

Wild Ohio

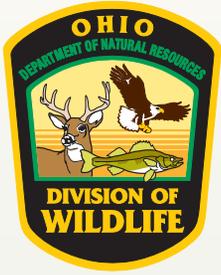
Fall 2007

M A G A Z I N E

Ohio Department of Natural Resources

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE





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WILD OHIO (ISSN 1061-1541) is published four times a year (March, June, September, and December) by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife, 2045 Morse Road, Bldg. G, Columbus, OH 43229-6693.

Subscriptions are free

To subscribe, send requests to the address below. Periodicals postage paid at Columbus, Ohio. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to—

ODNR Division of Wildlife
2045 Morse Road, Bldg. G
Columbus OH 43229-6693

Total distribution: 130,000
Total Paid/Requested Circulation: 78,000
Total free distribution: 52,000

1-800-WILDLIFE
for general information

1-888-HOOKFISH
for Lake Erie fishing report

1-800-POACHER
to report poaching

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Total Copies Printed: 110,000 Unit Cost: 0.XXXX Publication Date: XXXX

David M. Graham Appointed as Wildlife Chief

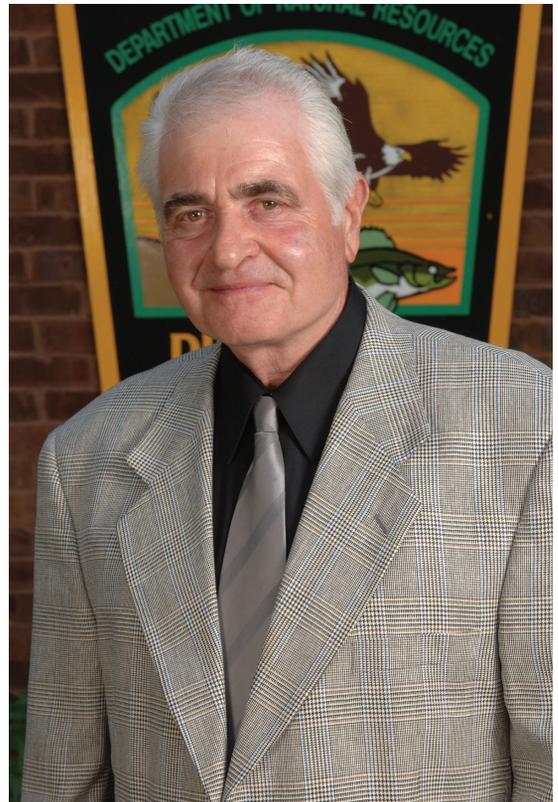
Sean D. Logan, director of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, named David M. Graham the new chief of the Division of Wildlife effective last spring. Graham was previously the assistant chief of the Division, overseeing wildlife and fisheries management and research, law enforcement, and information and education. He has served as a manager in the Division for more than 28 of his 30 years with the Division.

Graham, a native of Clarksburg, replaces Steve Gray who served as chief from 2003 to 2007. Gray retired in March after serving with the Division since 1976. The Division manages 155 named wildlife areas, and the fishery resources in 160,000 acres of lakes, 2,250,000 acres of Lake Erie, and 451 miles of the Ohio River.



New Face on the Wildlife Council

Dominic Marchese of Farmdale, has been named to the Ohio Wildlife Council to serve as a representative of the farming community. Marchese has been the owner and operator of Manna Farms in Farmdale for 35 years. He is a veteran of the United States Navy and served as a lieutenant in the Warren Fire Department where he worked from 1966 to 1991. Marchese is also active in the Trumbull County Farm Bureau and has served on the bureau's Board of Trustees. He replaces Karen Stewart-Linkhart, of Xenia, who served on the council since 1999.



Fast and easy! PURCHASE HUNTING LICENSES ONLINE
www.wildohio.com



Purchase hunting licenses as well as all the required deer permits, turkey permits, trapping permits, shooting range permits, and state wetland habitat stamps on the Division of Wildlife website. Credit card options are Visa, Mastercard, and Discover.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY • The Division of Wildlife offers equal opportunity regardless of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex (in educational programs). If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility, you should contact:

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Office for Diversity and Civil Rights Programs-External Programs
4040 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 130
Arlington, VA 22203

Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Diversity Affairs Office
2045 Morse Road, Bldg. D-1
Columbus, OH 43229



Conserving Our Wild Places

"Wild beasts and birds are by right not the property merely of the people alive today, but the property of the unborn generations, whose belongings we have no right to squander.

-- Theodore Roosevelt

6-9



On the Cover:
Canada Goose

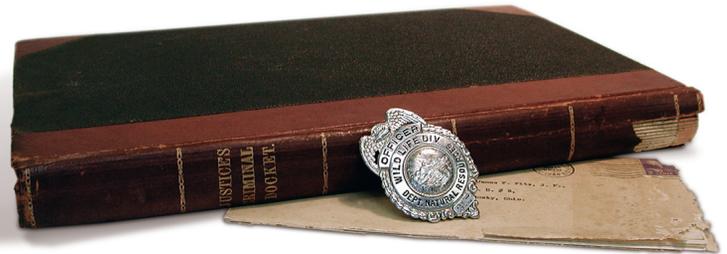
Artwork of a Canada goose by Richard Clifton of Milford, Delaware graces the 2007 Ohio Wetlands Habitat Stamp. He has won 23 state wildlife stamp design competitions, including two for the Ohio stamp. Photo by Tim Daniel.

Features

Grandpa's Court Dockets

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An old chicken coop stirs up memories and a nostalgic look at wildlife violations.



Farming for Wildlife

16-17

Mosquito Creek Waterfowl Management Area • Farming practices provide food and cover for wildlife, in turn creating quality recreation opportunities for area users.

2007-2008 Ohio Hunting Regulations

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Opportunities are expanded for archers in the 2007-08 season and a wrap up of the 2006-07 deer season.



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News from around Ohio



BOBCATS ON THE INCREASE IN OHIO

Increased evidence of bobcats living in Ohio's eastern and southeastern counties continues with the confirmation of 37 sightings by state wildlife officials during 2006. This represents a marked increase from the 20 verified sightings in 2005.

Verification of the elusive bobcat includes photographs of the animal and its tracks; encounters through incidental trapping, from which animals are later released; and recovery of road kill and sightings by Division of Wildlife personnel. All of the 2006 reports occurred in the following counties: Jefferson, Coshocton, Muskingum, Guernsey, Monroe, Noble, Morgan, Washington, Athens, Vinton, Jackson, Meigs, Gallia, and Adams. The Division of Wildlife also received 134 unverified bobcat reports last year.

The bobcat was found throughout Ohio during early settlement, but could no longer be found in the state by 1950. A handful of unverified sightings in the 1960s marked the bobcat's unofficial return to Ohio. Since 1970, Division biologists have verified 122 bobcat sightings in 33 counties. The bobcat is an endangered species and protected by state law. For more about Ohio's wildlife diversity, visit www.wildohio.com.

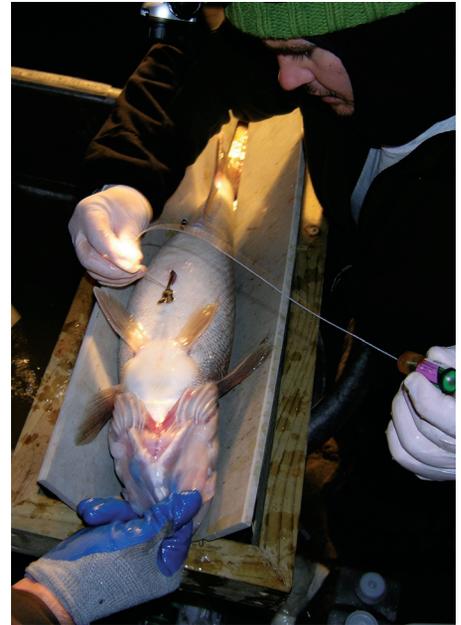
BLACK DUCK POPULATION BEING STUDIED

A radio tracking project to help solve the mystery of declining black duck populations in North America was initiated by the Division of Wildlife this past year. Three drake black ducks at the Castalia Duck Pond were fitted with GPS (Global Positioning System) transmitters, allowing wildlife biologists to monitor their migratory and breeding habits. Biologists hope to identify key areas used by black ducks during their migration, and in wintering and breeding periods. Black ducks breed in the northeastern United States and Canada, wintering mainly along the Atlantic Coast.



CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE NOT DETECTED IN OHIO DEER

For the fifth year, testing of Ohio's deer herd found no evidence of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), a degenerative brain disease that affects elk, mule deer, and white-tailed deer. State officials collected 1,097 samples last year from hunter-harvested deer, primarily during the deer-gun season. Tests were performed at the Animal Disease Diagnostics Laboratory of the Ohio Department of Agriculture. Since CWD was discovered in the Western United States in the late 1960s, there has been no evidence that the disease can be transmitted to humans.



