

# Wild Ohio

Spring 2008

M A G A Z I N E

Ohio Department of Natural Resources

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE





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**FISHING INFORMATION AT THE CLICK OF YOUR MOUSE**

Getting ready to jump into some spring fishing action? All the fishing information you need is just a few mouse clicks away. You can find updated fishing reports and download many of Ohio's lake maps by logging onto the Division of Wildlife's website. Additional details about where to fish can be found by clicking on "Lake Maps" and then searching for a specific lake.

In fact, many of the lake maps have been updated to provide current depth and shoreline information and other features such as roads, facilities, and fishing access sites. While visiting the website, be sure to purchase your 2008-2009 Ohio fishing license online. Once you have landed that lunger, go to the website to post your photo in the Photo Gallery!

**Go to [www.wildohio.com](http://www.wildohio.com)**



**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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## Where the Heartland Meets Lake Erie: Old Woman Creek

*This national estuarine reserve is a living classroom, training and resource center, and field laboratory – all in the name of wetland stewardship.*

6-9



**On the Cover:**  
**Midland Painted Turtle**

*Often seen basking on logs at the water's edge, the beautifully patterned midland painted turtle is Ohio's most abundant turtle. Photo by Tim Daniel.*

## Features

### Aquatic Invaders

*Ohio's natural resources are under attack! Invasive species are threatening Ohio's aquatic heritage and the list of aquatic invaders continues to multiply.*

14-15



PHOTO: U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

### Oh, the World of Optics!

*Once you take a look into a magnified world, you'll be hooked! Finding the right binoculars or spotting scope for you.*

16-17

### Youth Shooting Clubs Taking Aim

*The Chippewa High School Shooting Club is the most popular club in the school. It is part of a national program designed to instill safe firearms handling, commitment, responsibility, leadership, and teamwork*

18-19



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## News from Around Ohio

### NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS OF MAGEE MARSH...

The next time you visit the Sportsmen's Migratory Bird Center, take note of the lovely garden and landscaping! These improvements were taken on by the volunteer organization Friends of Magee Marsh as a special three-year project. Things around the Boardwalk have also improved. Some dedicated members have initiated an ongoing project to reduce garlic mustard plants, an invasive species that can take over an area if left unchecked. Some new projects for 2008 include a boardwalk extension and breakfasts and lunches offered to birders for special events! Also the Friends will have a brand new cookbook on sale this spring. To learn more about the Friends of Magee Marsh, log onto their newly revised website at [www.FriendsofMageeMarsh.org](http://www.FriendsofMageeMarsh.org). 1

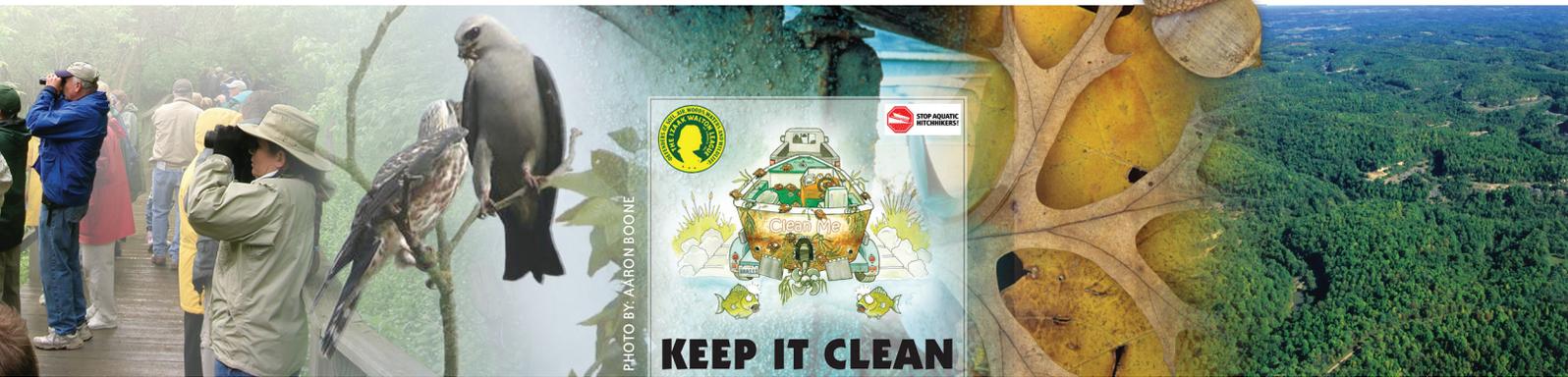
### CLEAN BOATS CAMPAIGN UNDERWAY

Every day, boaters and anglers unknowingly introduce harmful invasive species into their favorite lakes and streams. These plants and animals hitch a ride on boat hulls, propellers, muddy boots, and other equipment. The Izaak Walton League of America has launched the Clean Boats Campaign to raise awareness of this problem and educate boaters and anglers how to properly clean their gear.

In the Great Lakes region alone, at least 184 aquatic invasive species are already established, with a new one discovered every eight months. Because invasive species such as zebra mussels and round gobies aren't native to American waters, they are safe from predators and out-compete native fish and wildlife populations. They can also ruin boat engines, jam steering equipment, and increase the operating costs of drinking water and power plants. For more information go to <http://www.iwla.org>. 3

### 2007 ACORN CROP VERY GOOD

Ohio's acorn crop last fall was very good and will again provide a vital food source for more than 90 forest wildlife species. The Division of Wildlife is currently participating in a multi-state, on-going research project to estimate regional acorn production throughout the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states. Wildlife biologists hope to use the acorn production information gathered in the study to forecast wildlife harvest and reproductive success rates on both a local and regional basis. Statewide, white oak acorn production is up 10 percent, while red oak acorn production is up two percent over 2006 figures. 4



12

34

5

### WILL THE MISSISSIPPI KITES RETURN?

Birders are anxiously waiting to see if a pair of Mississippi kites that nested on a Hocking County golf course last summer will return this year. The kite pair, the first ever to nest in Ohio, successfully produced one offspring. The Mississippi kite is rarely seen in Ohio, with only about 15 sightings recorded in the state prior to this first-ever known nesting. 2

### WETLANDS DEDICATED

The Division of Wildlife and partners dedicated the James Donnell Konkel Wetland at the Pickerel Creek Wildlife Area in Sandusky County last November. This 40-acre complex of wetlands and grasslands was restored by breaking drain tiles and excavating seven shallow potholes. The project was a cooperative effort between the Division and Ducks Unlimited with funding from a National Wetlands Grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 8

### STEWART-LINKHART RECOGNIZED

The Division of Wildlife recognized Karen Stewart-Linkhart, of Xenia, for her eight years of service on the Ohio Wildlife Council. Division of Wildlife Chief David Graham presented the award at Division of Wildlife offices in Columbus. 6

## 50 YEARS OF AEP RECREATIONAL LANDS

The 50-year anniversary of a cooperative agreement between American Electric Power (AEP) and the Division of Wildlife was commemorated in a dedication ceremony at Avondale Wildlife Area last fall. This agreement allows the use of AEP-owned properties for public hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing opportunities in southeastern Ohio. Avondale was the first AEP property to be opened to the public in 1957. AEP has continued to add acreage into their public use agreement which now includes more than 56,000 acres of land in Athens, Coshocton, Guernsey, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, and Perry counties. 5

## JIM MARSHALL NAMED ASSISTANT CHIEF

Jim Marshall was named as the Division of Wildlife's assistant chief effective last October. A 28-year veteran of the Division, Marshall most recently served as District Four (southeast Ohio) manager for the past 11 years. He also served as hatchery supervisor and an aquatic biologist. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Fisheries Management from The Ohio State University. Marshall will serve in a wide variety of duties in close support to Division of Wildlife Chief David M. Graham. 9

## CELEBREZZE RECOGNIZED

ODNR Deputy Director Anthony Celebrezze was honored at an award ceremony hosted by the Fur Takers of America in Portage County last September. He was recognized for his dedication to trappers' rights while serving as director of state services for the U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance prior to taking his current position at ODNR. The ceremony was held in conjunction with a Fur Takers Rendezvous where hundreds of attendees visited exhibitors and viewed many trapping demonstrations. In related news, Division of Wildlife Chief David M. Graham was the keynote speaker at the Ohio State Trappers Association's annual convention in Tuscarawas County that same month. 7

# Wildlife

## CALENDAR

### May 3 – 4

#### 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 10

#### International Migratory Bird Day

*Magee Marsh Wildlife Area is one of the nation's premier birding destinations. Join the Division of Wildlife and partners in celebration of the spring migration with a day of fantastic bird watching, naturalist programs, and children's activities.*

www.wildohio.com  
for up-to-date events



6/7



8/9



10

PHOTO BY MIKE WILLIAMS

## PIERCE INDUCTED INTO HALL OF FAME

Richard Pierce, conservationist, outdoorsman, and former chief of the Division of Wildlife was inducted into the Ohio Natural Resources Hall of Fame last November. The Natural Resources Hall of Fame is the state's highest honor awarded

for conservation. Inductees are recognized for a lifetime devoted to the preservation, protection, and wise management of Ohio's natural resources. Pierce served as chief of the Division of Wildlife prior to retiring in 1995.

