matronalis* (matronly, from the old name Mother-of-the-Evening) identifies this species no matter where it may grow.

An early twentieth century European flora gives the habitat and range as "In hedges, bushy places, and open woods, in central and southern Europe, and all across Russian Asia..." It had crossed the English Channel to England by that time as a garden plant and was naturalized in that country.

A 'native' species has grown here since before European settlers arrived. A non-native species is said to be 'naturalized' when they are able to spread and grow without assistance from man and occur so frequently that they appear to be native. Often this requires some disturbance

This member of the Mustard Family can have quite hairy stems and leaves to which the deep tap-root supplies water and nutrients. Spring growth can be quite rapid because of the resources stored in the tap-root the previous year.

See Dames, Page 5

Invasive plant species of Washington County profiled in the MNHS newsletter. All articles were written by Marilyn Ortt, except where indicated otherwise.

- Series Introduction – Winter 1999
- Garlic mustard – Spring 1999
- Kudzu – Summer 1999 (by S. Spilatro)
- Autumn clematis – Fall 1999
- Wintercreeper – Winter 2000
- Autumn Olive – Spring 2000
- Japanese Knotweed – Summer 2000
- Miscanthus – Fall 2000
- Poison Hemlock – Winter 2001
- Tree-of-heaven ('Stink Tree') – Spring 2001
- Ground Ivy – Summer 2001
- Cinnamon Vine ('Air Potato') – Fall 2001
- Crownvetch – Winter 2002
- Japanese honeysuckle – Spring 2002
- Mile-a-minute – Summer 2002
- Multiflora rose – Winter 2003
- Dame's Rocket – Spring 2003

**Thanks, Marilyn, for this great series of articles!
Copies of the previous issues of the MNHS
newsletter are available on line at
www.marietta.edu/~biol/MNHS**

April 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 ●	2	3	4	5 Paint Swap Day
What Activity Do You See First? Warm Spring Weather Awakens Nature						
6 Daylight Savings -- Set clocks ahead	7	8	9 ☾	10 MNHS Program	11	12 Household Waste Collection Day
13 Spring Wildflower Search	14 Large White Trillium In Flower	15	16 ○	17	18	19
Lyrid Meteor Shower April 16 - 25 (peak on the 22nd)						
20	21 John Muir's Birthday (1838)	22 Take a MNHS Birdwalk On Earth Day	23 ☾	24	25	26
Dandelion Greens Ready For Salads?						
27	28	29 MNHS Birdwalk	30	Earth Day Celebration Saturday April 19 12 - 3 PM		
Poison Ivy Leaves Emerging						

Marietta City Bird Walks

... Will be starting again soon!
Walks are held on Tuesdays, 6:30 to 7:30 AM
Leader: Lynn Barnhart

April 22 at Buckeye Park
meet at picnic parking area

April 29 at Oak Grove Cemetery
meet near entrance to American Legion

May 6 at Jackson Park
meet in parking lot near pool

Wear comfortable shoes and dress for the weather. Binoculars would be useful but not necessary.



June 2003

Winter Birdfeeder Counts?
Don't forget to send your winter birdfeeder counts to Ava Bradley at 104 Alderman St.,

May 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 ● Space Day	2	3
Recycled Paper 50% Total Recovered Fiber 30% Post-Consumer						
4	5	6 MNHS Birdwalk	7	8 MNHS Program	9 ☾	10 Astronomy Day
May 5 -- May 10 is Wildflower Week						
11 Mother's Day	12	13	14	15	16 ○ May 16: Total Lunar Eclipse Alas, Visible Only In Western U.S.	17
18	19	20	21	22	23 ☾	24
Purple Finches Leaving And Orioles Arriving Are Among Avian Comings And Goings						
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 ●
Look For Carpenter Bees Excavating Nests In Wood						