BIOLOGISTS TRACKING WALLEYE MOVEMENT

For the second year, biologists tracked walleye movement during spring spawning runs in the Sandusky River and Bay to better understand why the population of this important sportfish has declined over the past 30 years. Division fisheries biologists implanted radio transmitters in 50 walleye during 2005-2006 and will monitor individual fish using a combination of remote data logging stations, as well as boat-based and aerial tracking. Biologists hope to determine precise movement patterns, locate additional spawning locations within the river and bay, and document the amount of repeat spawning that occurs for this population. The information will provide insight on how to enhance the Sandusky River walleye spawning population through potential habitat improvement projects and fisheries regulations.



Wildlife CALENDAR

September 1

Opening day of hunting season

– squirrel, early Canada goose,
dove, rail, moorhen, and snipe.

September 22

National Hunting and Fishing Day

For more information call

(417) 890-9453

or log onto www.nhfd.org.

www.wildohio.com

SCIENCE AND CIVICS; SUSTAINING WILDLIFE PROGRAM RECOGNIZED

The Division's *Science and Civics: Sustaining Wildlife* high school curriculum was honored for making a significant contribution to public understanding of environmental issues. The Environmental Education Council of Ohio (EECO) presented Division representatives with the Publications Award during the group's annual conference last April. *Science and Civics: Sustaining Wildlife* is an extension of the nationally renowned Project WILD curriculum geared toward high school students. It is designed to serve as a guide for involving high school students in environmental action or service learning projects aimed at benefiting local wildlife. More information is available on the Division of Wildlife's website at www.wildohio.com

OHIO HOLDS FIRST ARCHERY IN THE SCHOOLS TOURNAMENT

Students from Maysville High School in Muskingum County earned first-place overall team honors at the Division's first National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) state tournament held last March in Columbus. The team also won the Spirit Award for their enthusiasm and support of fellow archers in the tournament. A second squad from the Maysville 6-12 School placed second in high school team competition.

The tournament was held in Columbus in conjunction with the annual Arnold Sports Festival, spearheaded by California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. The state tournament was an opportunity for Ohio schools to showcase their efforts in the National Archery in the Schools Program. More than 450 students from 23 schools participated in the tournament. Awards were given for both teams and individuals who competed well in the elementary, middle, and high school divisions. For more information on NASP and to see the complete results of the competition, visit www.wildohio.com.

A number of teams from the Ohio tournament earned bids to the national

NASP tournament held in Kentucky in June. Devin Osborn, 14, of Maysville 6-12 School in a "shoot off" became the first-ever Middle School Male National Champion. In Ohio team standings, Maysville Elementary finished third in the National Elementary Division and also won the tournament's Spirit Award.



Maysville 6-12 School took second in the National High School Division.

All three Ohio elementary teams participating, Meigs Intermediate (Meigs County), Granville Intermediate (Licking County), and Maysville Middle School (Muskingum County), finished in the top 10.

CONSERVATION CLUB DONATES DEER DECOY

The Buckeye Buckmasters Chapter of the Buckmasters American Deer Foundation (BADF) recently made a \$500 donation to the Division of Wildlife for the purchase of a white-tailed deer decoy. The newly purchased deer decoy will be used by the Division's law enforcement officers to apprehend poachers in southeastern Ohio.

The Buckeye Buckmasters Chapter, located in Belmont County, has been raising funds to assist BADF programs since 1992. Programs include Disabled Hunter Assistance, Project Venison, Life Hunts, and Hunters of Tomorrow. For more information about the BADF visit their website at www.badf.org.



Justin Walters (right) a senior at The Ohio State University in the Fish Management Program, received a \$1,000 scholarship from the Outdoor Writers of Ohio (OWO) for his pursuits in outdoor writing and photography and dedication to natural resources. Walters is a Hunter and Trapper Education Master Instructor, and pistol shooter. OWO member Fred Snyder is pictured on the left.

October 28 marks the birthday of Theodore (Teddy) Roosevelt (born 1858) who became the 26th president of the United States. While Roosevelt was president, over just four years, he established the U.S. Forest Service, five national parks, and 51 national wildlife refuges - all conserved today for wildlife and the public's enjoyment. Appropriately, Ohio's first wildlife area, the Roosevelt Game Reserve established in 1922, was named in honor of Teddy Roosevelt. The game reserve was a cornerstone for the Division of Conservation's (predecessor to the Division of Wildlife) research programs, and provided an outdoor recreation area for thousands of Ohioans.

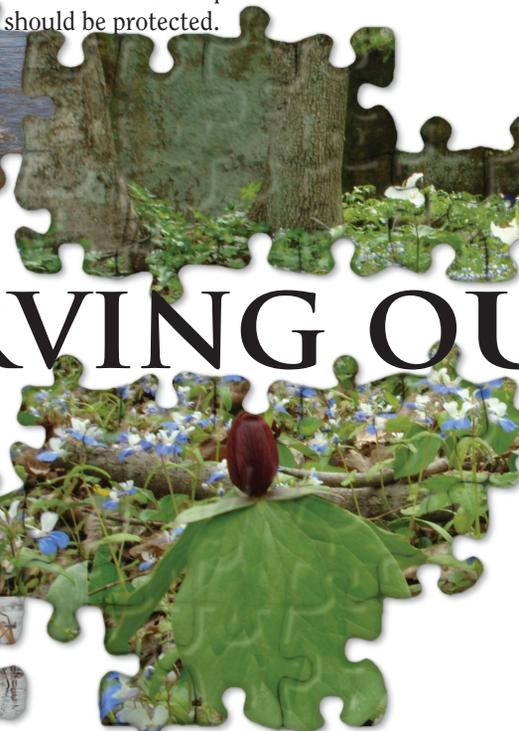
Acquiring and managing land for wildlife and wildlife-related recreation is part of the

mission of the Division of Wildlife. These public lands are open to hunters, trappers, anglers, wildlife viewers, photographers, and other folks who want to observe wildlife. The Division currently owns over 190,000 acres of public lands, and continues to purchase and manage valuable tracts of land each year, according to Randy Miller, assistant chief of the Division of Wildlife. Over the past 16 years alone, the Division has been able to purchase almost 100,000

acres of additional property, doubling the Division's land holdings.

These land acquisitions are made possible by the many wildlife enthusiasts who buy hunting, trapping, and fishing licenses and equipment, and conservation license plates, as well as contributions from many conservation organizations on national, state, and local levels.

"Ohio is a public land poor state," said Dave Risley, wildlife management administrator for the Division. "We rank 47th in the country in the amount of public land per capita, so having wild places for people to recreate is very important. Acquiring land for wildlife habitat is also very important, especially habitat that is unique or critical and should be protected."



by Melissa Hathaway
CONSERVING OU

"As part of our statewide wildlife grant process, we developed habitat-based tactical plans. A component of those plans is to maintain focus areas that meet specific habitat needs of particular species in forestlands, grasslands, wetlands, and riparian corridors so purchasing land within these focus areas is really important from a wildlife diversity standpoint," said Risley.

The Early Years

The mid-to-late 1930s was a significant period of growth and acceptance of wildlife management programs. The importance of wildlife management and

habitat conservation was brought to light by Dr. Aldo Leopold. Leopold, author of *Game Management* and *A Sand County Almanac*, defined wildlife management and the importance of habitat. Concern for declining wildlife populations and the protection of wildlife habitat was spawned.

Perhaps the biggest boost for wildlife management and land acquisition was the enactment of the Pittman-Robertson (PR) Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act of 1937 (now known as the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Program). These federal funds were - and still are - derived from a special excise tax paid on firearms, ammunition, and other

hunting equipment. Under the Federal Aid Act, 75 percent of the cost of an approved project is supported by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with the remaining 25 percent provided by state wildlife agencies.

Also in the 1930s, conservation organizations began to spring up across the country including the National Wildlife Federation (1936) and Ducks Unlimited (1937). These organizations were followed in later years by similar organizations dedicated to wildlife habitat such as the Ruffed Grouse Society (1961) National Wild Turkey Federation (1962), and Pheasants Forever (1982). Today, these and many other conservation partners provide funding to the Division

to acquire lands to manage for a variety of wildlife and wildlife-related recreation.

To Buy or Not to Buy?

“The Division uses several approaches when deciding what properties to purchase,” said Risley. “Habitat that is very rich biologically is certainly considered. These lands might be a wetland, a prairie, or a good forest tract of land.”

The Division also considers whether the land can easily be turned into good habitat. It is very easy to convert some types of habitat, Risley added.

“Another thing we look is the possible threat to the habitat – particularly when we look at some of our endangered species activities. The threat

of development, encroachment, and a variety of other factors may make the property a unique habitat that should be protected.”

One example is the Milke Road Savanna in Lucas County. Although it consists of only 22 acres, the property is a very unique oak savannah that the Division hopes will provide habitat for the endangered Karner blue butterfly. Other unique purchases in recent years include the 67-acre Fox’s Marsh Wildlife Area on North Bass Island in Lake Erie, and 80 acres in northeast Ohio acquired to protect massasauga rattlesnakes.

