

# Wild Ohio

Spring 2004

M A G A Z I N E

Ohio Department of Natural Resources  
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE





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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.*

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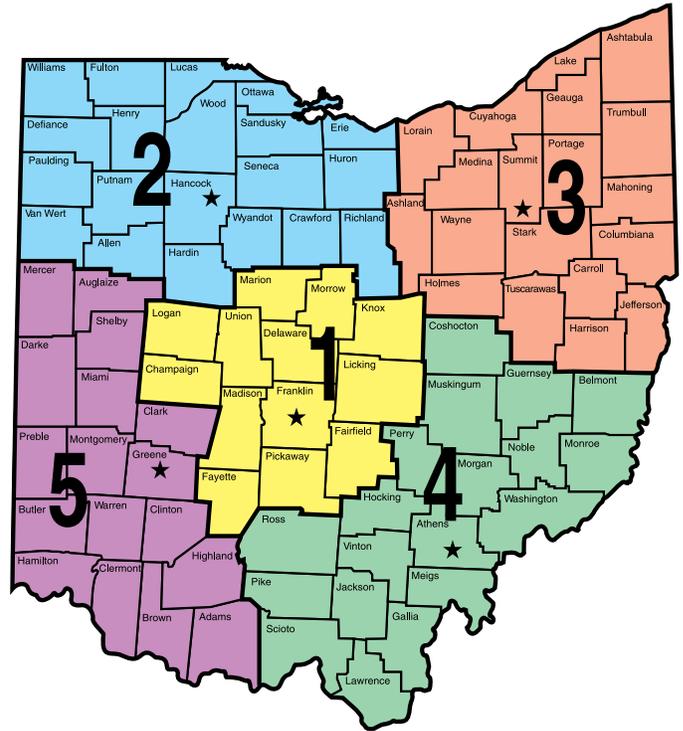
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**On the Spring Wildlife Calendar . . .**

- April 19–25 National Wildlife Week;** The theme is “Explore Nature in Your Neighborhood.”
- May 1–2 Free Fishing Days,** all state residents are invited to experience Ohio’s fantastic fishing without having to purchase a fishing license for these two days.
- May 8 International Migratory Bird Day,** activities at Magee Marsh Wildlife Area, Ottawa County (419) 898-0960, ext. 31; 9 a.m.–5 p.m.



## Features



Tim Daniel

### 6 Ohio's Mighty Muskie

*They are big, powerful, and feisty! For an angling thrill of a lifetime, grab hold of the muskie madness right here in the Buckeye State.*



Tim Daniel

### 12 The Spring Migration Spectacle

*Catch the migration sensation at Magee Marsh, rated one of the top 10 birding locations in North America by Birder's World magazine.*



Tim Daniel

### 14 Blizzards, Bobwhites, and Bringing them Back

*Why are there fewer bobwhite quail in the bush and in the bag today? And what is the Division of Wildlife doing to bring them back?*



Tim Daniel

### 8

#### The Castalia State Fish Hatchery: "A Little Piece of Heaven"

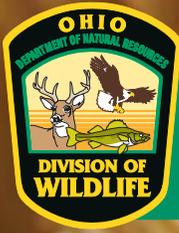
*The Division of Wildlife's premier cold-water hatchery provides trout fishing opportunities for anglers across the state.*

#### On the Cover...

The steelhead trout has spawned "Steelhead Mania" on a number of northeastern Ohio streams and Lake Erie. (Photo by Tim Daniel)

## Departments

Watchable Wildlife	Spring Frogs	4
Wild Things		16
Outdoor Skills	Steelhead Fishing	18
Wildlife Law Enforcement	Field Notes	19
Backyards for Wildlife	Q & A	20
For Wild Kids	Searching for Salamanders!	21
Wild Game Gourmet	Steelhead Recipes	22
Wildlife Reflections	Springtime Wildlife Moons	23



# Ohio's watchable wildlife



Northern spring peeper



Bullfrog



Gray tree frog

## Watchable Wildlife • Spring F

### Spring into Frogs!

by Lindsay Benjamin

All you need to do is follow your ears to find some of spring's smallest, but noisiest, creatures. A loud, high-pitched "peep...peep" followed by a dainty splashing of water can mean only one thing. The spring peepers are out!

Peepers, keeping true to their name, are the first frog of the year to begin advertisement calls, the familiar ribbit, croaking, or peeps that we associate with mild spring evenings. Frog calls indicate the beginning of their breeding season; males are sounding off in search of females.

These calls are also a great tool for wildlife watchers. Different species of frogs and toads have sounds that are completely different from one another and therefore help us identify the critter that we are hearing. There are 15 species of frogs and toads in Ohio. With a little practice, individual species' calls are easily distinguishable.

### Northern Spring Peeper

Northern spring peepers are one of Ohio's 15 native frog and toad species. They call with a "peep...peep" sound. An "x"-shaped marking on their tiny backs give peepers their scientific name, *Pseudacris crucifer crucifer*.

### Western Chorus Frog

A cousin of the Northern spring peeper is the Western chorus frog. They also start their calling and courting early on in spring, but their calls sound like a person running their finger along a comb. Chorus frogs can be told apart from peepers by the three parallel dark lines down the length of their backs.

### Gray Tree Frog

In contrast, a larger cousin, the gray tree frog, does not start calling or breeding until April or May and uses a short trill vocalization, similar to that of a woodpecker. Gray tree



Western chorus frog

photos: spring peeper, gray tree frog, Western chorus frog by Tim Daniel; bullfrog by Ron Keil

frogs can actually change their color from gray to green and back again.

Frog-watching is a fun activity that you don't have to lose sleep over. If you are not a morning person, wait until just after sunset to hit the trails in search of the little croakers. Frogs will call at all times of day, but early morning or early evening are when they are at their loudest. There are a variety of areas to search because frogs can inhabit bodies of water ranging from large, non-flowing lakes to small, flooded tire ruts. Search wetland areas in woods or fields. Tadpoles, frogs' aquatic larvae, are obvious indicators of the presence of frogs.

So how exactly do you find a frog? First and foremost, be prepared to get wet! Scout some prime habitat in daylight; look for moist soil, vegetative cover, and water bodies that lack fish. When it is dark, find your location and turn off your flashlight. In a few seconds, the calling will begin. Listen for calls and

splashes of alarmed little frogs and turn your flashlight on toward the sound. Spotlighting a frog often freezes it, allowing you to get a good look.

If you are out with a partner or group, try a fun trick called triangulation. Position yourselves at different places around the pond. When a frog calls, each of you should shine your flashlight in the direction that you thought the call came from. The point where the beams intersect is most likely where your frog is!

An excellent resource guide on Ohio's frogs and toads is *In Ohio's Backyard: Frogs and Toads*, written by Jeffrey Davis and Scott Menze. The book was funded in part by the ODNR, Division of Wildlife and is available from the Ohio Biological Survey ([www.msj.edu/cicada/obs](http://www.msj.edu/cicada/obs)).

For more information on frog-watching and how your observations can contribute to monitoring efforts, call the Division of Wildlife at 1-800-WILDLIFE. 

# r o g s

## Frog Facts

- Fifteen species of frogs and toads live in Ohio, one of which, the Eastern spadefoot toad, is a state endangered species.
- In Ohio, frog and toad sizes range from one to eight inches.
- Distinct calls are used to ensure that mates are of the correct species.
- In winter, frogs can go dormant in burrows or remain in unfrozen water.
- Frogs were a symbol of peace to Native American shamans.
- You can provide habitat at home by creating small ponds with no fish. Give frogs time, they will come.

## Viewing Opportunities

You don't have to travel far to find frogs and toads in the springtime. Many local parks, state parks, and wildlife areas have great breeding pools for amphibians. Ask a local naturalist or biologist for his or her viewing suggestions. When searching on your own, look for wet, flooded areas in woods, shallow lakes that have a lot of vegetation near

the shoreline, and natural or man-made wetlands. Visiting a variety of sites will give you the opportunity to see and hear many different species of frogs and toads. It may take some repeat visits before your pool becomes alive with sound. Remember to listen carefully and be patient. Your reward will be finding some of Ohio's most slimy but lovable creatures!



# Ohio's Mighty Muskie

Tim Daniel

by *Melissa Hathaway*

**P**robably no freshwater fish inspires the imagination like the muskellunge, more commonly known as “muskie.” Muskies are big, powerful fighters, and likely the most highly-prized of Ohio catches. They have been referred to as “pure muscle with gills,” and they can put on a show of heavyweight acrobatics as they test an angler’s skill and tackle like no other fish in the lake.

