



Wild Ohio

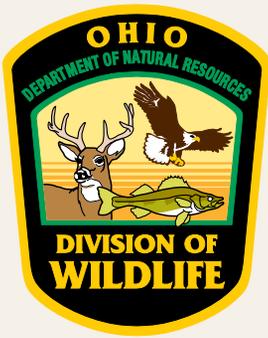
Winter 2009-2010

M A G A Z I N E

Ohio Department of Natural Resources

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

ANNUAL REPORT ISSUE



THE FIRST OHIO WILDLIFE LEGACY STAMP WINNING PHOTO

The photograph of a Baltimore oriole taken by Russell Reynolds of Lima won top honors in the first-ever Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp photo competition, sponsored by the Ohio Division of Wildlife. Reynolds' winning image will appear on the inaugural Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp to be issued in March 2010.

The winning entry was selected from a field of 22 photos; the competition was only open to Ohio residents. Photographs were judged on originality, technical excellence, composition and overall impact. The winning image and two honorable mentions were selected during the recent Wildlife Diversity Partners Conference at Shawnee State Park Lodge in Scioto County.

"I've always loved wildlife and photography is a hobby for me; it's addictive really," said winning photographer Russell Reynolds. He added that "It was the Wild Ohio magazine that got me started. I called your (Division of Wildlife) photographer for some tips on what camera to buy and it just went from there."

Brian Zwiebel of Oregon, and another photo by Reynolds received honorable mentions for their respective Baltimore oriole images.

The \$15 Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp will be available for purchase online in March at wildohio.com. Proceeds from the sale of the stamp remain here in Ohio to support vital habitat restoration and



research projects, land purchases and conservation easements, and educational products for students and wildlife enthusiasts.

The subject of next year's photo contest and 2011 Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp also was announced during the September 2-3 Wildlife Diversity Partners Conference. Wildlife enthusiasts should focus their cameras on dragonflies and damselflies for the 2010 contest.

Complete details about the next photo competition are available at wildohiostamp.com

The judges for this year's photo competition included representatives from statewide conservation organizations, metro parks and zoos, wildlife enthusiasts, and outdoor writers supportive of wildlife and their habitat.

DISCOVER MORE ABOUT THE OHIO WILDLIFE LEGACY STAMP BY VISITING WILDOHIOSTAMP.COM OR CALLING 1-800-WILDLIFE

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

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

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

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1-800-WILDLIFE
for general information

1-888-HOOKFISH
for Lake Erie fishing report

1-800-POACHER
to report poaching

wildohio.com
division Web site

Features

Annual Report

This issue of Wild Ohio Magazine includes the annual report for fiscal year 2009 highlighting the year's accomplishments.

As the state agency mandated to manage Ohio's wildlife resources, staff carry out the agency's many responsibilities in areas of wildlife management, fisheries management, law enforcement, information and education, administration, human resources, and other support services.

4-11



On the Cover: White-tailed Deer

Perhaps Ohio's best-known wildlife species, the white-tailed deer is the state's only big game animal and has provided table fare for generations. Photo by Tim Daniel

Readers' Photos

Here's a look at some of the photos sent in by Wild Ohio readers showing some of the many ways they enjoy Ohio's wealth of wildlife resources.

20-23



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Message from the Chief

To Our Constituents:

Ohioans are experiencing one of the toughest economic periods in recent history. Every day, we are inundated with a continuous barrage of news regarding the struggling market, failing businesses, high inflation, increasing unemployment, and home foreclosures. All of this has created a heightened sense of fear and uncertainty regarding our day to day existence and future. People have curtailed travel, and in many cases reduced their expenditures dramatically to primarily items of necessity.

It would be easy to conclude that life is pretty dismal and that there is just no good news, but that isn't the case. In the face of this adversity, Ohioans are returning to recreational opportunities that have always been a part of our heritage and reconnecting with their families and friends to continue to have fun and enjoy life.

Fishing license sales are experiencing their highest increase in ten years. Hunting license sales have seen increases as well in the past two years. People are realizing what a great value the cost of these licenses offer in opportunities. They are filling our campgrounds on a weekly basis as they take advantage of the almost limitless wildlife-related opportunities that the Buckeye State has to offer from Lake Erie to the Ohio River.

As you review this year's annual report, please be assured that the staff of the Division of Wildlife remains dedicated and focused on its mission of conserving and enhancing Ohio's wildlife resources for our quality of life. The partnerships that we have forged with you will be more valuable than ever as we continue on this journey. We are a resilient and resourceful society. I am confident that not only will we survive these tough times, but we will emerge with more strength and stability than before.

In the interim, as we work through this challenge, load your family in the truck, hook up the boat or camper, and head out to enjoy Ohio's wildlife in the coming year. No matter where you live, it's only a short drive to your next adventure.

David M. Graham, Chief
OHIO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

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The Ohio Wildlife Council is an eight-member board that approves all Division of Wildlife proposed rules and regulations. Appointed by the governor, no more than four members may be of the same political party and two of the council members must represent agriculture. Each term of office is four years.

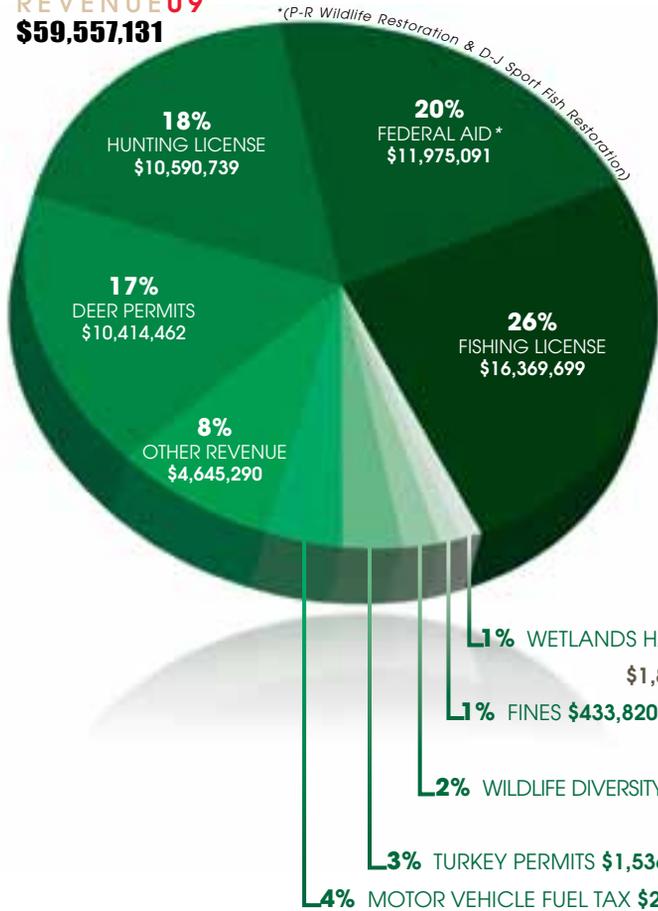


Fishing with Chief Graham are his wife, Pam, granddaughter Ally, and son Caleb.

