

# Wild Ohio

Fall 2008

M A G A Z I N E

Ohio Department of Natural Resources

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE





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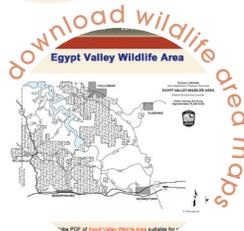
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## Fisheries Biologists Want Your Opinion!

Take Our Online Angler Survey for Inland Lakes and Reservoirs

Anglers are invited to offer suggestions via the Internet for fishing regulations on public inland lakes and reservoirs. Division of Wildlife biologists will combine the results of the online survey with fish population surveys and inland harvest surveys to determine if adjusting current regulations would improve fishing in inland lakes and reservoirs. The survey is available through October 1, 2008.



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## Features

### A Salute to Our Conservation Clubs

Through a wide range of projects, Ohio's conservation clubs are a part of the fabric of our outdoor heritage.

6-8

### Sharp Images and Fuzzy Concepts

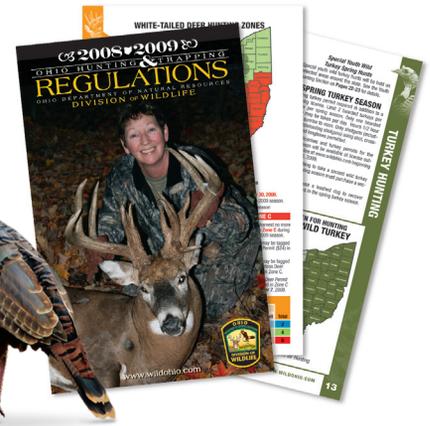
The Division of Wildlife's staff photographer gives readers a few tips on shooting photos in the field.

9

### 2008-2009 Ohio Hunting Regulations

Opportunities are expanded for deer and turkey hunters.

10-11



### Taking the Classroom Outdoors

Schools across Ohio are taking their classrooms outdoors to WILD School Sites.

16-19



## Departments

Wild Things	News From Around Ohio	4
Watchable Wildlife	White-footed Mouse	12
Wildlife Law Enforcement	Field Notes	14
Outdoor Skills	Deer Hunting 101	15
Backyards For Wildlife	Fall Decorating for Wildlife	20
For Wild Kids	Hooray for Decay	21
Wild Game Gourmet	Wild Turkey and Venison	22
Reader's Photos		23

#### On the Cover: White-footed Mouse

A cousin to the deer mouse, the white-footed mouse is an excellent climber, often climbing trees and shrubs in search of food.

Photo by Tim Daniel.





# News from Around Ohio

## HUNTER SAFETY OVERSEAS

While stationed at Camp Fallujah Iraq, Captain Doug Dariano, an Ohio hunter education instructor, conducted an Ohio Hunter Education Class for the Marines he works with. Pictured from the class are (left to right): Garret Hubbard of Belle Chase, Louisiana; Fred Ray of Reynoldsburg, Ohio; instructor Doug Dariano of Perrysburg, Ohio; and Daryl Remick of Monroe, Georgia.



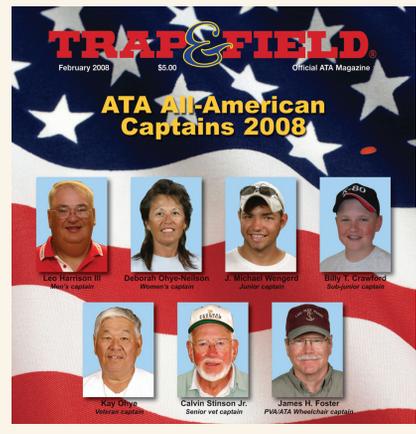
## GLOTZHOBER RECEIVES WILDLIFE DIVERSITY AWARD

Robert Glotzhober, of Columbus, received the Wildlife Diversity Conservation Award at the Division's annual Wildlife Diversity Conference in March. Glotzhober, senior curator for natural history at the Ohio Historical Society, is renowned for his research and knowledge about dragonflies and damselflies.



## OHIO TEEN NAMED NATIONAL TRAPSHOOTING CAPTAIN

Fifteen-year-old Billy T. Crawford, of Johnstown, Ohio, was selected as Captain of the Amateur Trapshooting Association's (ATA) All-American Team and is the youngest male member selected to the prestigious U.S.A. Shooting Team all in the same year. He won the silver medal at the Junior Olympics in Colorado Springs in 2007. This year he won third overall (ages 12 through 20) by shooting a 49 out of 50 in the final competition. At this year's World Cup, he placed 15th in the overall competition with 132 out of 150. He was the only junior competitor to participate in the event.



## BALD EAGLE COMMEMORATIVE COIN PROGRAM

The United States Mint has issued three limited-edition commemorative coins that celebrate the dramatic comeback of the bald eagle to America's lands, waterways, and skies. The collectable coins include a five dollar gold coin, a silver dollar, and a clad half-dollar. They are available at [usmint.gov](http://usmint.gov) through Dec. 31, 2008. Proceeds from the coins will benefit continuing bald eagle care and preservation efforts.





## YOUNG ARCHERS SUCCEED IN NATIONAL TOURNEY

A Meigs County elementary became the first Ohio school to place first in the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) championship tournament last May. Meigs Intermediate School Elementary topped the performances of 31 other elementary schools from across the U.S. at the 2008 NASP National Championship Tournament in Louisville, Kentucky. For full results go to [www.wildohio.com](http://www.wildohio.com).



## NESTING TUBES INSTALLED AT PICKEREL CREEK

Twelve members of the Ohio Waterfowler's Association placed 45 mallard nesting tubes on the Pickerel Creek Wildlife Area. These nesting tubes will provide secure nesting locations for female ducks nesting in the wetlands.

## SPORTSMEN FEEDING THE HUNGRY

Wild game donation programs such as Safari Club International (SCI) Foundation's Sportsmen Against Hunger program feed millions of needy people nationwide each year. A donation at Kah Meats in Wapakoneta last June added 400 pounds to SCI's total of close to 316,000 pounds (as of March 10) which provided more than 1.2 million meals.

## OHIOAN HONORED BY NWTf

Dr. Paul Mechling, of Pierpont, Ohio, was honored by the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf) as the Hunting Heritage Landowner Program Award Recipient for 2008. He was recognized for practicing good land management and being a leader in his community. He founded the Grand River Chapter of NWTf in 1984 and helps educate the public about the importance of conservation through his two veterinary clinics. Mechling and his family own and manage more than 580 acres of land that are certified tree farms in both Ohio and New York.



Pictured at the award ceremony at the NWTf annual convention are left to right: Randy Showalter, regional biologist with NWTf; award recipient Dr. Paul Mechling; and Dave Graham, chief of the Division of Wildlife.

# Wildlife CALENDAR

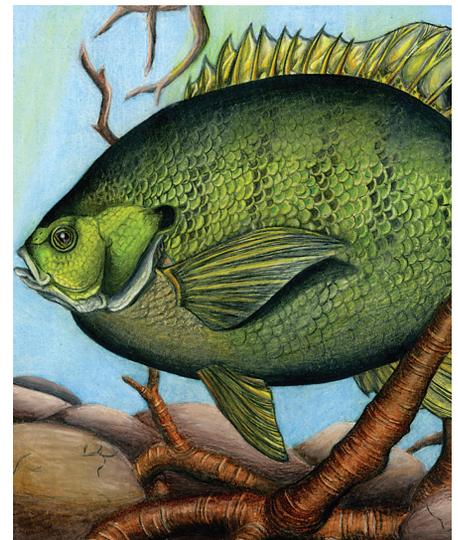
## September 1 Opening day

Opening day of hunting season for squirrel, early Canada goose, dove, rail, moorhen, and snipe.