The late wildlife artist Charley Harper was also inducted into the Hall of Fame and wildlife artist John Ruthven received a Cardinal Award for conservation during the same ceremony at ODNR's central office in Columbus. 10

Old Woman Creek (OWC) is many things to people with a diversity of interests. The preserve is one of Ohio's most unique natural areas, a serene place where folks can experience a coastal wetland and observe and learn about the wildlife and plants that live there. It is a living classroom for school students and a nature center complete with fun and educational programs for visitors. It is a training and resource center for coastal managers and community decision makers. And it is also a field laboratory for researchers from across the country.

OWC along Lake Erie's Erie County shoreline is one of 27 National Estuarine Research Reserves established as living laboratories for research and estuarine study. In a partnership with the Division of Wildlife and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) that administers the national estuarine reserve system, the reserve is used to promote stewardship of estuaries through research and education by agencies, organizations, and the public.

actively participate with recreation like canoeing, so we are trying to fill niches for different audiences.”

Perhaps the most common definition of an estuary is the meeting of fresh and salt water. In the case of Old Woman Creek situated in the Great Lakes, it is a freshwater estuary, and the only freshwater estuary in the system of national reserves.

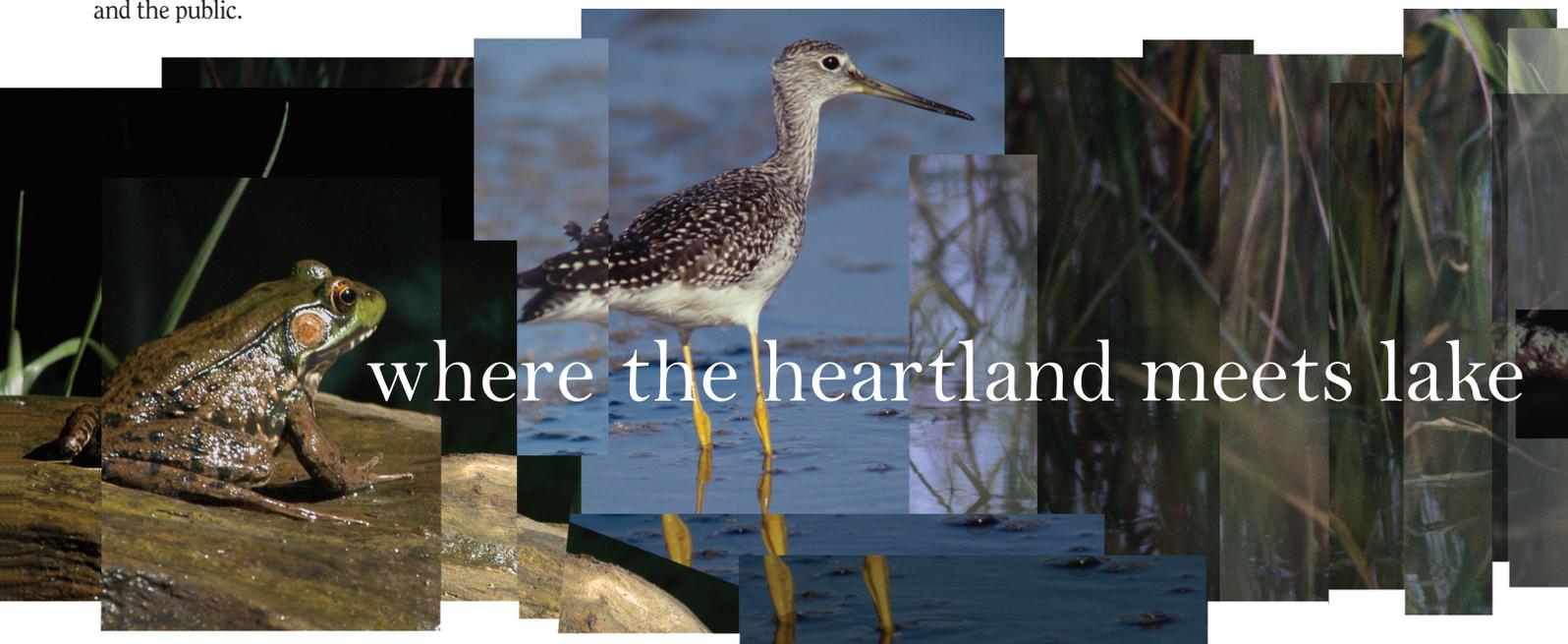
Along the shorelines of the Great Lakes, including Lake Erie, there are tributaries with stream mouths entering the lake and meeting and mixing with the lake waters, explained Lopez. These freshwater coastal wetlands have many of the same valuable ecosystem services, functions, and values as salt water estuaries. They are spawning grounds and nurseries for many different species of fish, and valuable wintering grounds, summer nesting grounds, and critical stopover habitat for migratory species on the move.

Many of our coastal wetlands have been altered for human purposes, and few natural estuaries still perform their original ecosystem functions. Ohio has lost over 90 percent of its historic wetland acreage. Old Woman Creek can be protected for future generations and for serving as examination grounds for research that can improve the management of this as well as other systems, such as Sandusky Bay and the mouth of the Maumee River.

“Our coasts have very important habitats and wetlands are a good example. Our remaining wetlands serve many functions for wildlife as well as for people. Wise use is essential,” Lopez said.

### ESTUARY RESEARCH

According to Dr. David Klarer, OWC staff researcher, coastal wetlands were historically the stepchild of the research community until the 1970s or 1980s. One aspect of his job is to encourage



“Our purpose is to help people understand the importance of being good stewards to wetlands,” said Reserve Manager Frank Lopez. “The best way to do that is to help someone love the resource, and you do that by giving them access to it in ways best suited to their needs and interests. There are little niches – some people enjoy wetlands because they like to observe wildlife, others are inspired artistically and they may want to sketch, and some people want to get out and

“A wetland like this is like the Ritz Carlton for migratory species providing four-star accommodations,” Lopez said.

In addition to providing wildlife habitat, freshwater estuaries like Old Woman Creek are critical to the health of Lake Erie, serving as the last line of defense to the lake by filtering out sediments and pollutants that are in the water from land activities. They also serve as buffers against flooding and erosion.

scientists to come to the estuary to conduct wetland research.

OWC has some competitive advantages in attracting researchers, explained Dr. Klarer. The estuary provides the in-the-field laboratory with staff to offer onsite research assistance, and there is 27 years of baseline data and information about the wetland and habitat. There is also high quality lab facilities, and even dormitory lodging. In addition, NOAA

also provides a research fellowship program, available to potential OWC scientists, that “helps train tomorrow’s scientists today.” One current fellowship project is a freshwater mussel survey of coastal wetlands including OWC.

A large part of Dr. Klarer’s job is to conduct and coordinate research and to monitor such things as water quality, algal communities, and invertebrates. His work provides scientists with baseline data to round out their research. “You have to determine what’s here before you can figure out what’s happening,” Dr. Klarer said.

Research projects center on several themes, including exotic species, a critical issue in the Great Lakes. A significant drop in Lake Erie water levels in 2000 prompted the growth of the plant *Phragmites* (giant reed) in many Lake Erie marshes. Klarer and two other researchers are examining how

“Size and age of the *Phragmites* stand are key factors,” said Holomuzki. “Research suggests that a few, small patches of *Phragmites* less than six years old are not problematic. But if stands are over several acres and are greater than six years old, large amounts of detritus (organic matter) will accumulate and become so thick that fish can’t move through it, water levels will change, oxygen levels will decrease, and toxins may form that kill other plants.”

The researchers are also looking at the effects of herbicide application to control *Phragmites* and how it affects different macroinvertebrates, fishes, algae, and zooplankton. “Our goal is to help resource managers deal with the plant,” Dr. Holomuzki said. “At this stage of the research, it appears that herbicides do not have any direct negative effect on these animals and the algae. It also appears that herbicide application can decrease *Phragmites* amounts by about 90 percent to allow native plant re-growth.”

largely unchanged. An estuarine area like OWC is Lake Erie’s last natural defense against many of these contaminants. Researchers are currently studying the breakdown of these organic chemicals that occurs naturally in OWC. Klarer provides background chemical data that may help them understand this breakdown process.