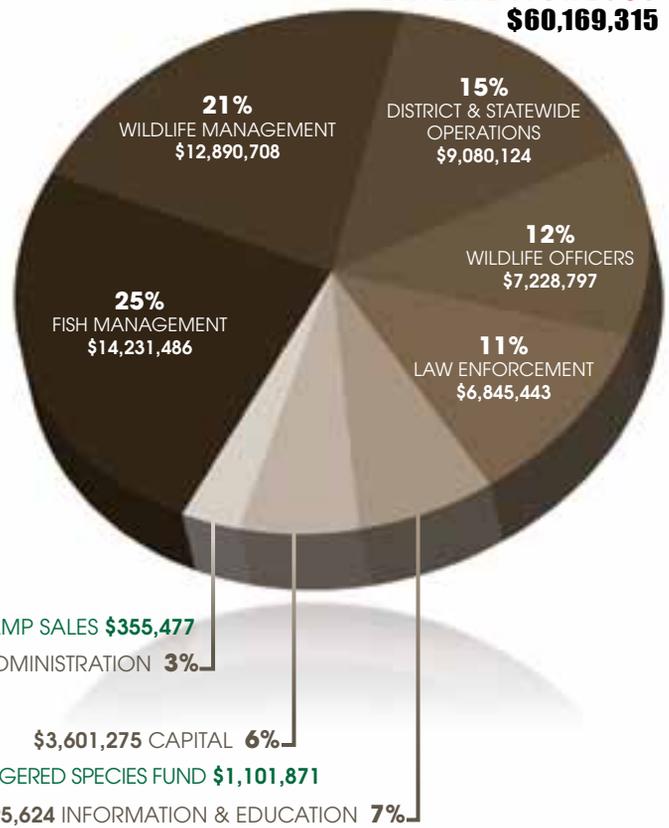
FINANCIAL REPORT

JULY 1, 2008 - JUNE 30, 2009

REVENUE **09**
\$59,557,131



EXPENDITURES **09**
\$60,169,315



EXPLANATION OF EXPENDITURES

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT **\$12,890,708**

The Wildlife Management and Research Group is responsible for managing all wildlife, assisting landowners with habitat improvements, managing land for wildlife and wildlife-oriented recreation, and conducting research to be used in improving wildlife populations.

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION **\$4,395,624**

Money is spent for hunter, trapper, and angler education, the printing of licenses and regulations, educational materials for Ohio's school teachers, the Wild Ohio television program and magazine, information distribution to media and the public, and the creation and printing of maps and other publications.

FISH MANAGEMENT **\$14,231,486**

The Fish Management and Research Group maintains the aquatic resources of the state. Biologists and other fisheries personnel manage water areas by improving spawning habitat and fishing access, recommending regulations, monitoring fish populations and angler harvest, stocking, and conducting research.

LAW ENFORCEMENT **\$6,845,443** **WILDLIFE OFFICERS \$7,228,797**

Enforcement is a fish and wildlife management tool designed to protect the wildlife resource, ensure fair and equitable use, protect state property, and implement wildlife, litter, and pollution statutes. Wildlife officers are assigned to each of Ohio's 88 counties and Lake Erie.

DISTRICT AND STATEWIDE OPERATIONS **\$9,080,124**

Expenditures in this category include money spent for fiscal and business management, licensing and permits, property management, computer services, the construction crew, environmental research and review, and wetland habitat restoration.

ADMINISTRATION **\$1,895,858**

Expenditures in this category include money spent for wildlife administration and human resources staff as well as statewide costs associated with employee training, recruitment, medical testing, vaccinations, medical examinations, pulmonary function testing, rabies administration, and lead testing for firearms training/shooting range employees.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS **\$3,601,275**

These funds are spent on land purchases and the repair, maintenance, renovation, and construction of facilities such as fishing access sites, boat ramps, hatcheries, and offices.

ENDANGERED SPECIES AND WILDLIFE DIVERSITY

Income for these projects comes from the proceeds from the sale of wildlife license plates and donations to the wildlife checkoff program on state income tax forms. This income is used for projects in fish and wildlife management, information and education, and law enforcement. These monies are used specifically to achieve management goals established for endangered species and wildlife diversity.

FISH MANAGEMENT

STREAM CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

■ Entered into an agreement with Ohio Sea Grant to address aquatic invasive species (AIS) issues in Ohio. The Aquatic Invasive Species Advisory Committee finalized the objectives, strategies, and actions section of the revised AIS State Management Plan.

■ Protected 130 acres (~1,300 feet) on the Grand River for steelhead fishing access through a partnership with Lake Metroparks.

■ In partnership with the Division of Soil and Water Resources and Belmont SWCD, the Division of Wildlife is funding a watershed coordinator position for Captina Creek, home to Ohio's only self-sustaining population of the endangered Eastern hellbender.

■ Began construction on the Huron River Boat Access, which will provide additional fishing access to Lake Erie. (Scheduled completion 2010.)

■ Dedicated the newly constructed Racine Boat Ramp in Meigs County on the Ohio River.

■ In partnership with the Division of Watercraft, dedicated the Vermillion-Lorain Water Trail - Ohio's fourth water trail.

■ Assisted in protecting 446 acres of riparian corridor along the Kokosing and Grand rivers through partnerships with several organizations.



LAKE ERIE

■ Provided considerable technical assistance to commercial trap netters as they implemented new electronic catch reporting and vessel monitoring systems, as required through state law. These systems have improved the timeliness and quality of commercial fisheries data used to manage yellow perch fisheries on Lake Erie.

■ Conducted pre-dam removal surveys of fish community and habitat characteristics of the Sandusky River in the vicinity of the Ballville Dam, which is slated for removal by 2013.

■ Completed the first of a two-year study of tributary steelhead anglers to estimate outputs from these fisheries and learn about user preferences for this resource.

■ Provided technical expertise to the Ohio EPA about impacts of nutrients and harmful algal blooms on Lake Erie fisheries, dredging impacts on fish stocks, and fish mortality at a large Maumee Bay power plant.

■ Conducted sonar mapping of Lake Erie Central Basin reefs as possible sites for lake trout restoration.