## September 27 National Hunting and Fishing Day

For more information call (417) 890-9453 or log onto [www.nhfd.org](http://www.nhfd.org).

[www.wildohio.com](http://www.wildohio.com)  
for up-to-date events



## OHIO YOUTH WIN STATE FISH ART CONTEST

Three Ohio youths were recognized at Wildlife Forever's State Fish Art Expo last July at the Mall of America. The Ohio winners were Sarah Runkle, of Bellevue, (grades 4-6); Ryan Sobel, of Garfield Heights, (grades 7-9); and Brooke Johnson, of Oak Hill, (grades 10-12). They were the Ohio winners of the annual State Fish Art Contest for their artwork of a fish species and accompanying essay about its behavior, habitat, and efforts to conserve it. Go to [www.statefishart.com](http://www.statefishart.com) for complete rules and entry form for the 2009 competition. (Artwork shown is by Brooke Johnson.)



# A SALUTE TO OUR CLUBS

Conservation clubs across the state are long-time friends and partners with the Division of Wildlife. They are stewards of the land, improving wildlife habitat, while promoting conservation and the outdoor heritage in both youth and adults in their local communities.

Ohio's clubs work hand in hand with many other local, state, and national conservation groups including the Ohio Division of Wildlife and its Hunter Education and National Archery in the Schools programs. Many of the conservation clubs are involved in such projects as Kids Afield, fishing derbies, hunting events, shooting sports, scholarships, habitat improvement projects (such as planting wildlife food plots), and sponsoring Boy Scouts of America, 4-H, and other youth activities. The following are just a few examples of the many valuable projects and events conducted by Ohio's core of county conservation clubs.

## Northwest Ohio

One of my fondest memories as a kid was my dad taking my sister, brother, and me fishing. We jumped into the 1959 Ford Fairlane station wagon and headed off to the Shelby County Fish and Game Club. Dad taught us how to hook the worms, set a bobber, and to cast. Poor dad ran from kid to kid unhooking

bluegills as we kids squealed with joy. My dad died only a few years after that, so those memories to me are some of the most precious possessions I have.

Fishing is one of those rites of passage that most of us go through. But not all of us have a parent or friend who can teach us. That is where many conservation clubs, like the Oak Harbor Conservation Club, come into play. Those clubs are full of men and women that want to make sure that all of us have the opportunity to go fishing and experience the magic.

The Oak Harbor Conservation Club in Ottawa County, like many clubs in Ohio, does tremendous things for conservation as well as for the public. They don't do it for money or recognition. They do it because they believe in it. They do it for smiles, both their own and for the people they serve. But the Oak Harbor Conservation Club goes the extra mile. For 25 years, they've given every fifth grader in Ottawa County a free fishing pole. How cool is that?

According to Harry DiCarlo, spokesman for the club, they handed out close to 500 fishing rods this year. Five hundred fishing rods over 25 years...you do the math. That's the kind of dedication that makes Ohio's conservation clubs some of the best in the nation. Harry told me not long ago that "Our future with fishing lies in getting young people involved. Giving a child a fishing rod may spark

that child's interest in the outdoors."

Another great example of a club that goes the extra mile is the Rushcreek Sportsmen's Club in Hardin County. Besides their usual monthly activities, they host a Spring Rendezvous every year offering trap shooting competitions as well as sporting clays, five-stand archery, and other activities for youth and adults. It is very common to see three generations of a family there enjoying the day. No Spring Rendezvous is complete at Rush Creek without Kenny Kearns there cooking up a big kettle of his famous ham and bean soup. I have witnessed many times a kid being taken under the wing of one of these club members and being taught how to hold a gun or to actually take that first shot at a sporting clay. They are a part of the fabric of our outdoor heritage in Ohio.

## Southwest Ohio

One outstanding conservation club in southwest Ohio is the Butler County Pheasants Forever Chapter #780, one of 35 chapters in Ohio. They have the distinct honor of being the number four chapter in the state in terms of dollars spent on habitat improvements in 2007.

Habitat Chairman Burdette Ehrhardt has been a driving force in this chapter over the years. He and committee members organize events including two annual fundraisers and annual dove and



# CONSERVATION CLUBS

youth pheasant hunts. Members also hold a youth camp that includes archery, firearms safety, fishing, conservation, and wildlife management.

Once spring arrives, the club's focus is on enhancing and creating vital wildlife habitat. One of the ways they accomplish this is by purchasing about \$2,500 in seed that is given away to landowners. Some of the seed (corn, sorghum, and sunflower) can be used in food plots. Warm season grasses are also purchased for planting to establish critical nesting areas and cover. This chapter has planted over 1,000 acres to date. The club has also sent members through fire training to be wildfire certified, and assists landowners in burning about 3,000 acres of grass per year. The club also purchases and donates equipment that assists over 200 landowners in the planting of warm season grasses. Recently, club members partnered with Miami University to offer a habitat restoration manual.

### Lake Improvement Association Mercer and Auglaize counties

Sponsors an annual fishing derby and cookout for kids with disabilities at Grand Lake St. Marys.

### Dayton Ducks Unlimited

Raised money to create the Jim Cross Wetland. The 14-acre wetland will provide additional benefits to wetland species using the area throughout

the year as well as during seasonal migration, and will complement the surrounding 1,799-acre public hunting and fishing land.

### Highland County Rod and Gun Club

Sponsors several youth events throughout the year. Most notable is the Trout Derby at Rocky Fork Lake where youth get a chance to catch trout and try archery and shotgun shooting. This year's event in April attracted over 600 youths.

### Adams and Brown County NWTF

Conducts youth events from monies raised in fundraising banquets and Step Outside grants from the Division of Wildlife. The Adams County club holds a fishing derby, and the Brown County club holds a youth event that includes archery, fishing, and shooting sports.

## Central Ohio

One of central Ohio's premier conservation clubs is the Southeast Ohio Pheasants Forever Chapter that hosts an annual youth event each spring at the Fairfield Fish and Game Club. It is Pheasants Forever's largest youth event in the nation! The event includes shotgun shooting, rifle shooting, muzzleloader shooting, archery, tree stand safety, bird dog demonstrations, duck decoy painting, fishing, electrical safety demonstrations, bird box building, and many more

educational activities. This year's event drew 850 kids.

The event would not be possible without the support of many partners including the Division of Wildlife, Fairfield Fish and Game Club, Fairfield County Ducks Unlimited, Zane Trace Chapter NWTF, Ohio Valley Quail Unlimited, Fairfield County Bird Dog Club, Angler's Paradise, and Lancaster Pistol and Rifle Club.

### Central Ohio Anglers & Hunters

Holds Honors Camp and Great Outdoor Adventure to educate local school students on the environment and outdoor recreation skills.

### Champaign County Sportsman's Club

Donated money toward wildlife law enforcement activities.

### Ohio Waterfowlers Association

Built a wheelchair accessible hunting blind at Hebron State Fish Hatchery.

### Central Ohio Chapter of Safari Club International

Donated \$8,000 toward wildlife law enforcement activities.

Contributed an average of \$2,500 per year over a five-year period to the Central Crossing High School Navy Junior ROTC Rifle Team

Purchased night vision equipment and FLIR (Forward Looking Infra-Red) vision equipment for wildlife law enforcement aircraft investigations.



## Southeast Ohio

Several clubs support local volunteer fire departments in providing equipment and training for water rescue and search and rescue. Some other unique projects in southeast Ohio include:

### Guernsey County Sportsmen for Conservation

Provide hunting and wildlife magazine subscriptions for all the county school libraries.

### Gallia County Sportsmen Club

Sponsors an annual Landowners Appreciation Dinner for landowners that permit hunting, fishing, and trapping on their property. They also donated \$1,000 to the Division of Wildlife for the purchase of Mead lands for public hunting.