Muskellunge, a member of the Pike Family, is Ohio’s second largest game fish next to the flathead catfish. They can measure over four feet in length and weigh over 50 pounds. Fishing for muskies provides the pleasure of anticipation as well as the satisfaction of catching, and persistence pays off. One good muskie is worth its weight in gold, not only because of the thrill of landing such a large and feisty monster, but the continued pleasure the angler gets from telling about it.

“The fighting ability and large size of a muskie makes it the best freshwater fish sought after by anglers,” said Don Weaver, president of the Ohio Huskie Muskie Club, Inc. “Several other species of fish will give you a good fight, but to have a chance at a good fight with a 50-inch plus muskie is awesome.”

## **Buckeye State Muskie Madness**

Many anglers envision muskellunge as residents of remote lakes of the far North County, but muskies dwell right here in the Buckeye State. Historically these native fish were abundant in the bays and tributaries of Lake Erie and in streams in the Ohio River Valley, but declined significantly by 1900 from pollution and habitat degradation. For many years, these mysterious monsters were merely accidental catches. Today, the Division of Wildlife’s stocking program combined with the size and fighting qualities of this species have spawned “muskie madness.”

“If you were to compare the growth rates of our muskies, and angler catch rates of our muskie fishery, you would see that Ohio ranks among the nation’s best for muskie fishing opportunities,” said Ray Petering with the Division of Wildlife’s Fish Management and Research Group.

Since muskellunge reproduction is extremely limited in Ohio, the Division of Wildlife began stocking muskies in selected lakes in 1953 to provide Ohio anglers with trophy fishing opportunities. Fifty years later, the Division is still stocking muskies. Young fish raised at the Division’s Kincaid and London fish hatcheries are stocked each fall as 8- to 12-inch advanced fingerlings. They grow to a catchable size of 30 to 36 inches in three to four years.

Lakes chosen for stocking are based upon geographic location so that the lakes are distributed relatively evenly throughout Ohio, giving the greatest number of Ohioans an opportunity to fish for these mighty fighters. Water quality,

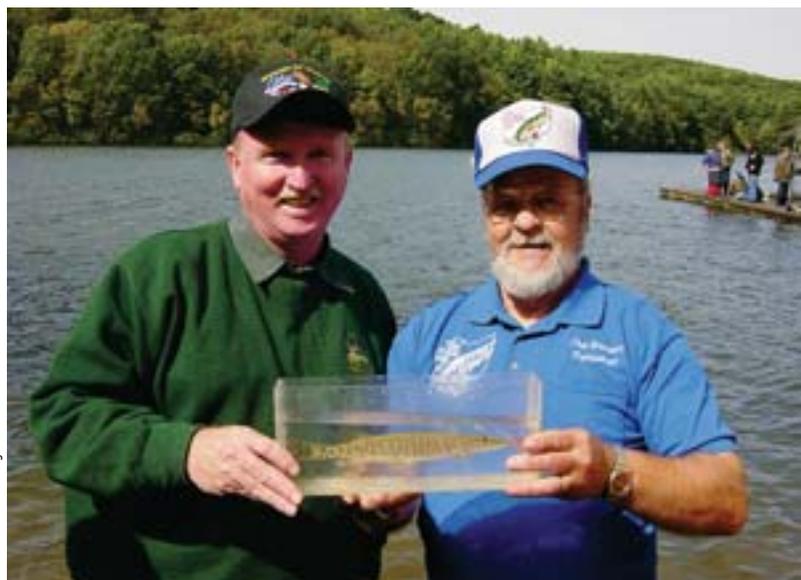
habitat, forage base, and angler access are also important considerations.

## **Ohio Huskie Muskie Club, Inc.**

With the Division’s stocking program, came increased catches of muskellunge from Ohio waters and a growing interest among anglers. The Division needed to obtain information on the numbers and sizes of muskellunge caught, consequently Ohio Huskie Muskie Club, Inc. (OHMC) was established in 1961. Now 600 strong, OHMC members, as well as anglers from other Muskie Clubs officially record and mail catch information and scale samples to the Division. This information helps the Division monitor the age, size, numbers, and lakes where muskies are caught, and is used to evaluate how well the stocked populations are thriving, and in determining future stocking strategies.

OHMC also educates anglers and promotes Ohio’s muskie fishing, and preaches sportsmanship and catch and release practices. Ohio anglers may legally take a limit of two muskies per day. However, over 95 percent of the muskies caught by OHMC members are released back into the water to help sustain this sport fishery.

Based on catch reports by OHMC, the number of muskellunge 30 inches and larger caught annually has grown steadily from 195 reported caught in 1965 to 1,467 in 2003. The club recognizes its members and their trophy catches at an annual awards banquet each winter. Last year members were recognized for 213 “Huskie Muskie” catches and eight of those exceeded 50 inches.



Pete Novotny

**Division of Wildlife Chief Steve Gray and OHMC President Don Weaver display a muskellunge advanced fingerling stocked at Leesville Lake last fall.**

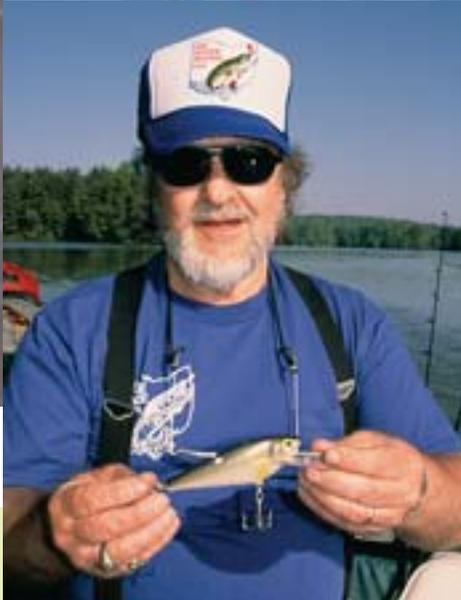


Tim Daniel



Muskies are also ambush feeders that hide in weedbeds making casting a popular fishing tactic.

photos by Melissa Hathaway



Envelopes are conveniently located at ramps and bait stores around popular muskie lakes so OHMC members and other anglers can mail catch information to the Division of Wildlife.

Muskies are big, powerful fighters, and are a highly-prized catch in Ohio.

### Muskie Facts

**Appearance:** Long, slender body with large duckbill shaped mouth and razor-sharp teeth; green to yellow-green sides with dark vertical bars, elongated spots, or both, against pale background.

**Growth and Maturity:** Male: 22 to 39 inches; 3 to 21 pounds. Female: 22 to 50 inches; 3 to 40 pounds. May reach 50 inches in 15 years; can live up to 30 years.

**Prime Habitat:** Heavily vegetated lakes with tree stumps and weedy bays; streams with deep pools and abundance of submerged woody structure.

**Diet:** Primarily fish; also frogs, large insects, crayfish, snakes, ducklings, and small muskrats.

Muskie teeth marks on plugs are evidence of the razor-sharp teeth of these ferocious fish.

## Ohio's Top Muskie Waters

**Leesville Lake (Carroll County)**

**Salt Fork (Guernsey County)**

**Clear Fork (Richland and Morrow counties)**

**West Branch (Portage County)**

**Alum Creek Lake (Delaware County)**

**Piedmont (Belmont and Harrison counties)**

**Lake Milton (Mahoning County)**

**Cowan Lake (Clinton County)**

**Pymatuning (Ashtabula County)**

**Caesar Creek Lake (Warren and Clinton counties)**

### “Fish of 10,000 Casts”

Known as the “Fish of 10,000 casts,” these aggressive yet temperamental fish are perhaps the ultimate challenge for Ohio anglers. Muskies hunt in packs in open water among schools of gizzard shad. However, they are also ambush feeders that hide in weedbeds ready for an easy meal to swim by, so both casting and trolling are popular muskie fishing methods.

When casting, it is very common for a muskie to follow a lure as it is reeled back to the boat. According to Weaver, 80 percent of his catches have been right beside the boat.

“To see a muskie follow your lure to the boat while casting will send your heart beat up several notches,” said Weaver. “And then to see one of these monster fish clear the water by three feet on a jump is a thrill of a lifetime.”

Once a muskie takes the lure, the real excitement begins. Known for their razor-sharp teeth and jaws like a steel trap, teeth marks on plugs from any muskie fishermen’s tackle box

are testimony to just how ferocious these fish are.

Most of OHMC’s newer members are anglers who were fishing for bass or saugeye and landed a muskie by surprise. “When someone catches their first muskie, they are hooked on muskie fishing for life, even after they have caught all other species of freshwater fish,” Weaver said.