“It is a truly interesting job because the research projects are constantly changing, and therefore I am always involved in new projects working with new scientists. Some work stays the same, for example, the chemical analysis protocols have remained the same. But it’s fascinating to see how different researchers can take that data and mold it into their own research project,” Dr. Klarer said.

by Melissa Hathaway



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OLD WOMAN CREEK NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE

*Phragmites* is affecting OWC and other Lake Erie coastal wetlands, in particular the macroinvertebrates, fishes, and algae.

If an entire wetland is taken over by these large plants it will ultimately affect bird populations, especially waterfowl, as well as change the macroinvertebrate community in the wetland, according to Researcher Dr. Joseph Holomuzki, of The Ohio State University.

Because the OWC watershed is almost two-thirds agricultural land use, another group of researchers is examining how the wetland serves its filtering function -- how herbicides and pesticides breakdown in coastal wetlands such as OWC.

“Many organic chemicals (including pharmaceuticals) used by the public today are going into the lake,” said Dr. Klarer. For example, Ibuprofen can pass through a waste water treatment plant

## UNDERSTANDING THE NEED FOR PROTECTION

### *Coastal Training Program*

Residential and commercial development can create pressures on coastal ecosystems, making these areas vulnerable to pollution, habitat degradation, invasive species, flooding, and erosion. The Ohio Coastal Training Program (CTP) was created to as part of NOAA’s national initiative to encourage

informed decision-making among local officials and coastal managers. Ohio's CTP is a partnership between Old Woman Creek, ODNR's Office of Coastal Management, and the Ohio Sea Grant College Program.

"Land use decisions made by township, municipal, and county officials influence how Ohio communities change and grow," said Heather Elmer, CTP coordinator and OWC staff member. "Once officials become aware of the need to protect coastal ecosystems, we can assist them with the technical knowledge necessary to minimize potential impacts."

The Ohio CTP provides science-based training and technical resources for professionals such as local officials, county engineers, land use planners, natural resource managers, and developers to help them make informed decisions and protect water quality. The

CTP provides training that is focused specifically to local issues and needs. Workshops, seminars, and field-based training are conducted by a variety of instructors, such as university professors, industry practitioners, and technical experts. The Ohio CTP also plans to develop a web-based clearinghouse for "one-stop shopping" for information and scheduled training workshops.

Some scheduled workshops provide information on research conducted at the estuary, such as a recent seminar about the OWC *Phragmites* research held for natural resource managers. Other workshops have included Coastal Community Planning and Development for elected officials and planning staffs, and Oil Spill Response in Marshes and Streams for county emergency management agencies, fire chiefs, local park districts, the U.S. Coast Guard, and natural resource agencies.

### **Exploration and Learning**

Inside the Mike DeWine Center for Coastal Wetlands Studies at OWC, visitors can view educational displays, a freshwater aquarium, weather station, bird viewing window, and nature art. Exhibits illustrate topics such as history, glacial geology, land use change, and water quality monitoring. Outside the visitor center is over a mile of trails with limited access to the estuary and surrounding upland woods.

But experiencing OWC can be a more rewarding and fun-filled learning experience by attending one of the many scheduled educational programs. Estuary Explorations offers just that. The program series provides participants rare glimpses of the estuary and unique opportunities to learn about its ecology and how they can be stewards of our watersheds and coasts.



APPRECIATION IS THE FIRST STEP TOWARDS PROTECTION

## get involved LEND A HELPING HAND

A valuable team of volunteers, as well as the Friends of Old Woman Creek, support the reserve in a multitude of functions. Volunteers assist reserve staff with operations of the visitor center, with lab work, education programs, and special projects. The Friends of Old Woman Creek also provides resources, including financial support from fund-raising activities that support OWC programs. To get involved, call the reserve at (419) 433-4601.

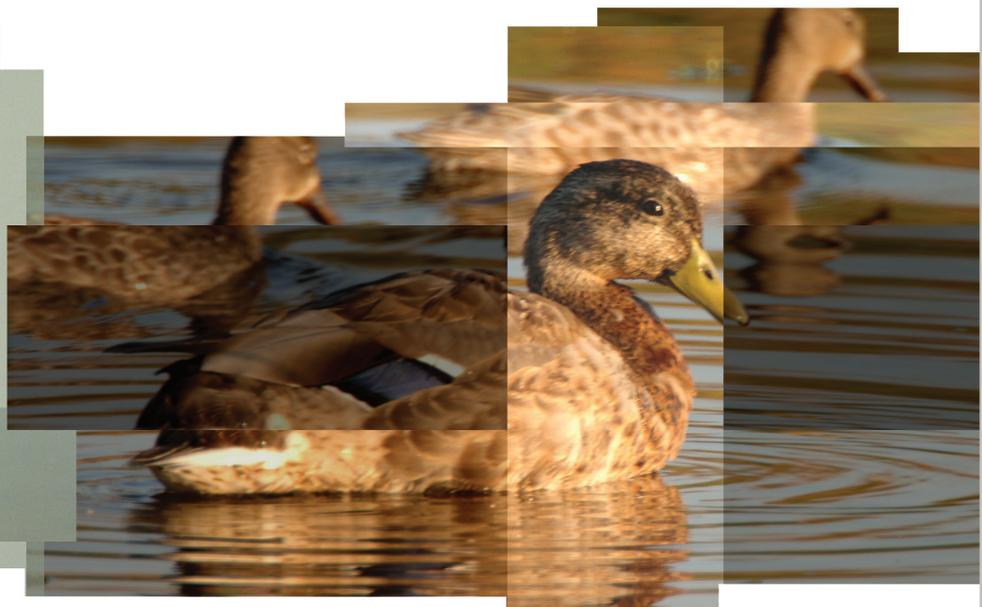
The theme for 2008 is “Four Seasons of the Estuary” with seasonally themed programs scheduled for winter, spring, summer, and fall. Programs include canoe trips, guided bird and wildflower walks, nature sketch classes, tree identification walks, and seminars by researchers and Division of Wildlife staff. A full calendar is available at [www.oldwomancreek.org](http://www.oldwomancreek.org), or on the Division of Wildlife Events Calendar at [www.wildohio.com](http://www.wildohio.com).

Educational programs in such areas as wetlands ecology and water quality are provided upon request for teachers, schools, colleges, and universities. (Reservations are required at least two months in advance.) Programs emphasize hands-on learning about coastal habitats with trips to the estuary, beach, and near-shore Lake Erie. Participants use seine nets, microscopes, and water quality testing equipment to learn about the ecology of a freshwater estuary and to

further develop an understanding of and connection to these natural resources.

Educator workshops are also provided, including Project WILD and Project Aquatic WILD workshops.

“It is important to bring students and other visitors to OWC because they need to understand the habitat, the estuary, and wetlands in general. Because if they don’t, then they can’t appreciate it,” said Phoebe VanZoest, OWC’s education specialist. “Appreciation is that first step towards protection. They have to appreciate it, then they can start to gain some knowledge of it, and then understanding of it; then finally they will do projects that will help save it.”



## OLD WOMAN CREEK AT A GLANCE

### SIZE:

573-acre estuary habitat; regarded as one of the finest natural estuaries remaining in the lower Great Lakes.

### HUNTING:

Controlled hunt by lottery drawing.

### WILDLIFE VIEWING:

There is a short walk down a paved trail to the observation deck overlooking the estuary. This main trail continues across elevated boardwalks, through an upland forest, and across old farm fields. The reserve has 1.5 miles of trail and additional access areas have been planned. Commonly observed species include: waterfowl and wading birds, including ducks, herons, egrets, kingfishers, shorebirds, and bald eagles.

### PUBLIC VISITATION:

Trails are open from sunrise to sunset year-round. The visitor center is open Wednesday through Sunday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. April through November, and Monday through Friday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. December through March.

### AREA HEADQUARTERS:

Three miles east of Huron at  
2514 Cleveland Road (U.S. Route 6).  
Phone (419) 433-4601.

### DRIVING DIRECTIONS:

From State Route 2 take the State Route 61 exit and turn north toward the lake. State Route 61 dead ends at U.S. Route 6. Turn left at the flashing red light. Old Woman Creek Reserve is about one mile ahead on the left.

### MORE INFORMATION:

For more information about OWC or any of the programs offered, call the reserve at (419) 433-4601.



# WILDLIFE LAW ENFORCEMENT

## Field Notes

### FINES & OTHER PENALTIES:

#### Thomas E. Crotinger, Dayton

Convicted of 44 counts; \$11,000 in fines, \$1,100 in restitution, 10-year fishing license revocation, one-year jail sentence suspended, equipment forfeiture. Ten violations in Miami and Champaign counties for deer violations. Plead guilty to two violations resulting in \$400 fine and \$700 restitution between the two courts; one-year hunting license revocation; forfeited nine firearms, archery equipment, and related equipment.

