

Wild Ohio

Fall 2010

M A G A Z I N E

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE





A SALUTE TO LONG-TIME COUNCIL MEMBER HOWARD CALHOUN

Division of Wildlife staff would like to express their thanks to Howard L. Calhoun for his 46 years of dedicated service to the Ohio Wildlife Council. A native of Akron, Calhoun, who retired from the Wildlife Council last March, was the longest-serving member in the council's history.

His honorable tenure included 19 years as chairman. Calhoun was appointed by Governor James A. Rhodes in 1963 and has served under all six governors since. He worked with nine ODNR directors and 13 Division of Wildlife chiefs, beginning with Dale Whitesell and ending with David M. Graham.



“Howard’s insights into wildlife policy and direction have contributed much to the Buckeye State’s conservation success story with numerous species restored to the landscape, including white-tailed deer, wild turkeys, bald eagles, paddlefish, wood ducks, peregrine falcons and more,” said Graham, chief of the Ohio Division of Wildlife.

Opportunities for sportsmen and women, such as crossbow and handgun deer hunting, dove hunting, and Sunday hunting are just a few of the accomplishments which inspired Calhoun to remain on the council for such a long tenure. Additionally, he drew much needed attention to special, high-quality youth hunting opportunities, reduced-price licenses, and apprentice licenses. As an avid sportsman and conservationist, Calhoun has demonstrated his passion through many volunteer efforts to raise the funds needed for habitat restoration projects and legislative initiatives.



1981 - Howard Calhoun (center) with DOW Chief Carl Mosley (left) and ODNR Director Robert Teater (right)



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Ted Strickland
governor, state of ohio

Sean D. Logan
director, odnr

David M. Graham
chief, division of wildlife

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NEXT ISSUE

What to look forward to in the next issue of *Wild Ohio Magazine*

- Cover artwork by Adam Grimm
- Annual Report
- Merlins
- Helping Birds Stay Warm in the Winter
- The New Licensing System
- Taxidermy
- ... and More!

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WILD OHIO MAGAZINE

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Wild Ohio

M A G A Z I N E

FALL 2010 VOLUME 21, NUMBER 3

WHITE-TAILED DEER
Tom Ramsey

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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

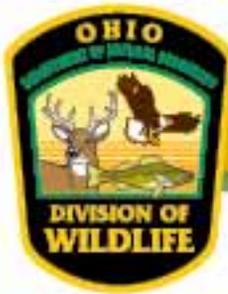


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MOURNING DOVE





News from Around Ohio



Kim R. Davis



Timothy W. Ratliff

TWO NEW MEMBERS APPOINTED TO THE OHIO WILDLIFE COUNCIL

Governor Ted Strickland appointed farmers from Brown and Carroll counties to serve on the Ohio Wildlife Council. Kim R. Davis of Carrollton and Timothy W. Ratliff of Winchester will each serve four-year terms. Davis replaces Gary Grant of Continental. Ratliff replaces the retiring Howard L. Calhoun of Akron who served 46 years, the longest-serving member in the council's history.

The Ohio Wildlife Council is an eight-member board that approves all Division of Wildlife proposed rules and regulations.

Davis is a graduate of The Ohio State University with a degree in Animal Science. She is a state trustee for the Ohio Farm Bureau, representing District 13 which includes Carroll, Harrison, Jefferson, and Tuscarawas counties. She also serves on the American Farm Bureau Association's Beef Commodity Advisory Committee. Davis and her husband, Todd, operate Cattlecreek Farm in Carroll County, raising feeder cattle and hay. The Davis' have three children and the family enjoys being outdoors and showing livestock in local, state, and national shows.

Ratliff is a Brown County farmer raising beef cattle, swine, grain crops, tobacco, sunflowers, hay, and freshwater shrimp. He is a member of the Brown County Farm Bureau and has served on the boards of the Brown County Fair, Brown County Pork Producers, and the National Wild Turkey Federation's Ohio River Longbeards Chapter. He served on the Farm Services Agency State Committee for eight years. Ratliff and his wife, Betty Jo, have four children and one grandson. Ratliff and his family enjoy camping along with deer and turkey hunting.