To learn more about the OHMC, contact Don Weaver at (740) 269-2122, or do a Web search for “Ohio Huskie Muskie.”

# The Castalia Fish Hatchery:

## *“A Little Piece of Heaven”*

by *Melissa Hathaway*

A feeling of serenity falls upon visitors the second they enter the gates of the Castalia State Fish Hatchery. Meandering through the grounds and draped by the graceful branches of weeping willow trees is Cold Creek, one of the most unique and picturesque streams in the state. A stroll along the creek brings visitors upon huge schools of rainbow trout swimming in the crystal clear, cool waters. At the west end of the property, visitors marvel at the mysterious and vibrantly blue Blue Hole, thought by many to be bottomless.

This 90-acre “Piece of Heaven,” is tucked away off the north side of the village of Castalia in Erie County. It serves as the Division of Wildlife’s sole cold water hatchery for rearing steelhead trout. The facility also raises rainbow trout. Key to the high quality of the property for raising trout are two sources of natural cold water, a blue hole aquifer and Cold Creek. This abundance of 51-degree water makes it ideal for raising trout.



Visitors marvel at the mysterious and vibrantly blue Blue Hole, thought by many to be bottomless.

“It was a golden opportunity for the Division of Wildlife to obtain this premier piece of property in 1997,” said Dave Insley, Castalia Hatchery manager. “Ohio just doesn’t have many big springs like this. Having this quantity of cold, clean water to raise trout in is truly unique.”

The blue hole on the hatchery grounds is one of four unique springs in the area created from one underground aquifer. Although it is one of the largest aquifers in the state, it is the one that the ODNR Division of Water knows the least about. The substrate is made up of marrow. Typical geological work done by dropping a weight off the back of a truck or setting explosive charges and monitoring seismic returns does not work here because the very porous marrow absorbs the

shock waves and does not send back a return echo. This gives the impression that the aquifer has an infinite depth.

The other blue holes formed from the same aquifer include the Castalia Village Duck Pond, and two on nearby Castalia Trout Club, one of which was the popular “Blue Hole” tourist attraction that operated for 60 years.

Tim Daniel



Water for hatchery operations is pumped from the Blue Hole, the main source of water, at a rate of 3,000 gallons per minute.



photos by Melissa Hathaway

A huge school of rainbow trout swimming in the crystal clear, cool waters of a raceway.



Melissa Hathaway

## Castalia's Trout Provide Statewide Angling Opportunities

Each May, the Division stocks 400,000 steelhead trout raised at Castalia in five of Lake Erie's Central Basin tributaries—Grand, Chagrin, Rocky, and Vermilion rivers, and Conneaut Creek. These are the trout that have spawned Ohio's steelhead mania in recent years. They provide a unique fall and winter stream fishery from October through April, and open water fishing on Lake Erie during the summer months as these fish migrate between the lake and the tributaries. (For more information on stream trout fishing, see the Outdoor Skills article on page 18.)

Steelhead trout eggs are obtained from the Little Manistee River in Michigan in the spring and raised from eggs. Other steelhead are obtained in the fall as fingerlings and reared at the hatchery. The hatchery does not currently have enough incubation and feeding space to start them all from eggs, but eventually plans to expand production facilities.

Once the steelhead are grown to about nine inches, they are stocked into the five streams as smolts. (As smolts, trout are at a period in their life cycle where they imprint on the water source where they were stocked.) Once in the rivers, they travel into Lake Erie, where they spend two to three years maturing before they return to the stream to spawn for the first time. They become a steely-gray color, hence the name steelhead trout.

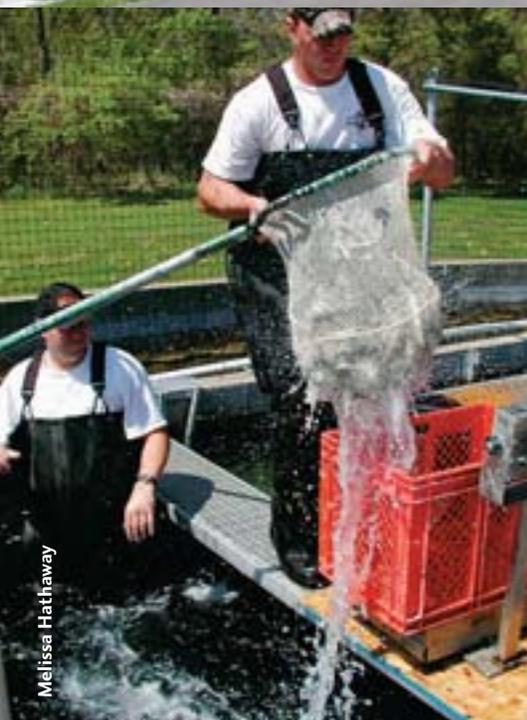
Rainbow trout, obtained from the London State Fish Hatchery, are also raised at the Castalia Hatchery for the inland lakes catchable trout program. The Division stocks 85,000 rainbows measuring 10 to 13 inches in lakes

across the state each spring and 25,000 each fall, creating rare trout fishing opportunities for local communities. For a list of stocking dates for spring 2004, log on the Division's Web page at [www.ohiodnr.com](http://www.ohiodnr.com).

Rainbow trout have been bred for many generations for specific growth and survival characteristics, explains Insley. They are easy to raise, grow fast, convert food well, and can withstand warm water temperatures often associated with Ohio's small inland lakes. They show all the characteristics of a domestic fish—if approached, they will come to you looking for food. This makes them a good fish for the inland stocking program as “put and take” fish. They are expected to be caught easily and within a few weeks of being stocked.

Steelhead trout, on the other hand, are “wild” fish with a quick flight response and intolerance for human presence. This leads to long-term survival, which makes these trout a

*continued on next page*



Melissa Hathaway

**Rainbow trout raised at Castalia are transported to inland lakes for stocking as part of the Division's catchable rainbow trout program.**

Chip Gross



**Steelhead trout raised at Castalia have spawned Ohio's steelhead mania in numerous Lake Erie Central Basin tributaries, as well as the open waters of Lake Erie.**

The Castalia State Fish Hatchery has a long history dating back to the 1800s. In past years, it was the Castalia Farms Trout Hatchery owned by Owens Illinois as a corporate recreational property since WWII. It was the Castalia Sporting Club prior to that.

With the purchase of the facility in late 1997, the Division of Wildlife was able to double its trout production capabilities. Trout are also raised at the London and Kincaid state fish hatcheries.

With renovations, the Castalia Hatchery now includes eight indoor rearing troughs and three outdoor raceways for fish production, a main hatchery building, laboratory, processing areas, and office space. At the heart of the hatchery's operation is the blue hole, which supplies eight indoor raceways and one outdoor raceway with water at the rate of 3,000 gallons per minute. Because the water from the blue hole has no oxygen and high levels of nitrogen, it is treated before being used by the hatchery. The remaining two outdoor raceways are supplied with water diverted from Cold Creek at 5,000 gallons per minute.

## The Castalia Fish Hatchery *continued*

good fish for the Lake Erie stocking program. Unlike salmon, these fish do not die after spawning and can live up to seven years. The state record steelhead trout was caught in Lake Erie in October 1996 weighing in at 20.97 pounds and measuring 36.5 inches.

As for physical appearance, the London rainbows have a short, fat, football-shaped body, while the Manistee steelhead have a skinnier, longer appearance, sometimes twice as long as rainbow trout.

### Castalia's Permit Fishing Gets both Kids and Adults Hooked

Some fortunate visitors get the opportunity to fish for rainbow trout on the half-mile section of Cold Creek that runs through the Castalia State Fish Hatchery. Interested anglers should log on the Division's Web page at [www.odnr.com](http://www.odnr.com) and go to the Fishing Resources section for a permit application, or call 1-800-WILDLIFE. There is a \$3 nonrefundable application fee and applications are accepted November 1 through March 1 each year. Adults in the lottery are drawn for fishing slots for

April, May, September, and October. Permit holders may bring two other adults and three youths. Youth (under age 16) can enter the youth lottery to fish during June, July, and August. Youth permit holders may bring up to three other youths and two adults.

For the permit fishing, only one fishing permit slot is available each morning. This helps ensure a fun and enjoyable experience for the permit holder's fishing party without being elbow to elbow with other anglers or competing for a spot along the creek.

**Connor Limbaugh (left) and Jay O'Donnell (below): Two happy anglers!**



"It was like having our own private park," said Tom O'Donnell of Dover, Ohio, who was in a fishing party of two adults and three young boys one morning last August. "It was a great opportunity for the kids. There were many more fish than I expected, and we limited out in two and a half hours, and that included time helping the kids."

