

### Shop the Rookery

The early bird gets the worm! Beat the spring migration crowd and stop in to the Rookery Nature Store now for a wide selection. It is stocked with charming socks, hats and hoodies to keep you warm this spring as you venture outdoors. You can also find jewelry with your favorite critters from the refuge. There are great gifts for all the nature lovers in your life. Visit the Rookery Nature Store daily 9 am - 4 pm. New and exciting items are arriving weekly!



### Volunteer Spotlight

Our Friend Gary Luman has been volunteering with Ottawa Refuge since 2004. He has used his expertise as a craftsman to assist with construction projects like the Wildlife Window interior, observation decks, and fishing platforms. He has also monitored the blue bird boxes near the Refuge Visitor Center for 5 years and served as a Junior Duck Stamp judge. Gary will soon be moving from his home along Lake Erie to retire in South Carolina. His dedication to Ottawa over the years is admirable and he is an inspiration to us all. Please help us thank Gary for all of his hard work!



Volunteer Gary Luman (pictured middle) working as a judge at the Ohio Junior Duck Stamp Competition.

Interested in volunteering? Visit [www.friendsofottawanwr.org](http://www.friendsofottawanwr.org) for the current list of position openings.

### Events

#### APRIL

- Friday, April 3: 7-9pm- Owl Prowl
- Saturday, April 4: 10am- Purple Martin Party
- Sunday, April 5: 8am- Monthly Bird Survey, Eagle Tours\*: 9:30am-12pm- 1-3:30pm
- Friday, April 17: 7-9pm Owl Prowl
- Wildlife Drive Open: April 18-19
- Saturday, April 18: 1-4pm West Harbor Paddle\*
- Sunday, April 19: 9am-12pm Adopt A Beach\*

#### MAY

- Wildlife Drive Open: May 1-25
- Sunday, May 3: 8am- Monthly Bird Survey
- Daily: Friday, May 8 through Sunday, May 17:
- South Woods Bird Walk: 10-11:30am & 2-3:30pm
- Ottawa Tram Tours: 9:30am, 11am, 12:30pm, 2pm, 3:30pm
- Navarre Marsh Tour\*: May 8, 11-15; 1-4pm
- Cedar Point NWR Tour\*: May 8-17; 8:30-11:30am & May 9, 10, 16, 17; 1-4pm
- Blue Goose Bus Tours\*
- Saturday, May 23: 9:30am-12pm, 1-3:30pm
- Sunday, May 24: 9:30am-12pm, 1-3:30pm
- Saturday, May 30: 9:30am-12pm, 1-3:30pm
- Sunday, May 31: 9:30am-12pm, 1-3:30pm

Events marked with an asterisk require reservations.

For more information about events, please call 419-898-0014 or visit us online at [www.friendsofottawanwr.org/events](http://www.friendsofottawanwr.org/events)



# THE TRUMPETER

NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS OF OTTAWA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

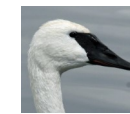
#### FAVORITE BIRDING SPOTS

#### REFUGE AND WATER TRAILS

#### RESTORING A GOLF COURSE

#### ROB'S BIG YEAR & A HALF

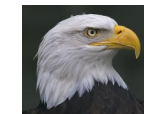
#### POLLINATOR PLANT SALE



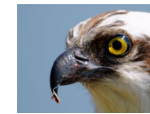
**Trumpeter Club \$250**  
Bill & Dorothy Baker  
Jim and Diane Krieger  
Suzan & Jim George  
Margy and Scott Trumbull