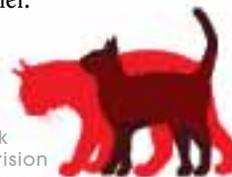
Howard L. Calhoun

Gary Grant

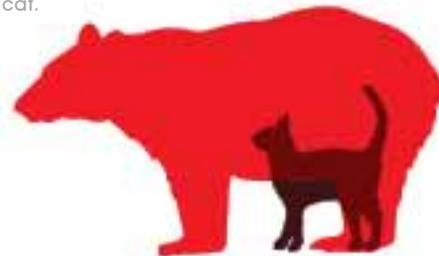
REPORTED SIGHTINGS OF BOBCATS AND BEARS

Increased evidence of bobcats living in Ohio's southeastern counties continues with the confirmation of 92 sightings by state wildlife officials during 2009. This is an increase from the 65 verified sightings in 2008.

The majority of the 2009 verified reports occurred in Noble County and the immediate surrounding counties. Verification of the elusive bobcat includes photographs of the animal and its tracks; encounters through incidental trapping, from which animals are later released; recovery of road kill; and sightings by Division of Wildlife personnel.



Bobcat and black bear size comparison to a full grown house cat.



The Division received 119 black bear sightings in Ohio in 2009. State wildlife personnel confirmed 51 of those sightings an increase compared to the 38 confirmed sightings in 2008. The confirmed sightings of 2009 occurred in 21 different counties and involved an estimated 31 different black bears.

Most of the reports came from northeastern and south-central counties with Ashtabula County reporting the most with 27 sightings. The majority of bear sightings in the state were reported May through August, which is the peak of black bear breeding and dispersal of young male bears. There were four reported sightings of sows with cubs and two sightings of lone cubs.



left to right; ODNR Deputy Director **Anthony Celebrezze**, Division of Wildlife Chief **David Graham**, Award Recipient **Lisa Brohl**, and Wildlife Diversity Coordinator **Kendra Wecker**.

CONSERVATIONIST RECEIVES AWARD

Lisa Brohl of Put-In-Bay, South Bass Island, received the Wildlife Diversity Conservation Award at the Division of Wildlife's 2010 Wildlife Diversity Conference. Brohl is the chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Lake Erie Island's chapter of the Black Swamp Conservancy, a conservation organization committed to preserving the integrity of the natural environment of the Lake Erie Islands. She has committed thousands of hours of volunteer time over the years to coordinate land acquisitions and easements on the islands to dedicate them as conservation areas for the public. Brohl was instrumental in assisting the Division of Wildlife in its acquisition of Haunck's Pond on Middle Bass Island, now known as Kuehnl Wildlife Area.

OHIO ARTIST WINS STATE DUCK STAMP COMPETITION

The artwork of a red-breasted merganser by Hudson resident Joel Rogers won first place in the 2010 Ohio Wetland Habitat Stamp Design Competition sponsored by the Division of Wildlife. Rogers' painting will appear on the Ohio Wetland Habitat Stamp issued in the fall of 2011.

The winning entry was selected from a field of 23 original paintings submitted by artists from 12 states, including 11 entries from Ohio. The competition was held last February at the Ohio Ducks Unlimited annual banquet in Sandusky.

Approximately 25,000 Ohio Wetland Habitat Stamps were purchased last year. The proceeds from stamp sales help fund vital wetland habitat restoration projects in Ohio. Such habitats are important to many resident wildlife species including state-endangered trumpeter swans, wetland birds, amphibians, and numerous migratory species.

NATURAL HERITAGE DATABASE MOVES TO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

Two important natural resource databases will become one, creating the new Ohio Biodiversity Database, to be managed by the Division of Wildlife. Public input and internal discussions preceded the merger, resulting from reorganization within the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. The Division's Wildlife Diversity Database warehouses about 500,000 records of sensitive-site locations for state and federal listed wildlife species.



The Natural Heritage Database, created within the Department's Division of Natural Areas and Preserves in 1976, contains more than 170,000 records of known locations for Ohio's rare plants and animals, high-quality plant communities, and other natural features. Bringing the two databases together creates a powerful tool for the management of these natural resources.

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Wildlife CALENDAR

**September 1
OPENING DAY**

Opening day of hunting season for squirrel, early Canada goose, dove, rail, moorhen, and snipe.