### South Hills Longbeard Chapter of NWTf

Purchased a brush-hog for wildlife habitat management activities.

### Belmont County Chapter of Buckmasters

Purchased a deer decoy for wildlife law enforcement activities

### Coshocton County Sportsmen Association

Purchases bird seed for senior citizen residences.

### Athens Fish and Game Club

Helps sponsor Camp Heritage, an

annual weekend hunter education camp that gives up to 50 kids extensive live-fire experience in small-bore rifle, muzzleloading, archery, and shotgun shooting.

### Morgan County Coon Hunters

Purchases bird seed for elementary school bird feeders.

### Old Trail Hunt Club

Sponsored the NWTf National Board Hunt activities.

## Northeast Ohio

Many northeast Ohio conservation clubs partner in the purchase of wildlife-related recreational lands, provide camp and education scholarships, hold honorary dinners for landowners who provided their property for hunting, conduct youth outdoor days, sponsor fish stockings for derbies, and support Hunter Education and NASP programs. Some specific projects include:

### The Columbiana County Federation of Conservation Clubs

Holds an annual wild game dinner with all proceeds donated to various local organizations including Boy/Eagle Scouts, Girl Scouts, Columbiana County Youth Challenge Team, and area schools and libraries. Three \$1,000 scholarships are also donated annually to students who plan to

pursue degrees in natural resources and agriculture. This year's event attracted over 550 people

### Stark County Federation of Conservation Clubs

Operates the Conservation Building at the county fair and sponsors two trout derbies.

### Game Reserve Association

Purchased a tractor and brush-hog for wildlife habitat management activities.

### Chagrin Valley Fish and Game

Funded a fish structure placement in Pymatuning Reservoir.

### Central Basin Steelheaders

Funded project to provide public access signs along rivers.

We can't all be lucky enough to have a pond at our homes, a shooting range next door, or a family member who can teach us outdoor skills. Thank goodness for the conservation clubs across the Buckeye State! Go visit one...perhaps it will be life changing.

Conservation clubs throughout Ohio that were not included in this article, may send an update of their club's activities for inclusion in *Wild Ohio* Magazine. Send project information to Melissa Hathaway at: Ohio Division of Wildlife, 305 E. Shoreline Dr., Sandusky, OH, or [melissa.hathaway@dnr.state.oh.us](mailto:melissa.hathaway@dnr.state.oh.us).

# SHARP IMAGES

## FUZZY CONCEPTS

by Tim Daniel

*Division of Wildlife Photographer*

**M**any photos that people share with me have one thing in common. The photographer's concept of what they liked about the scene is unclear. When taking photos of your children or friends enjoying an outdoor activity always try to include a few basic things that will help the viewer understand what inspired you to snap the picture. Here are some tips.

### Zoom In

Ignore the impulse to force your subjects to always pose while staring at the camera. Variety is important. The best shots are typically taken without anyone being aware they are getting their picture taken. This is easily accomplished by using your zoom or telephoto lens. Capture the wonder on their faces or a gaze of solitude as they explore the world around them. When photographing children, give them an activity to do and then give them some distance. A leaf, sand pile, bug, or flower can be a great distraction for an inquisitive child. Let them play with and investigate the object while you use a medium zoom lens to capture the moment. Wonderful natural expressions will result.

### Background Distractions

Keep an eye on the background as well as your subject before you take the photo. Objects behind or in front of the person such as trees, branches, light poles, and fences, may be distracting or appear to be growing from the person's body. Don't include too much in your photo or the viewer will not understand what the point of the photograph is.

### The Outdoor Experience

Include a strong point of interest if you choose to add a dramatic landscape to your photo. Your eye needs a place to rest in the picture, so bring in something interesting such as a favorite shotgun, a pair of binoculars, or a fishing rod. Try taking candid pictures to show your subject walking to a tree stand, resting by a stream, talking, or simply taking great joy in being out on a beautiful day.

### Explore the Vantage Points

When you take a picture of someone, start out by getting to their eye level. Photos taken from above eye level or below while looking up at your subject add an element of surprise for the viewer. Photos taken from different viewpoints can be fun if you want to be creative, but the most flattering shots are usually at eye level.

### Use the Self-timer

Don't forget to get into some of the pictures yourself. Set your camera on a flat surface or a tripod. Check in the viewfinder to see if it's aimed properly, then set the camera's self-timer so

you can join the scene after you press the shutter button. Read your camera manual for detailed instructions on the self-timer.

### Lighting

Avoid harsh facial shadows by using the soft lighting of a cloudy day or a shady area. On sunny days, if your camera has several flash modes, select Fill-Flash. This will fire the flash even in bright sunlight. This "fills" the shadows on nearby subjects, creating more flattering portraits in direct sunlight. If you shoot in a shady location make sure that your background is in the same light as your subject.

### Off-center Point of Interest

The picture will be more interesting if the horizon or your point of interest is not in the center of the frame. Put the horizon line a third of the way down from the top (or up from the bottom), or the subject a third of the way in from the left or right. Experiment until you find a suitable composition and you will enjoy your outdoor experience on an artistic level as well.

Most modern cameras are very compact and easy to carry so don't forget to take yours the next time you spend some time outdoors. Some of my best memories as a child are the times that I spent outside with my family and friends. Most of those reflections are captured in my mind, but not as a photograph. I can only imagine some of the little things that were forgotten over the years.



## Opportunities Expanded for Fall Turkey Hunters and Deer Hunters

Fall turkey hunters will enjoy expanded opportunities being able to hunt the entire season, from October 11 through November 30, with a shotgun, muzzleloading shotgun, bow or crossbow. This new rule adds 35 days to the previous season for fall turkey gun hunting. Nine additional northeast Ohio counties will also be open for fall turkey hunting, bringing the total to 46 counties statewide.

Deer hunters can again buy additional antlerless deer permits at reduced prices for hunting in an urban zone, participating in a controlled hunt, or hunting during the September 27 to November 30 portion of the archery season. Deer hunters with antlerless permits can hunt in Zone C until December 7. Cost of the antlerless deer permit remains at \$15.

As was the requirement last year,

### 2008-2009 Hunting Opportunities

Hunting	Opening Date	Closing Date
Squirrel ( <i>gray, red, fox, black</i> )	Sept 1, 2008	Jan 31, 2009
Mourning Dove	Sept 1, 2008	Oct 22, 2008
	Dec 9, 2008	Dec 26, 2008
Ruffed Grouse	Oct 11, 2008	Feb 28, 2009
Cottontail Rabbit	Nov 7, 2008	Feb 28, 2009
Ring-necked Pheasant	Nov 7, 2008	Jan 11, 2009
Bobwhite Quail	Nov 7, 2008	Nov 30, 2008
Fox, Raccoon, Skunk, Opossum, Weasel	Nov 10, 2008	Jan 31, 2009
<b>Crow: Fri. Sat. Sun. Only</b>	June 6, 2008	Mar 15, 2009
Coyote	No closed season	
Wild Boar	No closed season	
Groundhog	Closed for deer gun season only	
Waterfowl	See publications 295 and 298 for details.	
Wild Turkey: <b>Fall</b>	Oct 11, 2008	Nov 30, 2008
Wild Turkey: <b>Spring</b>	April 20, 2008	May 17, 2009
White-tailed Deer: <b>Archery</b>	Sept 27, 2008	Feb 1, 2009
White-tailed Deer: <b>Early Muzzleloader</b>	Oct 20, 2008	Oct 25, 2008
White-tailed Deer: <b>Youth Gun</b>	Nov 22, 2008	Nov 23, 2008
White-tailed Deer: <b>Gun</b>	Dec 1, 2008	Dec 7, 2008
White-tailed Deer: <b>Gun</b>	Dec 20, 2008	Dec 21, 2008
White-tailed Deer: <b>Muzzleloader</b>	Dec 27, 2008	Dec 30, 2008