On the other end of the spectrum, the Division recently purchased 5,000 acres of former Mead property in three

separate tracts in Ross and Jackson counties. The largest single tract of land purchased in the Division’s history was the 16,200-acre Tri-Valley Wildlife Area in Muskingum County (see *Wild Ohio Magazine*, summer 2007). The Division’s largest wildlife area is the Woodbury Wildlife Area in Coshocton County, purchased several tracts at a time to total its current 19,000 acres.

“If we don’t buy those large tracts, typically those properties get subdivided,” Risley said. “The mosaic of land ownership patterns in Ohio is a management issue. For instance, in the forested part of the state, a quarter of a million people own 10 acres or less, and there are very few individuals, agencies, or corporations that own large



OUR WILD PLACES

tracts. So it is much easier to work with one or a dozen individuals than to work with a quarter of a million people to try to influence habitat.”

Public wildlife lands are a good thing for local communities, according to Risley. Repeated studies have shown that local communities benefit economically from having public land in their jurisdiction. Visitors who recreate in a community go to the mom and pop stores, eat at local restaurants, stay at hotels, and generate tax revenue. Also, the Division is the only state agency that pays a fee in lieu of taxes to local governments for schools, contributing nearly \$200,000 statewide annually.

Getting Anglers on the Water

Besides providing public wildlife lands for Ohioans, the Division administers several programs to provide access to public waterways.

“Ohio is almost entirely in private ownership, so public access to waterways is extremely difficult. Consequently, it’s very important that we find ways to get people out on the water,” said John Navarro, program administrator for the Division’s Stream Conservation and Environmental Assessment Section. “And we are being very creative in getting sportsmen on the water through our angler access programs.”

In the summer of 2006, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), and officials from the city of Huron celebrated the Division of Wildlife’s acquisition of a 20-acre peninsula where the Huron River enters Lake Erie, former site of ConAgra Foods, Inc. Part of the celebration included the signing of an agreement between the city of Huron and ODNR to cooperatively develop this key piece of Huron’s waterfront to provide boating and fishing access with launch ramps, docks, and parking facilities. The city also received a \$3.14 million grant from ODNR’s Division of Watercraft to develop the site with a stipulation that the facility be available to the public at no cost.

Boater-Angler Fund

The Huron project was just one of the many angler access sites the Division purchased using the Boater-Angler Fund. The monies are derived from 1/8 of one percent of the tax on gasoline. These monies are used for ramps for motor boat access.

“If you can get a motor boat on the water you can use this fund to purchase the land, build the ramp, and conduct maintenance activities,” Navarro said.

The Division often partners with the Division of Watercraft on access projects, Navarro explained. “We review their grant applications, and if a proposed project is especially angler friendly and

gets anglers on the water, then we can provide our Boater-Angler funds for the project.”

Sport Fish Restoration Fund

Federal funds and angler license dollars are also instrumental in providing motor boat access for anglers. The source of the Sport Fish Restoration Fund is a 10 percent federal excise tax on fishing tackle and a portion of the marine fuel tax, and is intended for the conservation of sport fish, including public use projects. The fund will reimburse 75 percent of the cost of motor boat access projects with Ohio’s share derived from angler license dollars.

A River Runs Through It

Besides the state’s lakes and reservoirs, many excellent fishing holes are found on Ohio’s large system of rivers and streams. The Division is working to develop angler access on these waterways as well, including access for carry-in boats such as canoes and kayaks.

“Lake Erie, the Ohio River, and inland reservoirs have been pretty well covered with access facilities,” said Navarro. “But our inland navigable rivers have not had a good statewide systematic approach to access development until now.”



Bob Fletcher, environment specialist with the Division of Wildlife, works closely with local entities around the state to provide boating access, including those for carry-in boats. “Our inland navigable rivers are public waterways, so the surface of these waters is already open to the public, but gaining legal access to the river, via a public site, has historically been difficult,” explained Fletcher. “There are literally thousands of miles of navigable inland rivers waiting to be tapped, we just need to increase and

improve river access. Once people are able to get to the water, you are opening up miles and miles of opportunities.”

State Wildlife Grant Monies

The State Wildlife Grant program (SWG) is a federal program with a 50-50 match. The Division’s portion comes from the sales of conservation license plates, state income tax check-off proceeds, and other donations. SWG funding is directed to conservation of species of greatest conservation need. When the Division works with local parties on projects for riparian protection, a major goal is to include angler access as a condition for the Division’s participation.

“With rivers being linear systems, we have to work through partnerships because many rivers may be 100 miles long or more,” Fletcher said. “If we can work through local partnerships then we don’t have the added liability of owning, managing, and maintaining these properties. We invest money up front and then local partners, such as park districts and land trusts, take care of the property for the long term.”

The Division is actively working on riparian protection and access projects on the Kokosing River with the Knox County Park District; Paint Creek with Ross County Park District; Grand River partnering with Grand River Partners, Inc. (a local land trust), and Clear Creek with Fairfield County Historical Park Commission.

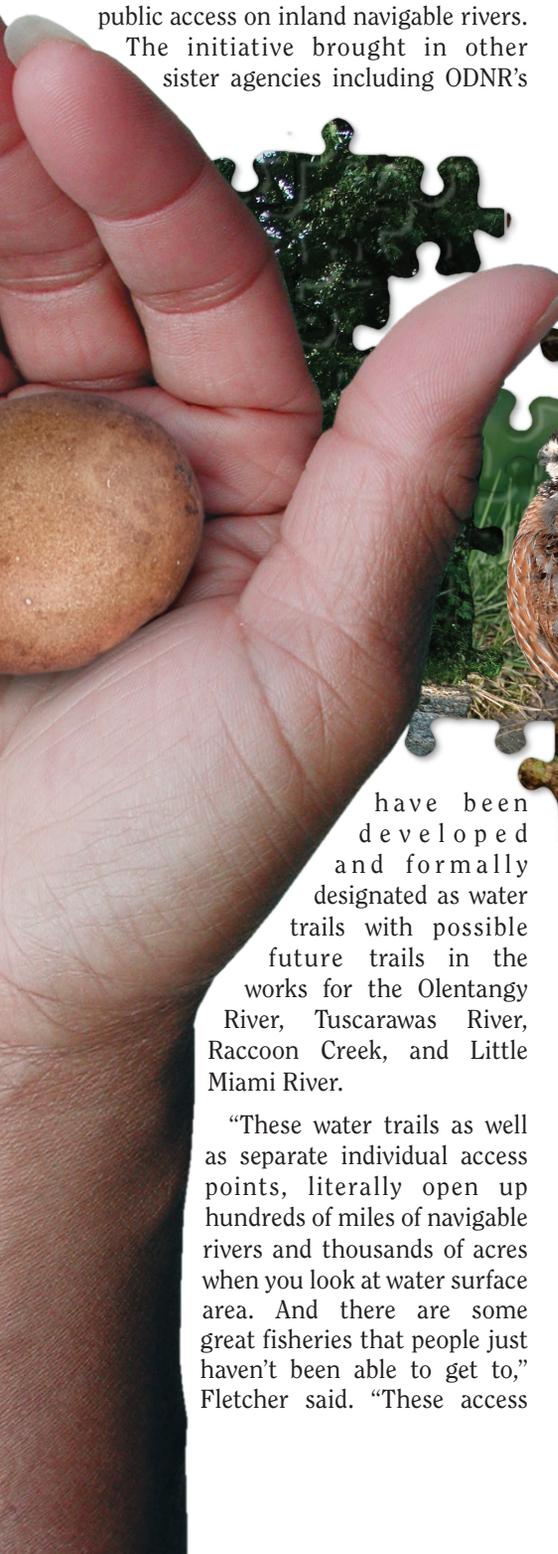
The Ohio Water Trails Program

The Division of Wildlife initiated a project to look at the issue of improving public access on inland navigable rivers. The initiative brought in other sister agencies including ODNR's

divisions of Watercraft, Real Estate and Land Management, and Natural Areas and Preserves, as well agencies outside of ODNR including the National Park Service, Ohio Greenways with the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association, League of Ohio Sportsmen, and the Ohio Smallmouth Alliance. The Division of Watercraft formally adopted the initiative and now administers it as the Ohio Water Trails Program.

The program requires support from a local sponsor who promotes the idea and works to string together strategic access points up and down a given river system; working with all the entities who have existing access points and potential additional ones needed to fill in the gaps. A map (paper

and website version) is then produced showing the various access points, public lands along the way as well as cultural, historical, and geological features. Boating safety, fishing tips, as well as outdoor ethics and respecting private property rights are promoted as part of the program as well. The Muskingum River, Kokosing River, and East Sandusky Bay



have been developed and formally designated as water trails with possible future trails in the works for the Olentangy River, Tuscarawas River, Raccoon Creek, and Little Miami River.

"These water trails as well as separate individual access points, literally open up hundreds of miles of navigable rivers and thousands of acres when you look at water surface area. And there are some great fisheries that people just haven't been able to get to," Fletcher said. "These access

programs for our navigable rivers will help make this possible," Fletcher said.

For more information on public lands managed by the Division of Wildlife, refer to the Ohio Public Hunting, Fishing,

and Wildlife Viewing Areas brochure (Publication 77) or log on to: www.wildohio.com.