**September 21 - 23
FARM SCIENCE REVIEW**

- London, Ohio •

Visit the Conservation area for a demonstration of agricultural and natural resource management practices.
fsr.osu.edu

**September 25
NATIONAL HUNTING & FISHING DAY**

For more information call (417) 890-9453 or visit
nhfd.org

wildohio.com
for up-to-date events

OHIOAN WINS VIRTUAL FISHING TOURNAMENT

Ben Gorris, of Garfield Heights, is the winner of the second "Catch A Boat" virtual fishing tournament on TakeMeFishing.org. He was selected from more than 25,000 game participants nationwide to take home the grand prize of a brand new boat, motor, and trailer valued at \$20,000.

Sponsored by the Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation, the contest was designed to encourage boating and fishing participation and introduce thousands of boaters and anglers to resources on TakeMeFishing.org



Hunters Helping the Hungry

A WIN-WIN FOR HUNTERS, WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT, AND THOSE IN NEED.

In the fall of 1997, Maryland resident Rick Wilson was traveling to Virginia when he encountered a lady beside the road in her car with the trunk up. He pulled over to see if he could help her. She wanted him to follow her over to some bushes, and naturally he became very suspicious and feared it was a set up and he may be robbed. But the Good Samaritan in him took over and he followed her to the bushes to find a six-point buck that recently had been hit by a car.

The lady asked him to help her load it into her trunk, yet he was concerned that they needed to call local law enforcement authorities to legally take the deer. But the lady explained, "I don't have time, it's getting hot, and my kids are hungry."

Wilson offered to field dress the deer, but she refused and told him that since her husband was gone she and the kids were getting pretty good at field dressing deer. He loaded the deer, she thanked him and drove away.

That roadside encounter weighed on his mind for a couple of weeks. He wished he had gotten her name and phone number to follow up and help further. He realized he had to do something.

Here is where it all began. Through his church, Wilson started a program to provide venison to the needy. Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry (FHFH) was an instant success – the deer poured in faster than the monetary donations to pay for the processing. But through faith and perseverance, word spread, the donations gradually grew, and the program expanded. Based in Maryland, FHFH is now a national network with working chapters in more than half of the U.S. states. The program provides nutritious, frozen ground venison to community food banks, churches, missions, shelters, and

other charities that have food programs for the needy.

"Much of our financial donations comes from former hunters or nonhunters, and believe it or not, even anti-hunters," said Wilson. "They realize they aren't going to get hunting stopped, so if they can't stop it at least the use of meat is worthwhile, and not just to 'adorn the walls of hunters' cabins," as one lady put it.

"Members of the Safari Club and others have pointed out to us that we are in

a unique position. We are outside of the hunting organization, yet we are fueled by hunters as far as manpower, and we receive donations that they can't begin to receive. Nonhunters don't donate to Safari Club or the NRA, but they feel comfortable donating to us because we are a nonprofit, faith-based organization."

You make a living by what you get. You make a life by what you give.

Winston Churchill

source: America's Second Harvest - 2007

One in eight Americans, 37 million people, are receiving emergency food assistance.

source: Household Food Security in the U.S., 2008. USDA, 2009

14.6% of U.S. households struggle to put enough food on the table. More than 49 million Americans live in these households.

source: 2008 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau, 2009

One in five children in the United States lives below the poverty line.

A WIN-WIN

Venison donated to food banks must be processed by a local or state-inspected and insured meat processor who is participating with FHFH. In addition to cash donations made to the national headquarters, local FHFH chapters raise money to cover butchering costs. Here in Ohio, the Division of Wildlife provided \$100,000 in subsidy money to support the program. It's a win-win for all involved. Besides



providing for the needy and assisting with processing costs, the program is an additional deer management tool to encourage hunters to kill more does.

Last year, Division of Wildlife Chief Dave Graham designated the Saturday of deer gun week as Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry Day. He encouraged hunters to double the 54,800 pounds of venison donated the previous year, and that they did. By the end of the 2009-10 deer season, generous Ohio deer hunters had donated 116,750 pounds of venison to local food banks, providing approximate-

ly 467,000 meals for Ohioans in need. A total of 2,336 deer were donated this deer hunting season compared to 1,096 in 2008-09, and 418 in 2007-08. This year's FHFH Day is Saturday, December 4.

