

# Wild Ohio

Fall 2003

M A G A Z I N E

Ohio Department of Natural Resources

**DIVISION OF WILDLIFE**





1873

2003

130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**Editorial Staff**

**Vicki Mountz**  
Executive Editor

**Melissa Hathaway**  
Editor

**Lisa Smith**  
Technical Editor

**Gene Whitten**  
Designer / Illustrator

**Tim Daniel**  
Photographer

**Ohio Department of Natural Resources**

**Bob Taft**  
Governor, State of Ohio

**Samuel W. Speck**  
Director, Department of Natural Resources

**Steven A. Gray**  
Chief, Division of Wildlife

**1-800-WILDLIFE**

WILD OHIO (ISSN 10611541) is published four times a year (March, June, September, and December) by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife, 1840 Belcher Drive, Columbus, OH 43224-1300. Subscriptions are free.

To subscribe, send requests to the address below. Periodicals postage paid at Columbus, Ohio and additional offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to—  
River Copy and Mail  
4483 Industrial Parkway  
Cleveland OH 44135

**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; or, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, EEO Office, 1930 Belcher Drive, Columbus, OH 43224.

**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.*

**Division of Wildlife Headquarters**  
1840 Belcher Drive  
Columbus, OH 43224-1300  
(614) 265-6300 (Voice)  
1-800-750-0750 (Ohio Relay TTY only)  
1-800-WILDLIFE

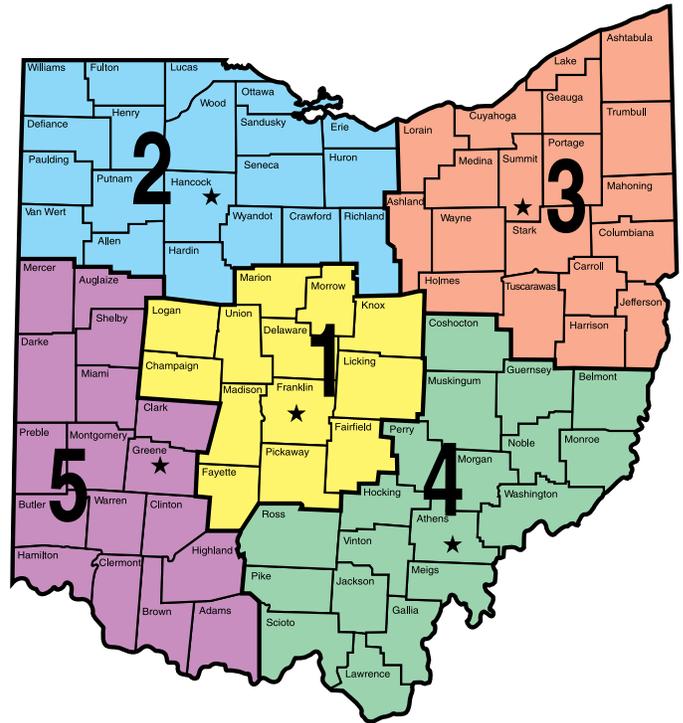
**Wildlife District One**  
1500 Dublin Road  
Columbus, OH 43215  
(614) 644-3925

**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) 594-2211

**Wildlife District Five**  
1076 Old Springfield Pike  
Xenia, OH 45385  
(937) 372-9261



**1-800-WILDLIFE**

Toll-free for general wildlife information / publications

**1-888-HOOKFISH**

Toll-free for a Lake Erie fishing report

**1-800-POACHER**

Toll-free to report poaching

<http://www.ohiodnr.com/wildlife>

Division of Wildlife Web site

**On the Wildlife Calendar for Fall . . .**

**September 27**

**National Hunting and Fishing Day**, recognizes hunters and anglers for their commitment to conserve fish and wildlife resources

**September 27 and 28**

**Lake Erie Waterfowlers Festival**, Magee Marsh Wildlife Area, Ottawa County (419) 898-0960, ext. 31; 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

**November 30**

**Wooden Feather Day**, Sportsman's Migratory Bird Center at Magee Marsh Wildlife Area, Ottawa County (419) 898-0960, ext. 31; noon–4 p.m.

## Features



6

### The Role of Beaver in Ohio's History

Read about the importance of beaver in the early settlement of Ohio and the Great Lakes Region, how the demand for its fine pelt nearly caused its elimination, and how this furbearer rebounded.



9

### Wheelin' Sportsmen in Morgan County

A community-wide effort with AEP in Morgan County made Ohio's first Wheelin' Sportsmen's deer hunt a successful and memorable event for everyone involved.

#### On the Cover:



The beaver was a major factor in westward expansion of colonial America. See our feature story on page 6. (Photo by Tim Daniel)



11

### Ohio's 2003–2004 Hunting and Trapping Seasons Set

New regulations expand hunting opportunities in Ohio, including expanded youth seasons.



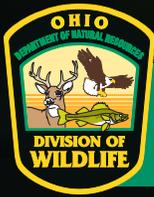
14

### Good News!—CWD Not Detected in Ohio's Deer Herd

Since the discovery of CWD in wild deer in Wisconsin, the Division of Wildlife has taken a proactive approach to protect the Buckeye State's healthy and high-quality deer population.

## Departments

Watchable Wildlife	Monarch Butterfly	4
Wild Things		16
Outdoor Skills	Treestand Safety	18
Wildlife Law Enforcement	Field Notes	19
Backyards for Wildlife	Q & A	20
For Wild Kids	Barns and Barn Owls	21
Wild Game Gourmet	Venison Recipes	22
Wildlife Reflections	Frontier Hunters	23



# Ohio's watchable wildlife



## Watchable Wildlife • *Monarch*

### Monarch Madness

*Story and photos by Tim Daniel*

Spectacular! That is the only way I can describe the hundreds of butterflies that were fluttering over my head. One early fall evening just before sunset, waves of black and orange were piling onto tree branches to rest overnight. These were monarch butterflies and they were on the move. This “monarch madness” did not occur in an exotic, tropical location. Rather, I witnessed this event at Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area in Wyandot County.

Monarchs may be the most identifiable butterflies, even for those with little knowledge of their habits. Like most other insects, monarch butterflies cannot survive a long, cold winter. But unlike most other insects, monarchs deal with the oncoming winter by migrating to the California coast and mountains of Mexico. This migration is triggered as fall approaches and the days grow shorter.

In Ohio, the monarch migration peaks in early to mid-September, with stragglers seen late into October. The monarchs we see passing through the state may have hatched as far away as northeastern United States and Canada.

If you wish to take a more interactive role in migration and research consider participating in a monarch tagging program. The purpose of tagging is to develop location data when the butterflies are caught for comparison with the point of recovery data if caught again. This information is used to determine the routes and pathways taken by the monarchs and their survival rates. For more information on tagging, check out the Monarch Watch Web site at the University of Kansas at [www.monarchwatch.org](http://www.monarchwatch.org). Tagging is a great way to introduce both children and adults to the wonders of the migration.

No matter what your incentive, you will no doubt enjoy the migration spectacle and remember it fondly through the upcoming winter season. It may even inspire you during the cold months ahead to start planning a butterfly garden. Be sure to include milkweeds in your plan, as monarchs need these plants on which to lay their eggs.

Monarch caterpillars are an off-white color with yellow and black stripes across the body and black antennae-like protrusions at both the head and the tail. After a few weeks of fattening up on the leaves of milkweeds, the caterpillars will form a chrysalis and subsequently hatch into a new butterfly.



# Butterfly

The adults sip nectar from the blooms of milkweeds and other common butterfly garden plants. Incorporating milkweeds in a garden will give you the opportunity to view the complete life cycle of the monarch, making enjoying monarchs a summer-long event. 

## Viewing Opportunities

Whether you observe monarchs in your butterfly garden or you witness the migration in September, watching monarch butterflies is truly a rewarding experience. In Ohio, the monarch migration peaks in early to mid-September, with stragglers seen late into October. On warm, sunny days these butterflies make their way across the state in a southwesterly direction towards their wintering grounds. Near a roost, concentrations of monarchs may be evident in the mornings and evenings as they come and go to and from the resting area.



## Flight Facts

- Monarchs weigh .25–.75 grams (a dime weighs 2.3 grams).
- Male monarchs are larger than females.
- Monarchs can travel 50 miles per day during migration.
- The average flight speed is about 12 miles per hour, but they can fly at faster speeds for short distances if disturbed.
- Monarchs have been observed flying up to 3/4-mile above the earth's surface.
- A monarch can live up to 8 months.

