A PARTNERSHIP OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS, LANDOWNERS, AND INDIVIDUALS WORKING TOGETHER TO PRESERVE, ENHANCE, AND RESTORE CRITICAL NATURAL AREAS IN THE OAK OPENINGS REGION OF NORTHWEST OHIO AND SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

Oak Openings Green Ribbon Initiative
2021 Science Summit

Ward Pavilion at Wildwood Preserve Metropark
November 18, 2021

GREEN RIBBON INITIATIVE SCIENCE & RESEARCH IN THE OAK OPENINGS

2:45 – 3:00 p.m.	**Check-in** *Brittani Furlong, Green Ribbon Partnership Specialist, The Nature Conservancy in Ohio*
3:00 – 3:05 p.m.	**Welcome and Introduction** *Erika Buri, Director of Olander Park System, GRI Steering Committee Chair*
3:05 – 3:30 p.m.	**Building Better Butterfly Buffets** *Dr. Helen Michaels, Associate Professor, Plant Restoration and Conservation Lab at Bowling Green State University* Conservation studies of habitats for threatened butterflies commonly use larval host plant and flowering stem abundance as indicators of site condition. However, because floral resources vary in phenology, nectar volume and chemical composition, a better understanding variation in food availability and composition in time and space is needed to guide improvements in habitat quality for adult butterflies.
3:35 – 4:00 p.m.	**A Conceptual Model for Assessing Groundwater Flow within the Oak Openings Region of NW Ohio** *Akinwale Ogunkoya, Geology MS Student, Hydro- & Environmental Geophysics Lab at The University of Toledo* We combined digital elevation, geophysical, and well-log data with field exposures of geological outcrops within the region to develop a conceptual model accounting for surficial and deeper aquifers within the region. Our 4-layer model consists of a top layer of sand underlain by rhythmites (an alternating sequence of sand/silt and clay lake deposit), till and a carbonate bedrock. The sand and rhythmites constitute the shallow aquifers which sustains the region's unique ecosystem. The presented study will highlight hydrostratigraphic variabilities within the shallow and deeper aquifers and show potentials for interactions between them.
4:05 – 4:30 p.m.	**Great Lakes Basin Forest Health Collaborative** *Dr. Rachel Kappler, Forest Health Collaborative Coordinator, Holden Forests & Gardens* The Great Lakes Basin Forest Health Collaborative is a new initiative set to assist with future tree breeding programs that focus on resistance to invasive pests and diseases. The process of breeding trees for resistance takes time and space but is worth the effort as it creates resistant trees using locally adapted individuals.
4:35 – 5:00 p.m.	**Blazing Star Borer Moth Habitat Restoration** *Dr. Peter Blank, Oak Openings Restoration Manager, The Nature Conservancy in Ohio* The Blazing Star Borer Moth is listed as endangered in Ohio and as a species of concern in Michigan. Since 2018, with grant support from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in Ohio has been working to restore habitat for the Blazing Star Borer Moth and other pollinators in the Oak Openings Region of southeast Michigan. Dr. Blank will provide an overview of the status of the project, the habitat restoration methods being used, and preliminary results of restoration efforts.
5:00 – 5:10 p.m.	**Q&A for all Speakers & Transition to Poster Session** *Karen Menard, Research and Monitoring Supervisor at Metroparks Toledo, GRI Science Sub-committee Chair*

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POSTER SESSION

A casual BYOB happy hour to network and view scientific posters describing research, conservation and stewardship in the Oak Openings Region. Hors d'oeuvres provided by the Green Ribbon Initiative.

Note: Alcohol may only be consumed INSIDE of the Ward Pavilion.

5:10 – 5:55 p.m.	**Poster Session** Wetland Habitat Use by Semiaquatic Fauna in a Hydromodified and Fragmented Landscape *Sean Britton, MS Student, Bowling Green State University* Measuring Avian Activity and Breeding Diversity in Fragmented Pine Plantations *Kathryn Ware, MS Candidate in Biological Sciences, Bowling Green State University* Vertebrate Roadkill Patterns in a Human Dominated Landscape *Sara Rair, PhD Student, Bowling Green State University* 38 Years Later: A comparison of Diatoms Communities from Oak Openings *Corbin Kohart, Undergraduate Student, The University of Toledo* Effects of Urbanization on Ecological Function of Anuran Communities in Northwestern Ohio *Brian Kron, PhD Student, Bowling Green State University* Metroparks District-Wide Vegetation Monitoring *Tim Schetter, Chief Natural Resources Officer, Metroparks Toledo* Cavity Nesting Bird Success in the Oak Openings Region *Rami Mohamed, Metroparks Toledo Staff, Metroparks Toledo*
5:55 – 6:00 p.m.	**Conclusion of Science Summit – Thank you!** *Brittani Furlong, Green Ribbon Partnership Specialist, Green Ribbon Initiative – The Nature Conservancy in Ohio*