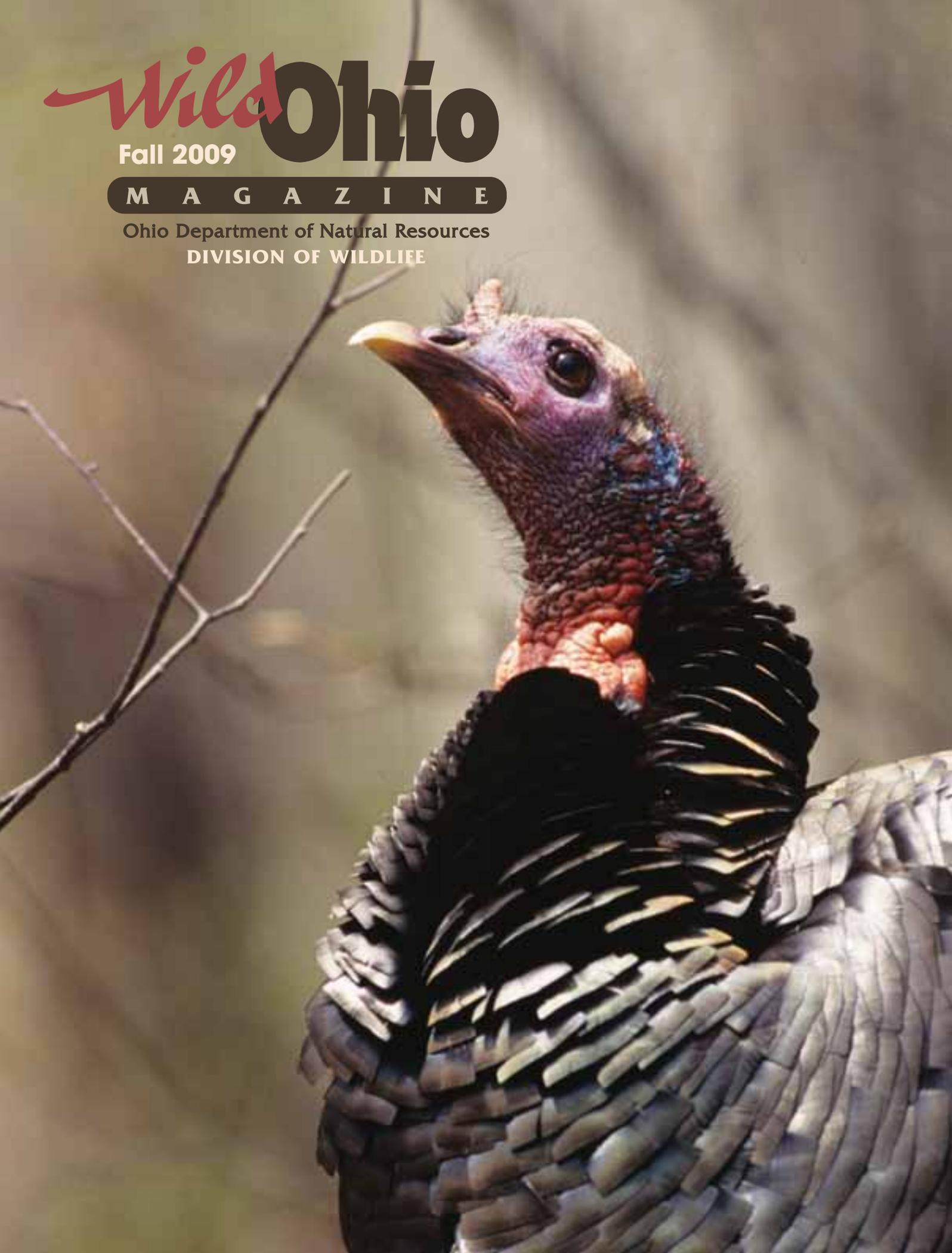


Wild Ohio

Fall 2009

M A G A Z I N E

Ohio Department of Natural Resources
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE





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To the sportsmen and women of Ohio:

Ohio's deer hunters are gearing up for another great season and what better way to share the success of your hunts than to provide venison to the needy in your community. Last year many Ohio sportsmen and women enjoyed a successful hunting season and provided their families with nutritious wild game. Many deer hunters took the extra step to help offset hunger felt by Ohioans affected by the troubling economic times. Generous hunters donated close to 2,000 deer representing 54,800 pounds of venison to food pantries across the state – enough to provide approximately 219,200 meals to those in need.

This venison donation program is made possible by the collaboration of the Division of Wildlife and Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry (FHFH). Many additional people and organizations are assisting in the program, including the Safari Club Foundation, Whitetails Unlimited, and the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks. This partnership – through a \$100,000 matching-fund subsidy – is helping ensure that hunters can donate their extra venison without being burdened by the associated processing costs. And, always looking to get the most “bang” for its constituents’ buck, the division viewed this opportunity as an additional deer-management tool by encouraging hunters to take more does.

Let's look forward to another great season and make the FHFH venison donation program more successful than ever. Please consider donating a deer to this worthwhile cause to help those Ohioans who are less fortunate.

Happy hunting,

Sean Logan, Director
Ohio Department of Natural Resources



See the back cover for details on the Chief's Challenge ▶

To find a participating processor near you, or if interested in becoming a local FHFH coordinator or a participating meat processor, visit the "Local FHFH" page at www.fhfh.org.

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:

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Office for Diversity and Civil Rights Programs-External Programs
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Arlington, VA 22203

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Features

Got Game?

Communities across the state enjoy food, friendship, and fellowship at annual wild game dinners.

6-9



On the Cover: Wild Turkey
After many years of absence, the wild turkey has returned to the Ohio landscape and now inhabits all of Ohio's 88 counties. Photo by Tim Daniel

Outdoor TV Shows

Bringing Wildlife into our Homes

10-11

Outdoor TV shows have long been a medium for discovering our natural world right in our own homes.



Make a Safe Sport Safer

Practice Tree Stand Safety

16-17

Last year, three Ohio hunters died and several others were severely injured in falls from tree stands. Don't let it happen to you.

2009-2010 Ohio Hunting Regulations

18-19

September 1 will kick-off the state's fall hunting seasons with the opening of squirrel season.



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News from Around Ohio



GOVERNOR HUNTS IN YOUTH-CELEBRITY ANNUAL EVENT

Governor Ted Strickland participated in the Second Annual Youth-Celebrity Spring Turkey Hunt at Dillon State Park in Muskingum County last May. The hunt paired renowned hunting guides and celebrities with a group of Ohio youths.

The young hunters were top finishers in a statewide essay contest answering the question, "What makes a good hunter?" The turkey hunt dovetailed with a statewide effort to encourage youth involvement in outdoor recreation, including hunting, and highlight Ohio's spectacular turkey hunting opportunities. Four hunters harvested turkeys during the Saturday hunt.

Hunt participants included Janelle Gephart, Fort Loramie; Stephen R. Collopy III, Ashville; Alexandria Cope, Alliance; Benjamin Day, Marysville; Christian Hoecherl, Monclova; Tiffany Hopkins, Georgetown; Albert Bo Ray Huffman, Newark; Travis Nieman, Cincinnati; Dalton Rogers, West Carrollton; and Noah Ulrey, first place winner (pictured above with Governor Strickland), Wapakoneta. Celebrity hunters included Cincinnati Bengals quarterback Jordan Palmer and safety Corey Lynch, and former Ohio State Buckeye football head coach John Cooper.

OHIO STUDENTS SCORE AT NATIONAL ARCHERY TOURNEY

Nineteen teams comprising 438 Ohio elementary, middle, and high school students participated in the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) Championships in Louisville, Kentucky last May. Approximately 4,800 students from across the nation competed, making it the largest youth archery tournament in North America. Ohio was second only to Kentucky in the number of students that participated in the national competition.