# The Role of Beaver in OHIO'S HISTORY

by Chris Dwyer



## The Rush for "Soft Gold"

A bearded man steps out of the forest and onto the snow-covered ice, crossing the beaver flowage to a dam where he checks several traps that he set for beaver. In this land of seemingly endless forest, lakes, and streams, beaver are more valuable than gold, and are quite easy to find. This rush for "soft gold" will soon bring more trappers and fur traders to this area, which in less than 100 years, will become a state named Ohio.

The importance of beaver in the settlement of Ohio and the Great Lakes Region is well known in the history books of the era, beginning with the Iroquois. The Iroquois are credited with starting the fur trade in the northeast, where they were eager to trade beaver pelts with the Europeans for iron tools, traps, rifles, and other goods. Europeans prized beaver pelts more than any other North American resource, which they used in making tall hats in Europe. The demand for high quality waterproof hats made of beaver felt nearly caused the extinction of this species in Europe by the 15th century.

The tremendous demand for beaver pelts from North America led the Iroquois to expand into the Ohio region from the mid- to late-1600s. They fought with resident tribes such as the Wyandot, Erie, Shawnee, and the Kickapoo in what is known as the Beaver Wars in order to dominate the territory. The Iroquois, who traded heavily with the Europeans in the northeast, were well armed with rifles and iron tools, and effectively drove out the resident tribes. The Iroquois were then followed by fur traders and French explorers, who often used beaver pelts to fund their search for the famed Northwest Passage, the discovery of which was an important goal in their quest for a more direct route to the Orient.

The fur trade increased during the 1700s as the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River made the vast riches of furs from the mid-continent region more accessible to Europeans. French fur traders and explorers dominated the area as they traded with the Iroquois from the early 1700s to the 1760s, a period in which the Iroquois and other Great Lakes tribes gave up many of their traditional values as they became more dependent on European goods. In 1754, the French attempted to take over exclusive control of the fur trade,

resulting in the Seven Years' War with the British. During this period, the fur trade declined sharply while both sides fought each other. Meanwhile, both the British and French provided extensive gifts to Native Americans to win their allegiance. With the drop in the demand for fur and numerous gifts they were being given, Native Americans became even more dependent on the Europeans for goods.

In 1760, the British defeated the French, allowing them to take control of the fur trade in the Great Lakes and the Ohio River Valley. However, the British felt that by conquering the French, the land and all its resources (including Native Americans) fell under British rule. This created much tension and dissent between Native Americans and the British, ultimately bringing about a rebellion in 1763 in which the Native Americans lost. The British now had full control of the fur trade, and the pressure on the harvest of beaver and other furbearers increased as new trappers and fur traders entered the Great Lakes Region.

The American Revolution served another devastating blow to the fur trade. American colonies were boycotting British goods, reducing the demand for beaver pelts and causing their value to drop sharply, not to mention the disruption in trade due to the war. After the Revolutionary War, the fur trade rebounded slightly, but the unregulated harvest of beaver over the years began to take its toll. (The majority of beaver in Ohio were taken from 1750 to 1800.)

At the time Lewis and Clark's Corps of Discovery was preparing to extend the American fur trade west and explore the route to the Pacific in 1803, Ohio became the 17th State.

At this time, beaver were becoming extremely rare throughout the region, and by 1830 they were thought to have been completely eliminated from Ohio.

## The Come-Back Years for Ohio's Beaver

More than 100 years later, signs of beaver began to reappear in northeast Ohio, with the first sign being found on the western shore of Pymatuning Reservoir in 1936. During that same year, a lone beaver was also found in Belmont County on McMahan Creek. As beaver trickled in from western Pennsylvania and became established, they were being reported more frequently



Some of the first evidence of beaver returning to Ohio.

Carl L. Mosley



**Releasing a beaver at Forked Run, Meigs County.**

Carl L. Mosley



**Ear tagging a beaver before its release.**

Carl L. Mosley

throughout northeast Ohio. This sparked an interest in restoring this species to other areas of Ohio that had suitable habitat, but no beaver. In 1940, the Ohio Conservation and Natural Resources Commission and Belmont County sportsmen obtained a pair of beaver from the Adirondack Mountains of New York, and released them on the south fork of Captina Creek. This pair became established, and added to the 11 counties known to be occupied by beaver by 1947. This included Columbiana County, which reported nine active colonies around Guilford Lake. These colonies were thought to have been the result of nearly 50 beaver that escaped from captivity after being transported to a local fur farm from Michigan.

During the 1950s, beaver numbers were increasing to the point where they were beginning to cause problems for landowners in many localized areas. This prompted the Division of Wildlife to relocate many beaver around the eastern and southern portion of the state, an effort led by state trapper Sheldon Colvin. Mr. Colvin became an expert on live-trapping and moving beaver during the late 1950s and 1960s, while keeping excellent records on each beaver, such as:

sex, weight, length, location where they were captured, ear tag numbers, and release locations. This effort

**An ear-tagged beaver.**



ODNR Division of Wildlife

helped to jump-start the recovery of beaver throughout other portions of Ohio. According to a statewide survey conducted in 1958, beaver had increased to a level where they were found in 15 counties, with an estimated population of 329 animals. At this time, the population was thought to have a high turnover rate and colonies may have moved frequently due to lack of adequate food supplies that would keep them in the same location. By 1961, the Ohio beaver population in Ashtabula, Columbiana, and Mahoning counties had increased to an estimated 630

*continued on page 8*



**The state trapper, Sheldon Colvin, became an expert on live-trapping and moving beaver during the late 1950s and 1960s.**

**Excerpts from the Status of Beaver in Ohio, 1958:**

In 1942, two beavers were captured while fighting dogs on the Chester Paul farm at Cherry Valley. These animals were kept for display purposes.

Jefferson County reported two active colonies in 1947. One of these had existed since the spring of 1945 between strip mine spoil banks in Wayne Township. There was said to be four animals in this colony. The second active colony was on Short Creek near Ramsey and Adena in Smithfield Township. A single beaver was discovered in the cellar of a house in Brush Creek Township in the spring of 1947. This animal was released on the Brush Creek Wildlife Area.

Trumbull County had three active colonies in 1947, all in Hartford Township. Two were on the Boyd-Hamilton estate, a large semi-wilderness tract of land lying on Yankee Run. Considerable evidence of beaver, in the form of cuttings, was noted on the Smith farm; however, no dams were ever located.

animals, allowing the first regulated beaver season to occur in Ohio's history, resulting in 131 animals harvested. Regulated harvests were gradually permitted in other counties as the population continued to increase, ultimately leading to a statewide season in 1983-84.



Ohio Conservation Bulletin, March 1961

**A young, successful trapper, Gary Dickerhoff of Ellsworth, is shown with a beaver he trapped during Ohio's first beaver trapping season in more than a century. He is pictured with his grandfather, Earl Ressler, Mahoning County game protector.**

Today, Ohio's beaver population is numbered at more than 30,000 animals, with the majority being found in the forested lakes, rivers, and streams of the eastern and southern portions of the state. However, the range of beaver continues to increase gradually, with more being found in central and northwestern Ohio as river and stream corridors are allowed to regenerate after years of clearing.

Two hundred years after becoming the 17th state, a bearded man once again steps out of the forest and walks to the edge of the beaver flowage. The fall leaves are in full color as he looks out over the pond, contemplating the role that beaver have played in Ohio's rich history. Soon, he begins to think about where he, his wife, and two children will set their modern traps later this winter for beaver, just as settlers did many years ago.

Here in Ohio, beaver are once again healthy and abundant thanks to the dedication of biologists with the Division of Wildlife and modern-day trappers that have helped to restore beaver populations and keep their numbers stable. Beaver continue to play an important role in Ohio to this day, as they provide us with many examples of improved habitats and forest regeneration, as well as reminding us of the challenges of modern wildlife management in areas where they have become too successful. 



Tim Daniel



Melissa Hathaway

**Beaver fur top hat, beaver pelt, and historic trapping records on display at the Division of Wildlife's Sportsman's Migratory Bird Center at Magee Marsh, Ottawa County.**

# We're Wheelin'!

Story and photos by Carol Wells

It was a crisp fall day last November. The sun was shining bright, as were the faces of the participants arriving at the Morgan County Fairgrounds, headquarters for the three-day Wheelin' Sportsmen "Ultimate Team-up" deer hunt. This was the first of its type in the state of Ohio, and the excitement in the air was electrifying!