Youth Hunting	Opening Date	Closing Date
Youth Hunters Small Game Season	Oct 25, 2008	Oct 26, 2008
	Nov 1, 2008	Nov 2, 2008
Youth Deer Gun Season	Nov 22, 2008	Nov 23, 2008
Youth Spring Wild Turkey Season	April 18, 2009	April 19, 2009
Youth Spring Wild Turkey Hunts: <b>Specific Areas Only</b>	April 20, 2009	May 17, 2009
Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days	See Publication 295 for details	
Youth Waterfowl Opening Day Hunts	Selected areas only	
Youth Controlled Deer Hunts: <b>Application Only</b>	Application period is June 1 through July 31	
Youth Controlled Waterfowl Hunts: <b>Application Only</b>		







## WATCHABLE WILDLIFE

Story by Melissa Hathaway

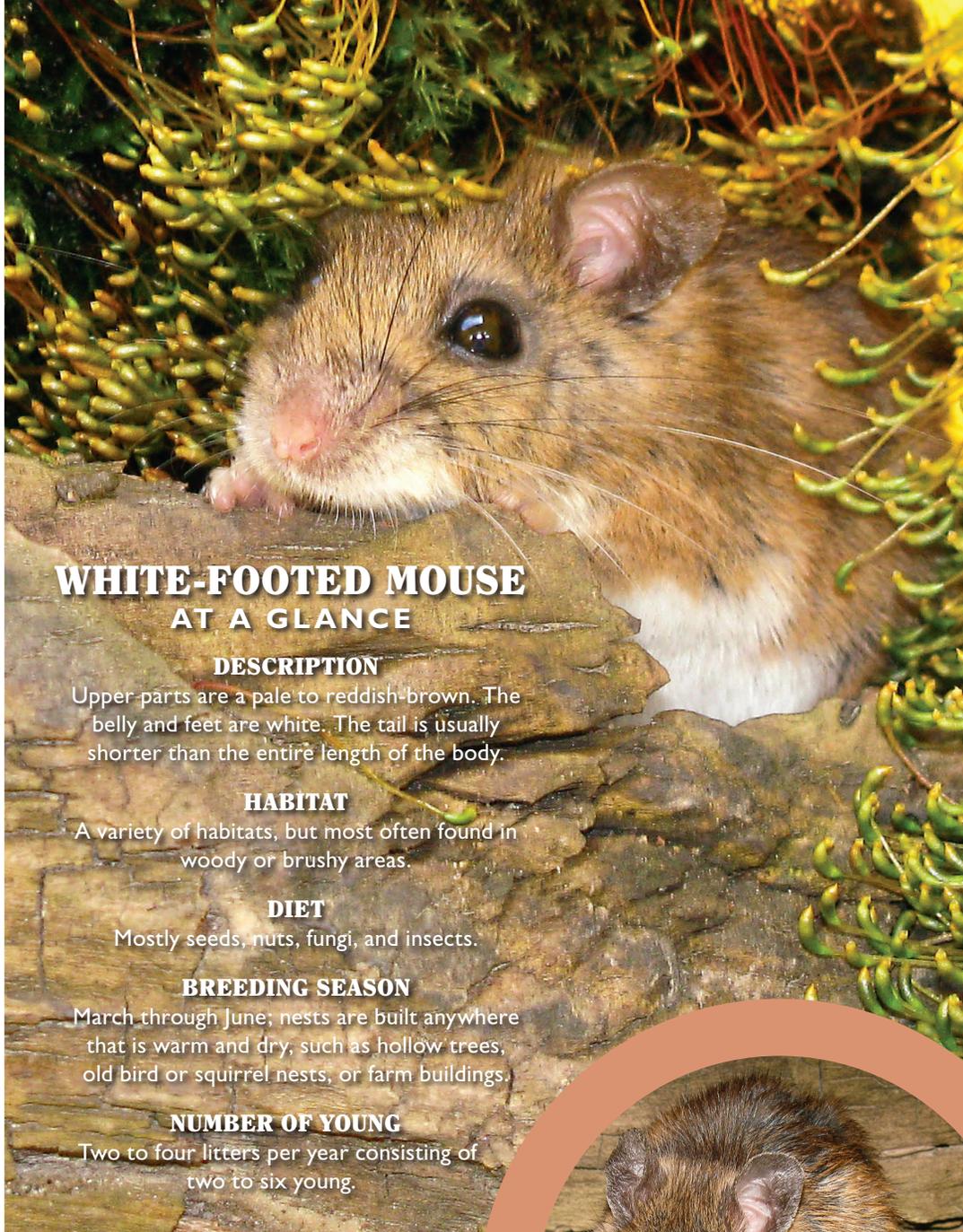
A cousin to the well-known deer mouse is the white-footed mouse. These small rodents are found mostly in woody or brushy areas throughout most of the eastern United States. They are perhaps the most abundant rodent in mixed forests and edges of agricultural fields, but are not often seen because they are primarily nocturnal.

If you happen to get a glimpse of a white-footed mouse, you will immediately notice its large ears and bulging, dark eyes. They look very similar to deer mice, except the tail is usually shorter in relation to its body. The upperparts are a pale to rich

reddish-brown. Its belly and feet are white; hence the name white-footed mouse.

White-footed mice are interesting little critters with some unique habits. One distinctive behavior specific to this mouse is the drumming on a hollow reed or a dry leaf with their front paws which produces a long musical buzzing hum. Scientists are unsure of why they display this behavior.

They are excellent climbers, often climbing trees and shrubs in search of food, using their tails to balance when climbing. They are also good swimmers.



## WHITE-FOOTED MOUSE AT A GLANCE

### DESCRIPTION

Upper parts are a pale to reddish-brown. The belly and feet are white. The tail is usually shorter than the entire length of the body.

### HABITAT

A variety of habitats, but most often found in woody or brushy areas.

### DIET

Mostly seeds, nuts, fungi, and insects.

### BREEDING SEASON

March through June; nests are built anywhere that is warm and dry, such as hollow trees, old bird or squirrel nests, or farm buildings.

### NUMBER OF YOUNG

Two to four litters per year consisting of two to six young.

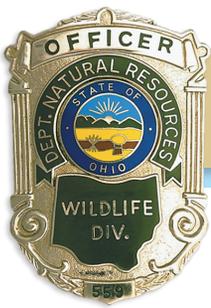


VIEWING OPPORTUNITIES

# The White-footed Mouse

Being primarily active at night allows the mice to avoid many predators. Where white-footed mice are abundant, they are a major food source for many small predators. The nest may be made in such places as a hollow log or tree cavity, bird house, abandoned bird or squirrel nest, or barn. Nest materials include grasses, leaves, feathers, bark, moss, and cloth. In preparation for winter, they cache seeds and nuts, storing them in and about their nests. Like squirrels, white-footed mice have internal cheek pouches that they use to carry food to their caches. They are active year-round, but may stay in their nests during extremely cold weather.

You will most likely need to visit a rural area and tread quietly after dark with a flashlight to get a view of these small creatures of the night. White-footed mice will most likely be found in and around woody or brushy areas. Suggested places to look include woodlots, riparian edges, brushpiles, cultivated fields, pastures, fencerows, barns, and other farm buildings.