**Snowy Owl \$500**  
Eunice Koebel  
James Eidemiller



**Eagle Club \$1,000**  
Daniel & Ruth Ann Fraser  
TJ and Mary Held



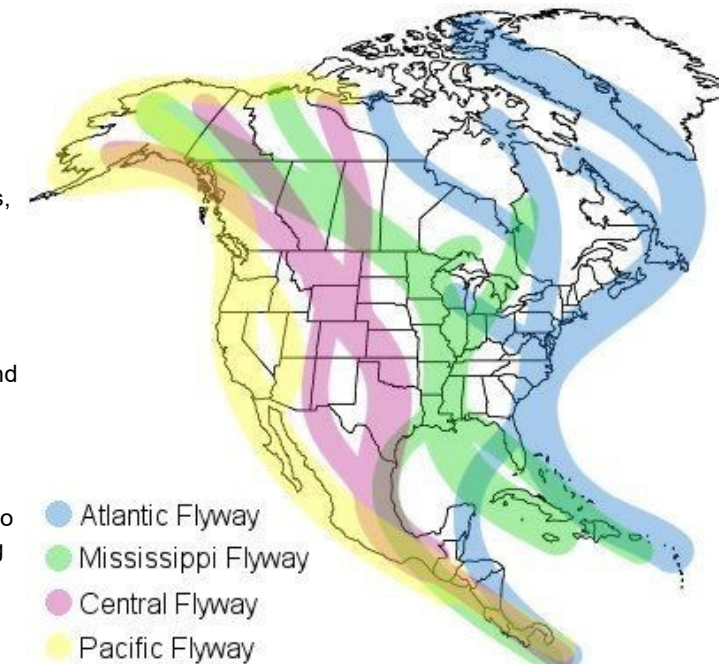
**Osprey Club \$2,500+**  
The Joan Kimple Family  
Anonymous Donor (x2)

### Our Favorite Birding Spots at Ottawa Refuge

Since Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge hosts birds from both the Atlantic and Mississippi flyways during migration, spring is an exciting time of the year. During your visit check out some of our favorite birding and wildlife viewing spots on the complex.

1. **Crane Creek Estuary Trail:** great views of migrating waterfowl, songbirds, and wading birds as you explore lakeshore, beach, estuary, shrub/scrub, and wetland habitats.
2. **Ottawa Wildlife Drive:** Take the 7-10 mile drive through parts of Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge that are typically closed to the public. You can take your own vehicle back on the gravel trail to view wooded habitats, prairies, and wetlands offering all sorts of great birds. This is a great way for all ages and abilities to explore Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge.
3. **Boss Unit:** This unit was restored from agriculture in 2012 and features an ADA accessible observation deck. The adjacent woods holds an eagle nest so eagle activity is frequent. In the spring you will likely spot all sorts of migrating waterfowl including pintail, northern shovelers, and gadwall. Depending on lake levels, this is also a good place to check for shorebirds if mudflats are exposed. A kestrel box is located here and has been active in the past.
4. **Grimm Prairie:** On the western edge of the main complex you will find a lovely prairie trail. Sit and listen at the parking area or walk back through the grass to listen for sparrows, kestrels, meadowlarks, bobolinks and dickcissels with potential for golden plovers if conditions are right. Keep an eye to the sky for migrating hawks and resident Sandhill cranes.
5. **Woodies Roost:** This loop trail is a lovely, secluded walk for anyone looking to step away from the crowds. Views of wetlands and woods provide opportunities for warblers, thrushes, indigo buntings, swallows, and waterfowl - particularly wood ducks.
6. **Cedar Point National Wildlife Refuge:** Grab a tour for an opportunity to view tons of migrating warblers on this remote refuge. (The guides tend to fight over these trips because They. Are. Outstanding!) Free Bus tours run May 8-17, 2020. Some Blue Goose Bus Tours will go to Cedar Point once the festival is over.

Visit [www.friendsofottawanwr.org](http://www.friendsofottawanwr.org) for maps, directions, and amenities located at each one of these spots. Happy birding!



### More ways to support your wildlife refuge...



Link your Kroger Plus Card to Friends of Ottawa NWR's Kroger Community Rewards Account, number **KT924**.

Visit [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), and set **Friends of Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge** as your charity. Amazon will donate .5% of the price of eligible purchases to us.



## JOIN NOW.

### Membership Perks!

[www.friendsofottawanwr.org](http://www.friendsofottawanwr.org)

14000 W State Route 2

Oak Harbor, OH 43449

419-898-0014 x13

### Meet Julia Hince

You may see a new face around The Rookery Nature Store at Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge. Julia Hince was hired by the Friends as a Nature Store Clerk in January 2020. Julia grew up on the shores of Lake Erie in Western New York. It didn't take long after moving to Northwest Ohio to realize what a true treasure this area is. She is thrilled to be a part of the Friends group's efforts to preserve it. Working in public service and volunteering at the refuge has led her to this position. Julia's goal is to provide unique items in the Rookery Nature Store that showcase the distinct beauty of the refuge. She shares her love of nature with her husband and three children who enjoy amateur bird watching, fishing and camping together.