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Crows Fledging	3	4	5	6 Summer Azures Already Flying	7 ☾
Look For Cattail Blooms Covered With Pollen						
8 MNHS Fern Walk	9 Chiggers Becoming Active	10	11	12 MNHS Program	13	14 ○
Peak Of Bullfrog Breeding			Monarch Larvae On Milkweed Plants			
15 Father's Day	16	17	18	19	20	21 ☾ Solstice Summer Begins!
Gray Squirrels Begin Second Breeding!						
22	23	24	25 Elderberries Are Blooming	26	27	28
Bird Song At Day Break At Its Peak						
29 ●	30					

MNHS Celebrates 10th Anniversary

With this Spring's programs, the MNHS reaches its 10th anniversary and the 5th anniversary for the Newsletter. On behalf of the membership, the Newsletter Editor extends congratulations and thanks to the MNHS Board of Directors for their nurturing of this Society. A special thanks goes to Marilyn Ortt for her unfailing efforts in scheduling monthly speakers and field trips (approximately 120 so far!), nature and bird walks, night hikes and other special events, as well as articles and information for the newsletter. Thanks Marilyn for all your dedication and hard work.

The first program, 'Sounds of Spring' was presented by Lynn Barnhart in March, 1993. The following 10 programs represent one year of MNHS from 1993 to 2002 – can you identify the year during which each occurred? (Answers on page 5) How many did you attend?

- 1) Oil and Gas in Our Past (David McCain)
- 2) Periodical Cicadas (Gene Kritsky, College of Mount Joseph)
- 3) Bats by Zook (John Zook, OSU)
- 4) Broadback Island Expedition (Field trip to this island led by Janet Butler)
- 5) Turtles in the Myrtle? (David McShaffrey, Marietta College)
- 6) GrindStone Country (Field trip to old grindstone quarry led by Brad Bond)
- 7) Mussel Power (Field trip to Middle Island mussel bed led by Janet Butler)
- 8) Raptor Rehab (Mike Book, WV Raptor Rehabilitation Center)
- 9) To the Planets ...and Beyond (Dean Hirsche, WSCC)

MNHS
Board of Directors
Diane Mitchell
Marilyn Ortt
Elsa Thompson

Newsletter Editor
Steven R. Spilatro

Join fellow MNHS members for two special trips

Spring Wildflower Search

Sunday, April 13 – A trip to the Wayne National Forest to see the diversity of spring wildflowers in full bloom.

Fern Walk – Sunday, June 8.

A great opportunity to study and learn to identify native ferns.

For both walks we will meet in the Hermann Fine Arts Center parking lot at 1:00 PM. We will drive 45 minutes each way for the fern walk, and about 20 minutes each

Bird-brained

“(T)he more birds that the (Department of Defense) kill(s), the more enjoyment Mr. Frew (a plaintiff) will get from seeing the ones that remain: ‘Bird watchers get more enjoyment spotting a rare bird than they do spotting a common one.’” – from a March 2002 court summary of the U.S. Department of Defense’s argument for an exemption from the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, The court rejected the DOD’s request but Congress granted the exemption in the 2003 defense authorization bill, signed in December. (*Sierra*, March/April 2003)

Babes in Cat Land

If you find baby birds obviously not yet able to fly hiding around your yard this spring, do not assume they are orphans or need help getting back into the nest. The parents are probably near by and during this adolescent period they are learning how to find food and avoid predators. The neighborhood cat should be confined, if possible, to give the birds a chance to learn about our world. If confinement isn’t possible, you might gently lift the birds into a shrub out of the cat’s reach.

If the bird has only down instead of real feathers, it is too young to be out of nest. If you can locate the nest, you may try replacing it and then immediately move away from

Spring activities at *the Wilds*

April 26 — Annual EcoThon

Running and walking trail of 5K and 10K through forests, grasslands, and by wetlands and lakes. One of the Wildest runs you'll ever enjoy. Call Larry 740-638-2060.

WildeCampe

The Wildest summer camp experience of them all! Experience wildlife and wildplaces in a small camp atmosphere. Camps for Kritter Kids (8-11 year olds), TerraTeens (12-16 year olds), EarthKeepers (Teen work camp), and OIKOS (Counselors in training) in June, July and August. Contact Al Parker for information and dates.

