



6<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Wright State University  
Runkle Woods  
Symposium

November 17, 2023  
1:00 – 4:00 PM  
016 Rike Hall  
Wright State University

**Keynote Speaker**

Professor Jeffrey Peters, Department of Biological Sciences  
“Seasonal Changes in the Avian Community of the Wright State Woods”

The symposium is named in honor of Professor Emeritus James Runkle of Biological Sciences

## Professor Peters Short Biography

Dr. Jeffrey Peters is a Professor of Biological Sciences at Wright State University. He earned his B.S. in Biology at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. For his M.S. in Applied Ecology and Conservation Biology at Frostburg State University in Maryland, Dr. Peters used DNA analyses to examine mating strategies in a species of duck, the Gadwall. Continuing his genetics research, he studied geographic variation in ducks for his Ph.D. in Biology at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Dr. Peters continued this work at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, as a post-doctoral researcher, and at Wright State University. During his career, he has published more than 50 papers in peer-reviewed journals, such as *Molecular Ecology*, *Austral Ornithology*, *Journal of Avian Biology*, and *Conservation Genetics*. In recent years, he has become an avid birder. Following in the footsteps of Dr. James Runkle himself, Dr. Peters has spent countless hours surveying the avian community in the Wright State woods, which provides important stopover habitat for several species of migratory birds that have experienced population declines.

## Schedule

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| 1:00 | Welcome, Professor Audrey McGowin  |
| 1:05 | “Economics of Conservation and the Application to the Runkle Woods”, Indigenous American Cultural Student Association (IACSA), Brad Kerry, Adjunct Professor, Eliza Hendrix, Mateo Bush, and Ryan Diaz |
| 1:30 | “Pawpaws: Ohio’s state fruit,” Professor Don Cipollini   |
| 2:10 | “The Insult of Road Salt,” Abigail Tuttle, Benson Sparkman, Landon Shackelford, and Audrey McGowin   |
| 2:30 | <b>Keynote Address</b> Professor Jeffrey Peters<br>“Seasonal Changes in the Avian Community of the Wright State Woods”   |
| 3:00 | “National Wildlife Federation Habitat Certification: A collaboration with Fairborn?,” Alexis Knick and Amanda Taylor, Fairborn Environmental Advisory Board  |
| 3:20 | “Building Community Through Nature,” Mikusa, WSU Nature Club   |
| 3:30 | Send-Off Meditation  |

Organizer and Program Design: Audrey McGowin