## WILDLIFE LAW ENFORCEMENT

# Field Notes

### FIRST CASE INVOLVING NEW WILDLIFE RESTITUTION VALUES

Overbagging steelhead trout cost a Lorain man close to \$700 in fines and restitution, and represents Ohio's first case involving restitution values. Following surveillance activities, wildlife officers arrested the man who admitted to keeping six steelhead trout over the limit. The daily bag limit is two fish. Recent legislation revised provisions governing the restitution value of wild animals that are unlawfully held, taken, bought, sold or possessed. The new law reflects the present-day value of Ohio's wildlife, which can range anywhere from \$20 to nearly \$2,500. (The value of trophy deer can range much higher.)

### SPOTLIGHTING DEER LEADS TO FINES AND FORFEITURES

Five eastern Ohio men paid heavily for 27 counts of violating state wildlife laws. The five suspects, who were arrested in separate incidents in Guernsey and Coshocton counties, were ordered to pay a total of \$6,750 in fines, court costs, and restitution. A total of 16 days of jail time was served with an additional 300 days of jail time suspended. In addition, hunting privileges were suspended for four of the individuals and rifles and shotguns used in the illegal activities were ordered forfeited.

A Lawrenceburg, Indiana man and two Quaker City, Ohio men were charged with a variety of wildlife violations centered on spotlighting in Guernsey County last November. In a separate incident, during a routine traffic stop the following night, Coshocton County sheriff's deputies found two illegally harvested deer in the back of a pick-up truck. Deputies contacted wildlife officers who charged two Coshocton men.

### WILDLIFE OFFICERS RECOGNIZED

#### TWO OFFICERS RECEIVE ODNR DIRECTOR'S VALOR AWARD



Pike County Wildlife Officer Matt VanCleve was on patrol in the area of Pike Lake when a woman stopped him and said she had pulled a non-responsive man out of the water. Officer VanCleve arrived at the scene, called for emergency medical assistance, and began administering CPR with the help of the victim's son. The victim was life-flighted to a hospital and later released.

Pickaway County Wildlife Officer Ken Bebout received the Valor Award for aiding a duck hunter suffering from hypothermia after his boat capsized at Deer Creek Lake. Officer Bebout quickly began treatment and called for a medical squad for assistance. The man was treated for hypothermia at a nearby hospital.

#### ADDITIONAL OFFICER RECOGNITION

- Ashtabula County Wildlife Officer Wade Dunlap, TIP Officer of the Year
- Licking County Wildlife Officer Bill Bullard, Ohio Bow Hunters Association Officer of the Year
- District Three Law Enforcement Supervisor Doug Miller, Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers 2008 Officer of the Year for Ohio
- Daniel Shroyer, National Wildlife Turkey Federation Ohio Wildlife Officer of the Year

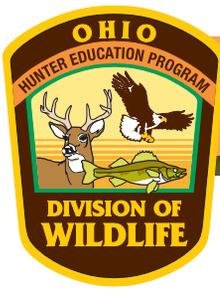
### SEVEN DEFIANCE COUNTY POACHERS PAY HEFTY PRICE

Seven Defiance County poachers charged with 56 wildlife violations were sentenced last April to a combined total of over \$17,000 in fines, court costs, and restitution. They also lost their hunting privileges for a combined total of 33 years.

A lengthy investigation took place after an anonymous phone call about the suspected illegal activities in 2007. Deer was the species of choice, but other animals were also unlawfully killed if the opportunity presented itself. Most of their illegal activities took place in northern

Defiance County with most of the deer shot at night with a rifle and spotlight. Meat from the illegally taken deer was made into jerky and sold.

A search warrant and interviews resulted in the seizure of over 60 items, most of which were forfeited to the Division of Wildlife during sentencing. Items included an ATV and trailer, several firearms, spotlight, mounted deer heads, mounted black bear, mounted fox, numerous untagged deer parts, deer and turkey meat, and deer processing equipment.



## OUTDOOR SKILLS

# Deer Hunting 101

 by Marc Sommer

Ohio can stake claim to two outdoor achievements. We can claim ourselves as the “Walleye Capital of the World,” but in a very close second is our rank as an excellent place to hunt whitetails. Not only is Ohio’s deer herd spread throughout the

state, but the quality of the deer harvested every year is also quite amazing. But who cares about quantity and quality if you don’t know where to begin hunting them? Here are some helpful tips to get you up and running in Ohio’s deer country.

### equipment

Equipment can range from minimal, such as a legal gun or bow, clothing, a license, deer permit, pen for filling out your tag, something to sit on, and of course your hunter orange. To maximize your equipment, look into using a tree stand, clothing for all seasons such as raingear for the wet days and warm weather gear for the cold days. Also consider your sub gear such as food, water, first aid kit, toilet paper, binoculars, flashlight, rope for dragging your deer, hand warmers, knife, portable saw, etc.

### preseason

Get out early and scout the areas where you will be hunting. Be sure to get written permission from private property owners and know the boundaries of both private and public areas. Practice sighting in your gun or bow on a range using the same ammunition or broadheads you will use for hunting.

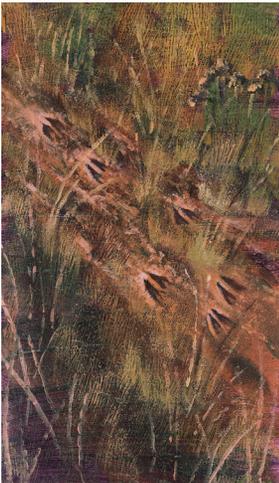
### in season

Get ready early. Head to your spot before daybreak and get set up. Be sure you know what the legal shooting times are, what zone you are hunting, and where the closest deer check station is. If it is warm out, remember that after harvesting your deer you will want to field dress it, get it checked in, and to a processor as soon as possible. Be sure to have all of your gear with you. DON’T forget anything. The last thing you want to do is have to head back to your vehicle when the deer start moving around.

Last but not least, remain quiet and patient. When the time is right, take your best shot. While you’re out there, take a look around. Enjoy the beauty of the natural resources available to us in Ohio. The worst thing you’ll end up with is a new memory of a great day being outside.

## signs to look for

### DEER TRACKS



**DEER TRAILS**  
– trails that look like lines and curves where all vegetation has been trampled and may show hoof prints. This is a good indicator of traveling deer.

### DEER BEDDING AREAS

– deer-sized oval shaped areas in good cover where ground cover is flattened.

### FEEDING AREAS

– White-tailed deer are browsers and grazers. They eat the twigs, buds, and leaves of a wide variety of plants, including greenbrier, poison ivy, wildflowers, honeysuckle, and oak seedlings. They feed on acorns (look for squirrels), fruits, and agricultural crops such as corn and soybeans, as well as landscape plants.

### BUCK RUBS

– rubbings on trees made by bucks. Rubbings may appear to be shiny areas where bark is rubbed off the tree or deeper cuts in the tree made by a buck’s antlers; smaller saplings may be split from the pressure of the rubbing.

### SCRAPES

– oval or round scrapes on the ground made by males that are void of all vegetation or debris. Males will generally urinate on the area in addition to removing the leaves and vegetation.

### DEER DROPPINGS

– resemble large rabbit pellets, but are more oval and flatter in shape.



# MOVING THE CLASSROOM outdoors

Schools are back in session and many Ohio teachers will use Project WILD (an environmental education curriculum for grades K-12) in their classrooms. But some Ohio educators are taking it a step further by taking the classroom outdoors, creating wildlife habitat, and bringing environmental education concepts to life. *Wild Ohio* Magazine visited several WILD School Sites (an extension of Project WILD) to see how some schools are going wild!

## Lowell Elementary (Southeast Ohio) ▶

The celebration of Earth Day last April was a very exciting day at Lowell Elementary school in Washington County. That day, the small school of less than 150 students received the Division of Wildlife's WILD School Site certification. It was very special to the students because each one played a role in making it all happen.