School teams and individuals earn the right to participate in the national event by winning their division or by achieving a minimum qualifying score in their respective state competitions. Ohio's winning participants include

HIGH SCHOOL TEAMS

State Champion Maysville 6-12 High School, Muskingum County; Meigs High School, Meigs County; Logan-Hocking High School, Hocking County; Patrick Henry High School, Henry County; Anna High School, Shelby County; Troy High School, Miami County; Tri-Valley High School, Muskingum County; Fairview High School, Defiance County; Morgan High School, Morgan County; Put-in-Bay High School, Ottawa County.

MIDDLE SCHOOL TEAMS

State Champion Maysville 6-12 Middle School, Muskingum County; Meigs Middle School, Meigs County; Logan-Hocking Middle School, Hocking County; Philo Junior High School, Muskingum County; Troy Junior High School, Miami County; Fairview Middle School, Defiance County.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEAMS

State Champion Meigs Elementary, Meigs County; Maysville Elementary, Muskingum County; Logan Hocking Elementary, Hocking County.

For full results go to wildohio.com.



PROJECT WILD COORDINATOR AWARD

The Council for Environmental Education in Washington, D.C. recently named Jen Dennison as this year's winner of the Rudy Schafer Outstanding Coordinator award. The Division of Wildlife staffer has been Ohio's Project WILD Coordinator since 2000. She was selected for her communication, leadership, initiative, innovation, and longevity in the Project WILD program.

DOW & FARM BUREAU EXPLORING HUNTER ACCESS PROGRAM

The Division of Wildlife and the Ohio Farm Bureau are considering a pilot program that will help manage local deer herds and expand hunter access. The two agencies are exploring the possibility of developing a Web-based deer hunter access program. Through the program, which would be run on a trial basis in selected counties, landowners could review a searchable database of deer hunters and select hunters to whom they would grant hunting permissions. Hunters will not be charged to submit an online profile or to hunt on enrolled properties.

The program's concept provides landowners with a desired level of control and hunters benefit from increased hunting opportunities. A survey, available at wildohio.com, will help determine deer hunters' interest in participating in such a program.

THANK YOU ANGLERS FOR YOUR COMMENTS

The Division of Wildlife thanks all of the anglers who participated in our first online survey! The views of outdoor enthusiasts are very important to the Division and your input was greatly appreciated.

During March 1 through October 1, 2008, more than 3,600 anglers from across the state responded to the survey to provide details about how much they fish and for what types of fish. Sixty-six percent of respondents fished primarily at inland lakes and reservoirs and 86 percent fished mostly for either black bass (largemouth, smallmouth or spotted), catfish, crappie, saugeye and walleye, or whatever was biting. For full survey details, go to wildohio.com.



WATERFOWL U.S.A. DONATES \$10,000 FOR LAND ACQUISITION

Waterfowl U.S.A. Southwestern Lake Erie Chapter donated \$10,000 to the Division of Wildlife to assist in the acquisition of Howard Farms. Howard Farms is a 980-acre contiguous parcel of land located in Jerusalem Township in Lucas County west of the Metzger Marsh Wildlife Area and the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge.

The Division partnered with the Metropolitan Park District of the Toledo Area to place a conservation easement on the property to ensure public access for fishing, hunting, trapping, and wildlife associated recreation. Toledo Metroparks owns and manages the property with input from the Division. Once the reserved rights of the current owner expire, the property will be restored to primarily wetland habitat.



YOUNG OHIO ARTIST WINS NATIONAL STAMP

Not only did the artwork of a wood duck submitted by Lily Spang, age 16, of Toledo, win the Ohio State Junior Duck Stamp Competition last January, her artwork went on to win Best-of-Show in the 2009-2010 Federal Junior Duck Stamp Competition in April.

Stamps depicting the winner's artwork are sold by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for \$5 to stamp collectors, conservationists, and the general public. Proceeds are used to support environmental education efforts and awards for contest winners. Spang received a free trip for herself, a parent, and her art teacher to the "First Day of Sale Ceremony" in Nashville, Tennessee, and a \$5,000 cash prize.

Wildlife CALENDAR

September 17 - 20 MIDWEST BIRD SYMPOSIUM

*Hosted by Bird Watcher's Digest,
The Ohio Ornithological Society,
and the Lakeside Association.
birdwatchersdigest.com*

September 22 - 24 FARM SCIENCE REVIEW

*Visit the Conservation area for a
demo of agriculture and natural
resources management practices.
fsr.osu.edu*

September 26 NATIONAL HUNTING AND FISHING DAY

*For more information
call (417) 890-9453
or log onto nhfdays.org.*

wildohio.com
for up-to-date events

A LETTER ON BEHALF OF A FATHER

To: ODNR

Our father Ernest L. Strong passed away August 2, 2008. Prior to the time of his passing, he had insisted that he wanted no flowers, but wanted donations to be sent instead to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for youth hunting here in the state of Ohio. We set up an account at the Huntington National Bank for donations. There were not a lot, but like the saying goes "it's the thought that counts." We finally closed the account after the holiday season and are now sending you this check for \$245. We would like this used for youth hunting education for the southern Ohio region, specifically the Adams County area due to this being where he resided and did most of his hunting and fishing.

Our father had the greatest respect for the wildlife and the land which supported that wildlife – a trait that I am happy that he passed on to us, his children. He was willing to teach us how to have fun and fish, to enjoy the outdoors, and take care of it, a tradition that I can truthfully say we are all willing to carry on and pass on to our children.

Thank you for your time; it is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

David L. Strong
William E. Strong
Diane L (Strong) Ferri
Brian J. Strong

Got game?

WILD GAME DINNERS REMAIN POPULAR TRADITION

By Melissa Hathaway

When European settlers first came to the Ohio country, the typical dinner menu included wild game such as venison, elk, bison, wild turkey, and waterfowl. Although not the everyday table fare in most households today, wild game dinners are an annual tradition and culinary experience in many communities throughout the state. And many of the conservation clubs, churches, and other organizations that hold game feeds open their doors to the public.

► It is illegal to sell sport-caught fish and wild game. Fish and game served at wild game dinners must be obtained as donations from hunters, trappers or anglers or bought from commercial propagators. Also, money collected from game dinner attendees is a "donation" to the sponsoring organization and is not required to participate in the meal.

SERVIN' UP A HOT PLATE OF "RAT"

The Elks BPO Lodge 285 in Sandusky has been serving up muskrat to locals each winter for 37 years. They feed 250 to 300 hungry guests who start lining up outside an hour before the doors open, according to George Bickley. Donations to the annual fundraiser are used to support programs for area youth, including an annual fishing derby and scholarships.

Muskrats, often referred to as "rats" or "scrats," may not sound very appealing to the palate, but muskrat entrees have long been a part of the menu in northwest Ohio. "We used to have muskrat dinners all around town years ago. They were a big deal," said Don Barth, who has been involved in the Elks' "rat" feed from its beginning.

"Trapping was a big thing

in this area, but now there are hardly any rats," said Barth, who continued by naming numerous marshes that used to ring the lakeshore and Sandusky Bay. "The high water has ruined all the marshes around here since the first big northeaster in 1972."

The Elks dinner, now the town's only muskrat feed, is a huge operation that starts several days before the event. About 450 frozen muskrats obtained from area trappers are soaked in salt brine overnight. The kitchen

crew cleans off excess fat from the carcasses and removes the musk glands. (The key to cooking muskrat is removing the musk sacs from the carcass to reduce the oiliness and gaminess of the meat.)

The muskrats are then par boiled, coated with flour and deep fried for several minutes. They are then slow roasted with onions, garlic, carrots, celery, and bay leaves, and basted with mushroom soup.

BUT WHAT DOES IT TASTE LIKE?

"Muskrat tastes like fine, stewed roast beef; it really does! It's very tender," said Gene Emond who has been attending the Elks feed with a friend for about 25 years. "Think of a muskrat's eating habits. They eat tender vegetation in the marsh so it is not a strong tasting meat. There's a technique to cleaning and cooking them, and these guys know what they are doing."

