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For Immediate Release:

Contacts:

Kim Kaufman, Executive Director, Black Swamp Bird Observatory, 419-898-4070,
kimkaufman@bsbo.org

Ken Keffer, Education Director, Black Swamp Bird Observatory, 419-898-4070,
kenkeffer@bsbo.org

Local Youth Group Finds State Endangered Species at Port Clinton's Lakefront Preserve

→ The Ohio Young Birders Club (OYBC) hosted a BioBlitz at Port Clinton's Lakefront Preserve on July 23, 2011, and the results might surprise you. Well over 200 species of living things were documented on the property which lies on the shores of Lake Erie between City Beach and Water Works Park. This area, a coastal wetland habitat, provides a home to many unique plants and animals.

Over 30 people, including student members from Michigan and Illinois, participated in the daylong BioBlitz event. A BioBlitz is an effort to identify all of the living things on a property. Participants collected species information that serves as a valuable tool for helping to maintain the habitat, and provides baseline data that will assist in evaluating the success of ongoing restoration efforts.

In addition to surveying the property for birds, insects, turtles, and snakes, the group also sampled Lake Erie for aquatic critters including fish and mussels. Assisted by University of Toledo graduate student Todd Crail, the Young Birders Club was able to document the state endangered Eastern Pond Mussel and the Rayed Bean Mussel, a species that is currently being considered for the United States Endangered Species List.

RAY BEAN
ADDED TO
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LIST
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Other species highlights from the day included Bald Eagle, Painted Turtle, and a Bronze Copper butterfly. The Young Birders Club will continue to monitor the species that are using the property. BSBO's Education Director Kenn Keffer says they have a bit more surveying to do. "Our experts on insects and aquatic plants couldn't make it that day, so we're bringing them back to complete our inventory. Once we fill in those gaps in our survey, the total number of species inventoried will really jump! It was a great day and we were blown away by all the cool critters we found!"

The group expects to add many additional bird species during their Big Sit for Conservation fundraiser to be held on the property on October 9th, when they'll be raising money for the OYBC and restoration efforts at the Lakefront Preserve.

The Ohio Young Birders BioBlitz was a collaborative effort between the Black Swamp Bird Observatory and the City of Port Clinton. The BioBlitz was also supported in part to thanks to grants from the Harry Stensen Memorial Trust and the Ottawa County Community Foundation.

The Ohio Young Birders Club is a statewide program of the Black Swamp Bird Observatory, and is now in its fifth year of connecting young people ages 12 - 18 with outdoor experiences.

For more information about the BioBlitz, Black Swamp Bird Observatory, and the Ohio Young Birders Club email: staff@bsbo.org or call: 419-898-4070.

Provided by Victoria Clemons at March 25, 2014
Public meeting regarding Davis-Besse draft SEIS