There are currently 30 local FHFH chapters and 65 participating meat processors across the state. The Ohio FHFH Chapters that brought in the most deer for the program during the 2009-10 season are

OH-10 (Coshocton, Tuscarawas, and Knox counties) – 241;

OH-18 (Muskingum, Morgan, and Perry counties) – 223;

OH-14 (Delaware and Morrow counties) – 217;

and

OH-22 (Athens, Gallia, Hocking, Meigs, Vinton, and Washington counties) – 203.

MEAT PROCESSOR LOCATIONS STATEWIDE



● Processors
■ Deer Harvest (darker = higher harvest)

Ashtabula County Rock Creek
Athens County Athens, Albany
Brown County Sardinia
Carroll County Waynesburg
Champaign County Christiansburg
Clark County Medway
Clinton County New Vienna
Columbiana County Columbiana, Leetonia, Winona
Coshocton County Stone Creek, Frazeesburg
Crawford County New Washington
Cuyahoga County Olmsted Falls
Darke County Bradford
Defiance County Defiance, Sherwood
Erie County Berlin Heights
Fairfield County Millersport, Bremen
Franklin County Columbus
Fulton County Swanton
Gallia County Bidwell
Hancock County Vanlue
Hardin County Mount Victory
Hocking County Rockbridge, Logan
Holmes County Millersburg
Jackson County Jackson
Knox County Danville
Licking County Utica
Logan County Bellefontaine, West Liberty, East Liberty
Lorain County Amherst
Lucas County Toledo
Medina County Lodi
Meigs County Long Bottom
Morrow County Cardington
Muskingum County Zanesville, Adamsville
Paulding County Grover Hill
Perry County New Lexington, Junction City
Portage County Mogadore, Ravenna
Putnam County Pandora
Shelby County Sydney
Stark County Minerva
Tuscarawas County Baltic
Warren County Waynesville
Washington County Whipple
Wayne County Creston, Shreve, Orrville, Fredericksburg

BECOME A PROCESSOR

To become a participating meat processor go to fhfh.org and click on the "Local FHFH" button near the top of the page. Select "Ohio" from the drop-down option to locate a FHFH Chapter contact for your county.

source: The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), 2008

One of the most disturbing and extraordinary aspects of life in this very wealthy country is the persistence of hunger.

source: Household Food Security in the U.S., 2008, USDA, 2009

Nearly one in four children is at risk of hunger.

source: Urban Institute, 2007

Most Americans (51.4 percent) will live in poverty at some point before age 65.

IT'S ALL ABOUT COMMUNITY

A steady flow of hunters rolled through Oilers Meat Processing in Utica on the first day of the deer gun season last November – their busiest day of the year.

Diane Oiler, who processes all the paperwork for Oiler's FHFH donated deer, explained: "It's about community and pulling together; and it's a generations thing. Everyone's been in here for generations. Many of the people checking in deer and cutting deer grew up in there."

On that opening day of the gun season, Oilers had 121 deer donated to FHFH, far ahead of the same time the previous year. By the end of the 2009-2010 season, the processor took in 234 donated deer.

"I'm passionate about the program because I know of all the people who go to bed hungry at night in Utica."



"I'm passionate about the program because I know of all the people who go to bed hungry at night in Utica."

Linda Oiler
MEAT PROCESSOR

"There are times the mayor will come here and tell us about a family in town that needs help, so we get boxes of meat ready and take them up to City Hall for the people to pick up. They have no idea where the meat comes from, and we don't want them to know."

Frozen venison from Oiler's shop is distributed for hot cooked meals provided by local Salvation Armies, and as part of grocery supplies distributed

to the needy through the Inner Church of Fredericktown, Vineyard of Delaware, Leads Center in Utica, Church on the Rise, Victory Church in Marengo, and the Faith Mission in Columbus.

Oiler keeps a FHFH donation jar on the counter that averages about \$120 a week in cash donations. She also annually solicits local companies for cash donations. For instance, last year the Englefield Oil Company of Utica donated \$500 and the Englefield family also donated deer to the program.

Jim Sutliff, of Galena, who hunts with shotgun, crossbow, and muzzleloader, donated nine deer during the 2009-2010 season alone through Oilers.