Hands on the Land

Looking for an EE camp for your junior high or high school students? Sign up for a 3-day restoration ecology camp program that gives students service project opportunities, encourages community commitment, and grows ethics of stewardship. Contact Al Parker for information and to schedule dates.

If you have questions about these activities, contact Al Parker, Conservation Educator at the Wilds at aparker@thewilds.org or call 740-638-2116.

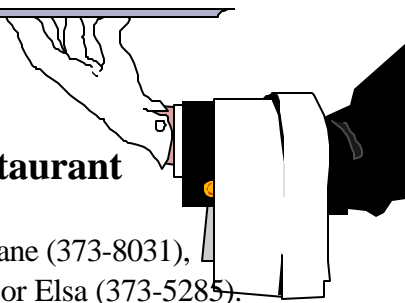
Answers to MNHS Program Quiz on page 4

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| 1) March, 1996 | 6) August, 1998 |
| 2) April, 1999 | 7) September 1997 |
| 3) May, 1993 | 8) October, 2000 |
| 4) July, 2002 | 9) December, 2001 |
| 5) April, 1995 | 10) December, 1994 |

Dinner with the speakers

We will meet
at 5:30 at the
Oak Star Restaurant

Check first with Diane (373-8031), Marilyn (373-3372) or Elsa (373-5285) to be sure speaker will be there. Members should make their own reservations.



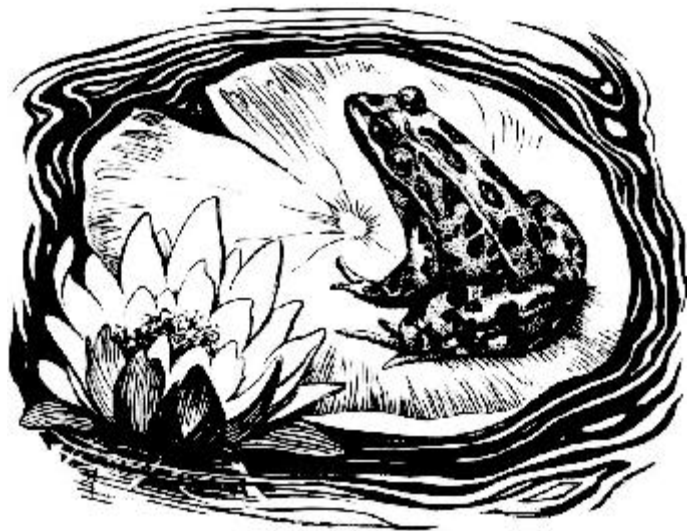
Dame's Con't.

The fragrant flowers are pollinated by butterflies, moths, flies and bees. The 2-4 inch-long, almost cylindrical, pods enclose the maturing seeds until the pods split open and the seeds drop to the soil below. The seeds germinate almost immediately and new plants begin to grow that will flower in early summer the following year.

The density of dame's rocket plants that can develop provide the problem – they literally displace the native species on which many species of wildlife depend for food. Dame's rocket pulls relatively easy but, if it has begun to flower, put the plant into the garbage can so that seeds cannot continue to mature and continue their policy of aggression.

Natural History Question?

Do you have a question about our local natural history? Submit it to the Newsletter Editor (spilatr@s@marietta.edu; 376-4748) and we will print it



Don't forget that videos of many previous programs are available at the Washington County Public Library.

Thanks to Lynn Barhnhar tfor recording these programs over so many years.



Invite a Friend to Join the Marietta Natural History Society

Benefits of
Membership

Wood Thrush — Individual \$15

River Otter — Family \$25

Monarch — Friend \$50

Why not give a gift membership?

Mail check to address given below

Monthly programs

Field trips

Quarterly newsletter

Educational experiences

for kids and adults

Conservation Projects

The MNHS Mission

- i To foster awareness of and sensitivity to our environment and its biodiversity
- i To provide a place where people with these interests can gather for information and activity
- i To create a presence in our community representing these ideas



Marietta Natural History Society
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