The 26 disabled hunters came from every telephone area code in Ohio and their disabilities were just as different as their telephone numbers. But their enthusiasm could not have been squelched. Many approached the volunteers and staff with tears in their eyes as they stretched out a hand in thanks for providing this unique hunting opportunity.

The hunt was held on American Electric Power's (AEP) ReCreation Land, which was a convenient driving distance from the fairgrounds in McConnelsville. ReCreation Land consists of over 37,340 reclaimed acres in Morgan, Muskingum, Guernsey, and Noble counties. It is open for public recreation at no charge and offers 350 lakes and ponds, nearly 380 campsites, plus many opportunities for sightseeing, hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, and horseback riding.

Staff of American Electric Power was instrumental in bringing this event to Ohio. Gary Kaster, Dave Dingey, Brian Cox, and Art Boyer worked diligently to promote the idea and work out the logistics. As a result of their efforts, the hunt and related activities were sponsored and promoted by a partnership of AEP, Division of Wildlife, National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf), and NWTf chapters from Morgan, Muskingum, Guernsey, Noble, Washington, and Coshocton counties. Whitetails Unlimited also served an active role by providing guides, blaze orange hats, and garnering many donations.

Each hunter was paired with an able-bodied guide, area sportsmen who dedicated many hours scouting for deer and making their designated hunting area

accessible for these special hunters. During the hunt, guides carried equipment and assisted in any way necessary.

There were abundant heartwarming stories about the unique individuals participating. One such story was that of Edwin "Bud" Rawlings of Fresno, Ohio. Bud was serving our country in Vietnam when he stepped on a land mine and was immediately rendered a double amputee, losing the lower portion of both legs. Bud's tenacity and positive attitude allowed him to complete and retire from a career in the heavy construction field, but his love of hunting maintains his drive and enthusiasm.

Throughout the years, he has employed many methods of accessing his hunting spots, including crawling, walking with prosthetic legs, and using an ATV. During this particular hunt, Bud chose to walk the rugged terrain while guide Jamie Worstel carried his gear. Bud didn't harvest a deer, but he hunted hard every day despite sore limbs. (He is featured in a spring segment of our *Wild Ohio Video Magazine*. Watch for it on your local public broadcasting station.)

The youngest hunter was 14-year-old Seth Dille. Seth kept the crew lively with his wit and ear-to-ear smile. Seth was born with limited use of his right hand and arm, but it didn't deter *continued on page 10*



Athens County Wildlife Officer George Foreman provides hunter David Jacobsen, of Cincinnati, with hunting aids.



Division of Wildlife District Four Manager Jim Marshall marvels at the four-pound-plus saugeye caught by an event participant on the Muskingum River.



Local guide Jamie Worstel (left) and Bud Rawlings (right), of Fresno, seal their friendship as guide and hunter.

## **We're Wheelin'!** *continued from page 9*

his hunt. While he, too, was unsuccessful in harvesting a deer, he did have the opportunity to see and shoot at a deer, even though he missed. Seth left the hunt with what he considered to be the best prize ever—the empty hull from his first shot. He vowed to hang onto it until he harvests his first deer!

Over the course of the three days, five deer were harvested, including four bucks and one doe. Successful hunters were: James R. Brown, Tiffin; John Bistock, Jr., Twinsburg; Michael E. Pawlaczyk, Corning; Marion Lee Brickey, Cleveland; and David Jacobsen, Cincinnati. These outdoorsmen enjoyed their hunts tremendously and forged new friendships with their hard-working guides—Steve Lawrence, Kent Papageorge, Danny Lowe, Rich Gura, and Troy Devold. A local deer processor donated their services so the hunters did not have to handle and transport the deer, and a local taxidermist awarded gift certificates for mounting the deer for display.

Although the event was initiated by staff at AEP, it was a community-wide effort. Sportsmen's clubs opened their facilities for weekend activities. Many merchants donated door prizes, food, or gave other monetary support. Various meals were prepared and served by the Grange, VFW women's auxiliary, and fire department members.

Additional events allowing community participation were conducted in conjunction with the hunt. Two fund-raising banquets with silent and live auctions were held, shooting competitions were conducted at two area ranges, Division of Wildlife staff provided archery opportunities, horseback riding was provided by the local MRDD organization, and talented area musicians provided evening entertainment.

One participant and his guide took time to enjoy the best of both worlds by taking advantage of the excellent fishing in the Muskingum River, which flows in front of the fairgrounds. They returned from their bank fishing expedition with a four-pound-plus saugeye!

At the closing ceremonies on Sunday, November 10, there was an atmosphere of comradery and pride as awards were made for the first deer checked in, largest buck, and largest doe. David Jacobsen of Cincinnati took the award for biggest deer harvested overall. David, a 40-year-old paraplegic,

**Left:**  
**Bud Rawlings, of Fresno, aims at a deer while guide Jamie Worstel watches.**



**Right:**  
**Mike Pawlaczyk, of Corning, shows off his deer with guide Danny Lowe.**



thanked everyone for their efforts. David's disability is the result of a military accident. He reminded everyone the following day, November 11, was Veterans Day and he led the group in a moment of silence in honor of our nation's veterans.

The Wheelin' Sportsmen NWTf program was created by a merger between the NWTf and the Alabama-based Wheelin' Sportsmen of America. The program strives to assist disabled persons interested in shooting, hunting, fishing, archery, and other outdoor activities.

Approximately 50 million individuals in the United States have some type of disability. Unfortunately, their opportunities to participate in outdoor activities are often limited. Each Wheelin' Sportsmen event is designed to promote education, good health, character, sportsmanship, recreation, self-esteem, and disability awareness.

For more information on this national program, visit the Web site at [www.nwtf.org](http://www.nwtf.org) or call 1-800-THE-NWTF. 



**During an afternoon break, a participant demonstrates you can overcome anything as he shoots a 67-pound pull compound bow with his teeth.**



**Wildlife District Four Manager Jim Marshall presents David Jacobsen, of Cincinnati, the award for biggest deer overall.**



## New Regulations Expand Youth Hunting Opportunities in Ohio

A new, statewide deer gun hunting season for young hunters, an expansion of the existing youth spring turkey hunting season, and the use of two-way radios for hunter safety highlighted proposals approved by the Ohio Wildlife Council for the 2003-2004 hunting and trapping seasons.

Young hunters in Ohio will have increased hunting options with the approval of a new youth deer gun season on Saturday, November 22 and Sunday, November 23, 2003 for both private and public lands.

“These special hunts provide young outdoor enthusiasts with a chance to experience our state’s great deer hunting during a prime time before the regular deer gun season,” said Steven A. Gray, chief of the Division of Wildlife. “We hope adult hunters will take a new, young hunter and introduce them to the excitement and challenge of deer hunting.”

Young hunters will be permitted to bag one deer of either sex in any county of Ohio. Any deer taken will be part of the young hunter’s total season limit.

The Ohio Wildlife Council also approved an extension of hunting hours for the two-day spring youth wild turkey season, which will begin in 2004. This extension will allow the spring youth turkey hunt to open from sunrise to sunset on both private and public land. For 2003, the season will continue to open at sunrise and close at noon.

Two-way radios will now be permitted for safety-related and personal communication while deer hunting. They will not be allowed to aid in the hunting of deer, such as using the radios to tell other hunters about the location of deer or notifying other hunters of deer movement. Previously, the use of the radios was permitted in all types of hunting in Ohio except for deer.

Following Ohio’s record 204,652 deer taken during last year’s season, the 2003-2004 deer season will expand the two-deer limit in many Ohio counties. However, there will be no three-deer limit counties.

**Zone R (Five counties)** Hunters may take only one deer during the 2003-04 deer seasons, which can be a deer of either sex during archery or primitive seasons, or during the first two days of the statewide gun season or a buck only during the last five days of the gun season.

**Zone A (29 counties)** Hunters may take only one deer during the 2003-04 seasons, which can be a deer of either sex.

**Zone B (54 counties)** Hunters may take no more than two deer during the 2003-04 seasons, of which only one may be an antlered deer.

The statewide deer gun season will be held from December 1 through December 7. The increasingly popular archery season will open October 4, 2003 through January 31, 2004. The statewide primitive or muzzleloader season will open on

# OHIO'S 2003-2004 Hunting • AND • Trapping Seasons Set

photos by Tim Daniel



the traditional date of December 27 and run four days through December 30. The special area primitive hunts will be open October 20 - 25 at Salt Fork, Shawnee, and Wildcat Hollow state wildlife areas for antlered deer only.