"The fish in your stream are a lot bigger than the fish at home in Connor's pond," added O'Donnell's young son Jay.

"I like the way the fish flop around," (referring to the way the fish fight when caught), chimed in their young friend Connor Limbaugh, of Strasburg, Ohio.

"It's incredible for getting the kids hooked on fishing," O'Donnell said. "The fish bite hard and they're big—in the two- to four-pound range. The kids were using worms and catching them right and left. They were so excited, they were practically jumping out of their jeans."

The bag limit is five trout per angler at Castalia. Anglers must keep all fish they catch because some of the released fish will die, especially in the warmer water temperatures during the summer months. Insley also justified this practice by explaining that once a fish has been caught several times, it becomes wise to being caught, and the fishing would become too challenging, especially for the kids.



Melissa Hathaway



photos by Melissa Hathaway

**Jim Beres and grandson Justin Turner, of Elyria, Ohio, show off part of their catch from Cold Creek.**

## How to Fish Cold Creek

"If you don't catch fish here, something is wrong," said Insley. "As hatchery manager, I take it personal if someone comes here and doesn't catch fish. Most often it is because anglers are using the wrong tackle."

For the best success when fishing on the hatchery's section of Cold Creek, Insley recommends keeping it simple, especially when fishing with kids. Most kids don't have the patience to sit for a long time. To them it is more about catching, not about fishing. Using a spinning rod with four- to six-pound test line, and dangling a worm below a bobber is probably the simplest method, as well as the most consistently successful.

***"It was truly a great experience for my kids and me. It is such a beautiful place, and for icing on the cake, we spotted two fawns on the grounds."***

***— Ken Smith, Hiram, Ohio***

"It is nice to expose the kids to fly fishing, but I really believe in giving them a fun and quality experience by making it easy, so the best thing to do is to let them use a worm and catch a fish," said Insley.

Anglers who fish with stickbaits and spinners probably catch a little larger fish, but not as many. And naturally, fly fishing with wet flies is popular at Castalia, but with varied success.

"No matter what method is used, it is the individual angler's preference that counts. To some people it is more about how they caught the fish than how many they caught."

## Anglers' Testimonies

### Say It All

Several other permit fishing anglers summed up the Castalia experience in their own way:

"It was truly a great experience for my kids and me. It is such a beautiful place, and for icing on the cake, we spotted two fawns on the grounds."—Ken Smith, Hiram, Ohio.

"I've caught humongous salmon up in Michigan, but it's nothing like this. We really appreciate the Division letting us fish here. It's a once in a lifetime opportunity."—Jim Beres, Elyria, Ohio. 



## Fly-Fishing Clinics

Division of Wildlife staff and members of Trout Unlimited also conduct several beginning fly-fishing clinics each spring. Attendees also get to test their newly acquired knowledge by fishing for rainbows in Cold Creek during the half-day clinics. Please contact the Division of Wildlife District Two Office in Findlay (419-424-5000) between January 1 and March 1 each year to sign up for the fly-fishing clinics.



Lydia Mychkovsky

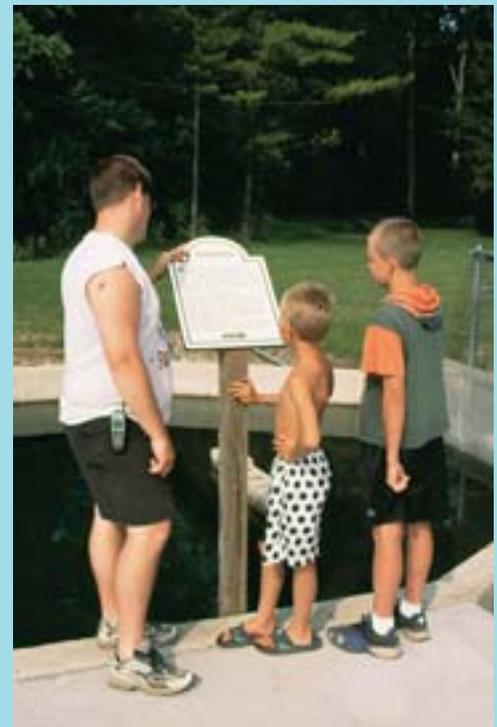
Fly-fishing clinic at the Castalia Hatchery

## Take a Self-Guided Tour

The hatchery is open for self-guided tours year-round Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. It is closed on weekends and holidays. A new visitor reception area and viewing access to the culture area is scheduled to open this spring.

The hatchery is located at 7018 Homegardner Road. Take Heyward Road east from State Route 269 on the north side of Castalia to Homegardner Road. The entrance to the property is located at the intersection of Heywood Road and Homegardner Road. (Phone: 419-684-7499.)

**Castalia residents, Charles and Corey Hansen, and Cameron Brake take a self-guided tour of the Castalia Hatchery grounds.**



Melissa Hathaway

# The Magee Marsh Spring Migration Spectacle!

by Mary Warren, Magee Marsh Wildlife Area Naturalist

**W**hat do birds, birders, and *Birder's World* magazine all have in common? They all find that Magee Marsh Wildlife Area in Ottawa County is the best place in Ohio to be part of the spectacle of the spring migration. Magee's visitors come for the orioles, thrushes, vireos, flycatchers, waterfowl, and raptors, but it is the warblers that really attract the attention!

About 37 species of warblers usually make an appearance, often in huge numbers. Because of a reluctance to cross Lake Erie, the birds pile in on forested beach ridges and provide spectacular bird watching opportunities. According to Mark Shieldcastle, the Division of Wildlife's wetlands project leader, "Magee is one of only four remaining beach ridges along the southern shore of Lake Erie. It is unique because it provides all of the components vital to a marsh system—beach ridge, deep and shallow water, open marsh, sedge meadow, and blue joint grass. It is also one of the few remaining remnants of the Great Black Swamp."

Consisting of about 2,000 acres, Magee Marsh provides critical stop-over habitat for migrating birds. It's like a giant rest stop where they can rest and re-fuel before continuing on their journey. Although some warblers do nest at Magee, most are going farther north to raise their families. So most of the over 300 species of birds sighted at Magee Marsh are just passing through.

So, when is the best time to visit Magee Marsh to catch the "migration sensation?" Anytime from mid-April through May is good, but the peak migration typically occurs during the first two weeks of May. This is when you are most likely to see the most numbers and species of birds. The key to spectacular bird watching is weather. When low pressure cells build up in Arkansas, and Ohio has good southwest winds with a sharp increase in temperature as a front moves in, one is most likely to witness the heaviest migration.

International Migratory Bird Day is celebrated the Saturday before Mother's Day each year and attracts thousands of birders to Magee. The secret is out—Magee Marsh is the place to be in May! The visitors, which include birders (of both novice and advanced skill levels) and many photographers, come from all across America and foreign countries to experience the magic of spring migration. A member of a birding group from Virginia was quoted as saying "The Buchanan County Bird Club that



Melissa Hathaway

made the trip to Magee Marsh had a great time in Ohio and certainly understand why this small patch of woods is one of the top birding spots in North America! We are already talking about a return trip in 2004."



Tim Daniel

**The Kirtland's warbler, the rarest wood warbler in North America that breeds only in a small area of northern Michigan, usually makes a stop at Magee Marsh each year.**

Four trails are open to the public at Magee Marsh, as well as the Sportsmen's Migratory Bird Center, where you can pick up a bird checklist, a map of Magee Marsh, purchase a field guide, or find out what birds have been seen. The Bird Center is open year round Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. from March through November, the Bird Center is also open on weekends from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. with extended hours on Saturdays in April and May. The wildlife area is open during daylight hours.

Two trails are located near the Bird Center for visitors to explore. The Magee Marsh Walking Trail has two half-mile loops that begin and end at a 42-foot observation tower. A connecting trail between Magee Marsh and adjacent Ottawa National Wildlife

Refuge was added in 2003.

The Magee Marsh Beach trail is about a half-mile stretch of beach that is open for wildlife viewing only. Although all of the trails offer the chance to see the birds, it is the Magee Marsh Bird Trail, or boardwalk, that is the most popular and most heavily used. Although it is only seven acres, the boardwalk can literally be "raining warblers" if conditions are right! Magee visitors often remark about how easy it is to see the warblers along the boardwalk. Many of the trees and shrubs are at eye level and close to the boardwalk, which allow people to get an up-close look.

