

SKY DANCE OF THE WOODCOCK

American Woodcock Program and Field Trip

**Join the staff at BSBO on
Saturday, March 20, 2010
7 - 9 p.m.**

Black Swamp Bird Observatory is smack-dab in the middle of prime woodcock nesting habitat! This program will feature an indoor presentation and the opportunity to go for a short walk to see the bizarre and spectacular breeding display of these marvelous birds. Walk is handicap accessible!

Registration fee: \$10.00 donation per adult, kids 12 and younger FREE!

RSVP required, call 419-898-4070

Sky Dance of the Woodcock

as described by Aldo Leopold in his essay from *A Sand County Almanac*:



"Knowing the place and the hour, you seat yourself under a bush to the east of the dance floor and wait, watching against the sunset for the woodcock's arrival. He flies in low from some neighboring thicket, alights on the bare moss, and at once begins the overture: a series of queer throaty peents spaced about two seconds apart, and sounding much like the summer call of the nighthawk... Suddenly the peenting ceases and the bird flutters skyward in a series of wide spirals, emitting a musical twitter. Up

and up he goes, the spirals steeper and smaller, the twittering louder and louder, until the performer is only a speck in the sky. Then, without warning, he tumbles like a crippled plane, giving voice in a soft liquid warble that a March bluebird might envy. At a few feet from the ground he levels off and returns to his peenting ground, usually to the exact spot where the performance began, and there resumes his peenting."

We are located at the entrance to Magee Marsh Wildlife Area 16 miles west of Port Clinton on SR-2.



Black Swamp Bird Observatory
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