"Rats are delicious, it's a social event, you see people you only see once or twice a year – it's just a fun evening."

The Sandusky Elks muskrat feed is held the second Tuesday in February. Donations are accepted at the door.

In today's difficult economic times perhaps it's time for more Ohioans to hunt and fish and add some of nature's bounty to their

dinner menus. Many of our readers may remember another era when wild game on the table was the norm.

"When I was growing up we lived on wild game most of the time," said Singler. "Muskrat, rabbit, pheasants, raccoon – any wild game, because we hunted and fished. When the hunting season was on we hunted, and the last day of hunting season we put the guns away and got out the fishing poles to fish through the ice."

Whether wild game is a part of the regular menu in your home, or you have never had the opportunity to taste wild game, a wild game dinner is a true back-to-the-wild culinary experience. Check local newspapers for wild game feeds in your community.



FEEDING THE MASSES

The Southside Sportsmen's Club of Toledo is the oldest upland game hunting club in Ohio incepted in 1932, according to club president Dave Theiss. The club operates under a unique concept in that they have no grounds or clubhouse, but instead leases land from property owners in northwest Ohio to provide hunting areas for their members. Fairly new for the club is their annual wild game feed.

"Our game feed has grown in leaps and bounds since our first one four years ago," said Theiss. "It started out as a way to thank our landowners who we lease properties from, as well as a social event for our members and their families, and other invited guests. It's a great way to thank the landowners because without them, we wouldn't have a club."

Last February's dinner was the club's first one open to the public as a fundraising event. They were shocked by the turnout. They were expecting around 250 people and 400 showed up.

"Many of our members brought family and guests, but there were perfect strangers there who saw it in the newspaper or heard it by word of mouth," Theiss said. "I think there's a little cult following for wild game dinners – people who peruse the newspaper looking for wild game dinners to attend."

In talking with some of the perfect

strangers and inquiring what brought them to the dinner, one answer Theiss received was, "Oh, we just go to wild game dinners."

The smorgasbord of game included venison, turtle soup, rabbit, pheasant, quail, goose, duck, as well as buffalo. Except for the turtle soup and the buffalo, the wild game served was harvested and prepared by their members. Club members also prepared hors d'oeuvres, side dishes, and desserts.

The annual event includes a popular, local one-man band and a few games of chance, but it is not a stag event. The game feed is a family affair attended by club members, wives, kids, grandparents, aunts, and uncles.

"We hope that by coming to our game feed that some people will get a better view on hunting and enjoy the meat and the camaraderie.

"It's only in our best interest to preserve our hunting heritage and our sport. I'm nuts about hunting and fishing, and when my nephews come to the wild game dinner and have a good time I want them to be as excited about hunting as I was when I was a kid."

The Southside Sportsmen's Club's wild game feed is held the first Saturday of February in Milbury. Making reservations in advance is strongly recommended.



FELLOWSHIP WITH WILD GAME

The Albany Baptist Church's wild game dinner last January was a fellowship and outreach event for the local community. The fun-filled evening included the Division of Wildlife's shooting simulator, conservation organizations, vendor booths, door prizes, a mini hunting clinic by a nationally known speaker, and of course wild game. This year's selection of game included wild boar, yak, and alligator, as well as venison. Church members provided the side dishes and deserts.

"Hunting and fishing are a big part of our small community and the annual dinner has been a positive thing for the community," said Mike Greenlee, fisheries biologist for the Division of Wildlife and member of Albany Baptist Church. "We share a common bond – God's creation, love of the outdoors, hunting, and fishing. The men in this room are passionate about that."

The dinner was a family event in previous years, but this year's dinner focused on men and bringing more local men into the church. The church's male parishioners were encouraged to invite friends and neighbors who did not regularly attend church.

"This is not an event, it's a ministry," explained Pastor Rob Vemon. "We're a church and we are called to be a light in a dark world. We're just using fishing,

hunting, wild game, and prizes to draw people in so we can tell them about the gospel. A secondary purpose is to tell people in the community that just because you're a Christian and go to church, doesn't mean you can't have a good time."

Using wild game dinners for fellowship and to draw men into the church is not unique to the Albany Baptist Church. The evening's special guest was Steve Rockey, a professional outdoorsman, former pastor for over 20 years, and president of SportsmenMinistry.com. Rockey speaks to sportsmen at wild game dinners all over the country, and refers to himself as a "sportsmen's evangelist."

His presentation includes a mini hunting clinic where he shares his techniques and tips on white-tailed deer hunting followed by a sermon.

"Game dinners are a popular outreach event for churches," said Rockey. "They do it for the purpose of evangelizing their community and trying to reach the normally unreachable."

"Women seem a lot more susceptible coming to church than men do. When I was a pastor I was always looking for ways to find a ministry for men – an effective way of getting men into our church or a meeting place to get to know them and share the word of God with them."



BRINGING WILDLIFE INTO OUTDOOR TV



Photos Courtesy of:
WBNS-TV Film Archives,
Columbus, Ohio

Today sportsmen and people who enjoy the outdoors can watch fishing and hunting television shows 24 hours a day, seven days a week. There are entire networks such as the Outdoor Channel and Versus (formerly Outdoor Life) completely dedicated to outdoor programming. Television giant ESPN also broadcasts fishing and hunting shows. Outdoor shows are also available around the clock on the internet through a variety of sites such as MyOutdoorTV.com.

The Division of Wildlife's Wild Ohio TV show began in 1993 and continues to bring the state's wild critters and their natural world into the homes of Ohioans. The show airs on 33 outlets across the state.

"An outdoor TV show like Wild Ohio brings what's going on in the conservation world and the world of wildlife into people's homes," said Vicki Mountz, the show's executive producer and Wild Game Gourmet. "Wildlife enthusiasts who are surrounded by wildlife and already know about wildlife enjoy the show and can still learn new things by

watching it. But the show can be especially enjoyable for people who live in cities that don't have the ability to walk out their door and experience wildlife. The show lets them watch wild animals right in their own home and actually understand the world of wildlife— how wild animals behave and how the natural life cycle works. That's the real value of an outdoor show."

However, 40 years ago outdoor television programs were a rarity. Most people only received three channels on their television. These channels were dedicated to prime time network shows, national news, and local programming. In this local programming, Ohio did have at least one show for outdoor enthusiasts. It was the Outdoor Show and was broadcast on WBNS Channel 10 in Columbus.

The Outdoor Show was on the air in the 1960s. It was a live, 30-minute show that usually aired on Sunday afternoons. Today there are very few live local shows.

The format was a studio host with guests. They broadcast from a decorated set much like many of today's news shows. Sometimes they showed film

segments and the hosts and guests usually had props such as guns or fishing rods. The show was only broadcast in black and white. Most of the show's topics were related to fishing, hunting, and wildlife management, but sometimes they also discussed camping, boating, and even golf.

Four different men hosted the show over time. Hosts Red Trabue and Don Mack were sportsmen from the Columbus area. Bill Zipf and Earl Flora were also hosts. Trabue later became the outdoor writer for the Columbus Dispatch and a park is named in his honor in his hometown of Dublin.

Guests included many staff members of the Division of Wildlife. Wildlife officers, known as game wardens at the time, discussed new regulations and firearms safety. Administrators and biologists were often on the show talking about wildlife programs, season forecasts, and fishing and hunting tips.

On one show Don Thompson and Bob Strohm of the Division of Wildlife were talking about ice fishing tips and techniques. They brought in some of the big bluegills they had caught to show the audience. Part of the show was to be

OUR HOMES V SHOWS



By Steven A. Gray
with contributions
from Richard Pierce
and Don Thompson

Don filleting one of the bluegills. He had practiced before the show so he could fillet a fish in about one minute. Remember, this was a live show. Finally, the host asked Don to fillet one of the bluegills but said “we only have 30 seconds.” Don hastily filleted the fish and had two fillets in the palm of his hand as the show faded to black.