#### Lloyd "Brian" Edwards, New Carlisle

Convicted of 32 counts; fined \$7,800, \$780 in restitution, 10-year fishing license suspension, 240-day suspended jail sentence, and equipment forfeiture.

#### William Wildman, Cygnet

Convicted of 14 counts; fined \$3,400, \$340 in restitution, 10-year fishing license suspension, 180-day suspended jail term, and equipment forfeiture.

#### Daniel Swiergosz, Toledo

Convicted of six counts; fined \$1,500, \$150 in restitution, three-year fishing license suspension, 120-day suspended jail sentence, and equipment forfeiture.

#### Charles F. Fries, Piqua

Convicted of three counts; fined \$225, \$40 in restitution, one-year fishing license suspension, and a 30-day suspended jail term.

#### Leslie "Steve" Szeles, Kalamazoo, MI

Convicted of four counts; fined \$1,000, \$100 in restitution, 120-day suspended jail term, and three-year fishing license suspension.

#### Christopher Smith, Kalamazoo, MI

Convicted of two counts; fined \$400, \$40 in restitution, three-year license suspension, and a 60-day suspended jail term.

#### Lloyd S. Edwards, Monticello, KY

Fined \$162 on three violations concerning fishing license violations.

### MAUMEE RIVER FISH CASE NETS BIG PENALTIES

During the spring walleye run of 2006, covert investigators with the Division of Wildlife went to the Maumee River to determine what illegal activities, if any, were occurring that could affect the fishery. Over the past several walleye runs, uniformed personnel noted an increase in the amount of over bag cases and a decrease in other cases, such as snagging. The investigator's goal was to uncover any commercialization of the resource and excessive over harvest.

On their first day on the river in March 2006, investigators met Thomas E. Crotinger of Dayton, Ohio. Over two years of spring runs, Crotinger and seven other men were documented taking in excess of 570 walleye. This would later result in 257 wildlife violations in multiple court jurisdictions.

The defendants were all acquaintances, meeting over the years on the walleye run. They were very experienced fishermen, catching fish when others couldn't get a bite. Most of the fish were taken legally, with very few being snagged, or foul-hooked. The difference being that these men would take limits of fish two and three times a day. The case was dubbed "Operation Numbers" because the defendants routinely stated "it's all about the numbers." In addition to the walleye cases, Crotinger was convicted in several instances concerning deer violations in west-central Ohio.

The seven men plead to 127 charges resulting in \$26,087 in fines, \$3,250.00 in restitution, and over three years suspended jail time for the illegal fish. In addition, the loss in fishing privileges totaled 40 years for the seven men who also forfeited many fishing rods, waders, and related equipment. During the execution of two search warrants, wildlife officers found drugs and drug paraphernalia, including that used in an indoor marijuana growing operation. The evidence was turned over to local law enforcement for appropriate action.

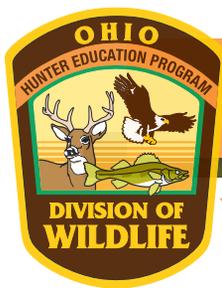


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### WILDLIFE OFFICERS RECOGNIZED

Ashland County Wildlife Officer, Brian Banbury, received the Mississippi Flyway Council's Waterfowl Award. 1

Huron County Wildlife Officer Jeff Collingwood was recognized as the Shikar Safari International (SSI) Officer of the Year. Pictured above with Officer Collingwood are (left to right) Division of Wildlife Law Enforcement Administrator Jim Lehman, SSI representative Tony Geoffre, and Division of Wildlife Chief, David M. Graham. 2



## OUTDOOR SKILLS

# Youth Fishing Area in Akron Has It All!

by Matt Wolfe

Ask anyone in the natural resources profession what is the most alarming trend they have seen over the past couple of years and the answer might be unanimous--kids just aren't going outside anymore. In its most recent survey, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reported that the number of anglers nationwide decreased 12 percent from 2001–2006 and the number of hunters nationwide decreased four percent during the same time period. But why is this occurring? Is it the lack of opportunity? Is it the cost? Is it something new that they are unfamiliar with? As natural resource agencies struggle to figure this out, the Division of Wildlife offers a program to help introduce the next generation of anglers to the great sport of fishing.

Located at the northeast Ohio office in Akron, the Division's Youth Fishing Area has been a tremendous success over the past few years. Situated on the grounds of the old Akron Fish Hatchery, the area

attracts over 4,000 young anglers from across Ohio for a variety of programs each year. After the hatchery was closed in the 1980s, the Division recognized the potential of the area and transformed it into a place where young Ohioans can enjoy the sport of fishing, as well as participate in other activities that teach them about the great outdoors.

The Division stocks the ponds annually with over 4,000 bluegill, bass, catfish, and crappie so the young anglers generally have pretty good success. But there's much more to it than catching fish. Most of the kids who come in want to catch something, but they all leave having learned something.

The area is set up to accommodate a variety of activities through its two main programs. From Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day weekend, the youth fishing area is open to the public on Saturdays, Sundays, and state holidays from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Bait, tackle, and rods are provided

to young anglers, and an attendant is available to assist them with any problems or questions. Parents are asked to accompany their children while they are in the area, but they cannot fish.

Besides the summertime open fishing program, educators and youth leaders of schools, churches, and scout troops can make reservations during the week throughout the year to enjoy what the area has to offer. Besides the opportunity to fish, kids get to participate in other activities such as pond studies, fish identification and filleting, and electrofishing demonstrations.

Part of the Division of Wildlife's mission is to recruit the next generation of anglers to the sport of fishing, and the Youth Fishing Area in Akron is a great tool in this undertaking. Now all we need is YOU!

*The Akron Youth Fishing Area is located at the Division of Wildlife Office at 912 Portage Lakes Drive.*



***If you are interested in making a reservation for the youth fishing area or want more details on the weekend open fishing program, please call (330) 644-2293 for details.***



## WATCHABLE WILDLIFE

By Melissa Hathaway • Photos By Tim Daniel

If we could travel back in time to the Triassic period, 220 million years ago, we would see animals we recognize as turtles. Turtles have evolved over time, and some have become extinct, but the physical appearance of turtles has not changed much from their prehistoric ancestors.

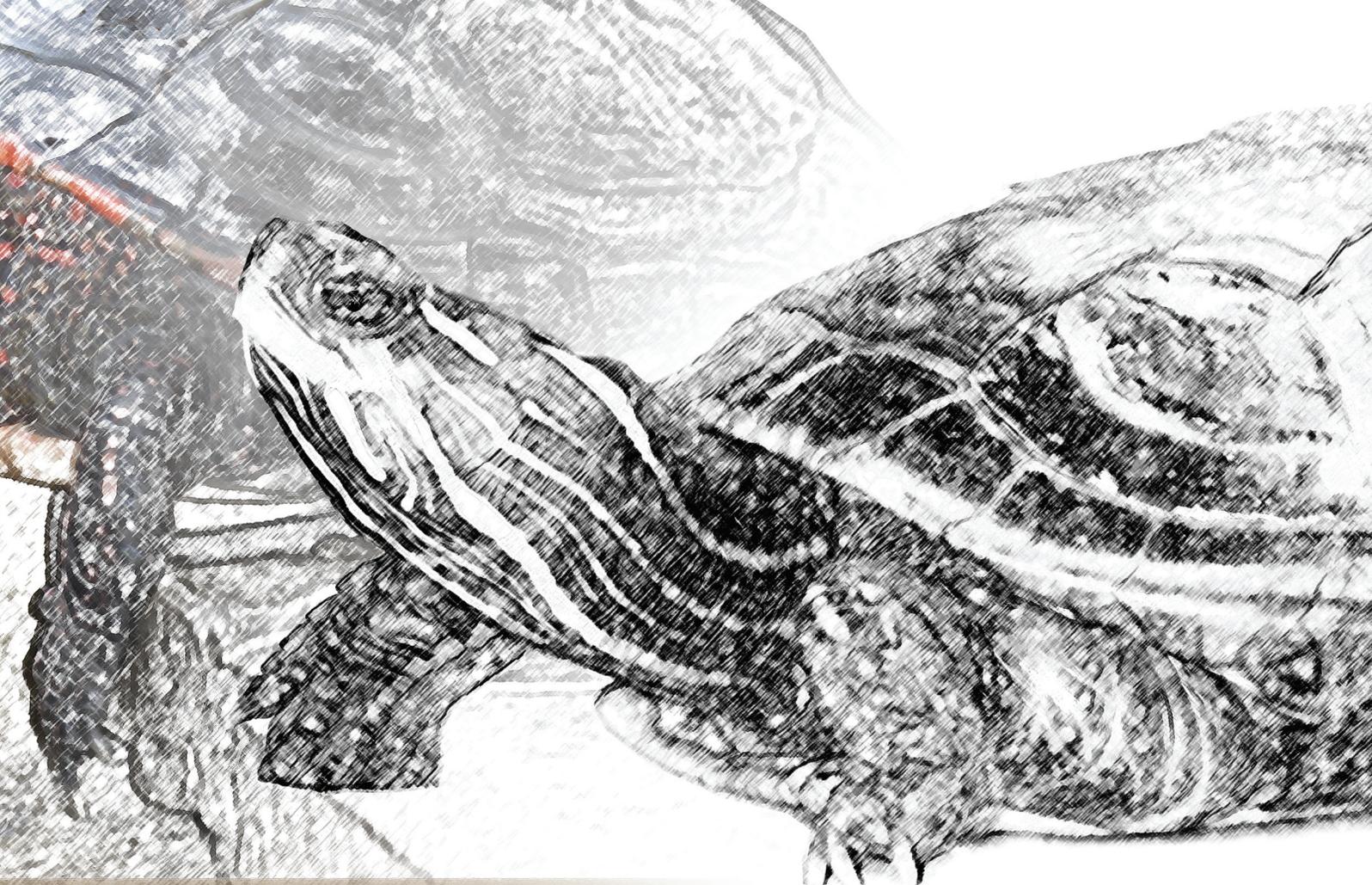
Most folks' childhood memories of playing along a pond or stream include fond images of turtles basking in the sun on logs at the water's edge. Most likely these colorful turtles were midland painted turtles, Ohio's most abundant and most often observed turtle. Several subspecies of painted turtles, often called painted terrapins, inhabit the United States, but only the midland painted turtle is found in Ohio.