■ Developed a decision framework to determine sport fishing regulations necessary to comply with inter-jurisdictional quotas for walleye and yellow perch on Lake Erie.

■ Provided technical expertise to aid in the future siting of wind turbines in Lake Erie.

WE ARE DEDICATED TO CONSERVING AND IMPROVING THE FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES AND THEIR HABITATS, AND PROMOTING THE



Wild Ohio Magazine Summer 2009

On the cover: **Channel Catfish**

Features: **In Celebration of Fish
30 Years of Governor's Fish Ohio Day
Bobcats on the Prowl in Southeast Ohio
How to Sketch Nature**



INLAND WATERS

■ Fishing access for disabled anglers was greatly improved on the Mazurik breakwall along Lake Erie's Western Basin by installing an enhanced fishing platform.

■ Initiated a research program with Bowling Green State University to improve yellow perch fishing in upground reservoirs, which will improve our management and potentially expand fishing opportunities in as many as 50 upground reservoirs in northwest Ohio.

■ Established over 200 acres of public fishing opportunities in northwest Ohio through agreements with municipalities that constructed three new upground reservoirs in Defiance (Defiance County), Delphos-Gilmore (Van Wert County), and Yellow Creek (Putnam County) reservoirs.

■ Partnered with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission to address a downturn in the walleye population in Pymatuning Lake. A new stocking strategy was repeated this spring and the population will continue to be monitored.

■ Evaluated use of nine-inch length limits for crappie in six reservoirs and studied crappie populations in others to see how other fisheries might benefit from similar regulations.

■ Stocked muskellunge at East Fork Lake for the first time and anticipate that this will provide another high-quality muskie fishery in southwest Ohio.

■ Began work on two of the three hatchery capital improvement projects scheduled to be completed by Fiscal Year 2012.

■ The Division's six fish hatcheries raised more than 33 million fish, including 458,000 steelhead, 18,200 muskellunge advanced fingerlings, 105,000 catchable rainbow trout, 90,000 brown trout, 6.94 million saugeye fingerlings, 1.5 million walleye fingerlings, 22 million saugeye and walleye fry, 323,000 yellow perch, 2.2 million hybrid striped bass, and 250,000 channel catfish.

■ New hybrid striped bass fisheries were launched in central Ohio with the initial stocking of one-inch fingerlings in O'Shaughnessy and Griggs reservoirs.

■ Conducted statewide monitoring of viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) at 22 locations in cooperation with the Ohio Department of Agriculture. Research was also completed on VHS disinfection techniques for walleye and hybrid striped bass eggs, and protocols were followed for treating fish eggs brought into Division hatcheries to protect them from this disease.

■ Launched a blue catfish stocking research project to determine the potential of raising them in Ohio hatcheries for reservoir stocking. The initial group of blue catfish will be stocked as yearlings in Dillon Lake in the fall of 2010.



USE AND APPRECIATION BY THE PEOPLE SO THAT THESE RESOURCES CONTINUE TO ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL OHIOANS.



WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

■ Ohio hunters killed a record 252,017 deer during the 2008-09 deer season. Young hunters harvested nearly 10,000 deer and archers set a record with 85,856 deer taken. The additional harvest was composed of a greater proportion of antlerless deer, a significant factor in controlling overall deer numbers and reducing locally abundant populations.

■ The Division received the 2009 Agency of the Year Award from the Quality Deer Management Association for ongoing efforts to improve deer management and hunting opportunities in Ohio.

■ Increased hunting opportunities for mourning doves, wood ducks, and Canada geese over the last several years through longer seasons or increased bag limits as a result of active participation in the Mississippi Flyway Council and its related technical committees.

■ Partnered with the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation and the Quality Deer Management Association to develop a Web site to help expand deer hunting access opportunities on private land and increase deer harvest on farms experiencing crop damage.

■ Recorded record numbers of nesting bald eagles and peregrine falcons, while osprey and trumpeter swan populations continue to grow and expand their distributions as well.

■ Implemented an online system in 2008 for the public to address conflict situations involving Canada geese in a more efficient and timely manner.



■ Helped develop the Lake Erie Partnership, a collaboration between Old Woman Creek Research Reserve, the ODNR Office of Coastal Management, the Lake Erie Commission, and Ohio Sea Grant, which developed Lake Erie Literacy Principles to provide an environmental literacy framework for Lake Erie education programs.

■ Added two new land protection projects in northwest Ohio: a 47-acre addition to Lake La Su An Wildlife Area to aid in the recovery of the copperbelly watersnake, and a conservation easement on 360 acres purchased by the Sandusky County Park District to provide access for wildlife recreational opportunities.

■ Negotiated public hunting partnerships with Superior Land Group, LLC (Superior Wildlife Area) and American Electric Power (AEP Gavin Public Hunting Lands) providing access to 2,442 acres in Vinton County, and 6,885 acres in Meigs and Gallia counties.

■ Completed two wetland restoration projects at Pickerel Creek Wildlife Area in Sandusky County including acquisition and wetland restoration on over 280 acres, and a 2,700-foot interior dike project on the Boggy Bottoms tract.

■ Completed an innovative reforestation project on 120 acres of reclaimed surface mined lands at the Jockey Hollow Wildlife Area in Harrison County in partnership with the Oxford Mining Company and the American Chestnut Foundation.

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Wild Ohio Magazine Fall 2009

On the cover: **Wild Turkey**

Features: **Got Game**
Outdoor T.V. Shows
Make a Safe Sport Safer
2009-2010 Ohio Hunting Regulations

■ Initiated two wetland monitoring programs: 1) over 1,100 wetland sites that have been restored on private land with funds from the sale of state waterfowl stamps and Ducks Unlimited MARSH funds, 2) in cooperation with the Natural Resources Conservation Service enrolled more than 340 wetlands in the Wetlands Reserve Program, which also allows for the assessment of grasslands enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program.

■ Continued habitat protection efforts for the Lake Erie watersnake, which has an estimated adult population that is now more than double the amount necessary for removal of the species from federal protection under the Endangered Species Act.

■ Partnered with the Lake Erie Island Chapter of the Black Swamp Conservancy, the Western Reserve Land Conservancy, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service on the purchase of an 8.8-acre shoreline property on South Bass Island, which will help protect the federally threatened and state endangered Lake Erie watersnake.

■ In cooperation with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the ODNR Office of Coastal Management, established monitoring guidelines for assessing potential wildlife impacts from land-based wind energy facilities in Ohio. More than 30 wind energy projects have been proposed for Ohio and evaluations are underway to minimize impacts to Ohio's wildlife populations, while allowing for environmentally sustainable development of renewable energy.