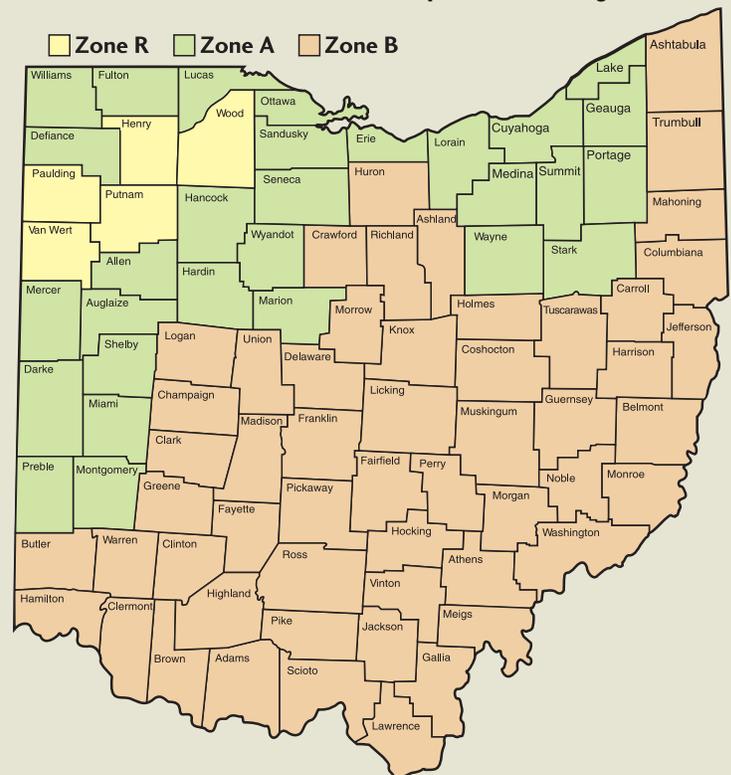
The legal hunting hours for rabbit, pheasant, and quail is now from sunrise to sunset. This change brings legal hunting hours in line on both private and public land. Squirrel season will now open on September 1 to coincide with the opening of several other seasons.

The following changes were also approved for the Ginseng Management Program: Opening day has been set for September 1 and diggers are required to immediately replant seeds at the place where the plant was collected. The fee for certifying ginseng will be \$3 a pound.

*continued on page 12*

## 2003-2004 Deer Zones

Refer to the *Ohio 2003-2004 Hunting & Trapping Regulations* for detailed information about seasons, permits, and bag limits.





## Approved Hunting and Trapping Regulations

(Significant changes are in **red print**)

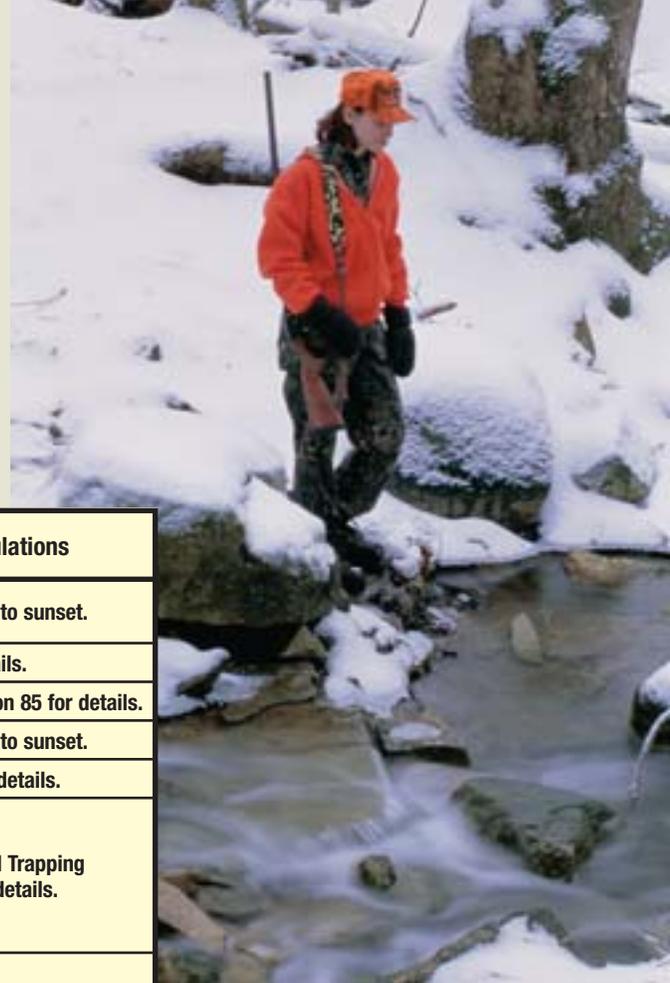
**SQUIRREL:** September 1 through January 31. Hours one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. Daily bag limit six.

**GROUSE:** Open second Saturday in October (11) through February 29. Hours one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. Daily bag limit three.

**YOUNG HUNTERS' UPLAND SEASON:** Open the two Saturdays and Sundays immediately before the regular opening date (October 25 and 26 and November 1 and 2) statewide (public and private lands). Rabbit, pheasant, and all other legal game that is in season may be taken. Quail may be taken in counties open to quail hunting. Daily bag limits same as during the regular hunting seasons.

### 2003–2004 Hunting Season Dates and Bag Limits

Species	Opening Date	Closing Date	Daily Bag	Special Regulations
Squirrel gray, red, fox, black	September 1	January 31	6	½-hour before sunrise to sunset.
Mourning dove	September 1 – See Migratory Game Bird Publication 298 for details.			
Whitetail deer	Refer to 2003–2004 Hunting and Trapping Regulations, Publication 85 for details.			
Ruffed grouse	October 11	February 29	3	½-hour before sunrise to sunset.
Ducks, Geese	See waterfowl regulations, Publications 295 & 298 for complete details.			
Wild turkey (Fall)	October 11	October 26	Refer to 2003–2004 Hunting and Trapping Regulations, Publication 85 for details.	
Wild turkey (Archery Only)	October 11	November 30		
Wild turkey (Youth Only)	April 24, 2004	April 25, 2004		
Wild turkey (Spring)	April 26, 2004	May 23, 2004		
Cottontail rabbit	November 7	February 29	4	Sunrise to sunset. See Publication 85 for restricted area.
Ringneck Pheasant	November 7	January 4	2	Sunrise to sunset. You may only take rooster pheasants.
Bobwhite quail	November 7	November 30	4	Sunrise to sunset. See text, page 13 for open counties.
Fox, Raccoon, Skunk Opossum, Weasel	November 10	January 31	No Limit	No restrictions on hours, except during deer season. Fur Taker Permit is required.
Young Hunters' Special Upland Season for cottontail rabbit, ringneck pheasant, bobwhite quail	October 25–26 and November 1–2		Refer to 2003–2004 Hunting and Trapping Regulations, Publication 85, for details.	
Coyote	No closed season for hunting or trapping	No Limit	See Publication 85 for special hunting hours and special regulations.	
Groundhog	Closed during deer gun season only.	No Limit	½-hour before sunrise to sunset.	





**FALL WILD TURKEY:** Open second Saturday in October 11 through the third following Sunday, October 26 for hunters using a shotgun with shot, a longbow or a crossbow and through the Sunday after Thanksgiving, November 30, for hunters using a longbow or a crossbow. Limit one turkey of either sex per fall season. Hours one-half hour before sunrise to sunset from October 11 through October 26 and one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset from October 27 through November 30. (36 counties open for fall turkey hunting include: Adams, Ashland, Ashtabula, Athens, Belmont, Brown, Carroll, Clermont, Columbiana, Coshocton, Gallia, Geauga, Guernsey, Harrison, **Highland**, Hocking, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Knox, Lawrence, Licking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, Pike, Richland, Ross, Scioto, Trumbull, Tuscarawas, Vinton, and Washington.)

**RABBIT:** Open first Friday in November (7) through February 29. Hours **sunrise** to sunset. Daily bag limit four.

**PHEASANT:** Open first Friday in November (7) through January 4. Hours **sunrise** to sunset. Daily bag limit two. Cocks only.