Midland painted turtles prefer the quiet, shallow water of ponds, marshes, creeks, and streams that have a soft, muddy bottom. These beautifully patterned reptiles are most often distinguished by the bright red and yellow patterning along the outer edge of the shell (carapace). The design looks as if it was painted on with an artist's brush, hence the name painted turtle. The remainder of the carapace is olive green to black. Yellow stripes adorn the head, and yellow or red stripes appear on the neck, limbs, and tail.

Perhaps the most fascinating trait of turtles, including painted turtles, is how the sex of the young is determined. The sex of all turtle species found in Ohio, with the exception of softshell turtles, depends on the temperature of the embryo during incubation. For example, warmer eggs at the top of a nest hatch out as females, while cooler eggs at the bottom hatch out as males. Once the young hatch and leave the nest, they are immediately independent.

Young painted turtles are carnivores (eating other animals), feeding mostly on maggots, larvae, crickets, and beetles. Adults are omnivores (eating both plants and animals), consuming snails, insects, crayfish, leeches, tadpoles, frogs, small fish, and many plants such as duckweed and algae. Painted turtles do not chew their food, but use their beaks to tear their prey into pieces that they swallow whole. Like most highly aquatic turtles, they usually will not swallow food unless they are at or beneath the surface of the water. Predators include raccoons, mink, otters, wading birds, pike, bass, and larger turtles.

Painted turtles are most active from March to October. As winter approaches, they burrow deep into the mud or debris at the bottom of their water body and become dormant. Their body



## The Midland Painted Turtle

operates at a very slow speed – their heart rates slow down and they don't need food to survive. The small amount of oxygen they need is absorbed from the water through the inner lining of the mouth and cloaca (posterior opening).

Some of your childhood memories might include catching a painted turtle and keeping it as a pet. These popular turtles can become very tame and amusing to watch in captivity. However, keeping a turtle as a pet is not recommended today because turtles can transmit salmonella bacteria. The availability of turtles, including painted turtles, in the pet industry, has declined after increased restrictions due to the threat of the spread of salmonella and heightened awareness of wetland protection.

### *Viewing Opportunities*

The best time to observe painted turtles is during the summer months around their favorite haunts -- ponds, marshes, and streams. They spend much of their time in the water, but are often observed basking in the sun on logs or rocks protruding from the water, or along the shoreline. They are sometimes found basking in large groups, taking up most of the basking space on the log.

Getting a good view might be tricky as they are spooked easily. Walking slowly and quietly and viewing from a distance with binoculars will aid in your search for the midland painted turtle. If a basking turtle slips into the safety of the water, just sit back quietly and wait. It will usually climb back onto the log after about 10 to 15 minutes.

### MIDLAND PAINTED TURTLE AT A GLANCE

**LENGTH:**

4.5 to 5.5 inches

**PEAK BREEDING:**

May through July

**INCUBATION:**

10 to 11 weeks

**NUMBER OF OFFSPRING:**

4 to 15

**TYPICAL FOODS:**

plants, fish, and aquatic insects

Ohio's natural resources are under attack! No, they are not under attack by jets or tanks, but rather by invasive species that are moving in right next door. The list of aquatic invaders continues to multiply with well over 180 invasive species within the Great Lakes which include non-native algae, plants, invertebrates, and fish.

Should we worry? Yes! If you fish or enjoy wild Ohio's aquatic heritage in any sense, invasive species pose a severe threat to these favorite pastimes. A handful of invasive "Poster Species" which include the sea lamprey, zebra mussel, round goby, and Asian carp, are all in Ohio or are threatening our waters.

An invasive species is a plant or animal that is not native to Ohio (i.e., wasn't present in the habitat prior to European settlement) that harms the natural resources in the ecosystem, and by extension, human use of these resources. The survival strategies of Ohio's native species have evolved over thousands of years. When an invasive species gets established, the native species faces many threats such as a reduction in food and habitat or an unfamiliar predator they can't protect themselves against. The native species must either adapt, move or die. Admittedly, intricacies of interaction among all species are not completely understood. Thus, it is difficult to predict the consequences of a new species. From recent history though, we can confidently conclude that invasive species have the ability to destroy our native communities and reduce our recreational opportunities.

### ***Attack of the Sea Lampreys***

The Great Lakes were filled with lake trout until the early to mid-1900s when overfishing combined with the arrival of the invasive sea lamprey destroyed the population. Niagara Falls previously served as a physical barrier that the sea lamprey could not surmount, thus restricting this prehistoric parasite to Lake Ontario. However, the man-made Welland Canal (completed in 1919) between Lake Erie and Lake Ontario provided an avenue to the remaining Great Lakes and allowed the sea lamprey access to vulnerable lake trout populations.

Lake trout have no natural defense mechanism against sea lampreys, which set the stage for their drastic reduction. Sea lampreys are parasitic; they attach to fish via their grasping mouth parts, feed on the fish's body fluids, and kill it 90 percent of the time. One adult sea lamprey is estimated to kill 40 pounds of fish during its parasitic life stage. Today, tributaries where sea lampreys are known to reproduce are chemically treated to reduce their abundance to acceptable levels. Although the treatments have greatly reduced sea lamprey abundance and lake trout numbers have increased, the sea lamprey's destructive predation will have a perpetual negative impact on the native fishes of the Great Lakes.

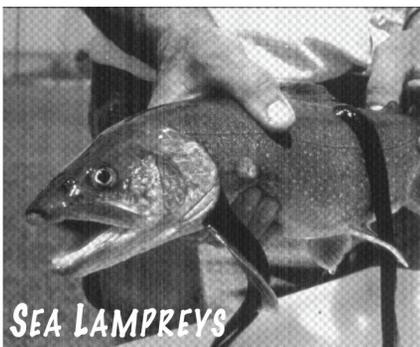
### ***Non-Native Mussel Power***

In the late 1980s, the dime-sized zebra mussel appeared in Lake Erie, arriving from Asia through the discharge of ballast water from ocean-going ships. This was followed by the introduction of its close cousin, the quagga mussel. Some would argue that the initial effects of this prolific, water-filtering mussel (native to southeast Asia) have been favorable to Lake Erie's water clarity, submergent vegetation, and overall aesthetics. Although these initial changes appear favorable, the long-term effects are largely negative.

The concern is that by zebra mussels filtering large quantities of water, the food available for newly hatched fishes, such as walleye and yellow perch, will be reduced and result in decreased survival of young fishes. Also, they negatively impact Ohio's native mussel fauna. Zebra mussels colonize over the shells of native mussels prohibiting the native mussels from opening their mouth to feed. Zebra mussels are also an annoyance to fishermen and cause economic damage exceeding millions of dollars, from repairing damages such as clogged water intake systems for boats and public water supply.

# AQUATIC INVADERS

BY MATT WARD



**SEA LAMPREYS**



**ZEBRA MUSSELS**



**ROUND GOBIES**

### ***Nest Invading Gobies***

In recent years, there has been great concern about Lake Erie's pre-eminent smallmouth bass population. Not enough young smallmouth bass were being produced, which set the stage for poor angling opportunity and jeopardized the smallmouth's future in Lake Erie. What was causing the lack of smallmouth bass reproduction? The invasive round goby!