Bird watching has been noted as the second leading



Nashville warbler



black-throated blue warbler



yellow warbler



prothonotary warbler



yellow-rumped warbler



ruby-crowned kinglet



palm warbler

photos by Tim Daniel



white-eyed vireo

outdoor pastime next only to gardening, so the economic impact of birding is being increasingly realized. Birders eat, sleep, drive, and buy things when they are in the area. The “Welcome Birders” signs have been increasing in nearby Port Clinton, and many hotels offer discounts to birders. The new

Ottawa County Regional Welcome Center has incorporated some unique bird displays into their facility, and work closely with Magee Marsh to keep tabs on what birds are in the area.

It’s always inspiring when people want to “give something back” to an area that they have enjoyed using. In the

past three years, three memorial donations have been made to Magee Marsh. These monetary contributions resulted in a warbler display, new viewing tower, and bench area, all at the popular boardwalk. Another dedicated group is the Friends of Magee Marsh. Incorporated in 1997, they have made many improvements to the area including a weather station, pull-offs along the road, a new TV/VCR, and a photo/observation blind.

I have had the privilege of being the naturalist at Magee Marsh for the past nine springs. I’ve had the opportunity to learn about birds, help kids and adults become more aware of birds, and delight in watching birders of all ages as they are captivated by that special warbler! If you have been to Magee, you know what I mean. If you haven’t, I invite you to come and see for yourself why Magee Marsh is so special. I’m sure that soon you too will agree that spring migration at Magee Marsh is a true spectacle!

The entrance to Magee Marsh is located on State Route 2, between State Routes 19 and 590, 17 miles west of Port Clinton.

Tim Daniel



### Birding Events at Magee Marsh

- **Saturday Morning Bird Walks:** April 10, 17, 24 and May 1, 15, 22; leave from the west end of the boardwalk at 8:30 a.m.
- **Lake Erie Wing Watch:** April 23-25, 2004, Lorain County; (Held at Magee Marsh every third year.) Offers guest speakers, birding identification sessions, vendors, field trips and more. Contact the Lorain County Visitors Bureau at 1-800-444-1271
- **International Migratory Bird Day:** May 8, 2004; bird banding, wagon rides, live raptors, optics, food tents, and excellent bird watching! Fun for the whole family!

Melissa Hathaway



*Funds to build and maintain the Sportsmen’s Migratory Bird Center were provided by the Division of Wildlife, with funds derived from the sale of hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses. The area is managed to provide habitat for a diversity of wildlife species, especially wetland dependent species such as waterfowl and shorebirds, and many endangered species including trumpeter swans and bald eagles.*

# BLIZZARDS, *Bobwhites,* and Bringing Them Back

by Lynn Holtzman

**A**ldo Leopold, the “father” of wildlife management said, “June without bobwhite whistling in the fencerows is not really June, but only an imitation of it.” In recent years, the month of June on many Ohio farms has been quiet because they have been quail-less. But this has not always been the case.

There was a time when bobwhites were so abundant that the famous “Little Sureshot,” Annie Oakley, was purported to have shot 63 quail in one day’s hunt on a Darke County farm near her home. After the hunt, she was reported to have said, “Had we shot as well as we ought, we would have bagged at least 100.” This hunt occurred in the early 1900s. What has happened in the past 100 years since Annie’s hunt that has caused the decline of Ohio’s quail population? Why are there fewer bobwhites in the bush and in the bag today?

If you were to go to a corner coffee shop in any rural Ohio town to ask farmers these questions, you would get a variety of answers. Some might accuse the hawks and owls for reducing the quail population. Others would blame the weather and the removal of fencerows as the cause of the quail’s demise. Bobwhite populations have been negatively impacted by many of these limiting factors, but most would agree that habitat is the major factor limiting the growth of quail numbers throughout

*“June without bobwhite whistling  
in the fencerows is not really June,  
but only an imitation of it.”*

— Aldo Leopold



Tim Daniel

Northern Bobwhite Quail

the state. It is poor habitat quality and quantity that make the birds more susceptible to bad weather and predators.

For example, due to the poor habitat conditions in Ohio (especially the western region), the blizzards of 1976–77 and

1977–78 reduced quail populations by 90 percent. Bobwhites require 50 kilocalories (the energy equivalent of 550 milo seeds) per day or they will starve to death in three days of freezing temperatures. In fact, after the blizzards there were quail found frozen in the thickest multi-flora rose patches. In addition, heavy

snows and freezing temperatures prevented access by quail to any available food supplies found below the snow line.

The overall negative impacts of the blizzards on quail were greater, because of the insufficient amount of quality habitat available on a landscape scale. After the blizzards, throughout much of Ohio, habitat declined and what habitat existed was size deficient and therefore unable to sustain and support a sufficient amount of quail needed to rejuvenate the population. This ecological problem is commonly referred to as habitat fragmentation. Habitat fragmentation occurs when habitat is broken into small blocks, which are separated by wide expanses of unsuitable and sometimes hostile landscapes (i.e., commercial development). These habitat blocks or islands are either not large enough to support healthy quail numbers, or are large enough but are isolated and unreachable by existing quail populations.

Quail need safe corridors that serve as “habitat highways” that connect them with available unoccupied cover. The lack of safe and undisturbed corridor habitat has hindered the distribution and movement of quail across the landscape. Habitat corridors include land types such as grassy ditches, stream buffers, brushy fencerows, woodland edges and grass field borders. Bobwhites are more or less sedentary, but will disperse up to ¼-mile a day during the “fall shuffle” to establish new home ranges. However, they must have habitat corridors to travel or they will not move. Consequently, all of the above habitat problems have caused the decline and slowed the recovery of bobwhites throughout Ohio.



Wonderful World of Ohio, November 1966

The bobwhite quail was one of Ohio’s most popular game birds into the late 1970s when the blizzards of 1977 and 1978, coupled with poor habitat, devastated quail populations.



Melissa Hathaway



Lynn Holtzman

**Above: Bobwhites in high-density populations found in southwestern Ohio are live trapped and relocated to counties where suitable habitat exists, but quail have not been present.**

**Below: Wild bobwhite quail translocated by the Division of Wildlife are reproducing and repopulating areas formally devoid of quail.**

What is the Division of Wildlife doing to address these problems in order to bring back the bobwhite whistle to Ohio's fencerows and farms? Since habitat is the key factor to the decline of bobwhites, the Division of Wildlife has worked to develop management projects for private landowners that would help them restore quail habitat on their farms. Projects such as the "Pasture to Prairie" grassland cost incentive program and the "Annie Oakley Bobwhite Quail Habitat Distribution Corridor" project are just two habitat-oriented projects designed to assist in the recovery of quail populations.

In addition, the Division also recognized the need to "restock" regions of Ohio where sufficient habitat for quail existed, but supported no viable population of birds. In the mid-1980s, massive numbers of pen-raised F-1 birds (first generation offspring of wild quail), were stocked to remedy this problem. However, based on follow-up surveys, these F-1 birds had a low survival rate and did not boost the quail population to pre-1977 levels. Research done by Division biologists in 1990s revealed that future stocking efforts to replenish Ohio's quail population must involve large numbers of wild quail.

In 1995, the Division initiated a bobwhite quail translocation project. The aim of the project is to live-trap quail from high-density populations found in southwestern Ohio and relocate them to counties where suitable habitat exists but are presently unoccupied by quail. Since the initiation of the project over 500 quail have been captured and released on



Tim Daniel



Gene Whitten



Lynn Holtzman

private land in five different counties: Morrow, Knox, Shelby, Darke, and Miami. Translocation sites are evaluated by quail whistle count surveys conducted in June. Survey results to date look very encouraging. The translocated wild bobwhites are reproducing and repopulating areas formally devoid of quail. The Division of Wildlife plans to continue its quail translocation project in the future with releases slated for the winters of 2005 and 2006.

The Division of Wildlife is committed to bringing back the bobwhite whistle to Ohio's farms and fencerows. We believe like Leopold that "The hope of hearing quail is worth half a dozen risings-in-the-dark." 