WILDLIFE DIVERSITY

■ Hosted the first Wildlife Diversity Partners Meeting resulting in strong support to pursue the Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp, which will support wildlife diversity projects across the state.

■ Hosted the 25th Wildlife Diversity Conference with 915 attendees.

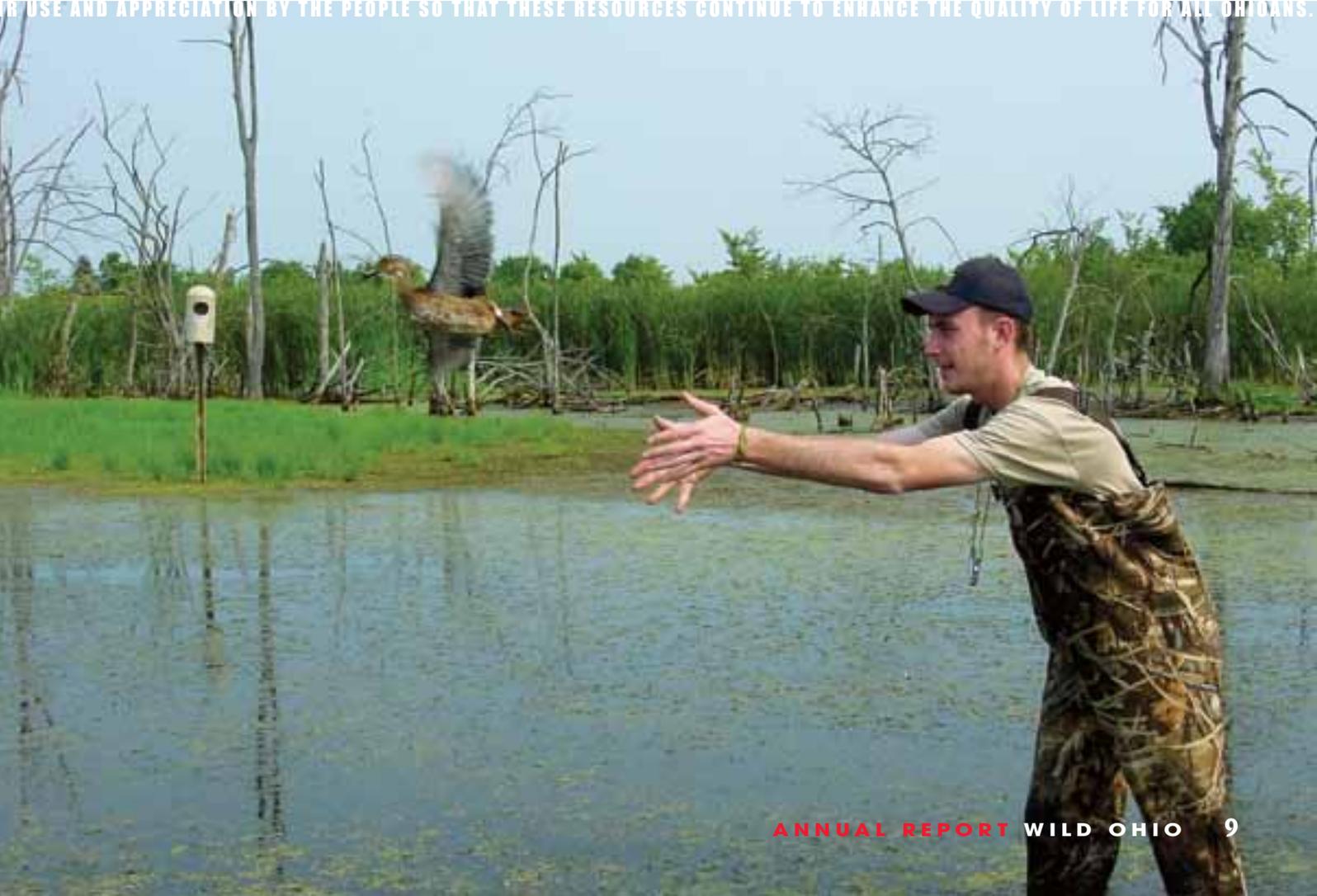
■ Co-hosted the Region 3 Endangered Species Coordinator's Meeting at Mohican State Park Lodge, in which all eight states and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service counterparts were in attendance.

■ Provided support to the Toledo Zoo to develop a new children's exhibit called "Nature's Neighborhood" educating children about native wildlife.

■ Organized and hosted the Appalachian Butterfly Conference in partnership with Greater Mohican Audubon at Shawnee State Park.

■ Released the Butterflies and Skippers of Ohio field guide.

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LAW ENFORCEMENT

■ Wildlife officers made 6,551 arrests for wildlife crimes and other criminal violations resulting in \$434,573.80 in fines collected.

■ The 1-800-POACHER phone line received more than 3,460 calls from concerned citizens reporting wildlife violations, from which 1,169 reports were taken.

■ Wildlife officers and investigators conducted 296 enforcement projects targeting known wildlife violators and problem areas, and state wildlife property protection. Officers contacted 6,977 individuals resulting in 1,192 arrests.

■ During the spring walleye run on the Maumee and Sandusky rivers, wildlife officers contacted 2,063 anglers and issued 260 summonses for littering, snagging, and possessing snagged walleye.

■ Under new legislation that went into effect March 1, 2008, several individuals were charged increased amounts for illegally taken or possessed wild animals, including two different cases involving deer valued at over \$13,000 each.

■ Wildlife officers and investigators conducted 999 permit inspections, 387 meat locker and taxidermist inspections, and issued 5,146 permits.

■ Wildlife officers conducted 27 aircraft surveillance projects, which resulted in 545 contacts and 106 arrests.



■ Seventeen cadets completed 26 weeks of training, including the Ohio Peace Officer Basic training and the Wildlife Officer Pre-service Academy and were commissioned and assigned to district offices or counties. Training included topics such as hunter and angler education, wildlife and fish management, media relations, defensive driving, firearms and defensive tactics, legal issues, and laws, among many other subjects.

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Wild Ohio Magazine Spring 2009

On the cover: **Yellow-rumped Warbler**

Features: **Basics of Birding**
Summer Camps on the Wild Side
The Wild Turkey
Mac-O-Chee Creel Restoration



INFORMATION & EDUCATION

■ Staff received national communications awards from the Association for Conservation Information: first place in Exhibits for the “Bat Cave” at the Ohio State Fair; second place in the Web sites category; second place in the Communications Campaigns category for our Farmers and Hunters Helping the Hungry promotion; and third place in the One-Time Publications Book/Report Category for the Warblers of Ohio and Eastern North America Guide and CD.