Although this fish (a Caspian and Black Sea native, and again introduced through ballast water) rarely gets bigger than four inches, it is one heck of a nest predator. Intensive studies with underwater cameras revealed that when the male smallmouth bass is removed from its nest through angling, it doesn't take long for round gobies to consume the eggs. This information indicated the need to protect the smallies during the spawning season. A closed season from May through the third Saturday in June has resulted in increased production of young smallmouth bass. However, the likelihood that Lake Erie's smallmouth bass fishery will return to historical pre-eminence is unknown due to the aggressive nature of round gobies.

### ***"Carpe Diem" Does Not Mean "Catch of the Day"***

Moving south to the Ohio River, the leading threat is Asian carp. Silver, black, and bighead carp escaped from captive aquaculture facilities in Arkansas during the 1990s and have subsequently invaded many reaches of the Mississippi River drainage, including the Missouri River, Illinois River, and downstream portions of the Ohio River. Although these species have not become established in Ohio waters, the threat is severe.

Following its introduction, the Asian carp quickly became the most abundant species posing a severe competition threat to native fishes and mussels. Further, when approached by a boat, an aerial impulse lifts these fish from the water with enough energy to break bones and deliver concussions. How would you like to get whacked by a 40-pound Asian carp?

### ***Let's Take Action***

It's a safe bet that the numerous unwanted species that are now plentiful in Lake Erie hitched a ride in the ballast water of ocean-going ships. Currently, legislation regulating ballast water is pending and,

if passed, would help prevent further introductions. Until better regulations and compliance are in place, this pathway will remain open. Also, more stringent regulations regarding the use of invasive species in aquaculture and the plant trade are necessary to eliminate the presence and potential escape of unwanted species. We can all help to minimize the spread of unwanted species by placing unused bait in the trash, cleaning boats and equipment after each use, and never releasing aquarium fish into the wild or transporting live fish from one body of water to another.

How many unintentional and unwanted introductions will it take until the heritage of Ohio's aquatic resources is lost? No one knows, but each new infestation jeopardizes Ohio's aquatic legacy. The take home message is that if we would like our children and grandchildren to enjoy Ohio's natural heritage (whether that be walleye fishing on Lake Erie or boating Ohio's inland lakes), the introduction and spread of invasive species needs to be addressed. If you would like more information on invasive species, contact your local Division of Wildlife office.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

**OHIO'S NATURAL RESOURCES  
ARE UNDER ATTACK!  
SHOULD WE WORRY? YES!**

Every single person who enjoys the outdoors, regardless of activity level, interest, and knowledge about nature, should own binoculars and maybe even a spotting scope. Once you take a look into a magnified world, you'll be hooked! It can be tough to choose the right optics though with so many options to consider, such as brands, styles, magnifying powers, sizes, and prices. Read on to learn how to buy good binoculars or a good scope that will each serve their purpose in the field when wildlife watching.

### Binoculars

Wildlife watching is growing more popular these days and it is estimated that nearly three million Ohioans enjoy watching wildlife! Some stores carry hundreds of different models of binoculars in a wide array of prices from just double digits up to four figures. How do you choose the right binoculars for you and your wildlife viewing interests?

Begin by considering how much money you want to spend. Price and performance often go hand in hand, but you don't have to spend a fortune to get quality binoculars. When you look for binoculars, you may notice a set of numbers such as 7x35 or 8x42. The first number, usually a single digit, states the power or magnification. The second number is the aperture which means the size of the lenses. The second number refers to the diameter of the front, or objective lens. The size of the objective lens determines how bright an object will appear to your eyes. Good all around binoculars for most outdoor enthusiasts is 8x42. This means that the object will be magnified eight times bigger than actual size. Bigger is not always better because movement is magnified too, causing the image you see to shake or appear jumpy if you do not have steady hands. Also keep in mind that the higher numbers most often produce larger and heavier binoculars.

The types of glass, prisms, and coating will all affect the clarity of the image too. The best way to figure out which binoculars are right for you is to test the waters and ask around. If you pass by a wildlife watcher in the field, politely ask to take a peek through their binocs and see what you think. We have all been there before, trying desperately to seek out the best binoculars for our use.

#### Keep in mind:

1. A centrally mounted wheel designed to focus the binoculars is best.
2. The "close focus" or the closest distance binoculars can focus is important. If your intention is to watch butterflies and birds, a close focus can be desirable. However, too close can overlap your field of vision making things difficult to see.



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3. Those who wear glasses must purchase binoculars with an “eye relief” of about 15 millimeters or more. This ensures that the distance from the rear of the eye lens to the point behind the binoculars allows for a full field of view.
4. Waterproofing is key. Do not purchase binoculars that are “water resistant” as this will not properly protect your fine instrument from the weather.

### **Spotting Scopes**

If you can only purchase one piece of optical equipment for your wildlife watching adventures, let it be binoculars. If you spend a great deal of time, though, viewing waterfowl, shorebirds, and other animals that are small or spend time in dense habitat, spotting scopes can be lifesavers. Yes, spotting scopes, not telescopes. Spotting scopes have lower

magnification, allowing the viewer to see through a wider and brighter range of field.

Things to consider when purchasing a spotting scope are very similar to those for purchasing binoculars. Just like binoculars, the size of the larger, outer lens (the objective lens) determines the amount of light gathered. For those of us who cannot afford a top-of-the-line scope, a larger objective lens will gather more light which may help a little with the lower optical quality. Understand though that all the light in the world will not make an image appear clearly if the scope is too low-grade. Therefore, investing a little may pay off in the end.

As for magnification, all the facts you read previously about binoculars hold true for scopes. Depending on the type of scope, useful magnification ranges from 20x to 40x. This is something to discuss with the manufacturer, retailer,

or fellow birder. The focus adjustment is important. More scopes offer two separate adjustments. One is for bringing the subject into raw focus very quickly and the other is for fine-tuning.

Lastly, as you are searching for the right scope for you, you’ll discover that some scopes are straight and some are angled. This is simply a matter of preference although it seems to many folks that the angled scope is much more comfortable for different heights.

Hopefully this helps lead you in the right direction to finding the best optical equipment to suit your needs and interests. Be patient and have fun. Best wishes on your wildlife watching adventures!

BY JAMEY GRAHAM



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**D**o you know what the largest club is at Chippewa High School in Wayne County? Some might say Key Club. Others might guess the Honor Society. While students should be proud to be a part of the aforementioned clubs, the most popular club in the school has to do with recreational shooting! The Chippewa Trapshooting Club has a whopping 59 students who are members, but that is not the total. If the Chippewa Middle School students as well as the members from outside the district are included, the total comes to 83 members! That's pretty impressive considering the club has only been in existence for three years and partially competes with the popular sport of baseball.

Brad Harker, a teacher at Chippewa High School and founder of the club, had no idea recreational shooting would be so popular with the students. "I wanted to educate students on how fun and interesting an outdoor lifestyle can be. When I thought of trapshooting, I knew it would be fun, but I also realized it could be

team and family-oriented, competitive, and add a positive aspect to our community," explained Harker. "When I decided to start the trapshooting program, I thought I'd be lucky to attract 15 to 20 kids and I wound up with 44 that first year. I was thrilled!"

Creating the club was not an easy road and keeping it running can be trying at times, but Harker admits he could not have done it without friends, co-workers, volunteers, and the Doylestown community. At the very beginning, the club members used a range that they quickly outgrew. In November 2007, the club purchased a new range located in Copley, a new trap machine, and currently leases nine acres of land from the Ohio Sportsmen's Club. (The Copley Trap range is also open to the public on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. all year long. Only when weather is at its worst will the range be closed. There is a small fee of \$3.50 a round for adults and \$2.50 for youths 18 and under.)

Funding from local organizations, businesses, and private donors allowed the

club to gain the range, the trap, hearing protection, ammunition, and targets. Fundraisers, aluminum can collection, and raffle ticket sales contributed too. In three years, just short of \$40,000 was raised for the club! Now, the club stays afloat with a \$40 per year membership which includes a club tee shirt. Grant opportunities are available for those unable to pay for the membership.

The Chippewa Trapshooting Club keeps busy with classroom training starting in March, followed by one-on-one field practice early in April, and target shooting just a few weeks later. Chippewa then participates in youth shoots in Middletown and Centerburg, and hosts its own Invitational Youth Tournament on their home ground. The popular Family Fun Shoot awards night and picnic closes out the official season, but the students don't stop there. The club never misses the state trapshooting tournament in Marengo where they earned the coveted title of state champs in 2006! The last big deal is the Grand American in Sparta, Illinois in August. A fall league, consisting of eight to ten teams, shoots simply for

## Youth Shooting Clubs



enjoyment until the season starts all over again in March.