"Wild beasts and birds are by right not the property merely of the people alive today, but the property of the unborn generations, whose belongings we have no right to squander.

-- Theodore Roosevelt

Grandpa's Court Dockets

by Ken Fitz

As I was growing up in Erie County, we visited my grandpa's farm on a regular basis. Trips to the farm included afternoons of picnicking, fishing, target shooting, or just spending time outdoors. I remember coming home from half-day kindergarten and walking the farm ditches with my father to check his trap line. This time spent with family in outdoor pursuits led me to choose a career in wildlife law enforcement.

(No. 144.) EXECUTION FOR FINE AND COSTS.—[Laws of Ohio, Vol. 74, p. 354, Secs. 17 and 18.] The Ohio Legal Blank Co., Cleveland.

The State of Ohio,

Erie County, ss.

Margaretta Township, Erie County

Cuyahoga County Sheriff
To any Constable of said County, Greeting:

Whereas, on the 13th day of Oct. A. D. 1945, at my office in said Township and County, in a certain prosecution then pending before me, the undersigned, a Justice of the Peace in and for said Township in said County, wherein THE STATE OF OHIO was plaintiff, and one Thomas Leffler Defendant, and in which prosecution the Defendant was charged with having on or about the 13th day of Oct., A. D. 1945, at said County, unlawfully trespassed on the property of the Bay Bridge Game and Fur Farm Company in pursuit of wild game

And Whereas, such proceedings were had that the said Defendant was tried before me, and found guilty of said charge, and sentenced by me, as Justice of the Peace as aforesaid, to pay a Fine of Ten Dollars, for and on account of his said offence, and also to pay the Costs of said prosecution, taxed at Two Dollars, and No Cents;

And Whereas, the said Defendant has neglected and refused to pay said Fine and Costs, of Twelve Dollars

You are therefore hereby Commanded to make, by levy on the property of the said Defendant, the amount of said Fine and Costs, and in default thereof, that you arrest the Defendant in any County, and commit him to the Jail of said County, there to be kept until the said Fine and Costs are paid, or secured to be paid, or the said Defendant be otherwise discharged according to law.

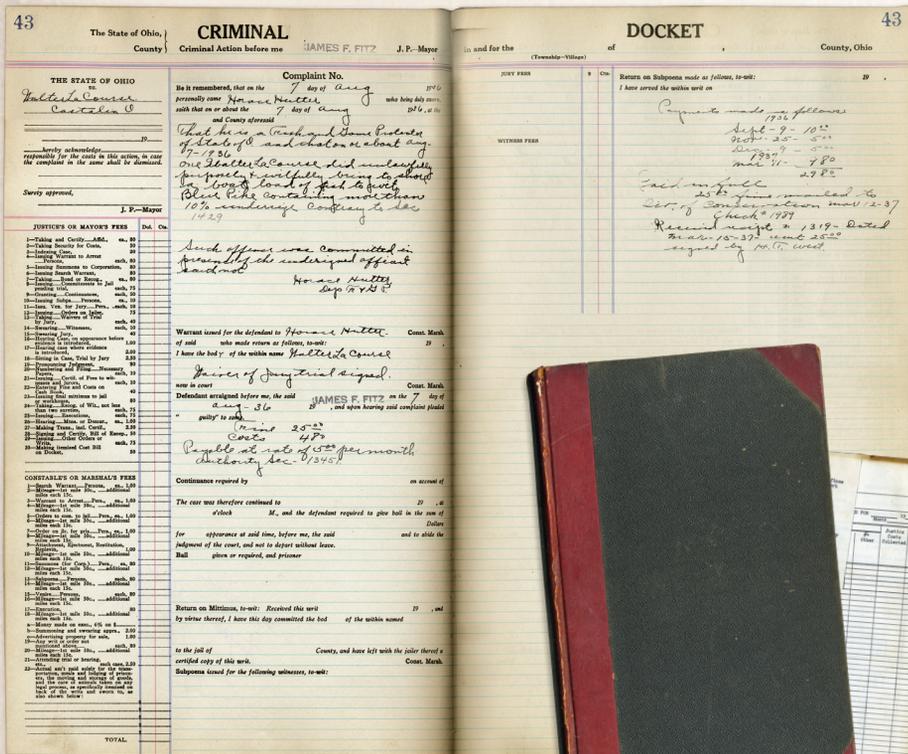
Given under my hand, this 28 day of April, A. D. 1948

James T. [Signature]
Justice of the Peace

No. 1. Crim. Doc. 144
Execution for Fine
Under 17th and 18th
May 5, 1852
(Laws of Ohio, Vol. 74, p. 354, Secs. 17 and 18.)
THE STATE OF OHIO
AGAINST
Thos. Leffler
1900 Montrose



Total
The Ohio Legal Blank Co.



The 1936 docket for Walter Lacourse and the less than legal length of the, now extinct, blue pike.



A photograph of James Fitz during World War I

I recently helped my father clean out the old chicken coop, a building free of chickens for many years, but holding its fair share of clutter and old equipment. In the middle of neatly piled roof shingles, apparently placed there for protection, I found an old ledger. When I opened the book, I discovered it was the docket for a variety of cases that were heard by my grandfather, James F. Fitz, justice of the peace. Imagine my surprise when I found that five of the first six cases I looked at were wildlife cases.

Between 1928 and 1951, Grandpa Fitz heard a total of 36 wildlife cases, about one-half of his caseload. Most of these occurred at the height of the depression, between 1928 and 1936. The officers bringing the defendants before him were listed as game protectors, deputy fish and game protectors, and game wardens. Their names included Burt Land, Bert Sandwich, Frank Wolf, Horace Hutter, Leonard Ferbach, Walter Okonski, Robert Shortliff, Don Waldrich, and Laurel Van Camp among others.

I found violations for pursuing waterfowl after hours, hunting without permission (most on the Baybridge Game and Fur Farm), and a few license violations. I also found violations for Sunday hunting, and two commercial fishing violations, one from 1936 when



Walter Lacourse brought in a boatload of blue pike with greater than 10 percent of the fish shorter than legal length. (Sadly, blue pike are a historical part of Lake Erie, now extinct.) The other occurred in 1947 when Howard Cutcher of the Cold Creek Fish Company brought in a load of catfish with more than 10 percent of the fish too short.

One thing that can be said for my grandfather is that he was consistent in sentencing. In most of the cases he levied a fine of \$25 and court costs of \$4.80. In a few cases, he lowered the fine or suspended it, usually with annotation that the person was unemployed or unable to pay. In 1928, a penalty of \$29.80 would have been a significant amount of money. In two cases, guns were forfeited in lieu of fines.

Along with the ledger, I found a letter and two warrants that were issued by my grandfather in 1948. The letter was from the chief of police of Euclid Ohio, and stated that his men were unable to locate the men on the warrants. In 1945, two men were brought before Justice of the Peace Fitz with court held at the kitchen table. The men, named Leffler, were charged with hunting without permission and fined \$10 plus \$2 in court costs and given time to pay. When they could not be found, my grandfather noted in the official court record "Defendant no longer at address. Paid fine out of personal funds and sent same to Division of Conservation, Columbus Ohio." As far as I could tell, it was the only time he was not paid the fines levied in nearly 30 years, and then he made sure the Division of Conservation, now known as the Division of Wildlife, was paid its due using his own money.



WATCHABLE WILDLIFE

Story and photos by Tim Daniel

I am certain that I will never be dispassionate when watching Canada geese as they fly over the fields of Ohio. Anyone who has ever observed these large birds fly can attest to their agility when in the air or as they land. To witness a flock of geese as they cup and set their wings for a precise landing is always rewarding.

There are 11 subspecies of the Canada goose in North America. What we see mostly in Ohio is the giant Canada goose. The giant subspecies consists of large, plump birds with long necks, a broad, round-tipped bill, short legs, and a five- to six-foot wingspan. The legs of geese are set farther forward on the body than ducks or swans to enable them to walk and graze on dry land. Their feet are webbed and both the male and female look alike. Large amounts of fluffy feathers, called down, close to the body creates an insulating air space to keep them warm in cold weather.

Giant Canada geese tend not to migrate great distances. Another subspecies, referred to as the interior Canada goose,

migrates to Ohio for the winter months from its breeding grounds in the James and Hudson Bay areas of Canada.

In spring, Canada geese are among the first waterfowl to nest. Unmated males fight for females by approaching each other with necks lowered and extended while hissing loudly. Individuals usually mate for the first time in their second or third year. It is believed that the pair stays together as long as both are alive and healthy. If either of the pair dies, the other will acquire a new mate. The female typically lays a clutch of five to seven white eggs while the male, called a gander, guards the nesting area. The nest is usually constructed on the ground with grass and plant material and lined with feather down. Canada geese will also nest in man-made goose tubs, trees, cliffs, and buildings.