First grade teacher Donna Hibbs, along with second grade teach Amanda Von Kennell started their schoolyard project in 2001 and dubbed it "Project BLOOMS (Balance Learning on Outside Math and Science). Today students in all six grades at Lowell, plus the seventh graders at the high school, take pride in the fact that they helped create the site during their Kindergarten through second grade classes.

The students have planted trees, bushes, bulbs, and flowers, and have installed bird feeders, nest boxes, bird houses, bat boxes, and rain gauges. Each of these features provides a base for math and science studies. One class planted bulbs on the bank in front of the school that spells "Lowell." Their efforts have attracted a variety of wild critters including numerous species of birds, bats, rabbits, butterflies, bees, praying mantises, and many other insects.

Every Friday afternoon, is "Buddy Science Day," when each first grader is paired with a second grader to work on a BLOOMS project. This year's big project was building and painting bird houses. Each student took home their bird house as a community outreach project to provide for wildlife at home.

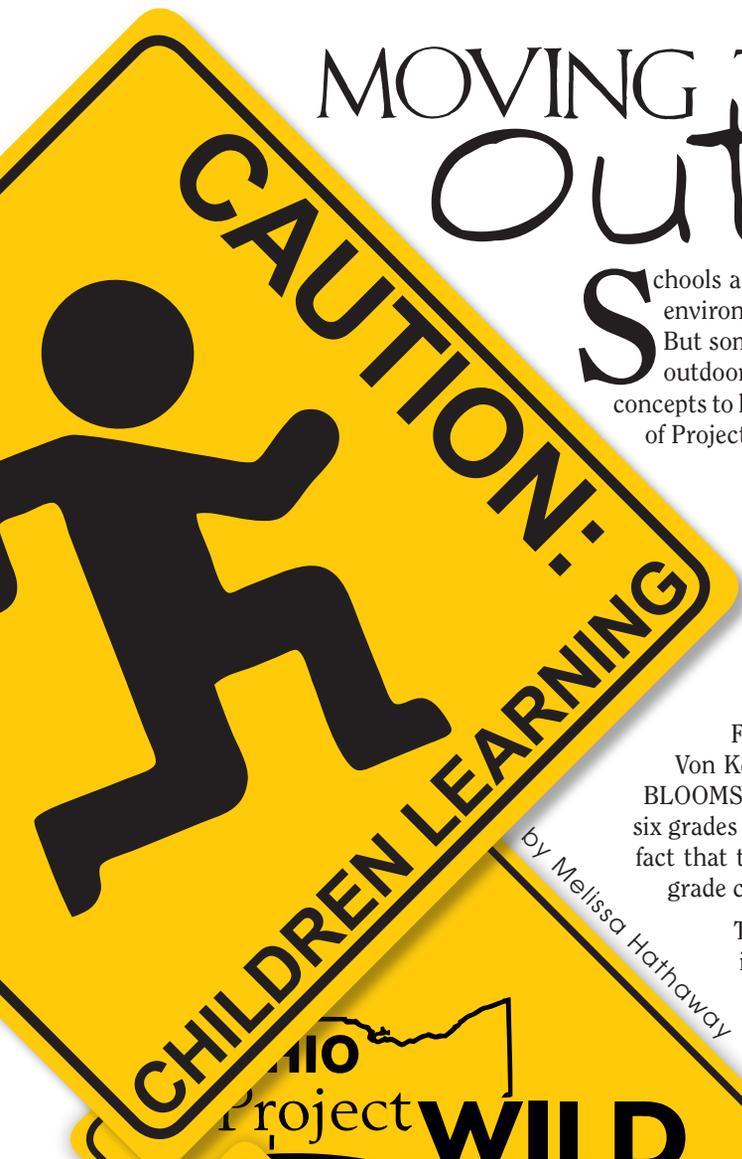
It is not unusual for students to visit the schoolyard after school hours or bring their parents to show them the projects they have done or the wildlife they can see there. Karla Ward, the wildlife specialist at Washington County's Soil and Water Conservation District, has helped with Project BLOOMS since its inception. She has six kids of her own that have each had a hand in creating their outdoor learning space.

"My family takes walks to the school just to see what is here, and it's amazing how much pride my children take in it," Mrs. Ward said. "We'll sit and watch the hummingbirds and butterflies, and check out the birds at the bird feeders. And it's not just our family; the whole community takes advantage of it."

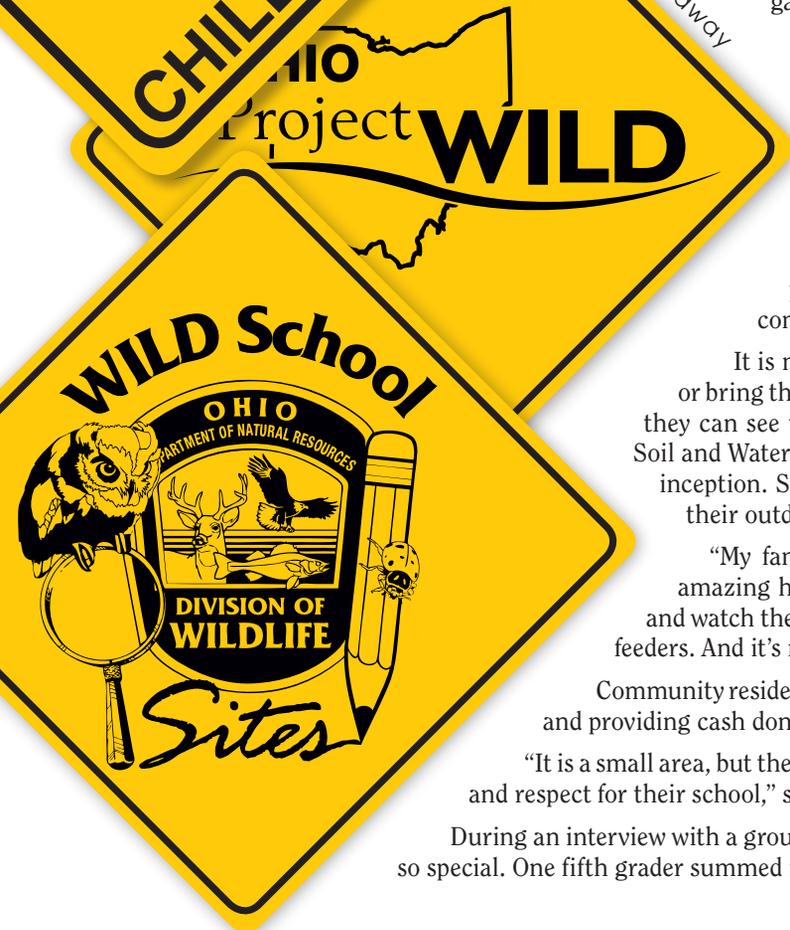
Community residents and businesses have shown support by tilling the flower gardens, and providing cash donations, bird seed, flowers, bulbs, and even butterfly chrysalises.

"It is a small area, but the kids and the community use every bit it. I think it gives them pride and respect for their school," said Mrs. Hibbs.

During an interview with a group of Lowell students, they were asked what makes their schoolyard so special. One fifth grader summed it up perfectly, "WE built it!"



by Melissa Hathaway





## Dublin Jerome High School (Central Ohio) ▼

At the opposite end of the size scale for WILD School Sites is Dublin Jerome High School's 10-acre Jerome Outdoor Experience Center. During the Systems of the Earth and Environmental Science classes, teacher Chuck Crawford, with the aid of fellow teacher Mary Finnen, lead the students in science exploration. Here, the students are a true part of the research.

"It's about the experience. We believe that in this facility students can experience science, not just do science," Mr. Crawford said. "You can do a lot of different things in the classroom, but until they actually experience scientific research, they'll never truly understand what science really is."