They even shot guns on the studio set. I remember one show where a young woman was expertly shooting a .22 rifle like a modern-day Annie Oakley. That girl was Janet Handley who later became the hunter education coordinator for the Division of Wildlife.

The most legendary episode of the Outdoor Show occurred when one of the hosts proudly brought in a redhead duck he had shot on an Ohio hunting trip. The guest that day was noted naturalist and duck hunter Ed Hutchins. The host showed Ed the redhead. Then there was a brief, uncomfortable pause before Ed explained that there was no season on redheads that year. The legend goes that federal agents were waiting for the host at the end of the show. That is not true, but the host did get a ticket and had the duck seized.

One regular feature on the show was the “Tip of the Week.” Viewers would send in their tips on fishing, hunting, and the outdoors. The hosts would discuss and demonstrate some of the tips on the air. One each show, they

would announce a winning tip and award the winner a prize.

In 1966, as a seventh grader at Southeastern School in Ross County, I sent in a tip on how to make a fly rod popping bug using a golf tee. I cut off the tip, cut a slit in the tee, glued a hook and some feathers in the tee, and then tested the lure in a bath tub.

One Sunday afternoon I was lying on the living room floor watching the Outdoor Show and to my amazement my fishing lure was on the show. The host told how I made the bug and announced that I won the “Tip of the Week.” My mom and dad took me to a bank in downtown Columbus, the show’s sponsor, where I picked up a nice pellet gun.

The Outdoor Show was something I looked forward to each week. So did a lot of other sportsmen in Central Ohio. The show was a good conduit for the Division of Wildlife to get out their message to a large audience through the ever-growing medium of television. Television is dramatically different today, but outdoor shows are still very popular.

While the Outdoor Show was on the air in Central Ohio, another outdoor show hit the national scene. It was The American

Sportsman on ABC. The American Sportsman aired from 1965 to 1986. This highly proclaimed show definitely set the gold standard for outdoor programming.

The American Sportsman was filmed in color on locations across North America and around the world as celebrities and newsmakers went hunting and fishing. Some of the well-known entertainers on the show included Bing Crosby, Andy Griffith, and Burt Reynolds. The show’s hosts were Joe Foss, Grits Gresham, and Curt Gowdy. Foss was known as a World War II hero who became governor of South Dakota, first president of the American Football League and president of the National Rifle Association. Gresham was a well known outdoor journalist from Louisiana. Gowdy was a famous sportscaster who, like the other two hosts, was an accomplished angler and hunter.

Fred Bear, arguably the best known hunter of modern times was on the show many times. An expert bow hunter and manufacturer of bow hunting equipment, Bear took a trophy polar bear on one episode. On that hunt, he camped for more than 20 days in an igloo he made before taking a bear with his bow.



SILVER-HAIRED BAT



BIG BROWN BAT



OHIO WATCHABLE WILDLIFE

by Melissa Hathaway

Bats sometimes get a bad rap because of myths and superstitions, especially in the fall as Halloween approaches. Vampire bats that feed on the blood of their prey actually exist, but you won't find them anywhere near Ohio, except in zoos. These bats are native to Central and South America, and a few Caribbean islands.

Of almost 1,000 different species of bats found worldwide, 11 are found in our state. The two most common species of bats in Ohio are little brown and big brown bats. Both are found in cities and rural settings, and may be seen on summer evenings feasting on the swarms of insects beneath city streetlights. If you've ever had bats in your house, they were most likely big brown bats, known for their habit of roosting in attics and barns.

Contrary to popular belief, bats aren't obsessed with people's hair. In fact, even when provoked, attacks by bats are extremely rare. Also, most bats do not carry rabies. Bats' abilities to fly and navigate in the dark – the only mammal capable of true flight – make them some of our most fascinating creatures.

All of Ohio's bats are insectivores that eat night-flying insects, including mosquitoes and many agricultural pests. Each bat will devour almost its entire weight in insects per night. Bats locate their prey and navigate in the dark with the help of their ears through a form of sensory orientation called "echolocation." Using echolocation, a bat sends out high-pitched sounds which produce sound waves that bounce off objects around them. The returning echo allows the bat to determine where objects are located.

Bat roosts are used to congregate, sleep, eat, mate, raise young, and hibernate. Depending on the species, roosts can include the foliage of trees, nooks and crannies of vegetation, on rock faces, caves, mines, tree cavities, and in or on buildings or other structures. Indiana bats and northern long-eared bats have very specific summer roosting requirements – under the bark of dead or dying trees.

Ohio's bats mate in the fall just prior to migration or hibernation. For those species that overwinter in caves and mines, mating takes place during a behavior called "swarming,"

EASTERN PIPISTRELLE BATS

CHIROPTERA AT A GLANCE

MATING
polygamous

PEAK BREEDING ACTIVITY
September and October

GESTATION PERIOD
up to 60 days depending
on the species

YOUNG BORN
May and June

LITTERS PER YEAR
one

TYPICAL FOODS
insects

VIEWING OPPORTUNITIES



BIG BROWN BAT

The best time to view bats is around one-half hour after sunset in the summer months. The best locations are around ponds and lakes or around street lamps where insects concentrate. Ultrasonic sound detectors can be purchased, which allow you to hear the bats' echolocation calls.

and federally endangered Indiana bat. Rarely encountered are evening, Rafinesque's big-eared, and Eastern small-footed bats.

The Division of Wildlife partners with other research agencies on a variety of bat survey and research projects. Researchers are working to locate and inventory all mines and caves serving as major hibernacula. Once found, these sites are protected with "bat-friendly gates" that allow bats to come and go freely while keeping people out.

More information about bats in Ohio can be found at wildohio.com. You can also download the Division of Wildlife's "Mammals of Ohio Field Guide" (Publication 424) at the site or order a free hard copy by calling 1-800-WILDLIFE. Plans for building a bat roosting box can also be found at wildohio.com.

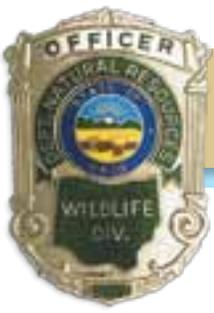
Ohio's Bats

– repeated flights in and out of mines and caves. Although sperm is transferred to the female during copulation in the fall, ovulation and fertilization of the eggs are delayed until the females awake from hibernation the following spring.

During the summer, females form maternity colonies and, depending on the species, include man-made structures such as attics and barns or in trees (tree hollows, under bark, or in foliage). As with other mammals, bats give birth to live young and nourish them with milk. Most young, called pups, are weaned and learn to fly at four to six weeks of age.

In Ohio, bats hibernate from late October to early April. Hibernating sites, or "hibernacula," include sheltered roosts such as caves, inactive mines, large rock outcrops, and to a lesser extent, attics and tree cavities. A few species in Ohio remain active in winter, but migrate further south where food is available.

Besides big brown and little brown bats, Eastern pipistrelle and red bats are common in Ohio. Much less common species of bats are northern long-eared, silver-haired, hoary, and the state



WILDLIFE LAW ENFORCEMENT

Field Notes

LONGTIME POACHER GETS JAIL TIME

Acting on calls to the statewide Turn In a Poacher (TIP) hotline, the Division of Wildlife conducted a surveillance operation in Clinton County in November 2008. As a result of the operation, three Warren County men were convicted of numerous charges. One of the men, from Carsile, who has a history of wildlife violations, served time in jail.

During the surveillance investigation, officers observed the man hunting with a .30/30 rifle and was charged with hunting deer with a rifle, hunting under revocation, hunting without permission, hunting without a hunting license, hunting without a deer permit, hunting without hunter orange, improper handling of a firearm in a motor vehicle, and possession of drug paraphernalia. Based on information the man gave during subsequent interviews, he was also charged with the illegal killing of two deer. He was additionally charged with six counts of possession of untagged deer antlers after the execution of a search warrant at the man's home.

He appeared in Franklin Municipal Court in February and received a lifetime revocation of his hunting privileges under the wildlife violator compact, a \$600 fine, and a 120-day jail sentence that was suspended. He also forfeited items seized during a search warrant, including sets of deer antlers and a muzzle-loading rifle.