After the goslings hatch, they follow the adults to feeding areas. Soon after that the adult birds begin molting, and by mid-June most adults are unable to fly. The adults grow new flight feathers and are ready to reclaim the sky in approximately 50

CANADA GOOSE AT A GLANCE

MATING

Keeps the same mate from year to year

NUMBER OF EGGS

5 to 7

INCUBATION PERIOD

25-30 days

YOUNG FLEDGE

Soon after hatching

ADULT WEIGHT

5 - 15 pounds depending on the race.
(The cackling goose, recently separated from the Canada goose, weighs 2 - 4 pounds.)

NUMBER OF BROODS

1

ADULT LENGTH

22 - 40 inches
wingspan: 5 - 6 feet

DIET

aquatic plants, insects, grass,
soybeans and other crops



Ohio's Graceful Ganders

days after the molt began. The goslings are just gaining their flight skills at this time.

Canada geese, like most waterfowl, eat aquatic vegetation, grass, roots, and young sprouts. They also eat grain and corn from agricultural areas. When feeding in shallow water, geese tip their bodies, dip their heads under the water, and pull up vegetation. On land, they feed in groups--and at least one member of the party always has its head up, acting as a sentry and watching for danger. Each day about dawn they will fly to areas and graze for a few hours. Then they return to their loafing area, rest, and fly out to feed again in the evening. During harsh conditions geese may stay in the feeding area most of the day.

One of my favorite experiences in the outdoors is hearing the call of the Canada goose. I immediately look up to find that familiar "V" formation before they become specks on the horizon. The sight and sound of geese moving from field to pond is a treasured encounter that I hope others enjoy as well.

Why do some geese have neck collars?

Neck bands (also known as collars) are used by researchers to track the migration and longevity of individuals. If you should see a neck collar on a goose, take note of its number, its color, and the color of its numbers.

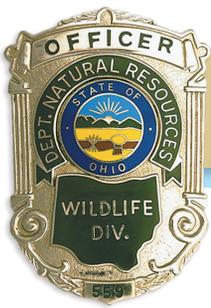
You can report the information at <http://www.reportband.gov>, or by calling the U.S. Geological Survey Bird Banding Laboratory at 1-800-327-BAND. Your report will help researchers gain information on the bird.

The color of the collar will indicate where it was banded:

GREEN – Giant Canada geese banded in Michigan.

WHITE – Giant Canada geese banded in the rest of the Mississippi Flyway.

ORANGE – Interior Canada geese banded in the James and Hudson Bay region of Canada.



WILDLIFE LAW ENFORCEMENT

Field Notes

OHIO'S GREEN GOLD

Hidden in Ohio's deepest forests is a mysterious green gold -- ginseng. Locally known as "sang" or "root," it is worth nearly \$400 per pound! The herb is cultivated for its aromatic root that is highly prized worldwide. With such high market prices, the temptation to dig roots out of season is just too great for some "sangers."

While investigating a vehicle parked alongside of a Highland County road, State Wildlife Officer Jim Carnes discovered three ginseng poachers as they returned to the truck from the woods. The men possessed 346 ginseng roots with 115 berries. The three Pike County men were charged with harvesting wild ginseng during the closed season and failure to immediately plant the seeds of ginseng where they were found. They pleaded no contest, were found guilty, and ordered to pay restitution to the landowner plus court costs, and were placed on probation.

But the case didn't stop there. Officer Carnes had reason to believe that one of the defendants had more ginseng at his residence. Wildlife Officer Supervisors Lee Van Allen and Bryan Postlethwait obtained a search warrant for the suspect's house. While no ginseng was found, the officers did find 65 marijuana plants. These were turned over to the Pike County Sheriff's Office.

While serving the warrant, the officers were given information about a local store that was purchasing ginseng prior to the collecting season. They contacted the store and seized records dealing with the transactions, as well as close to 1,750 illegally harvested ginseng roots. Southeastern Ohio wildlife officers then contacted several individuals for digging ginseng prior to the season and summons were issued for the violations. Close to 1,800 ginseng roots valued at over \$2,000 were seized and forfeited to the Division.



Native to Ohio woodlands, ginseng grows primarily in the southeastern, Appalachian region of the state. Ohioans hunt for and dig the root, called "sanging" by participants, and then sell it to local dealers who ultimately sell it to the Asian market. It is used to cure a variety of ailments, including gastro-intestinal disorders, pulmonary problems, and is considered beneficiary to the elderly. Most ginseng is added to teas, but the root can also be chewed in small pieces.

Ohio's ginseng collecting season is September 1 through December 31. The season is established by the Division of Wildlife to protect this high-priced resource. Approximately 2,350 pounds of dried ginseng root was harvested from the state in 2006, making Ohio one of the top exporters of wild ginseng in the United States.



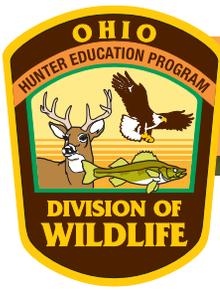
Regulations Afield...

How Well Do You Know Ohio's Wildlife Laws?

Test your knowledge of Ohio's hunting and fishing regulations. The Division's law enforcement staff has provided a few of the most commonly asked questions about wildlife laws. Do you know the answers?

1. Is a son-in-law or daughter-in-law required to obtain a hunting license when hunting on a father-in-law's property?
2. Can parents hunt on their children's property and use the landowner license exemption?
3. Can you use amber light to hunt coyote?

Answers on page 21



OUTDOOR SKILLS

Archery 101 by Marc Sommer

As a youngster I remember the sensational feeling that came from grabbing my longbow and heading out the backdoor for an afternoon adventure. Every new trip took me to a time of yesteryear where I could fight side by side with Sir Robin Hood or better yet, take on the black dragon that threatened the lands of lore. I think fondly of those memories and the countless dragons made of refrigerator cardboard and the creative use of crayons. I now know that was a simple introduction to what would become a passion for modern-day target archery and days in the field hoping to harvest a deer.

Archery is a sport of “practice makes perfect,” but it all has a starting point that requires a basic understanding of where to begin, the willingness to miss, and a dedication to becoming better. Understanding the basics of archery can help even the youngest of archers discover a new way to enjoy the outdoors.

The type of bow that you select is entirely personal. It's always good to have a bow checked professionally if it has been bought second-hand to determine if there are any safety hazards. Both long and recurve bows are good places to start for beginners, but one thing to keep in mind is the length of the bow and the amount of pull it takes to draw the

bow back. Those with less arm, shoulder, and back strength should select one with a lower draw weight. Draw weight is measured in pounds and can usually be found on the limbs of the bow. The advantage of compound bows is that they have a breaking point where the amount of weight being held by the archer is reduced. This amount of “letoff” is measured as a percentage and can usually be found on the limbs.

Some archers prefer to shoot with their fingers, but abrasion can be reduced and accuracy greatly increased with finger tabs and mechanical release aids. Accuracy improves because release aids are faster at releasing the bow string than fingers. Protection against abrasion on other body parts can be eliminated or reduced with tighter clothing or arm and chest guards.

Arrows are made from three main materials: wood, aluminum, and composites. Wood arrows can't be shot in compound bows, but they can be used with long or recurve bows. The main thing to remember is that the arrows should be cut to a length that is proper for the shooter's draw length, and the arrow's material is matched to the material of the bow. When selecting field and broadheads, they should be of equal weight, so that when transitioning from

practice to field there isn't a severe change in the flight of the arrow that could be caused by an increase or decrease in the tip weight.

One last item that is of benefit is a quiver to hold the arrows. Common quivers include hip, back, ground, and those that mount to the bow when going into the field.

Modern bows require targets that can stop the arrow from passing through. Many targets on the market today are made from a highly compressed foam material that can be shot at repeatedly. They range from circular targets to three-dimensional animal variations. Targets serve as a means for you to hone your skills, but you have to practice in order to perfect it.

Although there are many more aspects of archery that we could cover, these basics of equipment and their uses should help you get started. There are more advanced topics for you to consider and master once you get started, such as drawing, alignment, breathing, and releasing. Hopefully this brief look into the world of archery will be enough to inspire your next adventure. Be it bagging a turkey, winning Olympic gold, or saving the kingdom from the dragon, it's all about stepping outside and creating a memory of your own.



Basic Equipment

BOW TYPES

(left to right) Straight limb (longbow), Recurve Bow, Compound Bow, Crossbow



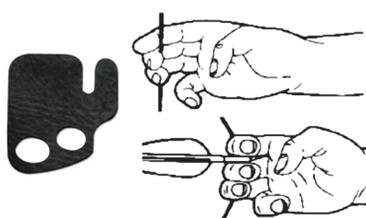
ARROWS



Basic Shooting

RELEASING THE STRING

Fingers, Finger tabs, or Mechanical release



TARGET ACQUISITION

Instinctive or use of sights



Basic Safety

PROTECTION

Armguard or protective clothing



TARGETS





MOSQUITO CREEK

"FARMING FOR WILDLIFE"

The motto of the work crew at Mosquito Creek Waterfowl Management Area in Trumbull County should be, "Farming for wildlife." Trumbull County boasts the most wildlife area acreage in the Division of Wildlife's District Three, and Mosquito Creek is the largest in the county, as well as one of the Division's oldest established work units. Intensive farming practices provide food and cover for wildlife.