### Ottawa License Plate

Have you upgraded your license plates yet? Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge plates are now available through the Ohio BMV. \$20 of each plate sold directly supports your national wildlife refuge.



## ABOUT US

Friends of Ottawa NWR is a 501(c)3 non-profit established in 1997 to promote the preservation of the natural and historical resources of Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, located near Oak Harbor, Ohio.

Friends of Ottawa NWR supports the only National Wildlife Refuge Complex in Ohio in its mission to conserve, protect, and enhance natural resources for the benefit of wildlife and people.

Join us for an event at Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge— you won't be disappointed!

[WWW.FRIENDSOFOTTAWANWR.ORG](http://WWW.FRIENDSOFOTTAWANWR.ORG)



## Restoring a Golf Course

Do you love exploring new birding locations in NW Ohio? Now is your chance to support habitat restoration and visitor amenities at one of Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge's newest satellite properties.

The Marinewood Unit is located on SR 163 between Oak Harbor and Port Clinton. This 62.2 acre unit is named after the old Marinewood Golf Course. Ducks Unlimited donated the golf course to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in 2014. Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge now manages the parcel. The USFWS has completed a restoration project and has plans to open the property for public use.

Currently a pair of bald eagles have an active nest in the middle of the parcel providing a unique wildlife observation opportunity. Plans also include providing restrooms, an RV pad for a site host, and potentially a raised boardwalk and shelter house. The next phase of the project will focus on increasing visitor amenities including a gravel trail, kayak launch, kiosk, and nature play area. Phase II is estimated to cost \$25,000. **Can you help us to complete Phase II of this project?**

The golf course restoration is located approximately halfway between Oak Harbor and Port Clinton on State Route 163. Type 4640 W. Harbor Rd, Port Clinton, OH 43449 into your GPS to check out the site yourself!

Donations can be made on our website or in the Nature Store.

### PHASE I ✔ COMPLETED 2018-2019

- RESTORATION AND PRIMITIVE ACCESS
- Plant 20 acres of trees
  - Native prairie restoration
  - Repave parking lot
  - Establish grass trail

### PHASE II

#### INCREASING VISITOR AMENITIES

- Install gravel trail ⋯
- Install kayak launch ★
- Install kiosk ■ and benches ▬
- Create nature play area ⊙

### PHASE III

#### VISITOR AMENITIES

- Visitor Comfort Station/Restrooms

### PHASE IV

#### ESTABLISHING SITE MAINTENANCE

- RV Pad for Site Host

### ADDITIONAL POSSIBILITIES

#### AS RESOURCES ALLOW

- Raised boardwalk
- Amphitheater
- Land Lab
- Shelter House



## Places to Paddle

1. **Cedar Point National Wildlife Refuge:** From June-August, the borrow pond at Cedar Point NWR is open for kayaking and fishing.
2. **Middle Toussaint Unit:** If you are looking for a secluded, tranquil ride, this is your spot. Paddle along the Toussaint immersed in wildlife.
3. **Turtle Creek Island Unit:** Known locally as a great spot for bald eagles, the Turtle Creek Island launch is located where the creek widens, making it a great paddle for beginners and families. It is just a couple of river miles to reach Lake Erie.
4. **West Harbor Landing:** This wetland launch is a favorite of nature photographers shooting waterfowl and waders. It's conveniently located on the Lake Erie Water Trail, so if you are up for a longer trip this is the spot for you.
5. **Marinewood Unit?:** With your help, we could add another paddling location to the list. Read on to learn more!

Visit [www.friendsofottawanwr.org](http://www.friendsofottawanwr.org) for more info and directions.

## Rob's Big Year (and a half)

Friends of Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge board member Rob Swindell and his wife, Gina, are currently participating in their personal version of the annual birding competition known as a "Big Year."

Lightheartedly calling it their "Big Year (and a half)", they are traveling through the country to see as many bird species as possible over the next 18 months. Scheduling around work obligations and making strategic use of holidays and vacation time, they hope to see 500 species.

A team effort, they plan on primarily birding the borders—focusing on popular birding locations in Florida, Texas, Maine, California, Ohio and Alaska. At its conclusion in June 2021, they hope to share their journey as a way to promote birds and conservation.