For more information about the Chippewa Trapshooting Club or visiting the Copley Trap Range, go to <http://www.chiptrapclub.org/> or [www.copleytrap.com](http://www.copleytrap.com).

### **National Scholastic Clay Target Program**

The Chippewa Trapshooting Club and other youth shooting clubs across Ohio participate in the national Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP). The SCTP provides school-age participants in grades 12 and under with the opportunity to showcase their competitive shooting skills and earn state and national recognition. Nearly 10,000 youths from 44 states competed in various SCTP state, regional, and national competitions during 2007.

The program is designed to instill in participants safe firearms handling, commitment, responsibility, leadership, and teamwork. The SCTP is a cooperative effort between the National Shooting

Sports Foundation (NSSF), the firearms industry's largest and most diverse trade association with 2,200 members, and the governing bodies for trapshooting, skeet shooting, and sporting clays shooting - the Amateur Trapshooting Association (ATA), the National Skeet Shooting Association (NSSA), and the National Sporting Clays Association (NSCA), respectively. To learn more about the SCTP, visit <http://www.nssf.org/SCTP/>.

### **Ohio SCTP**

Young skeet and trap shooters from across Ohio earn state titles in competitions each summer with many qualifying to represent Ohio at the national championships. Last year the state trap shooting championship was held at the Cardinal Center in Marengo, and the state skeet shooting competition was held at the Clinton County Farmers and

Sportsmen's Association in Wilmington. Top performers included:

**Skeet:** Clinton County Farmers and Sportsmen's Association Varsity, Junior Varsity, and Intermediate Division teams; state champions.

**Trap:** Greene County Fish & Game, Claybusters, Claycrushers, WW Target Busters, Northmor FFA, Centerburg Rookies, and Cranberry Claycrushers.

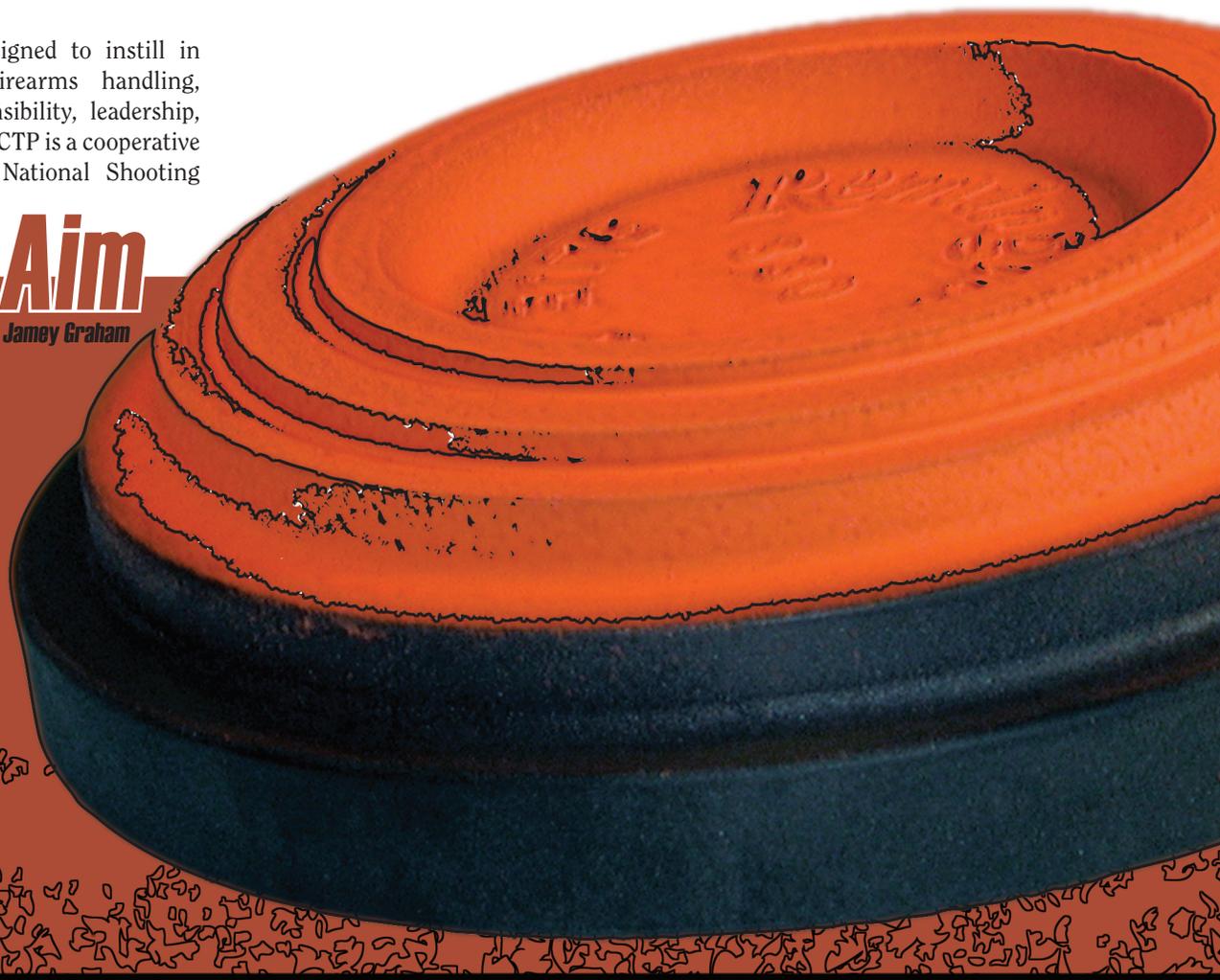
To find out if a SCTP trap or skeet shooting club is located in your area, contact the state SCTP directors:

**Trap:** Sue Kaufman (330) 769-2735, email: [dsk@ohio.net](mailto:dsk@ohio.net)

**Skeet:** Jack Grehan (937) 241-7646, email: [jgrehan@earthlink.net](mailto:jgrehan@earthlink.net)

# **Taking Aim**

by Jamey Graham



*commitment responsibility leadership teamwork*

by Donna Daniel



**C**harlene McGlothin of Rossburg and Lauren Keck of Brook Park both sent in photos of odd-looking geese that were feeding with a flock of Canada geese, curious to know what kind of geese they were. These geese are likely results of hybridizations of domestic geese. Unfortunately in many areas domestic geese are allowed to roam free and interbreed with other domestics and/or wild geese producing an assortment of bizarre looking individuals. These hybrids can be puzzling to bird watchers attempting to identify them. Persons that raise domestic geese and/or ducks should not release their animals anywhere in the wild (including at their local park) in order to avoid introducing disease to wild birds and to prevent crossbreeding which can cause genetic damage to wild populations.

**Q:** What do hummingbirds use to make their nests? Do they nest in the same area each year?

*Bob and Lesta Teman, Elida, Ohio*

**A:** Ruby-throated hummingbirds are the only species of hummingbird to nest in Ohio. They gather soft materials like thistle or cattail down. Spider webs are used to attach the down to a tree branch. The down is shaped and molded into a cup-shaped nest about the size of a walnut. Lichens are used on the outer wall of the nest and effectively camouflage the structure. Hummingbirds often do nest in the same general area year after year. Occasionally, female hummingbirds will return to the same tree--and the same branch--in successive years. The male hummingbird has no role in building the nest, incubating the eggs or raising the young. The female ruby-throat handles the entire job!



**Q:** Can you tell me what kind of bugs are in this "family" portrait? The grouping was found on a birch leaf in our front yard.

*Rick Emmer, Bay Village, Ohio*

**A:** The photo is of stink bugs – an insect famous for exuding a foul-smelling substance when disturbed. Interestingly, stink bugs will guard their egg clutches, thus the adults appear in the photo along with the nymphs. Most stink bugs suck juice from plants while a few prey on other insects. In general many types of insects are killed by freezing temperatures, however, adult stink bugs survive winter in sheltered places like fencerows and ditch banks.



**Q:** I took this picture at my water garden. Are these treefrogs?

*Kevin Walters, New Lexington, Ohio*

**A:** These are indeed treefrogs. In Ohio we have two species: the common gray treefrog is found statewide and the Cope's gray treefrog is limited to the southern third of the state. Treefrogs have the ability to change colors from gray to green to help them blend in with their surroundings. This is a handy adaptation since camouflage is their main defense from predation.



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

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





# For Wild Kids

## CREATIVE CRITTERS OF OHIO

by Jen Dennison

Ohio has many interesting animals that share our state. Some are beautiful and graceful like the white-tailed deer or the bald eagle. Others are mysterious and reclusive like the American bittern or the spade-foot toad. Still others are playful and comical like the river otter or the raccoon. Each animal in Ohio has to develop adaptations to survive in the wild. Some of these animals have come up with some creative ways to adapt to the dangers of living among predators or trying to find their next meal.