**QUAIL:** Open first Friday in November (7) through November 30. Hours **sunrise** to sunset. Counties open to hunting are Adams, Athens, Brown, Butler, Clermont, Clinton, Highland, Jackson, Meigs, Montgomery, Preble, Ross, Scioto, Vinton, and Warren. Daily bag limit four.

**FOX HUNTING:** Open November 10 through January 31. Daytime hunting of fox closed during deer gun season. No other restriction on hours. No daily bag limit.

**RACCOON AND OPOSSUM HUNTING:** Open November 10 through January 31. No daily bag limit.

**SPRING WILD TURKEY:** Open statewide (except on designated youth hunting areas) on the fourth Monday in April (26) (2004) through the fourth following Sunday, May 23. Hours one-half hour before sunrise to noon. Public hunting areas will be open to youth hunters (17 years old and younger) for turkey hunting on the Saturday and Sunday immediately prior to the regular spring wild turkey season (April 24 & 25, 2004). **Hours for youth hunts will be one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.** Limit two bearded turkeys per hunter per spring season.

**CROW:** Open Friday, Saturday and Sunday from June 13, 2003 through March 21, 2004. Hours one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. No daily bag limit.

**FALCONRY:** Seasons for all non-migratory small game species will open on the third Saturday in August (16) and extend through March 10. *continued on page 14*

# Good News!— CWD Not Detected in Ohio's Deer Herd

by Mike Reynolds • photos by Tim Daniel

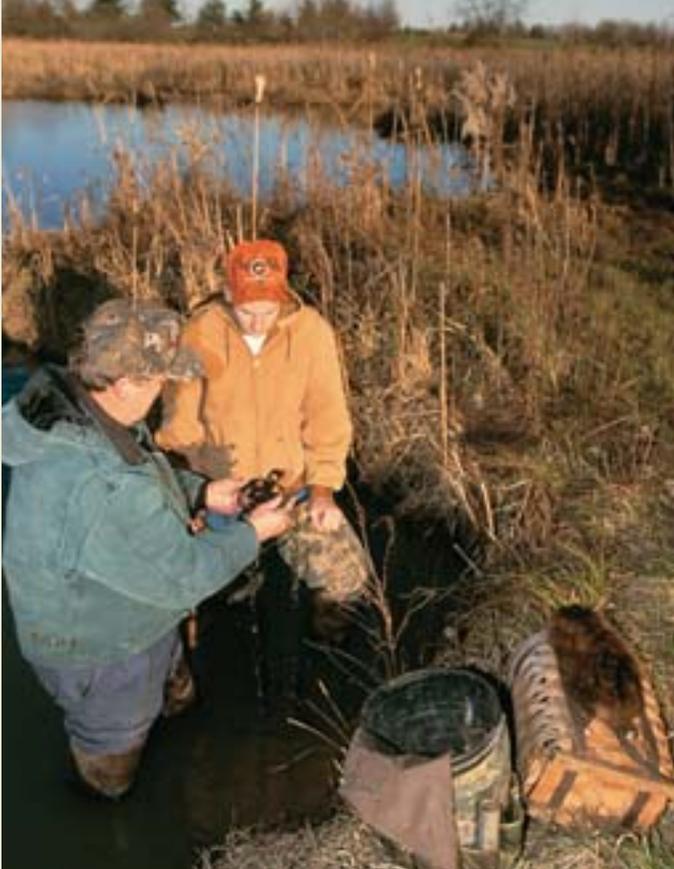
**C**hronic Wasting Disease (CWD), a progressive, degenerative, fatal disease of deer and elk, didn't receive much national attention when it was restricted to a few game management units in northeastern Colorado and southwestern Wyoming. For nearly 30 years, CWD received little interest from the media, sportsmen, and biologists outside of this limited area.

Concerns began to increase in the late 1990s with reports of elk on game farms that had died and tested positive for CWD in a few western states. But it was the discovery of CWD in three wild deer harvested in Wisconsin in February, 2002 that prompted national media attention and wildlife agencies across the country to take action to protect healthy deer herds against this emerging threat.

As of April 2003, the disease has been found in wild or captive deer and/or elk herds in 12 states (Colorado, Wyoming, South Dakota, Nebraska, New Mexico, Wisconsin, Illinois, Utah, Montana, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Minnesota) and two Canadian provinces (Alberta and Saskatchewan).

**Testing was conducted in the fall of 2002  
and Chronic Wasting Disease  
was not detected in Ohio's deer herd.**

Since the discovery of CWD in wild deer in Wisconsin, the Division of Wildlife, in cooperation with other state agencies, has taken a proactive approach to protect the Buckeye State's healthy and high-quality deer population. Ohio and most other states have adopted strict regulations regarding the importation of captive deer and elk onto game farms. Animals can only be imported from herds with CWD-free status. Additionally, disease testing has been expanded to include both targeted



## 2003–2004 Trapping Season Dates

Species	Opening Date	Closing Date
Fox, Raccoon, Opossum, Skunk, Weasel	Nov. 10, 2003	Jan. 31, 2004
Mink, Muskrat	Nov. 10, 2003	Feb. 29, 2004
Mink, Muskrat, Raccoon, Opossum, Skunk, Weasel (Erie, Ottawa, Sandusky, and Lucas County east of the Maumee River)	Nov. 10, 2003	Mar. 15, 2004
Beaver, Northeast Zone (North of I-76 & East of I-77)	Jan. 10, 2004	Feb. 29, 2004
Beaver, remainder of state	Dec. 26, 2003	Feb. 29, 2004
River Otter	NO OPEN SEASON	

There are no restrictions on hours or bag limits. A Fur Taker Permit is required (except for coyote) to hunt or trap furbearing animals in Ohio.

### FOX, OPOSSUM, SKUNK, AND WEASEL TRAPPING:

Open November 10 through January 31. No restriction on hours. No daily bag limit.

### RACCOON TRAPPING:

Open November 10 through January 31. Season extends through March 15 in Erie, Ottawa, and Sandusky counties and Lucas County east of the Maumee River. No restriction on hours. No daily bag limits.

### MINK AND MUSKRAT TRAPPING:

Open November 10 through February 29. Season extends through March 15 in Erie, Ottawa, and Sandusky counties and Lucas County east of the Maumee River. No restriction on hours. No daily bag limit.

### BEAVER TRAPPING:

North Zone (the area north of Interstate 76 and east of Interstate 77) opens January 10, 2004 through February 29 and South Zone (rest of state) opens December 26 through February 29. Nonresidents may trap beaver only if the state of their residence permits Ohio citizens to trap beaver. Beaver trapping on state public hunting areas without a special beaver trapping permit from the Division of Wildlife is prohibited.





surveillance of any deer that appears sick or acts strangely and random testing of hunter-harvested deer.

In fall of 2002, tissue samples were collected from 650 white-tailed deer in 26 counties around Ohio and submitted to the Ohio Department of Agriculture's Animal Diagnostic Disease Laboratory in Reynoldsburg. Tests were completed in April 2003 and Chronic Wasting Disease was not detected in Ohio's deer herd. Furthermore, CWD was not found anywhere in the eastern U.S. outside of previously known areas of infection in southwestern Wisconsin and northern Illinois.

CWD is not caused by bacteria or a virus, but an abnormal protein called a prion that produces microscopic holes in the brain tissue of deer. The disease may incubate in deer for months or even years before the onset of symptoms. But once symptoms occur—loss of coordination, muscle trembling, drooling, lethargy, and the emaciation that gives the disease its name—deer quickly die. Speculation still exists regarding the exact mode of disease transmission, but lateral transmission (deer-to-deer) is thought to be the most likely means of spread. Elk, mule deer, black-tailed deer, and white-tailed deer are all known to be susceptible to the disease. Currently, no vaccine or treatment is available, and diagnosis can only be confirmed after an animal has died. A live-test is being developed in western states, but likely will be impractical for wild deer.

Much of the public's concern about CWD is a result of its apparent similarities to Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) - the "Mad Cow Disease" of Britain. Both diseases are classified as Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSEs). Other common TSEs include scrapie in sheep and Cruetzfeld-Jakob Disease (CJD), a naturally occurring disease in humans that occurs in about one in every million people

in the United States. There is no evidence that CWD affects humans. CWD is not the same as CJD or BSE.

The Division of Wildlife will continue to be vigilant in its efforts to maintain the health and quality of Ohio's deer herd. For more information about CWD and the steps taken to prevent this disease from spreading to Ohio, check out the Division of Wildlife's Web site at <http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/wildlife/>. Our Chronic Wasting Disease page provides answers to many commonly asked questions about the disease and provides links to other CWD information sites.