One student summed it up by saying, "It's good to actually see it. It's not just a picture in a textbook in Africa or somewhere. It's right here in our own backyard."

Another student commented, "Working outside lets you work with hands-on activities. It's an actual experience where you learn and have fun at the same time."

The longest ongoing project is a garlic mustard eradication study. The students are conducting a study to see what the best way is to remove this invasive species. Study areas include chemical applications and physical removal (hand pulling). Classes also conduct other vegetation studies, small mammal studies, soil sampling, hydrology studies,

tree bore aging and the associated cultural ecology, and prairie restoration. Detailed notebooks of the research are kept each year.

Mr. Crawford instills in his young researchers three principles of scientific research: 1) science takes collaboration – all of the classes work together, 2) science takes place over time – the research the students conduct takes place over multiple years, and 3) science takes protocols – specific guidelines must be followed to conduct research.

"For students to understand the big picture of the world together -- how all the systems are interconnected to each other, and what we do here affects people elsewhere – that is what's important," said Mr. Crawford.



## Children's Meeting House (Southwest Ohio) ▶

Stepping into the backyard of the Children's Meeting House, a Montessori school in Loveland, Ohio, the visitor can only dream of having this menagerie of wildlife habitat in their own backyard. The school's entire backyard, consisting of several acres of yard space as well as surrounding woods, is a giant outdoor habitat for learning. The school became a WILD School Site last May during a ceremony complete with a plaque presentation, tree plantings, and singing.

Everywhere you look are gardens and other features including a small stream with waterfall and garden pond, deck, bird feeding station, nest boxes, compost pile which the classes use on their gardens, large pond, surrounding woods, and trails. The students had a hand in developing each of the outdoor features. Each class is responsible for a garden space, and each classroom has grow lamps to start their plants indoors for planting in their gardens.

The children are able to come outside during their work time and do activities such as drawing or sitting



in a rocker checking off birds that visit a feeding station, explained teacher Melissa Eversole. "We still meet all of the academic standards, but do it in a very different way with a different approach. We wouldn't be able to do all of this if it wasn't a Montessori school because of the Montessori philosophy of using your hands, being outside, and experiencing."

Teacher John Phenix has used the outside as a teaching tool for the 35 years that he has taught at the school. "You can't ever bring inside everything that's

outside. Children love to come outside, they love to have their attention drawn to whatever it is that is going on out here from the ponds to the trails, to the salamanders, to the cicadas.

"It's the perfectly designed Montessori environment. If children are involved with their hands, they will learn. Everything we do outside here goes right along with the philosophy that if they are involved in an activity, if they get their hands busy, and they get their bodies working in it, it will be a learning experience."

## Our Lady of Lourdes (Northwest Ohio) ▼

Approaching the little parish school in west Toledo, a small bridge over a gently flowing creek takes you into a tranquil world among towering oaks and historic sand dunes. Our Lady of Lourdes Elementary School is located on the edge of the Oak Opening region of western Lucas County and is the perfect setting for a WILD School Site.

The main focus of the school's outdoor classroom is the large round flower garden with a large marble bird bath that sits in front of the school. Each class has its own

plot (like a piece of the pie) with timbers separating each plot. A naturalist-guided tour of the Oaks Openings Metropark to see some of the area's native plants and animals gave each class an idea of the plants they wanted to plant in their plot. Planting day was a big event with all of the students, teachers, and U.S. Representative Marcy Kaptur digging in and getting their hands dirty.

It is more than the wildflower garden, it's the whole campus including the stream, an adjacent woods, and sand

dunes, explained Principal Carol Farnsworth. Future plans include a rain garden. There is a possibility that they could be building a new school in the near future and Mrs. Farnsworth hopes to make it the first "green" school in the diocese.

"This is a wonderful school to work with," said Tom LaVergne, Division of Wildlife communications specialist. "This WILD School Site is unique in that typically only one teacher is involved. Here we have all the teachers involved."

Margie Penzinski, who helps with the WILD School Site and teaches environmental education curriculum at the school, conducted a WILD School Site workshop at the school. This was to help the teachers understand how they could utilize and get motivated about the site. Here we have every teacher involved.

"The workshop got everybody on board and got all of the teachers excited about being a part of it," said Mrs. Farnsworth. "I think that's why it's been successful."



## Westerly Elementary School (Northeast, Ohio) ▼

Westerly Elementary School in Bay Village has turned a courtyard that is surrounded by the school into a unique “Outdoor Science Lab.” Although the Outdoor Science Lab is an important part of the science curriculum including the study of plants, animals, and rocks, the space is used in a variety of ways by the entire school. (Only third and fourth graders attend Westerly Elementary.) Their outdoor learning space has also been used for lunch periods, poetry readings, summer programs, and an Eagle Scout project in memory of a student who passed away. One parent recently suggested the space be used to start a gardening club.

“By bringing the classroom outside, the children get to be with nature, and children love nature,” said Mrs. Fisher, third grade teacher who has been a driving force since the establishment of the Outdoor Science Lab in 1994. “It’s much better to teach where the plants and animals actually are than to do it in a sterile classroom.”

In an interview with Mrs. Fisher’s third graders, this writer was amazed at how much they know about environmental education subjects. The students took delight in telling about the projects they have done in their Outdoor Science Lab, and what they have learned about rocks, plants (including vegetable plants), animals, and how plants and animals are all connected.

When the class stepped outside into their Outdoor Science Lab, they immediately began to explore on their own. Some were anxious to show and tell about the different rock specimens, the pond, or the plants. Some were busy searching for their resident toad, and others pointed out an active bird’s nest. And others were excited to find a sow bug and nightcrawler.

“I think the important thing is that the children are learning that this is their earth and they need to protect it and take care of it,” Mrs. Fisher said. “So the more they learn at this level, the more they can carry forth as they grow older. This is one little way that helps them embrace their environment and their future.”

No matter how big or small -- whether called an outdoor learning space, land lab, or WILD School Site – the concept is the same. These outdoor classrooms provide students a more creative, fun environment for learning while providing quality habitat for wildlife.

Over 90 schools participate in the WILD School Site program. View a list of these schools or find out how to become a WILD School Site (including WILD School Site grants and scheduled workshops) at [www.wildohio.com](http://www.wildohio.com).



WESTERLY ELEMENTARY

## Fall Decorating for Wildlife *by Donna Daniel*



sadie sunflower

Fall is an exciting time of year because of the colorful leaves and plentiful harvest. Farmers are taking up their crops and nature is providing a bounty of nuts, seeds, and fruits. You can turn this harvest into a whimsical decoration called “Sadie Sunflower” that will be appreciated by your backyard wildlife.

### What you will need...

*Small log about 10 to 12 inches long, three inches in diameter*

*Dried sunflower head*

*Four ears of field corn*

*Various dried seed heads, fruits or berries.*

*Five, four-inch deck screws*

*Floral wire*

Start with the log for Sadie’s torso. Decide where on the body and at what angle you want the arms and legs. Next, drill deck screws into the log about one-half to three-quarters of an inch deep,

leaving about three inches of the screw exposed. Carefully take off the screw heads with a bolt cutter. Finally, put an ear of field corn onto the screw using shorter cobs for the arms and longer ones for the legs.

Next build the face using various natural materials. You can use some Indiangrass seed heads and Virginia creeper berries for the hair, and poppy seed heads for the eyes. Use floral wire to attach the hair. You might also use sprigs of flax seed or sorghum for the hair, and either purple coneflower, black-eyed Susan or safflower heads for the eyes. Just use your imagination – anything natural and edible is a possibility.