## West Sister Island Sunset Cruise: May 16

**Did you know that the egrets and herons that use the West Sister Island NWR rookery travel an 18 mile round trip, just to feed their young?** Learn more on a sunset cruise around West Sister Island on the *Jet Express*. This unique experience will highlight the largest Great Blue Heron and Great Egret rookery in the U.S. Great Lakes! The ferry boards at 6:45pm in Port Clinton, Ohio and will return by 9:00pm. Tickets are available on our website or in the Rookery Nature Store.

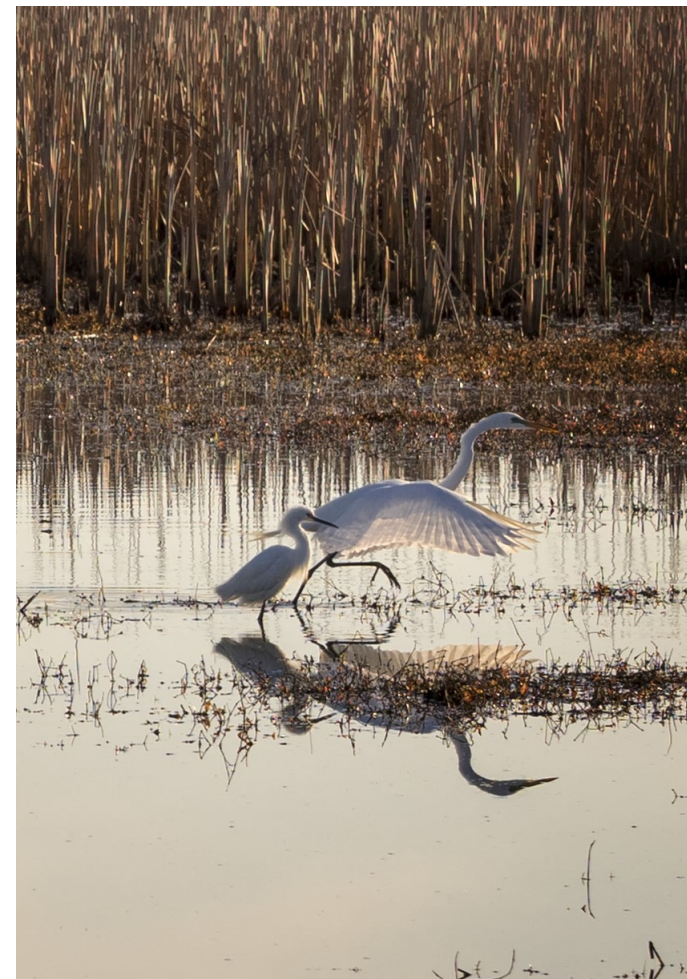
## Hungry While Birding?

Look for the food trucks at Ottawa NWR. Lake Erie BBQ, The Traveling Chef, Port Clinton Rotary Fish Wagon, Gorilla Gurt, Flying Rhino Coffee, and Xtreme Cuisine will be here on rotating schedules from May 8-17, 2020. Check our website for the full schedule.

## Pollinator Plant Sale & Nature Vendors

With the help of Bench Farms, we are proud to present the Pollinator Plant Sale May 8-11 and May 15-17, 2020 at Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge. These plants will help to attract butterflies, hummingbirds, and bees to promote conservation in *your* backyard.

Nature art vendors will also be with us on the same dates. Be sure to see everything they have to offer and support your local artisans! 10% of vendor sales directly support your national wildlife refuge complex.



## Coming Soon: The Portage River Water Trail

The Friends of Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge is working together with more than a dozen community partners to create the Portage River Water Trail extending from Pemberville, Ohio to Lake Erie. Creating a water trail requires cooperation among local governments, coordination with state and federal agencies for funding, and agreements for maintenance. The final trail will promote river access for canoes and kayaks with safe access to the water, parking areas, and information about the waterway. Friends of Ottawa NWR will serve as the fiscal sponsor for the water trail and apply for state grants to fund the work of creating a brochure and signage for the trail. The trail is estimated to be completed in 2021.



## You did it!

Last fall, we asked for help in raising funds for a new tractor that refuge volunteers can use to maintain the trails for visitor use. With your help we raised \$18,000 - enough for the tractor and some upgrades! In 2019 the number of volunteer hours logged on the refuge reached 15,000 hours, the equivalent of 7.5 full time employees. Volunteers are the lifeblood of the refuge and so important to everything that we do. Thank you for supporting Ottawa's volunteers and trails and helping to make this purchase possible!