He then appeared in Clinton County Municipal Court in March 2009 and received a 180-day jail sentence with 150 days suspended, lifetime revocation of his hunting privileges under the wildlife violator compact, and a \$1,000 fine plus \$750 restitution for the illegally harvested deer. He also forfeited items seized including two rifles, a crossbow, several knives, and drug paraphernalia.

The poacher's criminal record shows a history of wildlife violations including a 2003 conviction of felonious assault of



a peace officer. In that case, he used his all-terrain vehicle (ATV) to run over a wildlife officer while being investigated for shooting deer at night from an ATV. A Warren County judge banned him from hunting for life.

His two hunting companions, both of Franklin, were charged in Clinton County Municipal Court. One of the men, a former police officer, was charged with numerous violations involving white-tailed deer. He

received a three-year hunting license revocation, 60 days jail (suspended), and a \$500 fine. He also forfeited a deer mount and was ordered to take a hunter safety course.

The second hunting partner was also charged with numerous deer hunting violations. He received a three-year hunting license revocation, 60 days jail (suspended), and a \$325 fine. He was also ordered to take a hunter safety course.

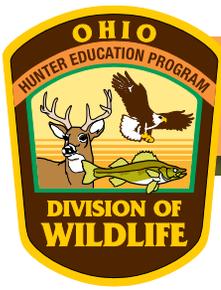
POACHER PAYS STEEP PRICE FOR KILLING DEER WITH RIFLE

A Bellefontaine resident paid \$1,100 in fines and costs, \$500 in restitution, and lost his hunting privileges for four years for the unlawful taking of deer. Acting on information derived from the Logan County Sheriff's Office, the county wildlife officer visited the suspect and observed numerous untagged white-tailed deer parts. The man claimed he was doing taxidermy work as a hobby, but did not have records for most of the animal parts. He later admitted to spotlighting and shooting one of the deer with a .22 caliber rifle at night.

WILDLIFE OFFICER HONORED



Cuyahoga County Wildlife Officer Jason Hadsell was recently honored by the Ohio Chapter of Safari Club International for his "dedication to Ohio's sportsmen and women."



OUTDOOR SKILLS

Fitting Archery Equipment by Lindsay Deering

Many Ohioans enjoy bow hunting for deer each year and every person has their own methods, hunting spots, and success stories to share. Each person has their own bow size, shape, and comfort level, too. In order to have a fun, successful outing, hunters should fit their clothing and safety equipment to their body shape and size. Below are some tips on properly fitting yourself for a successful season.

Shopping at an archery outfitter or outdoor sporting goods shop will allow you to ask questions of the salespeople and assure that you get the right equipment. If you don't know how to choose the proper size or model of bow, safety harness, or tree stand, just ask.

TREE STAND

If you hunt from a tree stand, be sure that you are using one certified by the Treestand Manufacturers Association. Each tree stand has a weight rating on its packaging or in its description. This is the maximum weight that the stand can support. When calculating your weight, be sure to count the weight of your hunting clothing and gear.

If you will be hunting with a partner or child, make sure to use a two-person stand or use two individual tree stands.

FALL RESTRAINT SYSTEM

Whether you're five or 15 feet off the ground, a full-body safety harness is the most important piece of hunting clothing you put on. Most tree stands come with a free five-point harness. However, you may need to purchase a harness that fits your body better.

You should be able to fit the harness over your hunting clothes and tighten any straps snugly. Another harness that may fit your body better is a vest style. It is a mesh vest with seat belt buckles around all five points of contact. These buckles allow a little extra strap length around your thighs. Many full-body safety harness manufacturers offer sizes up to 3XL, as well as women's and youth sizes. Read product information carefully to make sure that your harness is made to support your weight. And, avoid single safety belts no matter your size.

LOGBOW OR COMPOUND BOW

Make sure your bow is fitted to your specific draw length. This length is dependent on the length of your arms. Women and youth will likely have a shorter draw length than men and should consider a bow made specifically for them.

The draw weight of a bow is also an important decision-making factor. To be used for hunting in Ohio, longbows must have a minimum draw weight of 40 pounds. Make sure that you can comfortably draw the bow smoothly to your anchor point. Keeping the bow vertical, pull your draw hand back on a level plane, bringing your draw arm elbow straight back and around the shoulder.

ARROWS

Arrow length also must match your draw length. This means that a child usually cannot use the same arrows as his or her parent. A pro shop or sporting goods retailer can measure and cut arrows for you. Also, make sure that your arrows match the draw weight of your bow.

For more tips on tree stand safety, refer to the article on page 16 in this issue of Wild Ohio magazine.



MAKE A SAFE SPORT SAFER;

by Jamey Graham

Picture this: You are hunting 15 feet in the air, seated comfortably in your tree stand which is hugging tightly to a sturdy white oak when you feel your eyelids falling heavily. It's a good thing you have a full-body safety harness strapped on just in case you nod off. Or do you?

Let's try another scenario: It's 5:15 a.m. on a crisp November morning and you are climbing upwards to your tree stand with just two more steps to go when one step breaks under your weight. You catch yourself on the step below, but whew! That was a close one. At least you can't blame the break on the fact that the same steps have been in this hickory since last season. Or can you?

Tree stands, basically elevated platforms, are growing in popularity by leaps and bounds, but due to human error and/or equipment failure so is the number of injuries to hunters who use them. According to an intensive study conducted by Deer and Deer Hunting magazine, one out of every three hunters will fall from a tree stand at some point in his or her hunting career.

Plenty of deer hunters head to their tree stands each season to pursue North America's largest and Ohio's most popular game animal. Sadly, in Ohio and nationally, we have hunters seriously injured or even killed from falls. Last year, three Ohio hunters died and several hunters were severely injured in relation to tree stand use.

Tree stands are inarguably important tools when deer hunting. A hunter 12- to 18-feet in the air is out of a deer's normal field of view (more than 18-feet is unnecessary and unsafe), is minimizing ground scent, and is giving him or herself additional opportunities to see deer from a wide range of locations. I'm a hunter and I personally couldn't enjoy the season quite as much if I hunted solely from the ground. Ground blinds provide advantages as well, but personal preference has me climbing trees each fall. I also know that there are precautions and a little extra effort involved when hunting from an elevated position. I practice tree stand safety not only for myself, but for my family too. It gives them some peace of mind knowing I'm playing it safe while hunting.

IS IT TMA APPROVED?

First, tree stand selection is obviously very important. While it may be tempting to use a home-made wooden platform, don't! Do not sacrifice safety for cost. The highest number of falls reported includes stands with wooden steps or platforms. Therefore, hunters should only use stands that have been approved by the Treestand Manufacturer's Association (TMA). So, when purchasing a tree stand keep an eye out for the TMA seal. Once a decision and purchase is made, practice mounting and using the stand at home and close to the ground in the beginning. Practice at dawn and dusk too, popular times for hunters heading to and from their stands.

GETTING UP TO YOUR STAND

Climbing steps or aids follow next. There is a large variety of brands and types of steps on the market. Screw-in steps are often used, but can still contribute to falls as well as permanently damage trees if not used properly. Climbing sticks and ladder stands are other options. Research the different types of climbing options and determine what works best for you and where you hunt. Also, when climbing or descending, always maintain three points of contact.

Hunters should keep in mind that in Ohio, it's illegal to mount permanent tree stands and steps on state land and on property where no permission has been granted.

DON'T BE THE HUNTER THAT FALLS

After choosing a proper tree stand and climbing aids, a fall restraint system (or fall-arrest system) should be the next item on a tree stand hunter's safety list. A single safety belt does not count. Years ago, hunters were encouraged to wear at least a waist belt attached to the tree by a single strap. Unfortunately, this method has often caused serious injury or death as a result of a fall. An approved full-body restraint system wraps around a hunter's chest, waist, and legs providing maximum protection from a fall. A good harness also provides a tether so the hunter can strap himself or herself to the tree. A full-body restraint system will cost more than a single waist strap, but again, do not sacrifice safety for cost. As with a tree stand, practice at home before heading out to hunt.