Melissa Hathaway



## New Lake Erie Regulations Take Effect

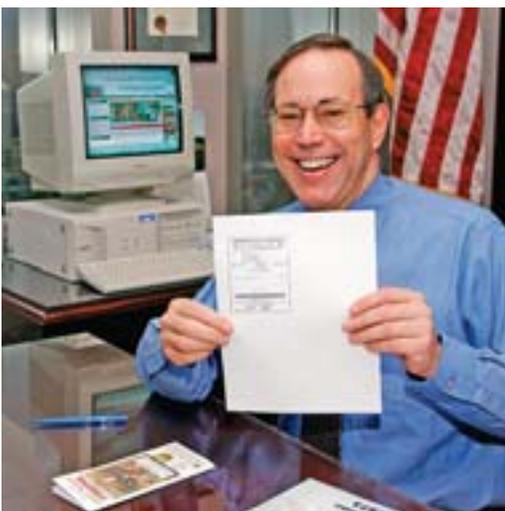
Lake Erie anglers are reminded of new fishing regulations now in effect. The daily bag limit for walleye is reduced from four to three fish during March 1 through April 30. A year-round size limit of 15 inches for walleye will be enforced. In addition, there is a closed season on Lake Erie for the possession of smallmouth bass during May and most of June. These new regulations are designed to provide long-term stability for Lake Erie's walleye and smallmouth bass populations.

## Hunting and Fishing Licenses Available On-Line

We've made it easier than ever to get your hunting and fishing license. Hunting and fishing licenses and permits can now be purchased at any of the license vendors throughout the state, by mailing in an application or by visiting the Division of Wildlife on-line.

License buyers who can use the internet can find one-stop shopping for any of the licenses or permits needed to hunt, fish or trap in Ohio by visiting the Division of Wildlife web site at [www.ohiodnr.com/wildlife](http://www.ohiodnr.com/wildlife).

Tim Daniel



**Governor Taft buys the first Ohio fishing license sold on the Internet.**

## Ohio Racks Up More Trophy Deer

Ohio continues to produce trophy, non-typical bucks that will capture the attention of white-tailed deer hunters across the country. David Ross of Xenia, Ohio bagged this



**David Ross**

buck last October in Greene County on opening day of archery season. It is the second largest non-typical taken by crossbow in Ohio. The 30-point buck has a green score of 232.2 points and was aged at 4.5 years old. This is the third time in five years that a non-typical white-tailed deer scoring

more than 220 points in the national Boone and Crockett system has been taken in Greene County. Ross's buck was taken in the same region of the county as the famous "Beatty Buck." This Buck, harvested by Mike Beatty in 2000, is the largest non-typical buck taken in Ohio.

In Holmes County last November, Apple Creek teen Jeff Kaser shot what is expected to have the second-highest scoring rack ever in Holmes County. It was green scored at 251 6/8 and is credited as a 27-pointer.



**Jeff Kaser**

**Mike Beatty's record buck.**



## New Wildlife Watching Study Released

A new economic report released by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service found that 66 million Americans spent more than \$38 billion in 2001 observing, feeding, or photographing wildlife. The “2001 National and State Economic Impacts of Wildlife Watching Addendum” relied on data collected in the Service’s 2001 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation. Wildlife watchers spent money on such items as cameras, binoculars, and bird food, and for trip-related expenses such as lodging, food, and transportation. For each \$1 of direct spending associated with wildlife watching, an additional \$1.49 of economic activity was generated.

Approximately, \$2.3 billion dollars is spent annually in Ohio on wildlife watching activities according to the 2001 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Survey.



Tim Daniel

## Wild Ohio Television Show

The Division of Wildlife’s Wild Ohio TV show is aired on the following stations. Contact the local station for air times.



Tim Daniel

Athens	The Government Channel
Athens	WOUB-TV / WOUC-TV
Batavia	CCG-TV CH 22 / STC-TV 15
Bowling Green	WBGU-TV
Cincinnati	Citicable
Cincinnati	WCET-TV
Cleveland	Cox Communications
Columbus	TV-3 / City of Columbus
Dayton	Think TV / WPTD/WPTO
Dayton	DATV – CH 3
Dayton	City of Dayton CH 10
Eastlake	City of Eastlake - CH 12
Elyria	Comcast Cable
Hamilton	TV Hamilton
Huntington WV	Marshall University
Ironton	Educational Access CH 25
Kent	WNEO-TV / WEAO-TV
Lancaster	Lancaster City Schools
Middletown	TV Middletown
Newark	NSN-19
Toledo	WGTE-TV
Troy	City of Troy / TV-9
Westerville	WOCC – TV 3

## Youth Outdoor Mentor Honored

The North Dayton Anglers and Sportsman Club recognized long-time member Richard Marks for more than 30 years of service working with youth and outdoor programs. More than 300 people representing several generations whose lives were touched by Marks attended the ceremony.



North Dayton Anglers and Sportsman Club

## 2003 Walleye and Yellow Perch Hatches Strongest Since Mid-1980s

After poor walleye hatches in 2000 and 2002, the 2003 walleye hatch appears to be the strongest recorded since the mid-1980s, when Lake Erie emerged as a world-class fishery, according to the Division of Wildlife’s Lake Erie research biologists. It is very promising that the strong 2003 hatch, combined with continuing cautious walleye harvest reductions seen in recent years, should counter poor recent hatches. Anglers can expect a large boost in walleye fishing in several years.

The annual Lake Erie yellow perch survey in August 2003 also revealed high catches of young yellow perch, which will add good numbers to the already excellent yellow perch fishery.



## Perch Seized in Investigation Donated

More than 1,000 pounds of yellow perch fillets seized during a poaching investigation known as “Operation Cornerstone” were distributed to four charities in northeastern Ohio last November. Eight Conneaut men were convicted and ordered to pay a total of \$55,000 in restitution, the largest poaching restitution ever awarded to the Division of Wildlife.

From left to right, Ron Winters, Salvation Army of Ashtabula; Jay Reda, District Three Education Officer; Barb Klingensmith, Country Neighbor Program; and Jennette Reed, Conneaut Food Pantry (kneeling).



# Touting Trout Fishing



## OUTDOOR SKILLS

by Marc Sommer and Phil Hillman  
photos by Tim Daniel

If I started saying things like Tellico nymph, Sucker Spawn, Egg-Sucking Leech or Dark Hare's Ear nymph, you might just have a few choice words to say back to me. If I followed up the encrypted words with trout fishing in Ohio, you might think I was plain crazy.

The good news is that the Woolly Bugger, Tellico nymph, Sucker Spawn, Egg-Sucking Leech, and Dark Hare's Ear nymph are popular trout fishing flies used by anglers. The even better news is that Ohio, yes Ohio, is the place to use them. So, what is the easiest way to get started using cool words and catching one of the best fighting fish in Ohio? Following are a few pointers that might just help you out.

### What to Fish With

Typical rod set-ups are long (7-13 feet), limber spinning or fly rods (6 to 89 wt.) with light line (4-8 lb. test). Salmon or trout eggs are commonly fished as either individual eggs or grouped together in mesh "spawn bags" about the size of a dime or nickel. Eggs can be bounced along the bottom with the current or fished at or near the bottom suspended under a small styrofoam bobber with a lead pin or a pencil-type bobber. During colder conditions, live baits such as minnows and maggots also produce well and can be fished using a small hook with a split shot or on a small (1/16 to 1/80 oz.) marabou or synthetic hair jig. Spoons (Little Cleo, K-O Wobblers) and spinners (Rooster Tails, Vibrax) are commonly used on piers, beaches and lower stream reaches under warmer water conditions. Fly anglers prefer larger weighted fly patterns, such as nymphs and streamers like woolly buggers, egg-sucking leeches, shiner patterns and Clouser minnows, but smaller patterns can be used when fishing shallow runs and riffles. Egg fly patterns (single or cluster) work well as a single fly or in tandem with a nymph or streamer.

### Where to Fish

The primary steelhead streams in Ohio (from west to east) are the Vermilion River and the Rocky River (west of Cleveland) and the Chagrin River, Grand River, and Conneaut Creek (east of Cleveland).

### When to Fish

September through April is prime time to catch steelhead trout. Steelhead can be found in a variety of conditions from moderate runs and riffles (shallower, faster moving sections of a stream) to deep pools and pool tail-outs (area where speed begins to pick up). Some steelhead can be found in the shallow riffles where there are usually multiple current lines during their spring spawning runs and redd (spawning bed) building. As temperatures begin to warm in late April



the steelhead migrate out to Lake Erie. With the cooling air and water temperatures of

September, steelhead trout again begin to migrate upstream of the various rivers and can be found in deep pools, usually with a singular main current. Trout are usually well-distributed throughout the rivers by mid- to late October.