■ Hosted the Third Annual National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) State Tournament where more than 800 kids from 34 teams participated. (430 kids from 19 teams competed in the NASP National Tournament in Louisville, Kentucky) Added another 38 schools to Ohio’s NASP for a total of 305 schools.

■ Wildohio.com continues to be a popular destination for online customers. This year, the Division implemented interactive versions of Wild Ohio Magazine, the Ohio Hunting and Trapping Regulations, and several popular field guides. These online publications were experienced by over 67,000 visitors.

■ Awarded WILD School Sites start-up grants (\$500 each) to 16 schools.

■ Launched the Wild Ohio eNewsletter in January 2007 and it has since grown in popularity at a remarkable rate. The number of subscribers to the general eNewsletter has grown to 60,000 in just 2.5 years. The number of subscribers to the educator eNewsletter, which existed prior as an email listserv, has grown from 800 to 6,300 in 2.5 years – a 688% increase in active subscribers.



■ Produced the quarterly Wild Ohio magazine for the 20th year with an average of 145,000 copies distributed per issue. Also produced the award winning Wild Ohio for Kids magazine for the ninth year and distributed it to 300,000 young people.

■ Trained 218 new instructors in the Passport to Fishing program.

■ Trained 610 participants in Project WILD and Aquatic Project WILD in 44 workshops.

■ Awarded 184 Step Outside Grants totaling more than \$90,000.

■ Launched the promotional campaign for the Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp. This new program is dedicated to supporting the mission of the Wildlife Diversity Fund through the sale of an annual, non-mandatory \$15 stamp. Accomplishments include development of a Web site, eNewsletter, and a photo competition to determine the stamp’s image. The stamp goes on sale March 1, 2010.

■ Produced 16, half-hour Wild Ohio television programs, which are being aired on Ohio’s 12 PBS stations and more than 30 cable stations across the state.

■ Trained 17,800 students in 628 instructor-led and 251 home-study hunter education courses, as well as 834 new trapper education students, and 96 new hunter education instructors.

USE AND APPRECIATION BY THE PEOPLE SO THAT THESE RESOURCES CONTINUE TO ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL OHIOANS





OHIO WATCHABLE WILDLIFE

by Melissa Hathaway

One winter feeder visitor that is not interested in the black oil sunflower seeds or other treats you put out for the birds is the Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*). This bird of prey often hangs out around feeders, especially during the winter months, in hopes of snatching a songbird for its next meal.

Other names for the Cooper's hawk are blue darter, chicken hawk, hen hawk, Mexican hawk, quail hawk, striker, and swift hawk.

Cooper's hawks are stealthy hunters known for their adept maneuvering through dense cover in pursuit of prey. They also

hunt from cover and swoop down on their prey, taking them by surprise. Their diet consists primarily of birds, but they occasionally eat small mammals, reptiles, and amphibians.

These crow-sized hawks are similar in appearance to sharp-shinned hawks, but are slightly larger. Their short, broad wings and long tail enhance their maneuverability in dense cover. As with many birds of prey, the male is smaller than the female. The tail is long and is crossed by several dark bands with a distinct white band at the tip. Adults have slate-gray upperparts and a dark cap. The underparts are finely barred with a rusty color. The eyes are red.

COOPER'S HAWK AT A GLANCE

SIZE

14- to 20-inches long;
27- to 36-inch wingspan

PEAK BREEDING ACTIVITY

March

INCUBATION

32-36 days

CLUTCH SIZE

4-5 eggs

YOUNG FLEDGE

27-34 days after hatching

TYPICAL FOODS

mostly birds



Cooper's Hawk

Immatures have yellow eyes and a brown cap, with brown upper parts and pale underparts with thin black streaks mostly ending at the belly. Their tail is brown on top and pale underneath, barred with dark bands.

Cooper's hawks generally keep the same mate from year to year. If something happens to one member of the pair, the other will look for a new mate. Breeding begins in early spring and a nest of sticks and twigs is made in a tree, high above the ground. Both parents care for the young.

VIEWING OPPORTUNITIES



Cooper's hawks can be found in variety of habitats including deciduous forests, rural farmlands, and urban neighborhoods. You might be fortunate enough to observe one of these hawks right in your own yard as they are increasingly seen hunting birds at backyard feeders, especially in winter. In flight, they use quick, consecutive wing beats and a short glide, though they also soar.

Note: Go to wildohio.com and check out the Photo Gallery (Birds folder). A number of our Web site visitors have posted photos of Cooper's hawks found in their backyards.



News from Around Ohio



HUNTER BAGS RECORD BEARDED HEN

Trace Claypool, of Delphos, bagged quite the unusual turkey last May in Van Wert County – his prize hen sported a 9-inch beard. According to the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf), only 10 to 20 percent of female turkeys have beards. The NWTf's database of record wild turkeys shows Ohio's most recent record for a bearded female turkey was a hen with an 8.5-inch beard taken in 1990. The national record is 11 inches.



SHOOTING RANGE OPENED AT STATE PARK

Geneva State Park in Ashtabula County opened its new archery range last June. Pictured are Kevin Dixon, the Division of Wildlife's shooting sports coordinator, and state Park Officer Richard Alderman.

SOUTHWEST OHIOANS GET RARE VISIT FROM BLACK BEAR

A black bear took its merry old time roaming about southwest Ohio last summer giving many residents a close look at an animal they don't often see. After the first sighting in Adams County on May 22, many reports of sightings came from Adams, Brown, Highland, Clinton, and Warren counties, as it traveled throughout southwest Ohio, including a Girl Scout camp in Warren County.

Division biologists believed the bear to be a young male. During the months of May, June, and July, young male black bears disperse to establish their own territories. "Yearling dispersal" occurs when an adult female bear boots her one and a half year-old cub out of the family unit so she can breed and raise a new litter of cubs. Young females seldom venture as far as males to establish territories.

In 2008, 105 bear sightings occurred in 21 Ohio counties. An estimated 40 to 100 bears are living year-round in the Buckeye State. As bear populations expand in neighboring states, Ohio will likely see the its bear population continue to increase. Sightings are more common in southeastern and northeastern Ohio as the bears move in from Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Kentucky.



Chris Rolph kneels behind his 96-pound, state record blue catfish caught from the Ohio River near Cincinnati. Photo by Tom Cross

NEW STATE RECORD BLUE CATFISH CERTIFIED 96-POUND BLUE CATFISH CAUGHT IN OHIO RIVER

Chris Rolph, of Williamsburg, caught the new state record catfish in the Ohio River near downtown Cincinnati June 11. Rolph's catch weighed 96 pounds and was 54.5 inches in length with a 36 inch girth. The fish was caught using frozen skipjack herring, a native forage fish found in the Ohio River that is a popular bait fish used by catfish anglers. It took the lucky angler and his friend Jon Owens about 30 minutes to get the fish into their boat.