Dress as you would while hunting (clothing that fits is important; ill fitting clothing can catch on steps or the tree stand) and complete your attire with the harness. Some can be a bit confusing at first, but don't give up. It took me a while to get used to mine. In warmer weather, you can put the harness on before heading to the stand. Unfortunately, once the temperature falls and you have to carry your warmer camouflage with you to the stand, you may also have to wait to dress in your harness at your hunting site.

GETTING YOUR GEAR TO THE STAND

Attached to your tree stand should be a very important tool, a haul line. This is a rope left hanging near the ground used to raise or haul an unloaded firearm or bow into the stand. Never attach the haul line to the trigger or trigger guard on your hunting implement!

As with any outdoor adventure, tell a friend or family member where you are and when you plan to return. Also, if service is available in your hunting location, keep a mobile phone in an accessible pocket should a fall occur. Whistles and flashlights serve as emergency signal devices and are great to have on hand as well.

Take the time before the season opens to walk or hike a few times a week. Hunters who are in good physical condition are more likely to survive a fall. Use this time to scope out new hunting locations and breathe some fresh air.

For more information read about Project STAND (Stop Tree Stand Accidents 'n Deaths) at projectstand.net or go to the Treestand Manufacturer's Association's Web site at tmastands.com/safety.

Best wishes for a safe and successful season!

PRACTICE TREE STAND SAFETY



2009-2010

STATEWIDE MUZZLELOADER SEASON MOVES TO EARLY JANUARY

OHIO HUNTING & TRAPPING REGULATIONS

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE



HUNTING SEASONS	OPENING DATE	CLOSING DATE
Small Game: Squirrel (gray, red, fox, black)	Sept 1, 2009	Jan 31, 2010
Small Game: Mourning Dove	Sept 1, 2009	Oct 25, 2009
	Dec 7, 2009	Dec 21, 2009
Small Game: Ruffed Grouse	Oct 10, 2009	Jan 31, 2010
Small Game: Cottontail Rabbit	Nov 6, 2009	Feb 28, 2010
Small Game: Ring-necked Pheasant	Nov 6, 2009	Jan 10, 2010
Small Game: Bobwhite Quail	Nov 6, 2009	Nov 29, 2009
Small Game: Fox, Raccoon, Skunk, Opossum, Weasel	Nov 10, 2009	Jan 31, 2010
Small Game: Crow (Fri. Sat. Sun. Only)	June 5, 2009	Mar 14, 2010
Small Game: Coyote	No closed season	
Small Game: Wild Boar	No closed season	
Small Game: Groundhog	Closed for deer gun season only	
Waterfowl:	See publication 295 and 298	
Wild Turkey: Fall	Oct 10, 2009	Nov 29, 2009
Wild Turkey: Spring	April 19, 2010	May 16, 2010
White-tailed Deer: Archery	Sept 26, 2009	Feb 7, 2010
White-tailed Deer: Early Muzzleloader	Oct 19, 2009	Oct 24, 2009
White-tailed Deer: Youth Gun	Nov 21, 2009	Nov 22, 2009
White-tailed Deer: Gun	Nov 30, 2009	Dec 6, 2009
White-tailed Deer: Gun	Dec 19, 2009	Dec 20, 2009
White-tailed Deer: Muzzleloader	Jan 9, 2010	Jan 12, 2010
YOUTH HUNTING SEASONS	OPENING DATE	CLOSING DATE
Youth Hunters Small Game Season	Oct 24, 2009	Oct 25, 2009
	Oct 31, 2009	Nov 1, 2009
Youth Deer Gun Season	Nov 21, 2009	Nov 22, 2009
Youth Spring Wild Turkey Season	April 17, 2010	April 18, 2010
Youth Spring Wild Turkey Hunts: Specific Areas Only	April 19, 2010	May 16, 2010
Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days	See Publication 295	
Youth Waterfowl Opening Day Hunts	Selected areas only	
Youth Controlled Deer Hunts: Application Only	Application period is June 1 through July 31	
Youth Controlled Waterfowl Hunts: Application Only		
TRAPPING SEASONS	OPENING DATE	CLOSING DATE
Fox, Raccoon, Opossum, Skunk, Weasel	Nov 10, 2009	Jan 31, 2010
Mink, Muskrat	Nov 10, 2009	Feb 28, 2010
Mink, Muskrat, Raccoon, Opossum, Skunk, Weasel (Erie, Ottawa, Sandusky, and Lucas County east of the Maumee River)	Nov 10, 2009	Mar 15, 2010
Beaver: Statewide	Dec 26, 2009	Feb 28, 2010
River Otter Open in specific counties	Dec 26, 2009	Feb 28, 2010

September 1 kicked-off the state's fall hunting seasons with the opening of squirrel, Canada goose, rail, moorhen, dove, and snipe seasons. New this year is the move of the statewide muzzleloader season from December to January. Season dates are set at January 9-12, 2010, which provides hunters two weekend days.

Two northwest Ohio counties will be open for fall turkey hunting, October 10-November 29, bringing the total to 48 counties statewide. Spring turkey season for 2010 will be April 19-May 16. Spring gobbler hunters will be able to hunt all day the last two weeks (May 3-16, 2010) of the four-week season. Legal hunting hours during those two weeks will be one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

The ruffed grouse bag limit will be cut from three to two, and the season will end on January 31, 2010. Grouse populations continue long-term declines with flush rates and harvest rates at record lows.

Deer hunters can again buy additional antlerless deer permits at reduced prices for hunting in urban zones, participating in a Division of Wildlife-authorized controlled hunt or hunting during the September 26 to November 29 portion of the deer season. The deadline for using an antlerless permit will be extended to December 6 for those hunting in Deer Zone C. Cost of the antlerless deer permit remains \$15.

Hunters must purchase a regular deer permit before purchasing antlerless deer permits. The sale of antlerless permits will cease after November 29, so hunters need to commit early to buying and using the extra, reduced-cost opportunity.

Regulations for the 2009-2010 season maintain the same deer zones as the last four years. Zone C will cover 38 central, southern, southeastern, and southwestern counties. There will be 30 counties in Zone B and 20 northwestern counties in Zone A.

The maximum number of deer that a hunter can take in Zone A is two. Prior to November 30, hunters can take up to two deer in Zone A, one of which can be on a \$15 antlerless deer permit. Beginning November 30, hunters can take only one deer in Zone A and antlerless permits cannot be used.

The maximum number of deer that a hunter can take in Zone B is four. Prior to November 30, hunters can take up to four deer in Zone B, two of which can be taken with \$15 antlerless deer permits. Beginning November 30, hunters can take only two deer in Zone B and antlerless permits cannot be used.

The maximum number of deer that a hunter can take in Zone C is six. Prior to December 7, hunters can take up to six deer in Zone C, three of which can be taken with \$15 antlerless deer permits. Beginning December 7, hunters can take only three deer in Zone C and antlerless permits cannot be used.

Those hunting in urban units and at Division of Wildlife-authorized controlled hunts will have a six-deer bag limit; those deer will not count against the hunter's zone bag limit. Antlerless deer permits can be used for the entire season in urban deer units or Division of Wildlife-authorized controlled hunts.

A valid hunting license and proper deer permits are required to hunt deer in Ohio. A hunter can take only one buck in Ohio, regardless of zone, hunting method or season.

Archery season will run from Saturday, September 26 through Sunday, February 7, 2010. The popular youth deer-gun season is set for Saturday and Sunday, November 21-22. During the youth deer-gun season, zone bag limits will apply to young hunters. Any deer taken will be part of the young hunter's total season limit.

Deer-gun season will run Monday, November 30 through Sunday, December 6 and Saturday and Sunday, December 19-20. Statewide muzzleloader season will run Saturday, January 9 through Tuesday, January 12, 2010.