Drill a hole through the sunflower head for the eyes and poke the stem through to the back. Attach the sunflower head to the body using a long deck screw through the sunflower head and into the log torso. Finish off the outfit by tying a festive sash at the “waist” and include some bittersweet or rosehips to complete the outfit.

### neater feeder

Place corn stalks around or near feeder poles to provide cover for small birds traveling to and from feeders. And the corn attached inside provides a hidden treasure.

### cornucopia utopia

Fill a cornucopia with gourds, Indian corn, nuts, seeds, and fruit, and place it near a feeder.

### animalantern

Create a jack-o-lantern for wildlife by making an extra large, wide mouth. Fill it with a variety of foods such as bird seed, peanuts, pumpkin seeds, and cracked corn, and spread peanut butter along the mouth.



**Correction:** Information regarding the taking of snapping turtles in the summer 2008 issue (“Backyards for Wildlife Q & A”), was incorrect. It stated that everyone must have a fishing license to take snapping turtles, even landowners. The correction answer is: Landowners and their immediate families do not need a fishing licence to take frogs and turtles through, upon, or along which any water flows or stands on their property, except where the land is in or borders on state parks or state-owned lakes.



## FOR WILD KIDS

# Hooray for Decay!

by Kathy Garza-Behr

So you've gone to the patch and picked the perfect pumpkin. You bring it home and get to work carving the season's most popular front porch decoration. At night the glow of your jack-o-lantern will welcome eager beggars to the door in search of a sugary treat, or is it the clever trick they're after?

But what happens to Jack once Halloween is over? If you think you

made this popular pie filler look scary with the stroke of a knife; wait until you see what Mother Nature has in store. Once the pumpkin is carved the inside becomes exposed to the unpredictable fall weather. Mild days and cool nights mixed with the seasonal rain sets the stage for decomposition.

Decomposition is the process of breaking down organic material, such

as dead plant or animal tissue, into smaller molecules that are available for use by the organisms of an ecosystem. Decomposition is carried on by bacteria, fungi, protists, worms, and certain other organisms. Here's an activity that you can do with your decaying pumpkin. You can do this activity any time of the year by using a rotting log or a compost pile.



### Materials:

*One carved pumpkin (save those seeds), or a rotted log or compost pile*

*A camera or paper and crayons or markers to record observations*

### Activity:

*Let the pumpkin begin to rot. This is where Jack gets a little scarier.*

Get out and look at your pumpkin daily. Take a camera to record the changes. In the weeks to come mold will begin to appear. Make a list of critters you observe on and inside the pumpkin. What are they doing? Eating? Perching? The pumpkin will be a food source for a host of insects and worms. What are the birds doing with the pumpkin? Perching? Snacking on the buffet of creepy crawlers that are munching on Jack's rotting flesh? And "Oh, the aroma;" what does Jack smell like a few weeks after being carved?

Soon Jack will be all but a memory. How did the pumpkin fit into the food chain? What did you learn about decomposition? Did nature take care of itself? What are the advantages to decomposition and decay?

### Tasty Pumpkin Seeds:

Hopefully you saved the seeds from your pumpkin. Not only did your Jack-o-lantern provide you with Halloween decorations and a lesson in decomposition, but it also produced a tasty snack. Here's what you need to do....

*1. Rinse the seeds in water.*

*2. Lay the seeds on paper towels or pat them until dry.*

*3. Lightly coat with oil, (vegetable or olive).*

*4. Salt to taste.*

*5. Spread the seeds onto a cookie sheet. Place in the oven and bake at 250 degrees for 25 to 40 minutes. Make sure to turn seeds so they cook evenly on both sides. Once they are lightly browned remove from oven, cool and enjoy!*



*Activity adapted from Decay Relay, Twenty/Twenty Projects and Activities for Wild School Sites, An Ohio Project WILD Action Guide.*

# WILD GAME GOURMET

## recipes

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

### Wild Turkey Jambalaya

2 tablespoons olive oil  
1 ½ cup chopped onion  
1 teaspoon minced garlic  
1 cup chopped green bell pepper  
1 cup chopped red bell pepper  
1 ½ teaspoon paprika  
½ teaspoon salt  
½ teaspoon dried oregano  
½ teaspoon crushed pepper (red or black)  
½ teaspoon black pepper  
1 cup uncooked long-grain rice  
2 cups fat-free, less-sodium chicken broth  
1 14.5-ounce can diced tomatoes, undrained  
2 cups shredded, cooked turkey  
6 ounces Andouille sausage, chopped  
2 teaspoons sliced green onions

Heat oil in a large Dutch oven over medium-high heat. Add onion and garlic; sauté 6 minutes or until lightly browned. Stir in bell peppers and next five ingredients; sauté 1 minute. Add rice and sauté 1 minute. Stir in broth and tomatoes; bring to a boil. Cover, reduce heat, and simmer 15 minutes. Add turkey and sausage; cover and cook 5 minutes. Sprinkle with green onions.

*Contributed by Corey Cockerill*



### Venison Crostini

1 loaf French bread, sliced  
Small venison loin or tenderloin  
1 tablespoon olive oil  
2 tablespoons cracked black pepper  
2 tablespoons ginger powder  
2 tablespoons garlic powder  
1 tablespoon thyme powder  
Roasted red or Poblano pepper (available in jars or cans)  
Roasted red onion, sliced (optional)  
Boursin cheese (or your favorite sweet cheese spread)  
1/8 cup melted butter  
salt  
balsamic vinegar reduction

Pre-heat the oven broiler to high. Move the top rack as close as you safely can to cook loin. Use some of the olive oil to rub over the venison. Mix together cracked black pepper, ginger, garlic, and thyme. Rub onto venison to taste. Place venison on a baking sheet and broil for 3 minutes. Remove from heat, brush with butter and sprinkle salt on exposed side then flip loin and repeat process on other side. Return to broiler and cook until venison is just done. Remove from oven and let venison rest before slicing into thin pieces. Brush sliced French bread pieces with remaining olive oil and bake until "crusty." Let bread cool.



To assemble: Spread Boursin cheese lightly on each bread slice. Place one piece of thinly sliced venison loin, one piece of roasted pepper, and roasted onion on each bread round. Drizzle with balsamic vinegar reduction and serve.

*Contributed by Susie Vance*

**For more great wild game recipes go to [www.wildohiocookbook.com](http://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](http://www.wildohio.com).



"John Ruthven, renowned Ohio wildlife artist, (center) with a spring turkey."  
Allan Wright, Brown County Wildlife Officer



"Avid rabbit hunter Lynn Steele, of Bellaire, with one honkin' big rabbit!"  
Susie Vance, District Four Comm. Specialist



"Nine-year-old Jake Schott took his second buck in Ottawa County."  
Jim Schott, Vickery, Ohio



"James Bores, of Norwalk, trapped this black coyote in Huron County last November."  
Jeff Collingwood, Huron County Wildlife Officer



"My twin sons Patrick and Cody with deer they shot during the youth weekend. My husband has hunted whitetails and believes the deer are twin bucks."  
Debbie Schroeder, Toledo, Ohio



"Four very good friends all took deer in Jefferson County in 2007 and are now looking forward to this year's deer season."  
(Left to right): Peter Jenkins, Matt Stevens, Ben Jenkins, and Jeff Stevens  
Tim Stevens, Jefferson 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.*



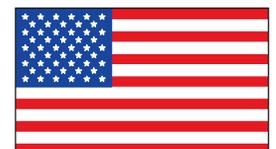
# NATIONAL HUNTING AND DAY FISHING

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2008

Everyone knows about the great traditions and family values that make hunting and fishing special, but fewer people realize the tremendous conservation and economic benefits provided by America's sportsmen and women. Join the nationwide celebration of National Hunting and Fishing Day and help build public support for outdoor lifestyles.



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