"I grew up around farming, and farming is a big part of managing a wildlife area in this region of the state," said Area Manager Lou Orosz. "A large part of our job is to plant crops to provide food and cover for wildlife. When someone asks me what I do, I explain to them that my work is similar to a farmer's work, except we are managing the land for wild animals instead of domestic animals."

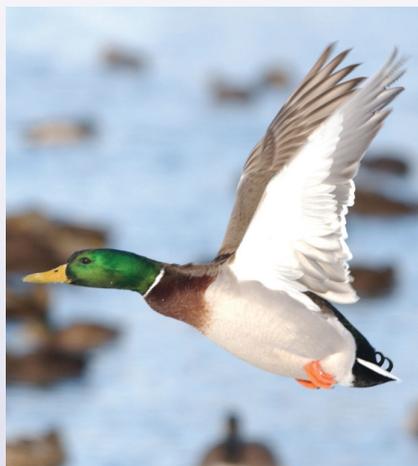
The 9,021-acre wildlife area, established in 1962, is one of the best waterfowl hunting areas in the state. Management of the area is aimed at providing a regional nesting flock of Canada geese, a resting place for migrating waterfowl, quality hunting opportunities, and unique wildlife viewing opportunities.

"I originally thought I wanted a career in wildlife law enforcement," Orosz said. "But once in school and after a summer job at Mosquito, I discovered that wildlife management work is where my heart really was. Working in the Wildlife Management Group requires a lot of time spent in the field and I wouldn't want it any other way."

Division staff in the Wildlife Management Group are well versed in many different jobs, explained Orosz. Operating farm machinery while planting crops, operating heavy equipment while building and maintaining wetlands, and maintaining

and repairing the equipment are all part of the job. Trapping and banding waterfowl, operating the check station during controlled waterfowl and deer hunts, checking boundary lines, and conducting wildlife surveys are also important job responsibilities.

The crops on Mosquito that are planted primarily for waterfowl include, corn, buckwheat, and winter wheat. Sunflower and winter wheat are planted in the dove fields, several varieties of warm and cool season grasses are



planted in various locations around the area for nesting habitat and cover for wildlife. Placement of wood duck and goose nesting structures increases waterfowl production. The most common waterfowl species are Canada geese, wood ducks, mallards, teal, scaup, mergansers, and black ducks. It is common to see many different species of waterfowl on the area. Besides the abundance and variety of waterfowl species present, the area boasts five active bald eagle nests, trumpeter swans, ospreys, and otters. One of the bald eagle nests is easily seen from North Park Road prior to leaf out.

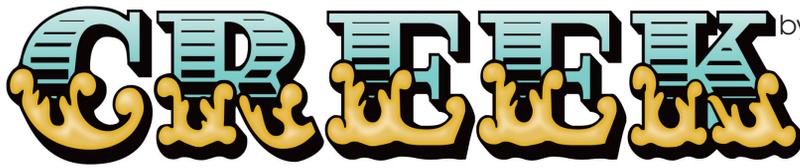
"The best way to learn an area you manage is to get out there and spend time on it -- and when it comes to wetland areas, sometimes you spend time in it," Orosz said. "This job is so diverse, it never gets boring. I look forward to what each new day might hold. Anyone who works in this field is very fortunate. We see and experience things on a daily basis that most folks won't ever have a chance to experience."

Partnering for Habitat

One recent addition to the Mosquito Creek Waterfowl Management Area is a 496-acre parcel along State Route 54 acquired by the Division in 2001. The purchase was made possible with the assistance of the National Wild Turkey Federation, Grand River Partners, and Ducks Unlimited. Restoration of 60 acres of wetlands that were drained over 30 years ago that only provided marginal cropland at best were restored to provide high quality nesting and feeding habitat for numerous species of wildlife including some rare and threatened species.

Additionally, more than 150 acres of native grasslands were established with support from the Western Reserve Chapter of Pheasants Forever. These grasslands provide nesting habitat for mallard ducks, ringneck pheasants, bobolinks, and many other grassland nesting species. Conservation agencies, local residents and officials, and local Cub Scout Pack #275 of Bristolville joined the Division in June 2006 to dedicate the establishment of these two habitat areas.

An observation deck overlooks the wetland where wildlife enthusiasts can watch for a wide array of wildlife such as waterfowl, shorebirds, frogs, turtles, and mammals such as deer, beaver, otter, and muskrats. The deck is located along on the Greenway Bike Path east of State Route 45 and south of Dunkerton Road in North Bloomfield.



by Melissa Hathaway

WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT AREA

Wildlife Recreation at Mosquito

Much of the Mosquito Creek Waterfowl Management Area is a waterfowl refuge that is open for controlled hunting only. The hunting opportunities on the refuge include waterfowl, dove, deer, and turkey. The area holds several youth hunts that are growing in popularity each year. Controlling the hunting pressure limits the human impact on wildlife; this ensures a quality hunt for the folks who do get lucky enough to hunt here. The adult muzzleloader deer hunts held on the refuge are very popular, over the years several lucky hunters have harvested numerous trophy white-tailed bucks. Plenty of wildlife is visible from the roads and a 1,500-acre tract of land northeast of the headquarters is open to public hunting and fishing.

John Sims, of South Euclid, Ohio, is a regular visitor at Mosquito Creek. "I've been coming to Mosquito for 25 years to view and photograph wildlife. I can spend eight or nine hours a day on the area and not get bored."

Some of the wildlife he has observed include many species of waterfowl, bald eagles, osprey, herons and egrets, belted kingfishers, raptors, wild turkeys, red fox, beavers, white-tailed deer, barred owls, woodcock, bobolinks, and a variety of frogs, turtles, snakes, and butterflies. Sims often photographs wildlife, then compares the photos with a field guide to identify the species correctly.

"The people I deal with at Mosquito Creek and in the Division of Wildlife, the wildlife and law enforcement staffs, are very knowledgeable. If I have a question, I've got Division people I can go to. That is a big help for me."

A Letter from a Youth Hunt Participant

Dear Division of Wildlife:

My daughter and I were on a youth hunt at Mosquito Creek this past weekend. Although we came home empty handed, it was a super hunt; we watched the biggest buck we had ever seen for five minutes before it gave her a shot, unfortunately she missed. We did go home with memories that will last a lifetime. I just wanted to thank you for the opportunity and to thank you for devoting the resources to youth sportsmen. Please don't change a thing you have a great program and other states should follow your example.

Thank you.
Joe and Kristina Miller



Pheasants Forever Grassland Dedication: Left to right: Dennis Kirby, chairman of Western Reserve Pheasants Forever; Jeff Herrick, district manager for Wildlife District Three, former Chief Steve Gray; and Dan Kramer, wildlife management supervisor for Wildlife District Three.



Ducks Unlimited Wetland Dedication: Left to right: John Murphy, chairman of Cuyahoga Ducks Unlimited; Steve Gray, former chief of the Division of Wildlife, and Don Paschke, chairman of Geauga County Ducks Unlimited.

MOSQUITO CREEK AT A GLANCE

SIZE:

9,021 acres on the northern end of Mosquito Lake

HUNTING:

The 1,500-acre tract on the northeast corner of the area is open to all public hunting activity during the legal seasons, except for waterfowl. Controlled waterfowl, wild turkey, white-tailed deer, and youth dove hunts are held on the refuge portion of the area by permit only.

TRAPPING:

Trapping on the refuge is conducted similar to co-op farming; the area is divided into sections and put up for bid. Prospective trappers bid on these sections. A section is awarded to the highest bidder and that section is theirs to trap for the trapping season. Any legal furbearer can be trapped. On the public hunting and fishing portion of the area, legal furbearers, except beaver and otter can be trapped.

FISHING:

Mosquito Creek Reservoir south of the refuge buoy line is open to fishing. Species include walleye, largemouth bass, white bass, crappie, Northern pike, bluegill, and bullhead, channel catfish, and flathead catfish.

WILDLIFE VIEWING:

The 1,500-acre tract of land on the northeast corner is open to public hunting and wildlife observation. Pintail Pond and Mallard Pond can be viewed from Mahan-Denman Road; several species of waterfowl, especially during spring and fall migrations are easily seen with good quality binoculars. Bald eagles are often seen at the large wetland on either side of North Park Road, a mile south of the headquarters.

AREA HEADQUARTERS:

8303 North Park Ave. (County Road 263),
(440) 685-4776.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS:

From Cortland, follow State Route 46 approximately 8 miles north to State Route 87. Turn west and follow State Route 87 one mile to Green Center. Located just south of State Route 87 between Greene Center and North Bloomfield.



2007-2008 HUNTING REGULATIONS

Opportunities Expanded for Archers 2007-2008 Season

Archery hunters can take additional antlerless deer September 29 to November 25 by purchasing additional antlerless deer permits. Under the new regulation, hunters can take one additional antlerless deer in Zone A, up to two additional in Zone B, and up to three additional in Zone C. Archery hunters will still be required to buy a regular deer permit before purchasing any antlerless deer permits. The antlerless permits, formerly known as urban deer permits, will also be valid for controlled deer hunts and for hunting deer in an urban

unit. Antlerless deer permits will cost \$15 each.