### **Green Heron**

For example, did you know that the green heron knows how to fish? Green herons will gently take a larger bug like a spider or grasshopper and drop it in the water. The movement of the bug on the surface of the water attracts fish and conveniently brings them within striking distance of the heron's sharp beak.

### **Viceroy Butterfly**

Other animals, like the viceroy butterfly, will mimic or imitate bad-tasting or poisonous animals. The viceroy is a mimic of the monarch butterfly, which has a very bitter taste to birds and other animals. Animals that have experienced the bitter taste of the monarch will think the viceroy is another monarch and will not eat it.

### **Hognose Snake**

And finally, some animals play dead when they are threatened. Many of us have heard of the opossum playing dead, but did you know that the hognose snake can do it too? When a hognose snake feels threatened, it will puff up and strike and vibrate the tip of its tail to make a predator think it's a rattlesnake. If this imitation doesn't work, the hognose then "drops dead" and rolls on its back and lays still. It is such a good actor that if you turn the snake on its belly, it will roll back over on its back, because it believes dead snakes are always on their backs, right?

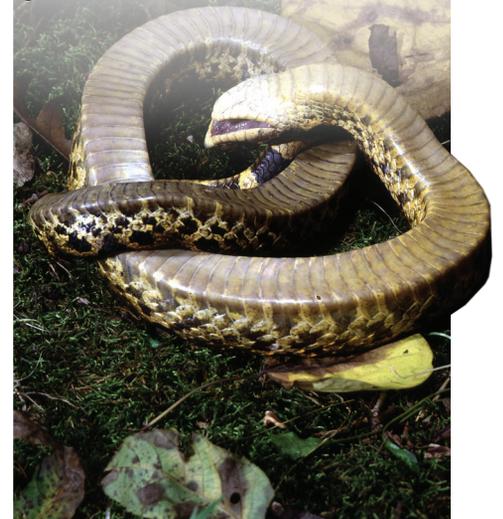
### **Brown-headed Cowbird**

The cowbird has developed a way of avoiding the responsibility and work it takes to raise its young. Female cowbirds will find the nest of smaller birds like the warbler and wait until the female warbler leaves the nest to eat. The cowbird will then sneak in and lay her larger eggs in with the warbler's smaller eggs. Since birds can't count, the female warbler doesn't realize the egg isn't hers and when she returns to the nest, she incubates and raises the eggs and young along with her own.



### **Try This!**

These are just some examples of the tricks and creative ways animals adapt to survive. To learn more about these and other Ohio animals, please check out our *Species A-Z* guide on our website at [www.wildohio.com](http://www.wildohio.com). Click on some of your favorite animals and see if you can come up with a list of some cool adaptations used by some of these critters.



## **NOTE TO TEACHERS!**

You can also sign up for our monthly email newsletter. It features not only a critter of the month, but lesson ideas, grant opportunities, professional development events, and more. Just go to [www.wildohio.com](http://www.wildohio.com) and click on the Wild Ohio enews link on our home page. Be sure to check that you would like to receive the educator edition.



# WILD GAME GOURMET

## recipes

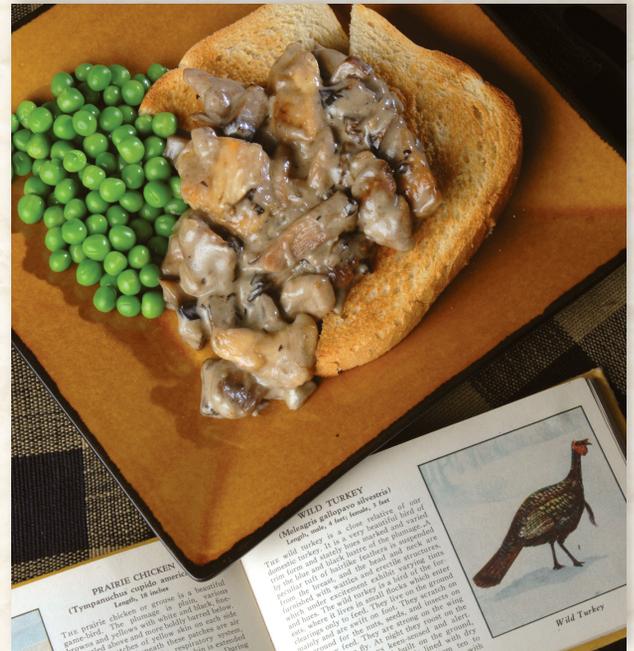
Wild Game Gourmet • photos by Tim Daniel  
the Wild Game Gourmet as seen on **Wild Ohio** Video Magazine

### Wild Turkey with Morel Mushrooms

- ¾ to 1 pound wild turkey
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 1 pound chopped morel mushrooms (portabellas or shitakes can be substituted)
- 1 cup light cream
- Flour
- Butter
- Olive oil
- Salt and pepper

Slice the turkey in small slices and roll in a mixture of flour, salt, and pepper. Saute turkey slices in mixture of butter and olive oil (enough for browning). Brown lightly then add chopped onion and morels. Lower heat to medium low, cover, and continue to saute for about 20 minutes, stirring occasionally. Lower heat to simmer and pour in cream; stir and simmer until heated through and thickened slightly.

Contributed by Vicki Mountz



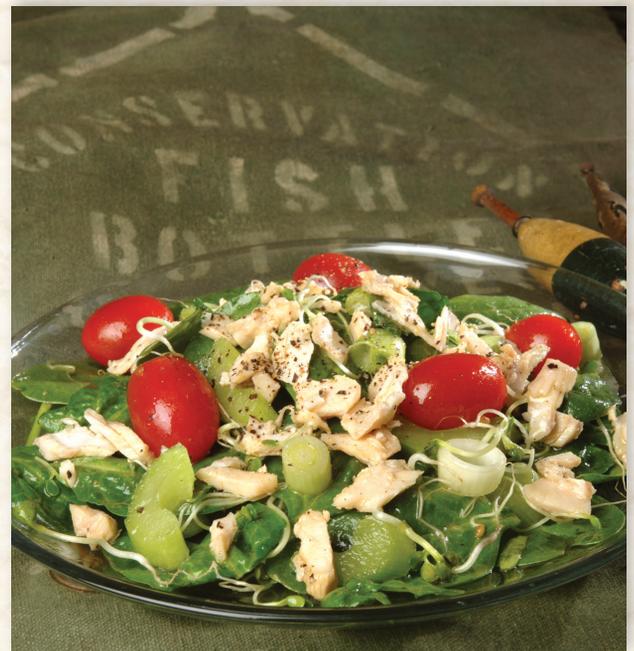
### Fish and Spinach Salad

- 1 pound fish filets (walleye, perch, or other light fish)
- Ginger dressing ( see recipe below)
- 6 ounces fresh spinach torn into bite-size pieces
- 1 16-ounce can chilled and drained bean sprouts
- 1 stalk celery, cut diagonally
- 4 large green onions, sliced
- 12 cherry tomatoes

- Ginger dressing
- 1/4 cup salad oil
- 3 tablespoons white vinegar
- 2 teaspoons sugar
- 1 ¼ teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon soy sauce
- ½ teaspoon ground ginger
- 1/8 teaspoon pepper

Poach or steam fish. Prepare ginger dressing by pouring all ingredients in jar and shaking well. Makes ¾ cup dressing. Break fish into bite-size pieces. Pour dressing over fish, cover and refrigerate for at least 1 hour. Toss with remaining ingredients.

Contributed by Vicki Farus



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



# READERS' PHOTOS

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



Look closely to see that the photographer captured the ruby-throated hummingbird's long tongue. – **John DiPietro, Kettering, Ohio**



Nine-year-old Jacob caught this 25-inch shovelhead catfish on a crappie rig in Paint Creek. – **Jim Achlater**



Four-year-old Caiden Carter found this garter snake and released it in the woods to keep it away from the lawn mower. – **Jeff Carter**



"This bullfrog, the biggest I have ever seen in Ohio, showed up in my backyard." – **Don Weaver, Bowerston, Ohio**



The Engle family found this snapping turtle in their garden. – **Natalie and Katie Engle, Geauga County**



Young Paul Gunsalus with his first fish, a nice bluegill. – **Ken Walter, North Royalton, Ohio**

## 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.*





THERE IS SOMETHING INFINITELY HEALING IN THE REPEATED REFRAINS OF NATURE . . .

# SPRING HAS SPRUNG . . .

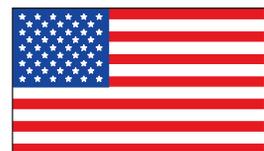
THE ASSURANCE THAT DAWN COMES AFTER THE NIGHT, AND SPRING AFTER THE WINTER.

- RACHEL CARSON

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