Special area muzzleloader hunts will be open Monday, October 19 through Saturday, October 24 at Salt Fork, Shawnee, and Wildcat Hollow. Hunters can use either a deer permit or an antlerless deer permit for this hunt. The bag limit remains at one deer of either sex with any antlered deer harvested counting toward the hunter's one-buck yearly limit.

All hunting and trapping season dates and rules can be found at wildohio.com and in the 2009-2010 Ohio Hunting and Trapping Regulations brochure.

DEER HUNTERS SUCCESSFUL DURING 2008-2009 SEASON

White-tailed deer hunters had a very successful 2008-2009 season, taking more than 250,000 deer for the first time. A total of 252,017 deer was killed surpassing the 2006-07 record total of 237,316. Approximately 475,000 people hunted white-tailed deer in Ohio this past season.

Counties reporting the highest number of deer checked during the season were:

Coshocton	9,564
Tuscarawas	8,814
Licking	7,967
Guernsey	7,916
Harrison	7,454
Muskingum	7,245
Knox	7,223
Ashtabula	6,448
Holmes	6,320
Carroll	5,997

▲ TOP 10 COUNTIES ▲

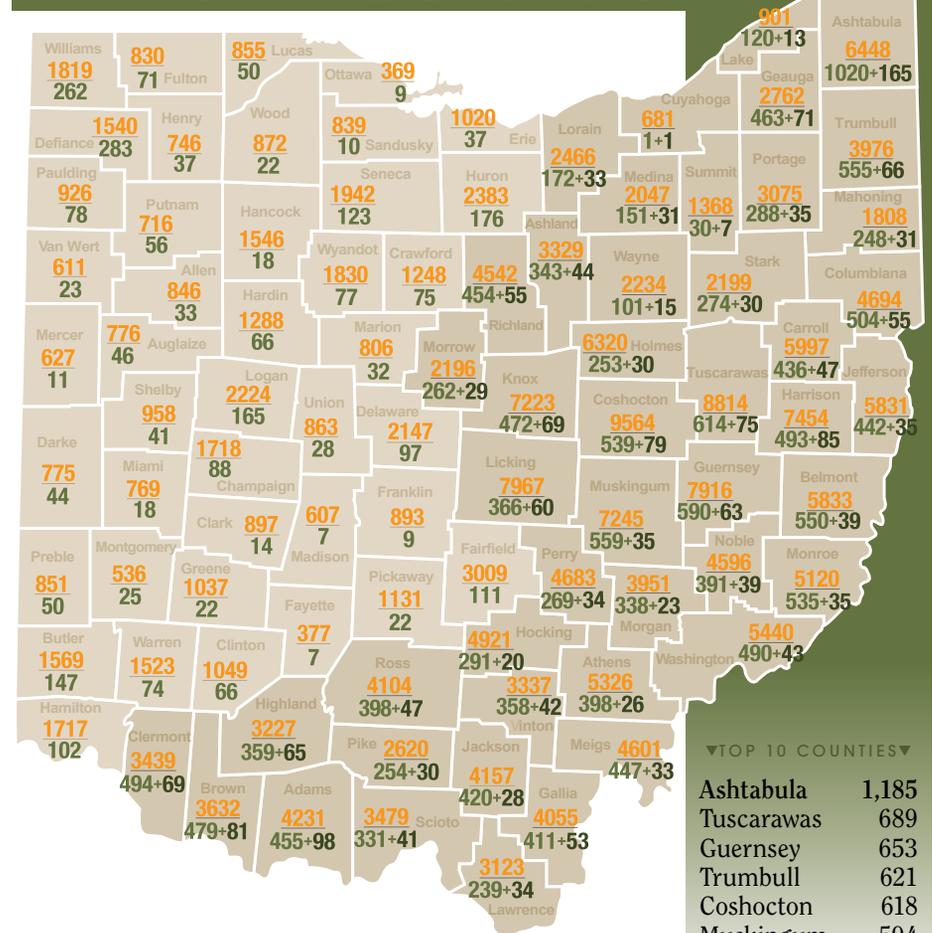
MOBILITY-IMPAIRED HUNTING ACCESS AREAS

Access roads for hunters with mobility impairments using electric powered all-purpose vehicles are available at a number of state wildlife areas. The wildlife areas, by region are: Delaware, Big Island, and Deer Creek in central Ohio; Resthaven, La Su An, and Killdeer Plains in northwest Ohio; Grand River, Brush Creek, and Berlin in northeast Ohio; Waterloo and Cooper Hollow in southeast Ohio; and Fallsville, East Fork, and Spring Valley in southwest Ohio.

Hunters who apply for permits to hunt from a motor vehicle must receive physician input and signature to complete their applications. Interested hunters can obtain the application and maps of the areas showing the location of the accessible roads from wildohio.com or by calling 1-800-WILDLIFE.

2008 - 2009 WHITE-TAILED DEER HARVEST PER COUNTY

2008 SPRING & FALL WILD TURKEY HARVEST PER COUNTY



▼ TOP 10 COUNTIES ▼

Ashtabula	1,185
Tuscarawas	689
Guernsey	653
Trumbull	621
Coshocton	618
Muskingum	594
Belmont	586
Harrison	578
Monroe	570
Clermont	563

1234 ← DEER HARVESTED
 567+89 ← FALL TURKEY HARVESTED (IN SELECT COUNTIES)
 ↑ SPRING TURKEY HARVESTED (STATEWIDE)

Fall Nuisances by Donna Daniel



fall gardening tip

You might be anxious to tidy up your garden by raking leaves and pulling out dead plants the last few nice days of fall. But consider waiting until spring for the majority of the clean up.

The skeletons of your garden plants can still provide a refuge for wildlife during winter. Within all the vegetation are nooks and crannies where bugs, spiders, and other insects are hiding. There also may be cocoons and egg sacs among the dead vegetation. Seed heads of many plants such as purple cone flower can attract birds all winter. In addition, all the standing vegetation will provide shelter for birds and small mammals.

Resist the urge to rake the leaves from your garden as well. The layer of debris will attract earthworms and other decomposers. Those critters will in turn provide food for robins, flickers, and other insectivores.

preventing wildlife nuisances in fall

Fall has returned and the cooler days and nights tell us to start preparing for winter. Some autumn chores include winterizing our homes – making sure insulation is up to par, storm windows are in, and other duties to help us make it through the cold of winter.

This time of the year also has wildlife getting ready for winter. Some birds head south. Mammals, like chipmunks and groundhogs, are preparing to hibernate. Other species preparing for their winter season may be eyeing your home in the process. As squirrels, raccoons, and mice begin to search for warmer lodgings, they may find your crawlspace or attic a perfect hideaway. Now is the time to make sure the wildlife we enjoy in the yard stays in the yard.

One of the most basic precautions you can take is making sure your chimney is capped. To a raccoon, squirrel, or even an owl, the open end of a chimney can mimic a nice hollow tree. A simple cap made of wire mesh can allow your chimney to vent while keeping wildlife out.

Other favorite roosting spots could be your attic, crawlspace, or basement. Animals like opossums, raccoons, and squirrels can cause substantial damage if allowed to reside within a house. Inspect your home around the soffets, foundation, and vents to make sure there are no voids that an animal can squeeze into. If you do find a hole or other opening make the necessary repairs to keep an animal from getting in.

Be sure there isn't an animal already inside before closing an opening because

you wouldn't want to trap an animal inside of your home.

Mice can try to invade a structure at anytime, but especially in the fall. Two species of mice will try and make your home their home: the common house mouse, an introduced species, and the native white-footed mouse. House mice are dirty gray on top and bottom. White-footed mice have brown backs and a white belly. They are most commonly called "field mice." There are many traps on the market, but the tried and true is the snap trap. In my experience, it is best baited with peanut butter and sunflower seeds.

Take a little time to critter-proof your home in the fall to save some time, trouble, and expense later.