### Know the Rules

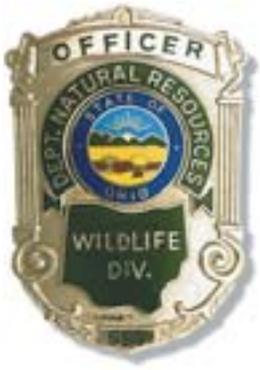
It is legal to keep any combination of two steelhead, brown, or lake trout and/or any salmon species daily from September 1 to May 15. The limit goes up to five from May 16 through August 31. Anglers releasing their catch should wet their hands and gently remove the hook. If the fish is gut-hooked (too deep to remove), simply cut the line off at the mouth and release the fish. The hook will rust and dissolve over a period of time. Anglers must seek written permission from landowners when fishing on private land or when accessing waters from private land.

Ohio offers many fine opportunities for catching trout.



From the waters of Lake Erie and its tributaries to the Mad River and the not so mad Clear Fork, the fish are there for the catching. So remember that when someone says Woolly Bugger, it is their way of dropping a subtle hint that you should step outside and catch a memory of your own.

See the "Wild Game Gourmet" on page 22 for recipes for preparing steelhead trout. 



# Wildlife Law Enforcement

## Field Notes

### Flash Flood Deters Officers Only Briefly *by Tim Schlater, Wildlife Investigator, Wildlife District Five*

Opening day of last year's Ohio spring turkey season will not soon be forgotten by Wildlife Officers Kevin Behr, Brian Baker, and Aaron Ireland. On the day preceding opening day, the three officers drove across Scioto Brush Creek at a shallow road crossing en route to check a turkey baiting site. (It is illegal to hunt wild turkeys over bait.) What they did not anticipate was a flash flood from recent heavy rain. The stream rose more than eight feet while the officers were on the far side of the stream, on a dead end road. When they returned to the crossing, they were trapped behind a flooded river with nothing to do but wait for the water to recede.

Three hungry and thirsty wildlife officers spending the night in a cold pickup truck is not exactly a positive male bonding experience. But with no other options the three officers spent the next 12 hours trapped, unable to cross the high water. At 7 a.m. on opening day the three were able to safely cross the stream and resume their opening day assignment.

Officer Behr decided to check another turkey baiting site, even though he was two hours behind schedule due to the unexpected overnight "slumber party." While approaching the bait site along a wooded hillside he saw a flock of turkeys in the woods in front of him. Suddenly a rifle shot rang out and an adult gobbler fell dead. The officer realized the shot originated from a nearby residence. When confronted, the owner of the home admitted to shooting the turkey from the kitchen window with a .22 magnum rifle. Behr seized the rifle and turkey and issued a summons.

Several other officers soon arrived at the scene, including myself. Officer Behr and I returned to the bait site to check for any other poaching activity. Evidence found there revealed that two more turkeys had been killed at the site earlier that morning. We then followed ATV tracks and turkey feathers back to the same residence, where the homeowner confessed to killing two gobblers at the bait site prior to shooting the gobbler out the window. He was issued additional citations for taking a turkey over a baited area, failure to tag a turkey, and taking an over limit of turkeys.

Another participant in the homeowner's baited hunt noticed the wildlife officers' vehicles parked outside the residence and decided to leave his shotgun in the woods before returning to the house. After a two-hour search, the officers located the shotgun and charged him with turkey hunting without a turkey permit and deterring a wildlife officer.



Tim Schlater

**Wildlife Officer Kevin Behr displays evidence (three gobblers and three firearms) seized in a turkey baiting case.**

### Poacher Loses Hunting Privileges for Life

Kenneth L. Dorsey Jr., 34, of Richmond in Jefferson County, will never be allowed to hunt in Ohio again after pleading guilty to more than 25 wildlife violations. He was also ordered to pay \$4,770 in fines, restitution, and court costs.

Dorsey was one of 15 people charged in the fall of 2002 in an undercover wildlife investigation dubbed "Operation TAG." More than 100 citations were issued in the case with Dorsey accounting for more than 25 percent of the total violations. Most of those charged received fines and penalties, while two other cases remain pending.

The charges against Dorsey ranged from illegally taking white-tailed deer by spotlighting and shooting deer in the closed season, to hunting from a motor vehicle and falsifying deer tagging records. In addition to losing his hunting privileges for life, he also spent 60 days in the Jefferson County Jail and was placed on probation for five years.

# Backyards for Wildlife Q & A

by Donna Daniel • photos by Tim Daniel

Do you have a question that you've always wondered about concerning wildlife in your backyard? If so, send your questions to: **Wild Ohio Magazine, Attention: Melissa Hathaway, Editor, 305 E. Shoreline Drive, Sandusky, OH 44870.** Due to space limitations, we regret that not all questions submitted may be answered. If you need a quick response to a question, please contact your nearest wildlife district office.



**Q** When do hummingbirds return to Ohio and what solution is best to feed them?

—Helen Marcum, Columbus, OH

**A:** After spending the winter in Central America, ruby-throated hummingbirds begin returning to Ohio when the wild columbine blooms late in April. A feeder mix of four parts water to one part white sugar can be made by boiling for about a minute

or two. Since most feeders have red on them to help attract the birds it is not necessary to add red food coloring. The most important aspect of feeding hummingbirds is to be diligent in keeping the feeder clean. Thoroughly scrub all parts of the feeder at least twice a week to prevent mold and refill with fresh solution.



**Q:** What can you tell me about the life cycle of the praying mantis?

—Steve Hathaway, Port Clinton, OH

**A:** Common mantids found in Ohio are the native Carolina mantis and the introduced Chinese mantis. Mantids hatch in the spring from eggs laid the previous fall. When first hatched the young are barely 3/8 of an inch long. They are voracious predators, eating insects and even other mantids. By late summer they reach the adult size of three to four inches long. After mating, the female lays groups of eggs in a frothy liquid on tree twigs and plant stems. The gummy substance turns to a hard shell that protects the eggs. Adult mantids do not survive winter. Warm spring temperatures trigger the dormant eggs to hatch thus beginning the next generation. 



**Q:** I saw a mallard duck sitting on eggs in a flowerbed! Why this odd location and how long will it take for the eggs to hatch?

—Isabelle Benjamin, Cleveland, OH

**A:** Urban mallards aren't too picky regarding nesting sites. They are notorious for nesting just about anywhere they can find a bit of mulch, sometimes even in the middle of landscaped parking lots. The hen lays one egg each day until the clutch is complete; 10 eggs total on average. After the last egg is laid, she begins incubation duty. For the next 26 to 30 days the hen remains on the nest leaving just long enough each day to feed. She will be very secretive when coming and going so as not to draw attention to the nest location. If the nest is not destroyed by a raccoon or other predator, the eggs should all hatch within several hours of each other. Soon after, the hen will lead the ducklings to nearby water sometimes stopping traffic while crossing busy roads and negotiating other man-made hazards. They never return to the nest. Despite the dangers of urban living, city mallards are thriving.



## Searching for Salamanders

Salamanders are unique little creatures. They are slimy, smooth-skinned animals ranging in size from three inches to two feet long. Of about 350 species of salamanders in the world, 25 species have been recorded in Ohio. Newt is just another name for a type of salamander. Many European species of salamanders are called newts.

Like all amphibians, salamanders have thin skin through which water, oxygen and carbon dioxide can enter and leave the body. Most adult salamanders have lungs for breathing air and use their skin only as a backup source of oxygen. Some species never develop lungs and instead gain oxygen through **gills** or through their skin and the mucous membranes of their mouths and throats. They need to keep their skin moist with fresh water at all times, which is why they are found only in freshwater streams or ponds, or underground in places where they won't dry out.

Salamanders hibernate in the winter. You can begin to look for salamanders after the first warm spring rain. This draws them out of hibernation and they "migrate" to vernal pools to mate and lay their eggs. Some salamanders will migrate great distances to these pools. Vernal pools are pools of water that only last the length of the spring season. For a short length of time, they are a source of water for salamanders, frogs, insects, and other animals to lay their eggs in and produce young for the year.

You can usually find vernal pools in wet, wooded areas. You can also look for salamanders along roadways at night. They crawl up on the road surface to gain warmth in the cool night air or to cross to their breeding sites.

For the rest of summer and fall, you can find salamanders along clean streams and ponds, under rocks and logs. Most salamanders only come out at night. Going on a salamander hunt is a fun activity. If you take a walk along a creek and flip rocks and logs over, you might find a salamander or two. Finding salamanders is a good sign that the stream or pond is of good water quality. 

### Hey Educators!

#### Join the **WILD OHIO** Link

The WILD OHIO Link currently reaches over 200 educators every month. It includes timely information on grant opportunities, links to environmental and outdoor education information and programs, professional development opportunities, and highlights a different wildlife species each month. If you would like to subscribe to this exciting e-mail newsletter, send your e-mail address to **WildOhioLink@dnr.state.oh.us** with "subscribe" as the subject heading.