The blue catfish is the largest growing catfish in the Ohio River sometimes weighing in excess of 100 pounds. Rolph's new record replaced the first ever state record blue catfish of 57 pounds, 3.2 ounces certified in 2008.

For more information on Ohio's state record fish program contact Tom Cross, Chairman, Outdoor Writers of Ohio State Record Fish Committee, 1497 Cross Rd., Winchester, OH 45697, phone (937) 386-2752 outdoorwritersofohio.org

GRAND LAKE GETS FIRST SAUGEYE STOCKING

The Division of Wildlife released saugeye for the first time in Grand Lake St. Marys last May. The fish were raised at the Division's St. Marys State Fish Hatchery. Walleyes have been stocked into Grand Lake since 1999, but have not resulted in a successful lake fishery. The shallow, warm, and often turbid waters of Grand Lake are not ideal walleye habitat, and likely limited survival of the stocked walleye.

Saugeye are a hybrid that results by crossing a female walleye and a male sauger. Saugeye have proven to be a much better fit in most of Ohio's inland lakes. They have created outstanding fisheries in canal lakes like Buckeye and Indian, which have conditions similar to those at Grand Lake.

Until this year, saugeye were not considered for stocking in Grand Lake because fish escaping the lake from the west end have the potential to reach Lake Erie. The released saugeye were specially treated to ensure that they are sterile, and not capable of reproducing and interbreeding with walleyes if any escape the lake and make their way to Lake Erie.



PATCH SUPPORTS FEEDING THE HUNGRY AND CONSERVATION

The Ohio State Chapter of the NWTF is offering its second, in a series of collectable patches. Information can be found at the ohionwtf.org Web site. Part of the proceeds from each patch will go to the Farmers & Hunters Feeding the Hungry Program. The rest will go to support conservation practices across the state. A few of the 2008-2009 patches are still available. For more information contact Joe Sawmiller at wheelinsportsman@hotmail.com.



WINGFOOT LAKE PARK PURCHASED BY ODNR

Northeast Ohio wildlife enthusiasts will benefit greatly from a recent purchase by the Divisions of Wildlife and Parks & Recreation. The ODNR divisions, with a great amount of financial assistance from a national organization, The Trust for Public Land (TPL), have acquired the well known Wingfoot Lake Park in Portage County with plans to open the property for public wildlife-related recreation in the spring of 2010.

Wingfoot Lake and Wildlife Area will be a welcome addition for public access to hunting, fishing, and wildlife watching. The Division of Parks & Recreation will operate and maintain Ohio's newest park where users will find a wide variety of entertaining outdoor activities.

Wingfoot Lake and associated properties were purchased by The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company in the early 20th century. The park and lake were heavily used by Goodyear employees, retirees, families, and guests for many decades until it was closed for all use in 2006. The Divisions are grateful for the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company's efforts to see this greenspace preserved and for the assistance from TPL whose mission is "conserving land for people."

Wildlife
CALENDAR

December 5, 2010
FARMERS AND HUNTERS
FEEDING THE HUNGRY DAY

March 5, 2010
NATIONAL ARCHERY IN
THE SCHOOLS STATE
TOURNAMENT

- Ohio Expo Center •
Columbus, Ohio

March 10, 2010
WILDLIFE DIVERSITY
CONFERENCE

Theme: It all Makes Sense!

- Aladdin Shrine Complex •
Columbus, Ohio

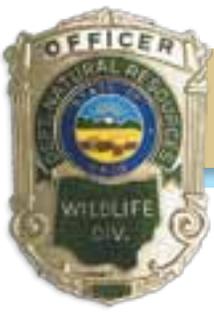
wildohio.com
for up-to-date events



PRETTY IN PINK!

During a naturalist workshop last summer at Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area in Wyandot County, Jan Kennedy of Mansfield came across a bright pink katydid. Word of her unusual discovery spread quickly, and "Pinky," as she dubbed it, became the subject of newspaper articles, blogs, Twitter, and Facebook.

According to Jim McCormac, avian education specialist with the Division of Wildlife, about 30 species of katydids live in Ohio, and nearly all are colored green. Perhaps one in 10,000 has a poorly understood genetic condition which causes it to be a "bubblegum" pink.



WILDLIFE LAW ENFORCEMENT

Field Notes

CONVICTED WILDLIFE VIOLATORS PAY THE PRICE NATIONALLY

The names of 159 wildlife law violators have been entered into the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact (IWVC) database since July 1, 2009. Ohio became a member state of the organization in January 2008. Ohio has reviewed and agreed to recognize more than 7,100 suspensions entered in the database by 30 other member states.

Ohio officials made their first entries in the database in June 2008 when several Wisconsin fishermen took twice the daily limit of walleye from Lake Erie. Their suspensions were recognized in their home state, and one of the men was caught fishing under revocation this past spring. He now has another year added on to his suspension.

“The suspension of hunting, trapping or fishing privileges is a powerful deterrent for violations,” said Ken Fitz, law enforcement program administrator.

Fitz cites two other instances where the system worked well. One person from Michigan was suspended in Ohio, then went to Florida on a fishing trip and tried to buy a license and was denied. A Pennsylvania resident with suspensions in Montana contacted the Ohio Division of Wildlife to inquire about hunting here; he was told he could not hunt in Ohio until his suspension ended.