*Mike Reynolds is a wildlife biologist with the Division's Waterloo Wildlife Research Unit, New Marshfield.*

### Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease

Chronic Wasting Disease was not the only disease concern of biologists across the country in 2002. More than 60 counties in 14 states reported outbreaks of Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) in the summer and early fall of 2002. In Ohio a major outbreak occurred in portions of Meigs County with smaller "hot spots" reported in Adams, Athens, Belmont, Gallia, Jackson, Ross, Vinton, and Washington Counties. The Division had suspected several localized cases of EHD involving only a few deer, but it had not been previously confirmed through diagnostic testing.

Hemorrhagic disease is a virus commonly associated with deer in the southeastern United States. It typically occurs in late summer and early fall and is often associated with drought conditions. Deer may become infected with the virus if bitten by a species of midge that has fed on other infected deer. As the name suggests, virulent strains of EHD may cause high fever, hemorrhaging of internal organs, and death in as few as 1-3 days in deer that have had no previous exposure to the disease. However, the disease is not always fatal and some deer do show resistance to the virus. This disease poses no threats to humans or livestock and disappears with the onset of freezing temperatures.

The Division of Wildlife conducted an aerial survey in a 60-square mile area in southwestern Meigs County in January 2003 to determine the impact on deer populations. Nearly 500 deer were counted within the survey area—a density approaching 10 deer per square mile. Although deer densities were likely lower than in previous years, populations should rebound quickly within 1–2 years.

*continued on page 16*

## Common Sense Tips for Handling and Processing Venison

The World Health Organization has found no evidence that CWD can infect humans. However, you should never eat a deer that appears sick or otherwise unhealthy. Also, you should take some general precautions when field dressing and processing wild game.

- ◆ Do not eat any part of a deer that appears to be sick
- ◆ Do not eat eyes, brain, spinal cord, tonsils, or lymph nodes of any deer

### FIELD DRESSING

- Wear rubber or latex gloves
- Minimize contact with the brain, spinal cord, spleen, and lymph nodes
- Remove all internal organs
- Clean knives and equipment in a 50/50 solution of chlorine bleach and water for 1 hour

### CUTTING AND PROCESSING

- Wear rubber or latex gloves
- Minimize handling brain or spinal tissues. If removing antlers, use a saw designated for that purpose only, then dispose of the blade
- Do not cut through the spinal column except to remove the head. Use a knife designated only for this purpose.
- Bone out the meat from the deer and remove all fat and connective tissue. This should also remove lymph nodes.
- Dispose of hide, brain and spinal cord, eyes, spleen, tonsils, bones, and head in a landfill or by other means available in your area.
- Thoroughly clean and sanitize equipment and work areas with 50 percent bleach solution after processing.



## Trapping Workshops Slated for November

The Division of Wildlife and the Ohio State Trappers Association will be hosting "advanced" trapper's workshops November 1 and 2. Successful completion of a trapper education course is required to participate, but trappers of all ages may attend. Students will set and check traps in the field, handle their own pelts, and can take them home. If students do not have their own supplies, supplies will be provided. Contact Keith Daniels at (419) 365-5321 or the local contact person listed below.



### Workshop Locations and Contacts

*Magee Marsh Wildlife Area (Ottawa County)*—Doug Lee (419) 334-2133.  
*Mercer Wildlife Area (Mercer County)*—Harold Weismiller (937) 675-2580.  
*Deer Creek Wildlife Area (Pickaway County)*—Mark Stackhouse (740) 335-1466.  
*Killbuck Marsh (Wayne County)*—Russ Collar (330) 343-3455.  
*Mosquito Creek Wildlife Area (Trumbull County)*—Clint Cork (440) 577-1972.  
*Big Island Wildlife Area (Marion County)*—Keith Daniels (419) 365-5321.  
*Highlandtown Wildlife Area (Columbiana County)*—Ken Gallagher (330) 424-0509.  
*Salt Fork Wildlife Area (Guernsey County)*—Eric Goedel (740) 545-0619 (Overnight lodging is available; contact Eric Goedel)

## Interstate Partners Creating Angling Opportunities

The Division of Wildlife has been working with Ohio State Parks, Pennsylvania Parks, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC), the Pymatuning Lake Association, and many volunteers the past several years to place fish concentration devices into Pymatuning Reservoir. The efforts are aimed at increasing the amount of localized habitat using natural structures (wood and rocks) and ultimately enhancing angling opportunities. Gamefish such as largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, crappie, bluegill, and yellow perch use the structures for feeding, reproducing, and cover.

Fish concentration devices have been placed towards the southern end of the reservoir near the dam, on the northwest side of the causeway, and around Tuttle Beach.



Dave Houser

## Metro Park Using Innovative Ecological Plan

The Metro Parks, Serving Summit County is engaged in a new project to compile detailed summaries of species that exist within each park. The project will help the parks to develop appropriate management plans and create awareness for endangered species in the parks. The project might also serve as a model for other public lands across the state.



Robert Curtis

An ecological survey was completed for the recently acquired Pond Brook Metro Park/Twinsburg Park and Nature Preserve in Summit County. Acquisition of the park presented an opportunity to protect numerous regionally unique ecosystems, 500 acres of diverse wetlands, and nine miles of headwater streams in the Cuyahoga River watershed. The Metro Parks worked with EnviroScience, Inc. of Stow to compile an innovative study plan ranking parkland using a specialized ecological index. This information was processed to assign active, passive, and restricted recreational zones. Four buffered preserves, built around the restricted zones, protect 440 acres of the most sensitive habitats, while active and passive zones allow the public to enjoy recreational opportunities throughout the remainder of the park



Mary Warren

## Annual Waterfowlers Festival Set

Fall, festivals, and waterfowling go hand in hand, according to organizers of the 21st annual Ohio Waterfowlers Festival September 27 and 28. The colorful festival held at Crane Creek State Park/ Magee Marsh (Ottawa County) highlights Ohio's waterfowl hunting heritage. Attractions include the annual decoy contest which will be held on Sunday, September 28, duck and goose calling competition, dog retrieving demonstrations, live waterfowl and hunting displays, and a trading post with vendors specializing in hunting and outdoor items. The annual festival is sponsored by Lake Erie Waterfowlers, Maumee Bay Carvers, Lake Erie Retrievers, and the Division of Wildlife. Admission is free.

## Whooping Crane Stops in Ohio

A juvenile whooping crane got sidetracked from its migration route and made an unexpected stop on reclaimed mine lands in Morgan County last May. The crane was part of a flock receiving national media attention as part of a reintroduction program that used an ultralight aircraft to assist its fall migration to Florida.

A crane tagged as Number 9 landed near Bristol, Ohio after wintering with other flock mates at a wildlife refuge in Florida. When wildlife authorities determined that it was likely the bird would not find its way back unassisted, they intervened. The crane was captured and flown by aircraft to its final destination near Necedah National Wildlife Refuge in central Wisconsin. The other cranes had already arrived unassisted at the Wisconsin wildlife refuge, completing a 13-day, 1,200-mile migration journey. Ohioans can expect an increase in whooping crane sightings as the reintroduction project unfolds and a wild migratory population becomes established.

## American Burying Beetles Released

About 900 American burying beetles, offspring from a captive breeding colony, were released last spring in southern Ohio. The Division of Wildlife worked with The Ohio State University to establish the colony, which is one of only two of its kind in the nation. The goal is to use offspring from the captive colony to reestablish a wild population of the federally and state endangered beetle to its former range in Ohio.

Previously, the Division and OSU conducted three releases of American burying beetles (obtained from the wild in Arkansas). The first release in 1998 was the first mainland reintroduction of the beetle to its native habitat in the United States. In Ohio, they were last reported in 1974 near Old Man's Cave. Burying beetles are often referred to as "carrion" beetles because they feed on the carrion of birds and small mammals throughout their life cycle. Ohio is home to six other common species of burying beetle. However, the American burying beetle is the largest (about 1.2 inches long) of its kind and has an orange marking just behind its head on its thorax.

The Division's American burying beetle project and other wildlife reintroduction projects are funded through contributions to the Ohio Wildlife Diversity Income Tax Check-off Program and through sales of wildlife conservation license plates.