"It's such a great program," said Sutliff. "It benefits the hungry and this past year more food was needed than ever before with the economic conditions we're under. And you can't get any better food – high protein – than venison."

"I also believe it's good deer management. We need to get the deer herd down, particularly in urban areas. Six of the nine deer that I donated were taken in urban areas. I love to hunt, I'm retired so I have the time, and it gives me an outlet for the meat."



"I love to hunt, I'm retired so I have the time, and it gives me an outlet for the meat."

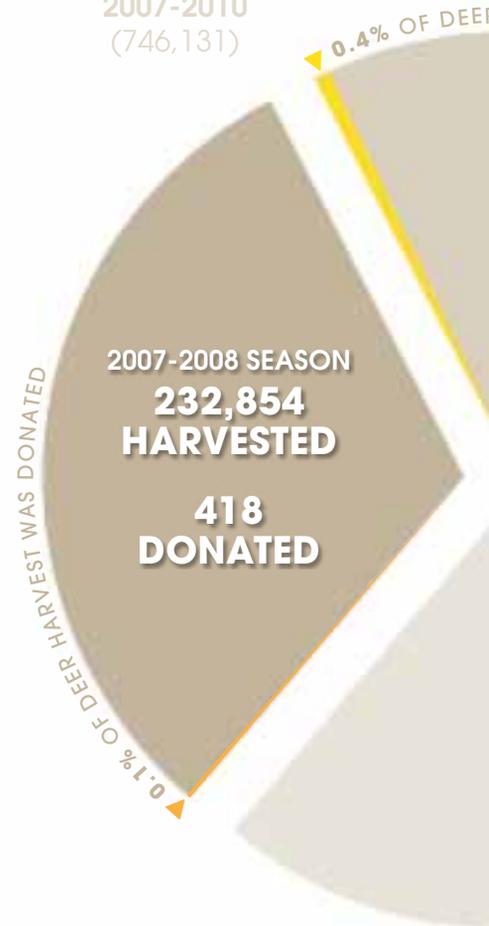
Jim Sutliff
AVID HUNTER

and helps coordinate a shooting event at a local archery club where all of the proceeds go to FHFH.

Pete Banks is the FHFH Coordinator for north central Ohio (Erie, Lorain, and Cuyahoga counties). He personally picks up deer donated by hunters at the special deer hunts at NASA's Plumbrook Station in Erie County, and delivers the deer to a processor. As a FHFH coordinator, he also collects cash donations from local businesses and sportsmen's clubs,

DEER DONATIONS INCREASE

DEER HARVESTED
2007-2010
(746,131)

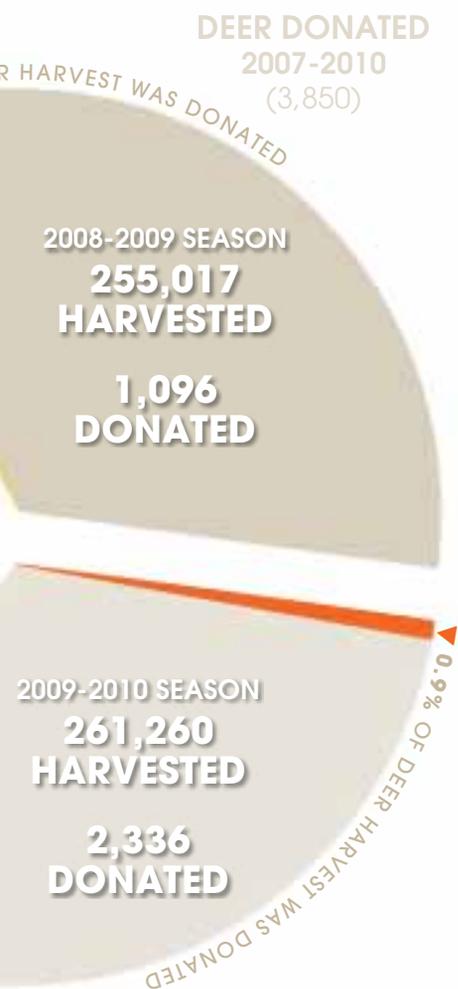


... BUT MORE C

"The Ohio Farm Bureau Federation fully supports the FHFH program and encourages farmers to seek out responsible hunters willing to shoot additional antlerless deer on their property then donate the meat to one of the local participating FHFH processors. It's a win-win situation for both the farmer seeking to reduce his crop damage and the less fortunate needing nourishment."