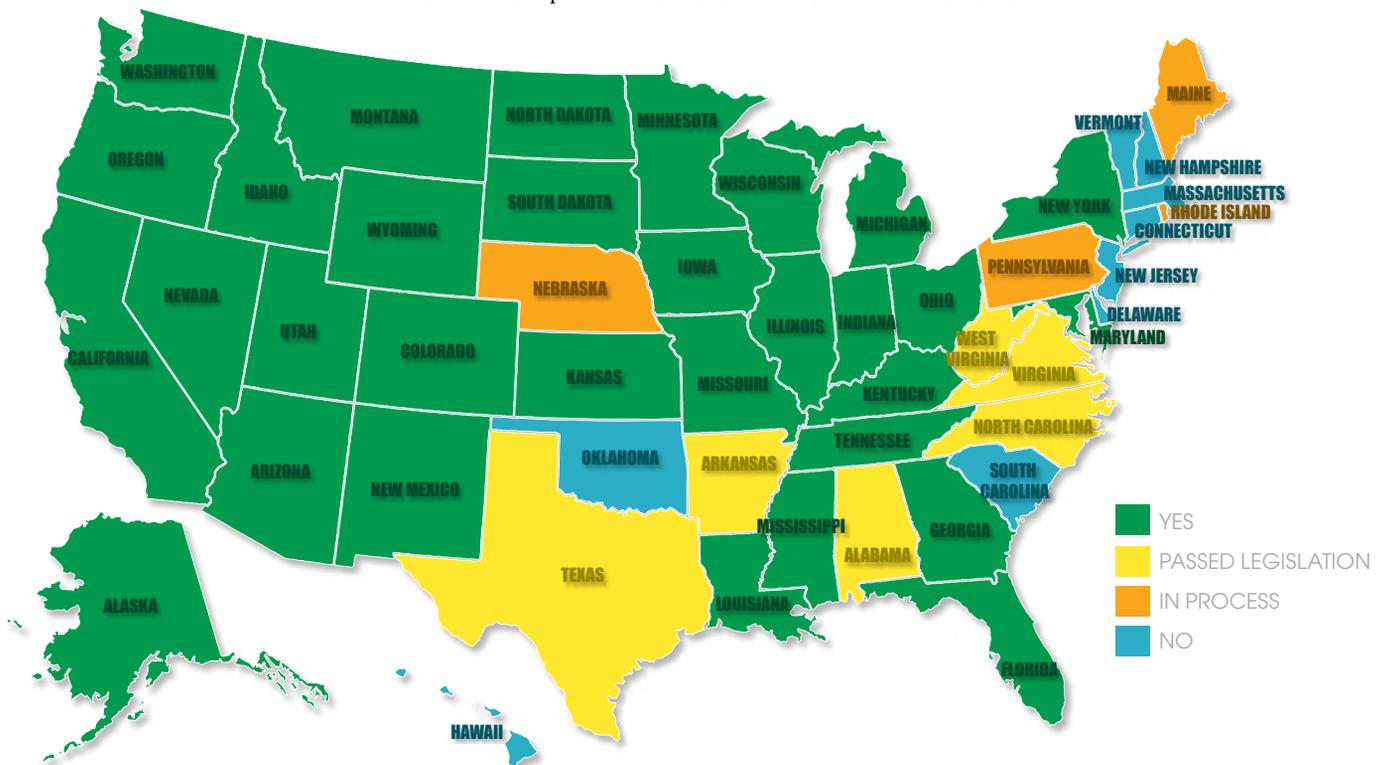
Entries made by Ohio officers include 137 Ohioans, 12 from Wisconsin, 3 from Illinois, two from Michigan, one from Tennessee, and one from Texas.

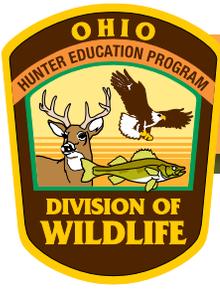
The IWVC is an agreement between states that was developed to recognize hunting, trapping, and fishing license suspensions across state lines. The IWVC was initiated in 1991 with Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington joining that year. Since that time, more than 24,000 entries have been made in the national database used to track suspended violators. Each state

must review entries in the database, and recognize suspensions from other states based upon their individual laws or criteria.

The agreement also allows nonresident violators from a compact member state to be treated the same as a resident of the state where a violation occurs. In the past, nonresidents were immediately taken to jail or had to pay their fine immediately. Under the agreement, nonresident violators can be issued a summons (ticket) and allowed to pay through the mail. If they do not pay, their hunting, trapping, and fishing privileges are suspended in all member states until they pay or appear in court.

Member states are listed at wildohio.com/Home/tabid/20979/Default.aspx. Several more states are in the process of completing the necessary legislative action to join. For more information, check the Division of Wildlife’s Web site at wildohio.com.





OUTDOOR SKILLS

Archery Continues to Wow Students

More than 1,000 students from teams all around the state will take center stage in Columbus on Friday March 5 during the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) state tournament held in conjunction with the Arnold Sports Festival. The event is spearheaded by California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. Archers from Ohio's schools will be vying for top honors and a chance to compete at the national level.

At last year's event, Maysville High School in Muskingum County earned first-place overall team honors for the third year in a row, as well as numerous individual awards. The Meigs High School team, from Meigs County, won the Spirit Award, which recognized their enthusiasm and support of fellow archers in the tournament. Jacob Riffle of Meigs High School and Kelsey Taylor

of Morgan High School were the top overall male and female archers. They each received full, two-year scholarships to Hocking College in Nelsonville.

Nineteen Ohio teams comprised of 438 students participated in the national championships in Louisville, Kentucky last May. Approximately 4,800 students from across the nation competed, making it the largest youth archery tournament in North America. Ohio is second only to Kentucky in the number of students participating in the national competition.

Teachers in the NASP program use target archery as a gym curriculum for elementary, middle, and high school students and cover archery, safety, equipment, technique, concentration skills, and self-improvement. For more information on the program, visit ohionasp.com.

Winner of the 2009 Governor's Celebrity & Youth Turkey Hunt Essay Contest



What Makes a Good Hunter?

by Noah Ulrey (age 14, Wapakoneta)

"Good hunters are dedicated to the ethical stewardship and protection of our earth's natural resources and wildlife.

They understand the game they're hunting, respect the landowner's property, and are grateful for the privilege to hunt.

A good hunter practices gun safety, obeys all hunting laws and regulations, and hunts only on land where he has permission; he's able to make a clean humane shot and can track and find game.

A good hunter reveres all life and shows his love for God's great outdoors by helping to conserve our natural resources, while passing on his passion for hunting to others."

Details on how to enter the 2010 Governor's Celebrity & Youth Turkey Hunt Essay will be announced later at wildohio.com.



ARNOLD SPORTS FESTIVAL 2010

Join us March 5-7 as Ohio's young archers shoot for top honors at the 2010 Arnold Sports Festival. In the spirit of the Winter Olympic Games, celebrate the competition of amateur athletes and experience the best in sport fitness.

Mosaic Art for Birds

by Donna Daniel



This mosaic made in the snow with bird seed is an outdoor art project that will be fun for you and the birds too!

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Sturdy stick to draw a shape
- Scoop for bird seed
- A variety of bird foods such as:
 - Sunflower seeds
 - Cracked corn
 - Millet
 - Mixed bird seed
 - Thistle
 - Chopped nuts or peanuts in the shell

1) Choose an open area of snow that you will be able to see from a window of your house. Use a stick to draw a large five-pointed star, flower, circle, U.S. flag, rainbow, or other simple shape (about 4 feet by 4 feet in size).