Refer to the hunting season table on this page for hunting season dates.



Check the 2007-08 Hunting & Trapping Regulations brochure (Publication 85) and the Waterfowl Hunting Seasons brochure (Publication 295) for complete regulations. Regulation brochures are available at Division of Wildlife offices and other outlets where hunting licenses are sold, and on the Division's website.

2007-2008 Hunting Opportunities

HUNTING	Opening Date	Closing Date
Bobwhite Quail	November 2	November 25
Cottontail Rabbit	November 2	February 29
Coyote	No closed season (hunting or trapping)	
Crow: Fri. Sat. Sun. Only	June 8, 2007	March 16, 2008
	June 6, 2008	March 15, 2009
Fox, Raccoon, Opossum, Skunk, Weasel	Nov. 10, 2007	Jan. 31, 2008
Groundhog	Closed during deer gun season only	
Mourning Dove	September 1	October 14
	November 10	November 25
Ringneck Pheasant	November 2	January 6
Ruffed Grouse	October 13	February 29
Squirrel (gray, red, fox, and black)	September 1	January 31
Wild Boar	No closed season (hunting or trapping)	
Whitetail Deer: See next page for more information		
Wild Turkey: Fall <i>Open in specific counties / See 07-08 Hunting Regulations</i>	October 13	October 28
Wild Turkey: Fall Archery Only <i>Open in specific counties / See 07-08 Hunting Regulations</i>	October 29	November 25
Wild Turkey: Spring Youth Only	April 19	April 20
Wild Turkey: Spring	April 21	May 18

TRAPPING	Opening Day	Closing Day
Fox, Raccoon, Opossum, Skunk, Weasel	Nov. 10, 2007	Jan. 31, 2008
Mink, Muskrat	Nov. 10, 2007	Feb. 29, 2008
Mink, Muskrat, Raccoon, Opossum, Skunk, Weasel <i>(Erie, Ottawa, Sandusky, and Lucas County east of the Maumee River)</i>	Nov. 10, 2007	Mar. 15, 2008
Beaver	Dec. 26, 2007	Feb. 29, 2008
River Otter <i>Open in specific counties / See 07-08 Hunting Regulations</i>	Dec. 26, 2007	Feb. 29, 2008

WATERFOWL
See publications 295 and 298 or visit www.wildohio.com for current dates and limits



2007-2008 Whitetail Deer Hunting Opportunities



2007-2008 HUNTING REGULATIONS

Season	Permit Type	Open Date	Closing Date	Bag Limit		
Archery	Deer Permit (\$24)	September 29	February 3	1	2	3
Archery	Antlerless Deer Permit (\$15)	September 29	November 25	1	2	3
Archery	Youth Deer Permit (\$12)	September 29	February 3	1	2	3
Gun	Deer Permit (\$24)	November 26	December 2	1	2	3
Gun	Deer Permit (\$24)	December 15	December 16	1	2	3
Gun	Youth Deer Permit (\$12)	November 17	November 18	1	1	1
Gun	Youth Deer Permit (\$12)	November 26	December 2	1	2	3
Gun	Youth Deer Permit (\$12)	December 15	December 16	1	2	3
Muzzleloader	Deer Permit (\$24)	December 27	December 30	1	2	3
Muzzleloader	Youth Deer Permit (\$12)	December 27	December 30	1	2	3

No more than seven (7) deer may be taken during the 2007-2008 season

No more than one (1) antlered deer may be taken per license year • No more than two (2) deer may be taken per day

A B C

zones

Wrap Up of the 2006-2007 Deer Season

Ohio's reputation as a trophy whitetail state continues to grow with many trophy deer taken during the 2006-07 season. One notable trophy was harvested in Adams County in the archery season. A 34-point non-typical deer was taken by Jonathon Schmucker on opening day of the archery season. It scored 291 2/8, making it the fourth largest non-typical white-tailed deer harvested in the world.

Justin Metzner's 12-point typical whitetail arrowed on October 21 on Brush Creek State Forest in Adams County scored 196 6/8, positioning it to be the fourth largest typical deer killed in Ohio.

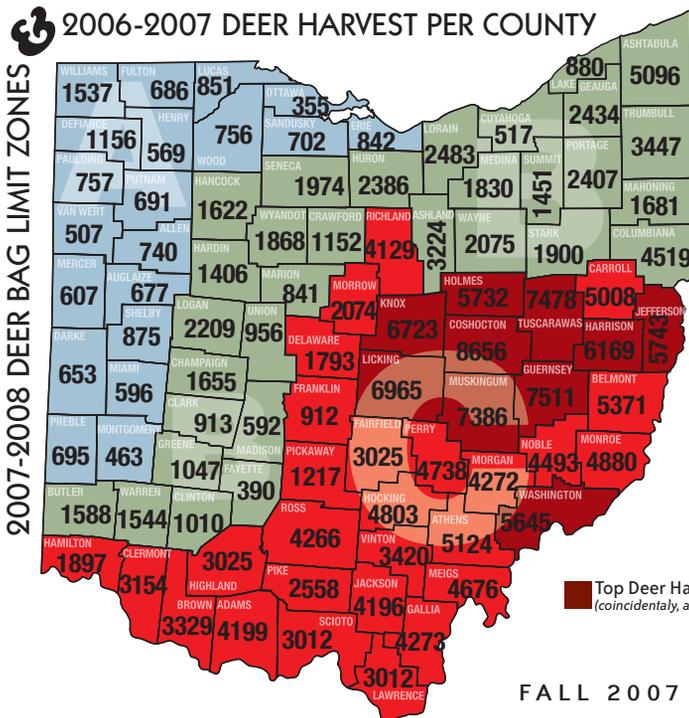
Overall, Ohio deer hunters took a record 237,316 deer during the 2006-07

hunting season. For the third year in a row the harvest surpassed 200,000. The 2006 deer harvest was 13 percent above the previous year's season total of 209,513. Deer-gun season produced the greatest portion of the harvest, with 112,260 deer killed. Archery hunters took a total of 67,912 deer.

Counties reporting the highest number of whitetails killed during the 2006-07 season included Coshocton (8,657), Guernsey (7,512), Tuscarawas (7,478), Muskingum (7,386), Licking (7,004), Knox (6,739), Harrison (6,171), Jefferson (5,743), Holmes (5,732), and Washington (5,645).

The fall 2007 statewide deer population is projected to be up slightly from last year

to just over 675,000 deer. Herd growth will be concentrated in the northwest and southeast corners, with small pockets of growth scattered across the state. With the additional antlerless opportunities available to archers during the first three months of the season, biologists expect another record harvest this year.



Q: This snake bit onto a bass as my husband reeled it in at a pond near Yellow Springs. Can you tell me what kind of snake it is? The bass was about 14 inches long, making the snake around 30 inches.

Vicki Ferguson, Centerville , OH

A: Wow! An exciting day of fishing netted a nice bass and a Northern water snake! These snakes live near streams and ponds, and are often found sunning on the shore, emerged logs or rocks, or in low branches overhanging the water. When disturbed, these excellent swimmers drop into the water for a quick escape. They are predators, eating mainly fish, frogs, and crayfish. The coloration and patterns of the species varies widely and sometimes they are mistaken for the water moccasin (cottonmouth) which does NOT occur in Ohio. Northern water snakes are not poisonous, but will bite aggressively if threatened. This characteristic can be startling enough, but to add to the fright-their saliva contains an anti-coagulant, which may cause their victim to bleed excessively when bitten! The struggling fish at the end of the line likely stimulated this snake to strike.



Q: How do you tell a male rabbit from a female rabbit?

Maggie Johnson, Hilliard, OH

A: The Eastern cottontail is found in every habitat in the state and is a common backyard resident. Outwardly, there is no easy way to tell a male rabbit from a female since there is no difference in the color of the fur from one sex to the other. The best clues may be with behavior – only the females will tend to the nest and young; the males have no role in rearing the offspring. Cottontails are very prolific, nesting at least three times a year with an average litter of five. Doe rabbits only visit the nest for very brief periods to nurse the young. Oftentimes, lawnmowers disturb a nest. If this happens, put the young rabbits back in the nest and leave it alone. Chances are the doe will return on schedule to feed the young. True orphans or injured rabbits should be taken to a licensed wildlife rehabilitator. It is illegal to keep and care for them on your own.



Q: What is the best way to keep groundhogs out of the backyard?

Fred Hanlon, Newark, OH

A: Groundhogs, also known as woodchucks, can be difficult to deter. The best way to exclude them from a yard or garden is to use fencing with a mesh smaller than four inches. Groundhogs are excellent excavators, so the fence material should be buried underground at least 15 inches deep to be most effective. Further, a single strand of electric wire will keep the animal from climbing over the fence. A pet dog may also be helpful at keeping groundhogs out of the yard. There is no closed season on groundhogs, so a lethal option would be to trap or shoot them where permissible by local ordinance.