Tim Daniel



### Treestand Safety: So You May Live to Hunt Another Day

by Matt Ortman • photos by Tim Daniel



Each year approximately 300,000 Ohio hunters take to the trees to pursue the whitetail deer, many never realizing the danger involved. A 1993 and 1999 survey by *Deer & Deer Hunting* magazine reported that nearly 40 percent of these hunters will fall during their lifetime. In Ohio each year there are hunters that are injured or killed while hunting from tree-stands, but the total number of treestand falls is unknown. In Ohio and many other states the records for falls are not kept, although in the last two years there have been at least four fatal treestand falls in this state. Often these fatalities are not the result

of the hunting implement (i.e., firearm or bow), but the result of injuries sustained during the fall. Most if not all of these injuries and fatalities can be prevented.

#### Some Interesting Facts!

Source: *Deer & Deer Hunting* magazine survey

- Bowhunters spend 78.5 percent of their annual deer hunting time in an elevated stand.
- Only 34 percent use a safety restraint while climbing up or down from their stand.
- Average hunting height was 17.25 feet.
- 85 percent of the falls occurred while climbing up or down, or getting in and out of a stand, or installing their equipment.
- 50 percent of the hunters that fell were not injured. Eight percent suffered long-term serious injuries and two percent suffered a permanent disability.

#### Causes of Treestand Falls

- 21 percent slipped, missed a step, or the step pulled out of the tree.
- 13 percent of the falls occurred from the hunter dozing off in their stand.
- 12.5 percent occurred when a branch broke.
- Eight percent occurred when the stand broke, slipped or malfunctioned.

#### Full Body Harness is Safest

Only 12 percent of the hunters that fell were wearing a safety restraint when they fell. Hunters should wear a fall restraint device at all times, including while climbing to or from their stand and while in their stand. A United States Air Force study found that a full body harness is the best fall restraint system. This restraint system wraps around your chest, waist, and legs and distributes the force of the fall over a greater area of your body. The study found that with this system, a hunter that has fallen has five to 30 minutes to recover from his situation before he loses consciousness.

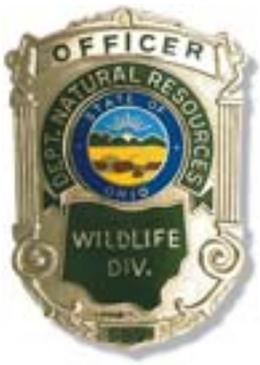
The harnesses are available for around \$30 at most sporting goods retailers. You spend \$300 or more on guns, bows and other hunting related items. Can you afford NOT to spend \$30 on your own safety?

The same study found that a hunter that falls while wearing a chest harness system has one to 13 minutes to recover from their predicament. The least safe type restraint is the single safety belt. This system will keep you from hitting the ground but you only have 30 seconds to four and a half minutes to recover before losing consciousness.

#### Other Safety Points to Remember!

- Never use a homemade treestand or climbing device.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions and weight limits for treestands.
- Always keep the tether tight when sitting in your stand.
- Always use a rope or haul line to raise or lower your firearm or bow from your stand.
- Never use wood steps nailed or screwed into the tree. They can rot or pull out.
- Always tell someone where your stand is located so that they can find you in an emergency. 





## Wildlife Law Enforcement

# Field Notes

### T.I.P. Calls Put Officers Hot on the Trail

Once again, several calls to the T.I.P. hotline about possible illegal wildlife activity put officers hot on the trail. These tips resulted in the arrest of several poachers who were abusing wildlife resources in Carroll County.

During last year's deer gun season, wildlife officers approached Ricci Dolph on the property of John Evans in Carroll County. He was carrying a shotgun and admitted to hunting deer. After further questioning, he admitted that he was on probation in Stark County for a felony conviction of carrying a concealed weapon. (Convicted felons are not permitted to carry firearms.)

A short time later, officers approached John Evans as he was exiting the woods on his property returning to his house after hunting. Upon being interviewed by officers, he showed the officers two deer hanging in his barn and explained his wife and daughter tagged them. With further questioning, Evans admitted to killing a deer during bow season and was attempting to take a second deer in Carroll County, which had a one deer limit. He signed a search release and allowed officers into his house, where he showed them the meat from that deer.

From the kitchen area, officers could see numerous deer antlers that were displayed on several walls in an adjacent room. Closer inspection revealed the deer antlers and head mounts did not have tags attached and the majority of antlers were either attached to a skull or had been cut from a deer skull. Wild turkey tails and beards were also displayed. After interviewing Evans further, he could not provide evidence that the deer and turkeys were taken legally. Officers consequently seized 19 wild turkey beards, two mounted wild turkey tails, two mounted deer heads, and 20 deer antlers. Thirteen full sets of deer antlers were also seized that were attached to a skull cap or attached to the entire skull.

Officers also questioned a third hunter coming from the woods across the road from the Evens property. Upon interviewing Wayne Kennedy of Ontario, Canada, it was discovered he had been hunting using a resident Ohio hunting license and deer permit using a fictitious local address for the past two hunting seasons.

On a separate Carroll County property, officers interviewed Donald Stonemetz who signed a search release for a pole barn. A search revealed over 20 packages of deer meat and three packages of wild turkey meat without any tags or other documentation of ownership. A hunting license purchase history showed that no turkey hunting permit had been purchased by Donald Stonemetz from 1999 to present.



A total summary of the arrests and convictions include: John Evans of Carrollton, Ohio was charged with 42 counts. He paid \$1,704 in fines: possession of untagged deer parts (21) \$500; possession of untagged turkey parts (19) \$250; failure to wear hunter orange (1) \$100; hunting second deer in Zone A (1) \$750; and court costs of \$104. He received 60 days in jail (to serve 15 days), three-year suspension of hunting privileges, two-year probation, and forfeited a shotgun.

Ricci Dolph Sr. of Canton, Ohio was charged with three counts and paid \$814 in fines: hunting without a license (1) \$250; and hunting without a deer permit (1) \$250; failure to secure dangerous ordnance (1) \$250; and court costs of \$64. He received 90 days in jail (to serve 5 days), three-year suspension of hunting privileges, two-year probation, and forfeited a shotgun.

Wayne Kennedy of St. Catherines, Ontario was charged with four counts and paid \$1,032 in fines: hunting without a non-resident license (2) \$500; hunting without a deer permit (1) \$250; procuring a hunting license by fraud (1) \$250; and court costs of \$32.

Still pending (as of April 2003) are four charges against Donald Stonemetz of Carrollton, Ohio. 

# Backyards for Wildlife Q & A

by Donna Daniel • photos by Tim Daniel

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

**Q: We believe this bird to be an albino robin. Have any other birds like this been seen in southwest Ohio?**

—Marilyn Hoekstra, Mason, OH

**A:** The bird in the photo does appear to be a partial albino robin (a true albino would be completely white with pink eyes).



Jerry Dalrymple

Albinism occurs in many species including red-tailed hawks, Northern cardinals, and even white-tailed deer. While these anomalies can generate considerable local interest, the Division of Wildlife doesn't track their occurrence since it is purely a genetic variation and doesn't affect overall populations. Animals exhibiting degrees of albinism are capable of breeding and are otherwise normal, but lack the advantages, including camouflage, that normal coloration may give their counterparts.

**Q: How common are black beaver in Ohio?**

—Carl & Nancy Griffith, Heath, OH

**A:** A darker phase of the typical chestnut color of beaver is found in the northern part of the state, into Pennsylvania and New York. Completely black beaver, as well as light colored "blonde" beaver, do occur but are very rarely seen. One avid trapper consulted reported that of 350 beaver caught in a five-year period, only four were black.



**Q: Cardinals keep flying into my compost pile. Is this normal and how can I prevent it?**

—Dean Brillhart, Millersburg, OH

**A:** The most likely reason for cardinals to get into your compost is in search of food — either seeds on the pile or even insects attracted to the compost. If this is the case then the behavior is normal. But if you prefer they stay out, the best way to keep them away would be to cover your compost pile with netting, chicken wire, or other fencing material.

**Q: Are the orange beetles that infest homes in the fall the same as the state insect?**

—Caroline Bethel, Londonderry, OH

**A:** Ohio's state insect is the ladybug, designated in 1976. The sometimes foul-smelling orange beetles with or without spots that swarm in and around our homes each fall are "multi-colored Asian lady beetles." These beetles were introduced into the United States about 20 years ago to help control agricultural and garden pests, but have since worn out their welcome.

