

What's in YOUR backyard?

About this time of the year I find myself fully enjoying all the natural beauty in my yard – flora and fauna. The annuals have been planted, the daylilies look great and the veggies are starting to come around. Our beautiful feathered friends that wintered in Central and South America are now busy raising their families. But I bet there is one thing you haven't seen, that is, unless you've been out at nighttime with night goggles: our southern flying squirrel.

Yes, Virginia, Rocky the Flying Squirrel DOES live in our state! I discovered this when I found the body of one on my back porch. Poor thing. You might not even know they are around because they are nocturnal, meaning they are only active at night. And that thing about flying? Turns out they don't fly at all – they glide thanks to a guiding membrane called a pataguim. (Based on the Latin word "pagaguim" meaning the gold band or edge on a tunic.) This flap of loose skin, which is attached at the wrist to the ankle, acts like a sail. They don't flap any wings but use their arms, legs and tail to stretch out the pataguim spiraling down or making right angle turns during their dives that allow them to glide 20 to 60 feet though 150 foot glides are not unusual.

They are a beautiful olive brown on top and white underneath and are about 9-10 inches in length (including the tail). Their huge eyes enable them to see where they are going and what they are doing. They scavenge the ground for fruits and nuts and just might be out at your feeder at night.

Southern flying squirrels require deciduous forests as habitat. Specifically, they require mast-producing trees. Mast is any hard fruit such as acorns, beech nuts and hickory nuts. They need trees such as oaks, hickories and walnuts for food, cavities in dead or live trees for shelter and some form of water. Cavities used by flying squirrels are often constructed by woodpeckers, although any natural or artificially constructed cavity with an entrance hole larger than one inch in diameter might be used. This is one more reason we need to preserve our valuable forests. So, keep your eyes open and you might find evidence of these cute and furry acrobats in your backyard.

Vicki Ferguson

First Vice President

IN MEMORIAM

Compiled by Nancie Cochensparger

- REGION 1 **Helen Wilcox**, 93, 03/06/08, member Fostoria GC
 REGION 3 **Ruth Hambleton**, 02/01/08, member Shiloh Springs GC, Judge Emeritus
 REGION 4 **Jan Laine**, 69, 02/18/08, OAGC life member, member Western Hills GC & Region 4 Judges Guild
 REGION 5 **Lois Tullis**, 79, 03/14/08, member Goshen GC
 REGION 7 **Margaret Beard**, 93, 03/06/08, honorary member Wayside Mt. Gilead GC
Wilma Kirkpatrick, Loudonville Gardeners Guild
Marietta Shultz, 77, 01/17/08, member Jefferson Hill GC
 REGION 9 **Helen Burns**, 10/31/07, member of Rambling Designers GC
Helen Norris, 09/30/07, member Monrovia
 REGION 12 **Helen Cusick**, 10/02/07, Woodville GC
 REGION 15 **Dorothy Shumake**, 03/24/08, charter member North Kingsville GC



Southern Flying Squirrel

Thank you for your continued support!

The OAGC Foundation, a 501c(3) charity, would like to thank the following for supporting our programs, services and growth as a Foundation for donations that have been received January 15-April 15, 2008. Every donor shows that they value the future by their giving. Our thanks to all for their generosity.

If you would like to make a donation of support to any of the five OAGC Foundation funds, (Beautification/Conservation; General Fund; Mohican School in the Out-of-Doors; Scholarship/Education & Wahkeena Nature Preserve), please contact OAGC Foundation Treasurer Vicki Ferguson, 2853 Circlewood Ln., Dayton OH 45458.

Beautification/Conservation Fund

Flushing GC, Reg. 12

General Fund

Bill & Walt Jenne – in memory of Al Harmon & Frank Sheffer

Whispering Meadows GC, Reg. 6

Fairborn GC, Reg. 16 – in memory of Florence Parsons

Mohican School in the Out-of-Doors Fund

Story Place GC, Reg. 9

Whispering Meadows GC, Reg. 6

Flushing GC, Reg. 12

Scholarship Fund

Nature Lovers GC, Reg. 7

Plant-N-Bloom GC, Reg. 6

Wahkeena Nature Preserve Fund

Redbud GC, Reg. 16 – in memory of Sarah Budnick

Lou Burgett – in memory of Sarah Budnick

Slocum GC, Reg. 10 – in memory of Sarah Budnick

Groveport GC, Reg. 9

Story Place GC, Reg. 9

Whispering Meadows GC, Reg. 6

Flushing GC, Reg. 12

Roundtown GC, Reg. 9 – in memory of Sarah Budnick

Babs Sabick – in honor of Barbara Sheets