Page 21 answers:

Mephitis mephitis: Skunk • Myotis lucifugus: Little Brown Bat • Falco sparverius : American kestrel • Chelydra serpentina: Snapping turtle

Do you have a question that you've always wondered about concerning wildlife in your backyard? If so, send your questions to: address on the right. Due to space limitations, we regret that not all questions submitted may be answered. If you need a quick response to a question, please contact your nearest wildlife district office.

Wild Ohio Magazine, Attention: Melissa Hathaway, Editor, 305 E. Shoreline Drive, Sandusky, OH 44870, or e-mail melissa.hathaway@dnr.state.oh.us.



for Wildlife



WHAT'S IN A (SCIENTIFIC) NAME?

by Susie Matthews

All wildlife in Ohio have scientific names. Scientific names are important because they allow people throughout the world to communicate about certain species. A woodcock may be called a “timberdoodle,” a “mudbat,” or a “bog-sucker.” However, if someone mentions the scientific name, *Scolopax minor*, scientists, biologists, and researchers can be sure they are talking about the same creature, the American woodcock.

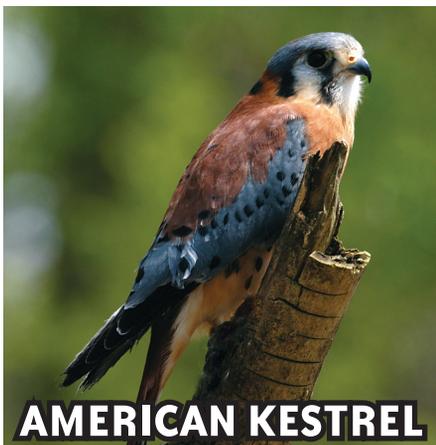
For a long time scientists faced the problem that one species of animal might have many different names according to which language they spoke or if there was

a local nickname. This caused problems when scientists gathered to discuss research, talking about the same plant or animal, but using different names. In 1758, a Swedish biologist named Carl Linnaeus proposed a universal naming system where everyone used the same name to describe the same species.

This naming system is called “binomial nomenclature.” (Bi = two, nomen = name, and calo = call, so it translates as “two-name name-calling.”) The binomial nomenclature of a specific animal is often referred to as the Latin or scientific name.

Scientific names either describe the plant or animal, usually using Latin, or tell you who first gave the species that name. For example, the Latin name for longear sunfish is *Lepomis megalotis*. Longear sunfish have long flaps that extend from their gill flap, making them look like they have long ears. In Latin, the word *megalotis* basically means “big ears.”

Can you match the animal's photo with its scientific name, based on the translation of the name?



AMERICAN KESTREL

SCIENTIFIC NAMES

answers on page 20

Mephitis mephitis

mephitis means “foul odor”

Myotis lucifugus

Myotis means “mouse eared,”
lucifugus means “avoiding light”



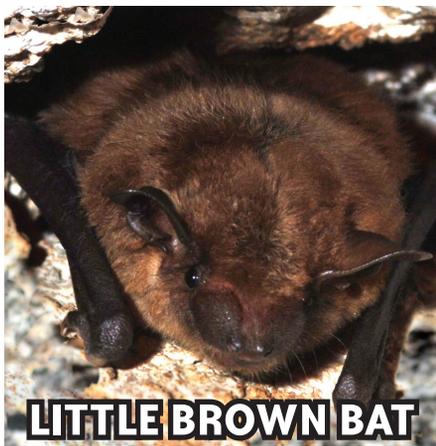
SKUNK

Falco sparverius

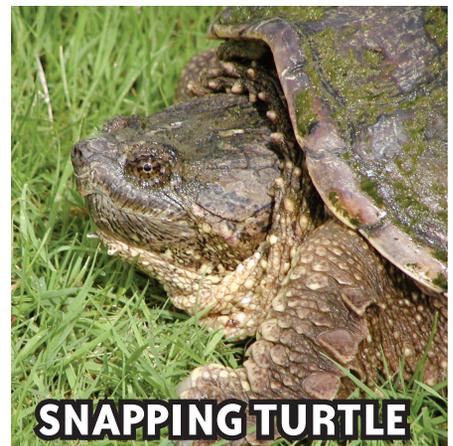
Falco is derived from the word “falcon,” and the Latin meaning of *sparverius* is “relating to a sparrow,” alluding to this animal's size and prey.

Chelydra serpentine

Chelydra means “a water serpent,” and *serpentine* is derived from the word *serpens*, which translates to “a creeping thing.”



LITTLE BROWN BAT



SNAPPING TURTLE

Page 14 answers: 1. Yes, 2. No, 3. Yes, but a white continuous light, visible for a quarter mile must be used while moving

WILD GAME GOURMET

recipes

Wild Game Gourmet • photos by Tim Daniel
the Wild Game Gourmet as seen on **Wild Ohio** Video Magazine

Dove Stuffed Mushrooms

- 12 large fresh mushrooms
- 3 to 4 whole doves or quail, cooked and deboned
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 serrano or jalapeno pepper, seeded
- salt and pepper
- 2 bacon strips, cooked and crumbled

Remove stems from mushrooms. In a food processor, combine the dove, cheese, serrano or jalapeno pepper, salt, and pepper. Cover and pulse until finely chopped. Stuff mushroom caps with meat mixture. Sprinkle with bacon. Place on a baking sheet. Bake at 400° for 10 to 15 minutes or until cheese is melted.

Contributed by Vicki Mountz

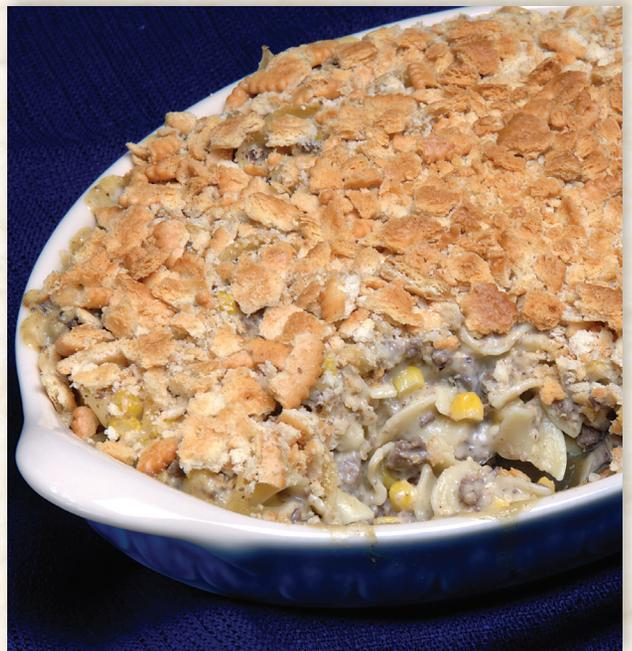


Venison Corn Bake

- 1 pound venison (browned and drained)
- 1 small onion
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 1 small container of sour cream
- 1 package of frozen yellow corn (thawed)
- ½ package of egg noodles (cooked and drained)
- Salt & pepper to taste
- 1 sleeve of Ritz crackers crushed, or other preferred topping

Mix all above ingredients except crackers in a large casserole dish; cover with crushed Ritz crackers. Bake covered at 375° for 45 minutes. Uncover five minutes before removing from oven.

Contributed by Corey Cockerill



For more great wild game recipes go to www.wildohiocookbook.com



READERS' PHOTOS

Wild Ohio magazine receives so many photos annually that we cannot possibly publish all of our readers' photos. However, the Division of Wildlife's new on-line photo gallery lets our Wild Ohio readers and other wildlife enthusiasts post their photos. To post photos on the Website, go to www.wildohio.com.



"This is a picture of my son Bryce with his first squirrel. He was so excited!"

Tori Sigler, Grove City, Ohio



Pierce Burris harvested his first spring turkey on April 21. Pictured with him are retired DOW Chief Richard Pierce, his grandfather, and Molly Burris, his mother.

Kevin & Molly Burris, Lancaster, Ohio



"This is my son Jonathon, age 8, with his first deer taken in Geauga County."

Kristin Hasson, Chardon, Ohio



Brittany Reeves with her first deer.

John Martin, Wintersville, Ohio



"Andrew Paxton is pictured with the tail of his first squirrel. The vest he is wearing was his dad's first hunting vest, and the shotgun used was his Great Grandpa Paxton's."

Nancy Paxton, Somerset, Ohio



Rachael Brown of Shelby Ohio with her Canada goose.

Ryan Kennedy, Hardin County Wildlife Officer

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DIVISION OF WILDLIFE MISSION STATEMENT

We are dedicated to conserving and improving the fish and wildlife resources and their habitats, and promoting their use and appreciation by the people so that these resources continue to enhance the quality of life for all Ohioans.



Got Permission?

September marks the traditional start of hunting season. No matter what you plan on bagging this season, you must have landowner permission to do so on private property. Be courteous and respectful of landowners and remember to act in a way that will get you permission in the years to come.

Permission to hunt forms can be obtained from:

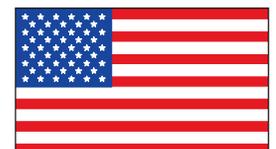
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2045 Morse Road, Bldg. G
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printed on recycled paper