**Q: What time of year do hawks lay their eggs?**

—Josephine Shiever, Moreland Hills, OH

**A:** Unlike smaller birds, which may raise several broods in a year, Ohio's hawks nest only once a season. The familiar red-tail hawk may begin nesting as early as mid-March. Cooper's hawks, a common backyard visitor, begin later in April. In general, the majority of hawk nesting activity occurs in the state March through May with young hawks leaving the nest any time from May through July.



# For Wild Kids

## The Benefits Of Barns: A Home for Wildlife

by Jeff Dillon



As you may have learned in school, this year is a special one for our state. This year is the Bicentennial, or 200th birthday, of Ohio. Many special events are happening this year to celebrate the Bicentennial and one of them is in your very own county! In fact, every county is celebrating by having a barn painted with a red, white, and blue logo and

the years 1803–2003. An artist named Scott Hagen from Belmont County has been painting a barn in each of Ohio's 88 counties (starting in Belmont County and finishing in Sandusky County) since 1998!

Barns are important for the farmers who build them because they keep farm equipment like tractors, crops like hay, and animals like cows inside and protected from the weather. Barns can be important for Ohio's wildlife too! One of Ohio's most endangered species relies on barns for its home.

The barn owl makes its home in the rafters and corners of barns, or in special boxes placed there just for them. And barn owls are helpful to have around because they hunt many mice and small rodents that may cause damage to human property and crops. Their favorite food is a small animal called a meadow vole. But meadow vole numbers are decreasing because many farms do not have large meadows close by anymore. This means there is less food and good habitat for the barn owl.



barn owl

This is the primary reason for barn owls to be placed on the Endangered Species List.

So the next time you see a barn in Ohio, even if its not one of the special Bicentennial barns, remember that wild animals like the barn owl make their homes inside, and remember also to wish our state a happy 200th birthday! 🇺🇸

### Questions to Ponder:

- What other kinds of wild animals can make their homes in barns?
- Why would the barn owl decide to live in a barn and not the forest?
- Where is the special Bicentennial barn located in your county?



Eastern phoebe



white-footed mouse



barn swallow

# WILD GAME GOURMET

## r e c i p e s

### Crockpot Pizza

- 1½-2 pounds ground venison
- 1 box rotini or pasta twists, cooked
- 1 medium onion
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 tablespoon minced garlic
- 2 cans mushrooms, sliced
- 1 tablespoon minced garlic
- 2 14-ounce cans of pizza sauce
- pepperoni slices (50 slices or so)
- 2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese
- 2 cups shredded provolone cheese
- 1 cup grated parmesan cheese

Chop onion and seal in small plastic bag with olive oil and minced garlic (salt and pepper to taste); let marinate overnight. Cook onion marinade and ground venison in medium skillet until cooked thoroughly. Coat crockpot with non-stick cooking spray. Place two or three tablespoons of pizza sauce in bottom of crockpot. Add remaining sauce to browned venison, mix, and take off burner. Layer ingredients from bottom to top in this order:

- ½ of the cooked pasta
- ½ of the venison / pizza sauce mixture
- ½ of the mushrooms
- ½ of the provolone cheese
- ½ of the mozzarella cheese
- ½ of the parmesan cheese
- ½ of the pepperoni

Do this three times. Cook four hours on high or six to seven hours on low.

*(Contributed by Vicki Ervin)*

*by Vicki Mountz,*

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

*These wild "game" day favorites are sure to please sports fans when having guests over to watch the game.*



Tim Daniel

### Fayette County Deer Jerky

- Slice deer meat into ¼-inch slices
- Mix the following ingredients in large bowl:
  - ½ bottle of liquid smoke (2 ounces)
  - ¾ cup of Worcestershire sauce
  - ¾ cup of soy sauce
  - 1 teaspoon of seasoning salt
  - 1 teaspoon of garlic powder
  - 1 teaspoon of onion powder
  - 1 teaspoon of pepper
  - ½ bottle of Tabasco sauce (to taste)

Marinate meat in bowl overnight. Place meat in dehydrator or oven at 125 to 140 degrees for 10 to 12 hours. Cook until meat snaps.

Makes 5 pounds

*(Contributed by Randy Miller)*



Tim Daniel

# WILDLIFE Reflections

## FRONTIER HUNTERS

### *Boone and Kenton Hunted the Rich Game of the Ohio Country*

by Steven A. Gray, Chief, Division of Wildlife



Daniel Boone

**H**unters played an important role of exploring and telling others about the rich hunting grounds that are now Ohio. Two of those hunters were Daniel Boone and Simon Kenton. These famous frontiersmen came to the Ohio Country well before it became a state in 1803 to explore and to hunt abundant game such as black bears and white-tailed deer.

Daniel Boone is the most famous of the two, but probably spent less time in Ohio than did Kenton. Boone was known as a "longhunter." Longhunters were gone a "long" time from home and traveled "long" distances for animals they were hunting. In the late 1700s the primary quarry for longhunters were deer, which they hunted in the summer months - not in the fall and winter as Ohio's deer season is today. The reason the deer were hunted in the summer is because the people back on the east coast of the United States wanted deer pelts with the reddish short hair of the deer's summer coat. Longhunters such as Boone would shoot and skin deer then stash the salted pelts in a cool cave until they had a good supply to haul back east.

Boone would be gone from his North Carolina home for months at a time. On one long hunt he was captured by Indians and released when he agreed to not come back. But he did come back. This time he was chased and shot in the ankle by Indians, but was able to escape. Boone had a distinctive limp from the gunshot for the rest of his life.

One of Boone's many great escapes occurred in Ohio. While his family was living in Boonesboro, Kentucky, Boone was captured by Shawnees and taken to a village near Xenia, Ohio (the current site of the Division of Wildlife District Five Headquarters and near where the world record Beatty Buck was taken). After many weeks of incarceration, Boone overheard Shawnees talking about attacking Boonesboro. Fearing for the lives of his family, he escaped and ran to Boonesboro to warn the settlers. He made the incredible 160-mile journey in four days, running through the uncharted woods and crossing the Ohio River. He beat the Shawnees to Boonesboro and saved the village. Ironically, Boone's family had given him up for dead and had moved back to North Carolina.

Simon Kenton was a good friend of Daniel Boone's and is credited for saving Boone's life from Indians. Kenton spent more time in Ohio, primarily the western half of the state. The hunter and scout, Kenton had a reputation of being able to load his musket while running. The Shawnees had a name for him that meant "his gun was always loaded."

Around 1800, the people living in Ohio, both the Native Americans and European settlers, needed meat to eat. The wildlife populations supplied this meat, and hunters such as Simon Kenton were viewed as heroes for being able to provide meat. Bears were viewed as a source of food and hides for the pioneers, and also as a threat to crops, livestock, and people. Many legends exist about how many bears were shot by these hunters, but suffice

it to say that both Boone and Kenton likely shot many bears.

Kenton lived in Ohio until his death in 1836. He saw the eradication of bison and elk from Ohio and the significant reduction in populations of bear, wolves, and deer. Simon Kenton picked one of the most beautiful spots in Ohio to make his final home, near the banks of the cold, crystal clear Mad River in Logan County. The town of Kenton, the Hardin County Seat, is named for Simon Kenton.

Simon Kenton and Daniel Boone, the famous hunters, played an important role in the settlement of the United States. Hunters today play a different but very important role as the stewards of the wildlife resource. Because of the conservation efforts of hunters many species such as white-tailed deer, wild turkey, and bald eagles have been brought back from near extinction. Hunters, through the fees they pay for licenses and permits, also fund important activities such as research, education, and land acquisition. Two hundred years after statehood, hunters still stalk the woods, fields and marshes of Ohio, continuing the hunting heritage of Ohio. 



photo courtesy of Champaign County Historical Society

**A bronze statue of Simon Kenton (1755–1836) stands watch over his final resting place in Urbana, Ohio.**

# NOTICE!

We are purging our mailing list in an effort to cut costs and keep *Wild Ohio* magazine a free publication of the ODNR Division of Wildlife. If you would like to continue receiving *Wild Ohio*, you must fill out and mail in the postcard inside this issue. We will also run this notice in the next issue of *Wild Ohio*, but you only have to fill out and mail in one postcard to continue receiving *Wild Ohio* free of charge. If you do not fill out and mail in a postcard sometime before March 1, 2004, your name will be dropped from our mailing list beginning April 1, 2004.



Keep a connection  
to Ohio's wildlife  
in your life!



Wild Ohio  
4483 Industrial Parkway  
Cleveland OH 44135



Periodicals  
Postage Paid at  
Columbus, Ohio