Chris Henney
Ohio Farm Bureau Federation

INCREASED 558% IN THREE YEARS



CAN BE DONE

The chapter had 37 deer processed during the 2008-2009 deer season and more than doubled that for the 2009-2010 season with 85 deer donated.

“Most of our venison goes to the Second Harvest Food Bank in Lorain and Victory Soup Kitchen in Sandusky. Our goal is to put the venison where the folks are the hungriest,” Banks said.

Banks explained that food banks receive canned goods all the time, but the hardest thing for them to come by is meat – protein. Ground venison from one deer averaging 50 pounds of meat can feed 200 people a 1/4-pound serving of ground meat. And you can do a lot with ground venison – spaghetti, chili, casseroles, meatloaf, and “Sloppy Doe.”

“When the Division of Wildlife partnered with us, I thought hopefully we will be able to increase the deer harvest to manage the herd and use all those extra deer to feed hungry folks,” said Banks. “That’s a win, win, win!”

In northeast Ohio, Joe Mack is active in the FHFH program through the Medina Farmers Sportsmen League. Donated deer collected by the league are processed and distributed to the food bank and hunger shelter run by the Brunswick United Methodist Church. Mack reiterated Banks’ same sentiments about the program.



“Hopefully we will be able to increase the deer harvest to manage the herd and use all those extra deer to feed hungry folks. That’s a win, win, win!”

Pete Banks
FHFH COORDINATOR

“It allows hunters to help with conservation by not being wasteful and keeping wildlife populations in balance,” said Mack. Medina Farmers Sportsmen League helps with the processing of the meat, and families that need the help benefit by getting a good lean meat for their meals. It is a win-win situation no matter how you look at it!”

A list of local FHFH chapters and participating meat processors in Ohio can be found by visiting the FHFH page at www.fhfh.org.

BECOME A SUPPORTER

To contribute **ONLINE**, fhfh.org provides a secure online donation form. This service enables 100% of your gift to support FHFH with no fees deducted! FHFH is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization so all contributions are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

To contribute **BY MAIL**, visit our Web site at www.fhfh.org, then print the form and mail it along with your gift to:

Farmers & Hunters Feeding the Hungry
P.O. Box 323,
Williamsport, MD 21795

To contribute **BY PHONE**, please call toll-free 1-866-GET-FHFH.

BECOME A COORDINATOR

FHFH helps hunters return to their heritage as food providers by turning venison into nutritious meat for the hungry among us. While coordinating FHFH locally does take some work, the rewards are well worth the effort.

If you are ready to apply for an FHFH local coordinator position please visit our Web site at www.fhfh.org and click to the “Become a Local Coordinator” button to obtain the necessary forms.

Call us at **301-739-3000** or email us at staff@fhfh.org if you have any questions!

DONATE A DEER

To donate a deer visit fhfh.org then click on the “Local FHFH” button near the top of the page. Select “Ohio” from the drop-down option for a list of FHFH Chapter contacts or scroll to the bottom of the page for a link to a list of FHFH processors in your area.



SMALL GAME, BIG T

It's 1909 and Hungarian partridge are being stocked in Ohio, the first forestry school is incorporated in Kent, and the news is out that Indianapolis has opened a racetrack which will host a 500-lap competition.

The Red Sox trade Cy Young to the Cleveland Naps and the Naps' star shortstop, Beal Ball, executes an unassisted triple play.

Freshly minted Lincoln head pennies are finding their way into Ohioan's pockets just as the federal government passes the 16th Amendment, establishing the first income tax to retrieve them.

Cincinnati-born William Taft becomes the 27th president of the United States while engineers and contractors begin building a new naval base named Pearl Harbor.

These were surely topics as Hancock County resident Zay Clymer talked to his brothers-in-law Verne Powell, Pearl Reese, cousin Cecil, and family friend Cleo Hissong. Eventually, the discussion turned to the upcoming hunting seasons. They were accustomed to living off the land and understood hunting as a way of life; the harvest of another renewable crop on their farms. While the effort did put meat in the pantry, it also provided an opportunity to bring their families together.