Logs, Blogs, and Diaries:

TURNING YOUR FISHING TRIPS INTO MEMORIES! by Matt Wolfe

RIIIIIIIIIING! School is back in session! As parents become euphoric with their rediscovered free time, students are left dreaming about spending more time outside. But fear not, young anglers! There are a few items you can pick up while you are out school shopping to make your next fishing trip successful. Angler diaries or fishing logs are a great way to remember the basics of your fishing trip, and they might help you catch more fish.

ASK YOURSELF...

When you are out, pick up a notebook, some pencils, and a calendar. It's that simple. These basics will get you going towards making your own angling log. But how do you do it? By asking yourself a few questions, you can remind yourself what you did to fill your bucket with crappie last year. Some questions you might want to consider are:

- ▶ What was I fishing for? Bass? Catfish?
- ▶ Where was I fishing? Shore or Boat? Depth?
- ▶ What was it like outside? Sunny? Cloudy? Water temperature?
- ▶ Why did I go fishing? To have fun? Catch something to grill up?
- ▶ How did I catch fish? Live bait? Jigging? Casting?
- ▶ When was I fishing? Spring? Fall? Night or day?

These questions are basic, but they can provide you with a wealth of information later on. Make sure to organize it by date so you can reference it from year to year and have an even better day on the water.

GO HIGH TECH!

Of course, in this day and age, paper logs and pictures are being replaced with a variety of electronic options. If you have a digital camera, make sure to take plenty of pictures when you are out fishing. Take pictures of anything that you would want to remember- the color of the jig head you had on, the location where you were, the downed piece of wood you were fishing – all of this can provide great information. But don't forget to take pictures of what you caught. That's probably the most important thing to remember, plus you can show them off later!

If you have your parents' permission, you can always record your fishing trip through a blog. Blogs are becoming more user friendly by the day, and they are definitely a great place to record fishing trips on an ongoing basis. Plus, you can share your blog with others who might be interested in how you did. So, as long as you have an okay from your parents, take a look at some of the free blog sites to see which one you like.

What's the bottom line? Do you want to catch more fish? Do you want to have better days out on the water? If you answered yes to either of those questions, then an angling log is for you! Most pro anglers use an angling log, and even the Division of Wildlife has a log ohiodnr.com/muskilog/ for the muskellunge anglers. No matter how you do it, you can't lose, so start today!



r e c i p e s

Easy Asian Venison

1 pound ground venison
Oil for cooking
Minced garlic to taste
2 packages (3 oz.) Oriental-flavored instant ramen noodles, broken up
2 cups frozen stir fry vegetable mix
2 cups water
¼ teaspoon ground ginger
1 bunch green onions, sliced thin
1 individual serving pineapple chunks
soy sauce to taste

Brown venison and garlic in small amount of oil in large, nonstick skillet until done. Use a slotted spoon to transfer venison to a bowl. Add to venison the seasoning from one of the ramen noodle packages and stir well.

Put noodles in skillet and add the stir fry vegetable mix, water, ginger, soy sauce, and remaining seasoning package. Bring to boil, reduce heat, cover, and simmer for 2 or 3 minutes, until noodles are tender. Return venison to skillet, stir in green onions and pineapple chunks and heat through.

Contributed by Vicki Mountz



Squirrel Pot Pie

Filling

3 slices bacon, cooked and crumbled
3 squirrels, boiled and boned
2 cups frozen mixed vegetables
1 cup chopped onion
1 cup thinly sliced celery
1 cup fresh mushrooms, sliced
3 tablespoons flour
1 teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon pepper
½ teaspoon dried thyme

Topping

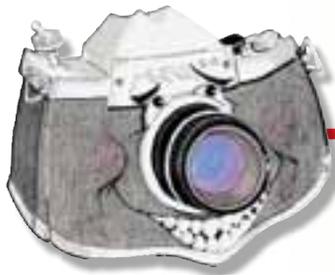
2 cups buttermilk baking mix (e.g., Bisquick or Jiffy)
1 cup milk

Heat oven to 400 degrees F. Combine all filling ingredients in a mixing bowl. Coat 9 x13-inch baking dish with nonstick spray. Spoon filling mixture into baking pan and set aside. In medium mixing bowl combine topping ingredients. Spoon batter evenly over filling. Bake 30 to 35 minutes or until crust is golden brown.

Contributed by Susie Vance



For more great wild game recipes go to 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 Web site, go to wildohio.com.



Father and son, Charlie and Josh Brown, with a 14 1/2-inch yellow perch Josh caught on Lake Erie.
Jim McConville, N. Ridgeville



"My grandson, Caleb, with the turkey he shot in Fulton County opening day of the spring turkey hunt."
Ken Snyder, Fulton County



My granddaughter Isabella landed this 3.5 pound Largemouth bass with her dad at a local pond
Mike Grimm, Union County



Anna, age 9, shot her first turkey last spring in Mahoning County. (a jake: 3/4-inch spurs, 5-inch beard.)
Don Duda, Berlin Center



My grandson Hunter, age 13, shot his first deer on the first day of the shotgun season (2008).
Larry Elkins, Jackson



"My two sons, Evan and Cole, with deer they both took on the same day. Take a kid hunting or fishing, the experience is awesome!"
David Lemery, Columbus

This squirrel stole some of the candy-filled eggs hidden for an Easter egg hunt before the kids had a chance to find them.
Terry Warren, Canton



DIVISION OF WILDLIFE HEADQUARTERS

2045 Morse Road, Bldg. G
Columbus, OH 43229-6693
(614) 265-6300 (Voice)
1-800-750-0750
(Ohio Relay TTY only)
1-800-WILDLIFE

WILDLIFE DISTRICT ONE

1500 Dublin Road
Columbus, OH 43215
(614) 644-3925

WILDLIFE DISTRICT TWO

952 Lima Avenue
Findlay, OH 45840
(419) 424-5000

WILDLIFE DISTRICT THREE

912 Portage Lakes Drive
Akron, OH 44319
(330) 644-2293

WILDLIFE DISTRICT FOUR

360 E. State Street
Athens, OH 45701
(740) 589-9930

WILDLIFE DISTRICT FIVE

1076 Old Springfield Pike
Xenia, OH 45385
(937) 372-9261

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.





Wild Ohio Magazine
2045 Morse Road, Bldg. G
Columbus, OH 43229-6693

Division of Wildlife Chief Dave Graham challenges you to make this year special for Ohio's hungry. Last year, hunters showed they cared by donating nearly 220,000 meals to Ohioans in need. "I personally challenge Ohio's hunters to double that number this year and to help us all to remember to make the donations, I'm going to label Saturday, December 5 as Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry Day. I'm committing myself to trying to take a doe that day and I'll donate it to the FHFH program."



You don't have to wait until December to donate your deer. Hunters throughout the state can purchase and use an antlerless deer permit until November 29 for \$15. And hunters in Zone C can use antlerless permits until December 6. That's a pretty economical way to provide meals to people in need. By using a processor in the FHFH program, you can donate the deer and not have the cost of processing it. Join me on FHFH Day and throughout the season and take the extra step to help offset hunger felt by Ohioans."

You don't even need to be a successful hunter to help support the program. The FHFH Web site allows people to donate cash that will supplement the funds being raised to help pay for processing the meat.

Last year, FHFH has more than doubled the number of chapters from 12 to 27, with the need for more. Anyone interested in becoming a local program coordinator or a participating meat processor should visit the "Local FHFH" page at www.fhfh.org. The web page includes a current list of coordinators, program names and the counties that they serve.

HELP FEED THE HUNGRY

**FARMERS AND HUNTERS FEEDING THE HUNGRY DAY
DECEMBER 5TH**



During last year's deer seasons, hunters donated more than 54,800 pounds of venison that provided 219,200 meals for Ohioans in need. Sportsmen and women can continue this tradition by participating in the Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry program.

Hunters wishing to donate their deer to a food bank are not required to pay for the processing of the venison as long as the program has funds available to cover the cost. Visit fhfh.org to find a participating meat processor near you.