2) Using your feet, stamp down the snow inside your drawing so that the level of the snow inside the drawing is lower than the snow surrounding the drawing.

3) Using the variety of bird foods, fill different parts of the drawn shape to create your piece of art.

4) When inside the house, you can admire your artwork from a window and watch the backyard birds enjoy the masterpiece you created for them.

winter bird feeding tips

Bird Feeding is a fun and interesting hobby for the entire family. To help ensure you get the most enjoyment out of your efforts and provide for the birds to keep them coming back, here are some winter bird feeding tips:

- Keep feeders well stocked in winter, especially at sunrise and sunset. These feeding times are crucial to help birds survive cold winter nights.
- Prevent ice and snow from accumulating on a birdfeeder. It won't matter how much seed is in the feeder if the birds can't get to it.
- After a snowfall, sweep or shovel snow out from under your bird feeder so the birds can get at food that is on the ground.
- Black-oil sunflower and suet are high-energy foods and great choices to make available in winter.
- Offer clean, ice-free water by using a birdbath heater.

about the national bird-feeding society

Established in 1989, the National Bird-Feeding Society (NBFS) helps make the backyard bird feeding and watching hobby better - for people and wild birds. The NBFS accomplishes its mission by connecting hobbyists with education and research about backyard bird feeding.

*Adapted from
Projects for the Birder's Garden*

by Fern Marshall Bradley

r e c i p e s

Venison Taco Wraps

1 pound ground venison
1 packet taco seasoning
1 package soft flour tortillas
1 package sliced pepper jack cheese
Shredded lettuce, tomato, and sour cream if desired

In a skillet over medium heat, brown ground venison. Stir in taco seasoning according to package directions. Place flour tortilla on a plate; spread taco meat on tortilla in a line and sprinkle cheese on top. Place the tortilla in microwave oven 10 to 15 seconds. Remove from microwave and roll up. Garnish as desired.

Contributed by Paige Collingwood



Braised Rabbit

One, 2 ½ to 3-pound rabbit, bone in, cut into serving-size pieces
2 sprigs of fresh thyme or 1 teaspoon dried thyme
3 tablespoons unbleached all-purpose flour
Salt and fresh-ground black pepper to taste
Chopped flat-leaf parsley for garnish
1 cup water
1 ½ medium onions, chopped
1 cup red wine
Rice or noodles
4 medium carrots, chopped
1 garlic clove, chopped
½ cup canola or peanut oil

Spread flour in a shallow dish. Season the rabbit with salt and pepper, and dredge it in flour. Shake off the excess flour. In a large skillet or Dutch oven, heat oil over high heat. Add rabbit and cook 5 to 6 minutes, turning until lightly browned. Remove rabbit from skillet and set aside.

Add the carrots, onions, garlic, and thyme; cook over medium heat about 5 minutes until onions are lightly browned. Reduce heat and cook vegetables over low heat about 10 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add rabbit, wine, and water and cover pan. Cook over low heat about 35 minutes until rabbit is cooked through.

Using a slotted spoon or spatula, remove rabbit from pan and set aside. Purée the pan's contents with an emulsifier, food mill, food processor or blender. Return rabbit and sauce to pan and simmer. Serve the rabbit and sauce over rice or noodles and garnish with parsley.

Contributed by Laura Jones



For more great wild game recipes go to wildohiocookbook.com



READERS' PHOTOS

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



A grackle with white tail features is a visitor at the Lyons' bird feeder, a replica of their grandfather's barn.
LeRoy and Laura Lyons, Ohio City



Paige Dillery observing a bird's nest while exploring her grandma's backyard.

Photo Submitted by Kids in the Outdoors



Each year robins and doves fight over this nesting spot at the end of a deck. This year they both took up residence just six inches apart.

Deb Mohr, De Graff

Like a Kid with a Hand in the Cookie Jar... This tabby was having fun with an angler's minnow supply.

Barry Apgear, Columbus



"I found this fox snake in the shell of a 1950s Elgin outboard boat motor on Kelleys Island."
Ken Baka, Richmond Heights



Adam Mumea shot this turkey in Richland County.
Chris Vandergoot, Huron



Eight lucky winners of an essay contest got to go turkey hunting with Matt Light, NFL Football offensive lineman for the New England Patriots and Dwight (Buford) Edwards, Darke County wildlife officer. (Event sponsored by the Darke County Pheasants Forever chapter and the Light Foundation.)



Ethan Frank with his first deer and Evan Frank with his first squirrel, both taken while hunting with their grandfather in Monroe County.

Kitty Kahrig, Jerusalem



AJ Kopec of Meigs County with his first longbeard (21 pounds).

Brett Beam, Amherst



Jacob Smith with his first deer, taken on Woodbury Wildlife Area near Coshocton.



Raphael Piskach with a 16-point buck he shot while hunting with his grandfather in Coshocton County.

John Gregs, Lakewood



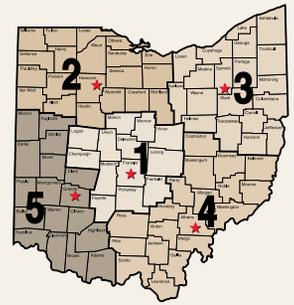
"My son with the 47-inch flathead catfish he caught with a Zebco model 33 reel."

Kent Goch



Caiden and Maisson Carter were proud of the stringer of crappies they helped catch in a private pond and thought it was pretty cool to get to eat their catch.

Jeff Carter



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



The Pickenpaugh family had some good fishing expeditions this year. Here is Jane, age 12, with a largemouth; Luke, age 14, with a crappie; and their dad Dave with a crappie.

Dave Pickenpaugh, Columbus



"Austin Saylor poses with a largemouth bass he caught during Free Fishing Days."
Toby Sheets, Fayetteville



Austin Brown on his first fishing trip to Lake Erie.
Submitted by Kids in the Outdoors



Austin Lee Sabo on a fishing trip.

Submitted by Kids in the Outdoors

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE MISSION STATEMENT

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





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

Hey Youth Hunters Age 14 to 17!

ENTER TO WIN A DREAM HUNT WITH
OHIO'S GOVERNOR AND CELEBRITIES

The annual Governor's Youth Turkey Hunt essay contest could be your ticket to a fantastic hunting trip with Governor Ted Strickland, some of Ohio's best hunting guides, and other celebrities. Writers of the top 10 essay submissions will get to attend the hunt in May 2010. One lucky winner will hunt with the governor. (See page 17 for the 2009 winning essay by Noah Ulrey of Wapakoneta, Ohio.) Details of the contest and the hunt will be announced in the future at wildohio.com.