Tim Daniel

The Eastern newt is the only newt found in Ohio, and the only truly toxic species. This is the juvenile form.



Tim Daniel

Spotted salamanders are very common in Ohio.



Tim Daniel

The tiger salamander is one of the larger species found in Ohio. They are often seen in massive migrations in the spring and fall.



Tim Daniel

# WILD GAME GOURMET

## r e c i p e s

### Sauteed Steelhead Steaks

3 tbsp. olive oil  
4 to 8 steelhead steaks, about 1 inch thick  
1 cup chopped onion  
2 cloves garlic, minced  
1 tsp. basil  
1 tbsp. parsley  
2 ripe tomatoes, peeled, seeded and chopped  
½ tsp. salt  
pepper to taste

Heat oil in good-sized skillet. Add steaks and saute for 2-4 minutes, turn and finish cooking. Remove steaks and keep warm. Add onions, garlic, and seasonings to skillet and cook for about 2 minutes then add tomatoes. Arrange steaks over the mixture, cover, and cook over medium low heat for about 10 minutes until fish flakes easily with a fork.

*(Contributed by Vicki Mountz)*

### Smoked Steelhead Trout Spread

*Any cooked game fish you prefer can be used in this recipe, but smoked fish is especially delicious. It's also a great dish for using leftovers.*

1 cup trout or other fish cooked and flaked  
8 ounces cream cheese softened  
½ small onion, diced  
1 tsp. lemon juice  
1 tbsp. Worcestershire sauce  
several dashes pepper  
Optional: herbs to season such as dill, parsley, or chive

Mix all ingredients together and serve on crackers or bread rounds.

*(Contributed by Vicki Mountz)*

*by Vicki Mountz,*

*the Wild Game Gourmet as seen on Wild Ohio Video Magazine*

*Although most steelhead anglers practice catch and release, some do keep a few fish for the table.*



Tim Daniel



Tim Daniel

# WILDLIFE Reflections

## Springtime Wildlife Moons

by Melissa Hathaway • illustrations by Gene Whitten

This issue's "Wildlife Reflections" is the second in a four-part series of articles exploring Native American moon names that honor North American wildlife.

The life of a Native American prior to European settlement revolved around hunting, fishing, farming, and the struggle for survival from season to season. The year began with the renewal of life each spring after winter released its grip. Many animals that burrowed down for the winter reemerged with females giving birth to young. The rivers flowed free of ice and it was time to catch fish. Wildflowers sprang from the rich, fertile earth, and it was time to plant crops. The names given to the spring moons by the Native Americans appropriately represent this season of rebirth and daily tribal life in the springtime.

The cycles of the moon represented the changing seasons and the passage of time. Since the lunar month is only 29.5 days long on the average, the dates of full moons shift from year to year with an average of 13 moons occurring in a year. Although names bestowed upon each moon varied among different tribes, many correlated the moon cycles with the legend of the "Thirteen Scales on Old Turtle's Back."

### April Moons

**Full Moon: April 5, 2004**

The fourth full moon was referred to by some tribes as the Frog Moon. The children's book *Thirteen Moons on Turtle's Back* by Joseph Bruchac and Jonathan London, tells the story of how the Frog Moon got its name. Wis-a-ked-jak, the Trickster, met with all the animals to decide the number of moons included in winter. The moose answered there should be as many moons as hairs on the moose's body. The beaver answered that there should be as many winter moons as the scales on his tail. When the little frog was asked, it answered that there should be as many moons of snow as toes on his foot. Wis-a-ked-jak liked the frog's answer and decided winter should only last five moons. When winter ends, the small frogs sing their victory song during the month that bears their name.

Some Native Americans knew the April moon as the Full Fish Moon or Spearfish Moon—the moon of peak fish migration. Native fish such as bass, walleye, sturgeon, shad, and brook trout were an integral part of the Native American diet. According to the Carnegie Museum of Natural History's Web site information of "American Indians and the Natural World," the Cornplanters, a band of Seneca Indians, conducted large annual fish drives. The tribe's fishermen built weirs (v-shaped fences) across the rivers. While some of the men used large rakes pulled by horses on opposite sides of the river to corral the fish into the weir, other fishermen speared the trapped fish.

Earlier in the spring, the Lenape tribe called March the Month of the Shad. John McPhee in his book *The Founding Fish* tells of the Micmacs that mythologized the shad. Based on its many bones, the shad was once a discontented porcupine. When the porcupine asked the Great Manitou to change it into a different creature, the Great Manitou seized the porcupine, turned it inside out, and threw it into the river to begin a new existence as a shad.

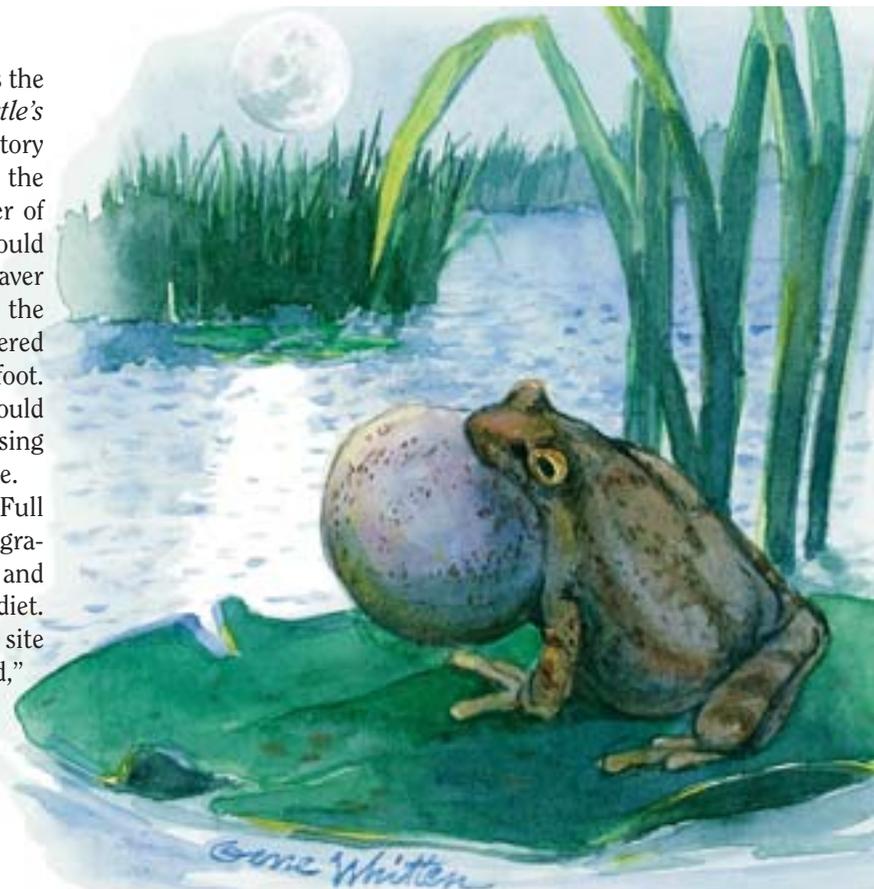
Other April moon names: Pink Moon (from the abundance of pink ground phlox), Ice Breaking in the River, Egg, When Geese Lay Eggs, Planter's, Growing, Seed, Sprouting Grass Moon, and Moon When they Set Indian Corn.

### May Moons

**Full Moon: May 4, 2004**

May was known as the Flower Moon, when an abundance of native spring wildflowers adorned the earth. Although not as widely known as the Flower Moon, May was also called the Hare Moon, most likely because this time of year was the peak season for the birth of rabbits.

Other May moon names: Geese Go North, Moon When Ponies Shed their Shaggy Hair, Blossom, Budding, Planting, Milk, Honey, and When Women Weed Corn Moon.



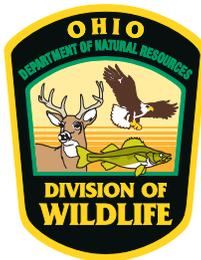
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We are purging our mailing list in an effort to cut costs and keep *Wild Ohio* magazine a free publication of the ODNR Division of Wildlife. If you would like to continue receiving *Wild Ohio*, you must fill out and mail in the postcard inside this issue. If we have not received a postcard from you sometime before May 1, 2004, your name will be dropped from our mailing list beginning June 1, 2004.

**NOTE: We also ran this notice in previous issues of *Wild Ohio*. If you have already mailed in a postcard from one of these previous issues, you do not have to mail in another postcard to continue receiving *Wild Ohio*.**

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photos by Tim Daniel



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