

## MINUTES OF COAC MEETING OF 09-16-2018

1. CONVENING. The Council of Ohio Audubon Chapters (COAC) met at 11:00 a.m. on September 16, 2018 at Myeerah Nature Preserve, 7405 St. Rt. 540 in Bellefontaine, OH 43311. Attending were Liz Woedl and Linda Williams of Audubon Miami Valley; Jim Jablonski and Andy Lance, Conservation Chair, Black River Audubon Society; Linda Chen, President, Canton Audubon Society; Sherilyn Burns of Greater Akron Audubon Society; Jackie Augustine, Eric Broughton, Cheryl Erwin, Susan Heaphy, Volker Jeschonnek, Eric Juterbock, Katie Mehlow, and Don & Mary Rosenbeck of Tri-Moraine Audubon Society; Scott Peak of Audubon Society of Ohio (Cincinnati Audubon); Nancy Howell, Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society; Betsey Merkel, COAC Administrator; Nicole Favale, Dan Hodges, Parth Patel, and Corinne Piper of Ohio State Lima; James Mundy of Nature's Ark Photography, and Samuel Harvey.
2. NATURAL AREA TOURS. Two Myeerah Nature Preserve Habitat Restoration Tours were conducted Sun Sept 16, 2018 at 9:30 AM - 10:45 AM by Jackie Augustine covering tree plantings, wetland construction, and prairie restoration areas. The afternoon walk at 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM led by Dr. Eric Juterbock, Conservation Chair, Tri-Moraine Audubon explored a Geosink and Old Growth Tour. The hike consists of elevation changes, and involved holding onto a rope to climb a muddy trail. Participants saw a unique geological feature: a geosink - a pond created by a collapsing cave. Additionally, the group spotted interesting birds, salamanders, insects, and fungi as they trekked through the old growth forest to get to the geosink.
3. WELCOME. Host Jackie Augustine, President, of the Tri-Moraine Audubon Society welcomed COAC members. Jackie talked about the morning natural area tour and described what to expect at the afternoon walk. Jackie explained the history and development of the Preserve and Tri-Moraine's role in its success and the chapter's collaborative approach to partnership building and ongoing stewardship.
4. UPDATES AND BUSINESS MEETING. Nancy Howell opened the session with the COAC Finance report. [VIDEO](#) Betsey O'Hagan, presented "[The COAC Platform Sept 2018](#)" and asked attendees for feedback on a wide selection of proposed COAC brand logos. It was suggested attendees break into small discussion groups and many excellent suggestions were noted and sent to the COAC graphic designer to inform final design selections. See, [COAC Workshop Sept 2018 Brand Identity Notes](#). [VIDEO](#) Jackie facilitated participant dialogue addressing 4 questions: 1) What's working for you so far? 2.) What do you want? 3.) What are you present challenged? And, 4.) Blue sky dreaming.
5. LUNCH. The attendees enjoyed lunch from 12:30 p.m. to 1:15 p.m., which was catered by Hippie and the Farmer, and Cosmic Charlie Bread. We each paid for our own lunch.
6. AFTERNOON SESSION I. From 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. the group addressed capacity building for chapters. The first presentation, "**Chapter Development-Writing a Successful Annual Appeal Letter**" was presented by Liz Woedl. Liz addressed what it takes to create a successful Annual Appeal Letter and shared tips attendees could take home and use immediately. [VIDEO](#)

[PT 1](#) & [VIDEO PT 2](#) The second presentation, “[Strategizing the Monthly Chapter Meeting](#)” was presented by Jackie Augustine. Jackie presented data on Tri-Moraine’s seminar series, discuss topics and strategies used to increase attendance. She lead a discussion about how chapters organize their monthly meetings. [VIDEO PT 2](#)

7. AFTERNOON SESSION II. The 2:45 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. session presentation topics were presented by Tri-Moraine members, affiliates, and other Ohio chapter presenters. Andy Lance, Conservation Chair, and Jim Jablonski, President, presented, “[Designing and Implementing a Burke Grant Funded Restoration Project](#)” two successful Lorain County restoration projects managed by Black River Audubon Society. One, at the Black River Audubon Park and the second, Meadow Preserve Project with Lorain County Community College. [READ MORE | BURKE PLANTS FOR BIRDS GRANT PROGRAM PPT | BRAS RESTORATION PROJECTS DOC | VIDEO PT 1 | VIDEO PT 2 | VIDEO PT 3](#) A second presentation, “**Tri-Moraine Environmental Education Weekend**” was led by Don Rosenbeck. [VIDEO](#)
8. WRAP UP AND NEXT STEPS. Jackie Augustine facilitated a closing conversation with the group. Jackie thanked the students who staffed a camera to record the meeting sessions. The group is looking for a host for the quarterly workshop scheduled for Sunday, December 2, 2018.
  - a. An online workshop participant survey was distributed electronically on September 30, 2018 and 10 responses were collected. 50% of responses were very satisfied and 50% were somewhat satisfied; 30% described the program as high quality, 100% useful, 30% unique, and 30% good value for the money; 10% felt the workshop meet their needs extremely well, 60% very well, and 30% somewhat well; 30% felt the workshop was very high quality, 40% high quality, 30% neither high nor low quality; 50% felt the value for the money was excellent, 30% above average, 20% average. Additional questions: How long have you been engaged in COAC activities? 30% first workshop, 10% less than 6 months, 20% six months to a year, 1-2 years 30%, 3 or more years 30%; How responsive have we been to your questions or concerns about COAC planning? 20% extremely responsive, 40% very responsive, 20% somewhat responsive; How likely are you to attend a COAC activity again? 20% extremely likely, 70% very likely, 10% somewhat likely.
  - b. Group feedback on the workshop:
    - i. Linda Williams and I (Liz Woedl) went to Camp Myeerah near Bellefontaine to meet with the Coalition of Ohio Audubon Chapters. I caught up with some folks I hadn’t seen for years and met some spirited new-to-me Audubon folks. Ohio Chapters have some amazing projects going on. The drive, only about 2 hours from Oxford, was lovely after leaving I-70 and heading north to Ohio’s cave country, small towns and rolling landscape.
    - ii. Corinne Peters Piper: Good program today. I learned information that will be useful for several groups of which I am a part. The food was great as well!

- iii. Cheryl Erwin: Participants in today's Council of Audubon Chapters meeting at Myeerah Nature Preserve. Tri-Moraine was happy to play host and share Myeerah with other chapters.
- iv. Our Conservation chairperson, Andy Lance, and I (Jim Jablonski), addressed the quarterly gathering of the Council of Ohio Audubon Chapters, in Bellefontaine. We informed the group of chapter representatives about the BRAS restoration projects at Black River Audubon Park and the LCCC Meadow Preserve. Andy's program was very well received.
- v. This workshop was so much better than Oct 2017 & March 2018! Having missed June, I cannot compare. It was not a negative experience. There is a disparity between chapters membership-wise & monetarily so that needs to be taken into consideration with programs & donation requests from chapters. If chapter board members find COAC to be of some benefit, they will be more likely to allow a small amount of chapter funds to be used for COAC. That will most likely take some time.
- vi. Thanks to Hippie and the Farmer, and Cosmic Charlie Bread, for catering our lunch at the quarterly workshop of the Council of Ohio Audubon Chapters. Everything tasted as good as it looked! And we were so happy that we could support sustainable farming and local businesses.

9. ADJOURNMENT. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m. A majority of attendees participated in the natural area tour immediately afterwards.

Respectfully submitted by Betsey O'Hagan  
Administrator, COAC