Eventually, an idea emerged. Why not organize a family hunt, invite along some close friends, and make a day of it? The plan was taken to their wives for their consideration and the ladies got just as excited about the concept and added their own suggestion. Couldn't the women, at least the ones that didn't take to chasing game, put a meal together for the returning hunters? It would give them a chance to catch up on the latest news and to test some favorite recipes. The plans were made and preparations began for the opening day of the 1909 upland game season and the "Hunt Supper."

More than a century has passed since that first event and I was privileged to be invited as a guest for the 100th celebration

and dinner. The meal rotates between the families and that November day found me at the home of Jeff and Shari Whitman in Findlay. My first impression as I walked up to the door was the number of vehicles parked outside. My knock was answered and I was graciously escorted to the living room where introductions began. While I hadn't yet seen the kitchen, its presence was obvious in the aroma floating through the air in anticipation of a home-cooked meal.

As a wildlife officer who had served in Hancock County since 1983, I was familiar with some of the faces, but if judged by my reception, you would have mistaken me for family. Stories began to flow about the 14 hunters who pushed the brush that morning in hopes of game, how the year compared to the last, and how the last 10 had compared to the last 50.



I had to visit the kitchen. The cooks were working hard to put the finishing touches on the meal. When asked what was on the menu, one of my hosts smiled as she said, "Same as last year." I commented I hadn't visited last year and asked what they had for dinner then. "Same as this year," she said with a bit of a taunt. That's

when another Hunt Supper custom was revealed. During the preparation of that first meal in 1909, the ladies had put together a list of recipes that were favorites among family members. These were written down and a cookbook developed to be a guide for the next year's festivities...and so the book has been passed along, and the meal has remained the same since its inception. It was pointed out that some adjustments were made, which added beef and pork to the fare. The group was growing too large to rely on the hunters to be the sole providers of the main course.

I admit that I was now looking forward to the meal. The menu included old fashioned apple salad, pheasant, oyster dressing, candied sweet potatoes, pork, and beef. For dessert, chocolate and pecan nut cakes.

I was introduced to "Buzz" Powell and his cousin Marie Radebaugh. At 92 and 93 years young, they had a wealth of

RADITION

stories. When I asked them about their fondest memories, Marie smiled and said that each year was as important as the others and that each family meeting brings new memories. She also told me that each year seems to also bring a new baby to the meal. Buzz echoed her comments and added that not once during the 100-year history of the hunt was anyone ever hurt. Neither Buzz nor Marie remember ever missing a year during their entire lives, having been brought to their first Hunt Supper just as these new children arrived at this family tradition.

Family member and tree farmer Dave Reese, with his Cheshire grin, pointed out that this is the first time that a game warden ever attended. He added that Don “Bud” Ramge, who served as the Hancock County game protector from the 1950s until the mid-1970s always stopped to talk to them during the hunt, but never for supper. It seems I was the first to add this to their history.

When the time came to eat, nearly 60 family members spanning five generations paused as a prayer blessed the meal. The Hunt

Supper was served and it was more than I'd expected. Kids ran from room-to-room, Ohio State football played in the background, loud conversations popped up in every corner, yet the smiles I saw were far louder. They talked about

2010 marks the 101ST Hunt Supper

hunting, the meal, and lost family members as if they might walk into the room. I've got news for them...I believe they were all there.

2010 marks the 101st Hunt Supper. The descendants of Zay Clymer, Verne Powell, Pearl Reese, and Cleo Hissong probably never guessed that their idea would persist this long, that it would be used to harbor the deep family attachments felt among these new generations, or that you and I would take this moment to honor their memory and dedication to celebrating our natural, renewable resources and how deeply they are rooted in our heritage.

Isn't it time for you to start a family hunting tradition?



THE HUNT SUPPER

By Matt Reese

The Hunt Supper started a long time ago,
When pheasants flourished between the fencerows.

Cattle and sheep on the pastures did graze,
Pheasants would live in the hay farmers raised.

When autumn turned all the maple trees red,
The men rose up early out of their beds.

They formed a line in the pasture, each with a gun.
When the first bird was spotted the hunt had begun.

The skilled marksmen took aim as the game birds took flight.
With so many pheasants they'd eat well that night.

Once the game birds were cleaned and properly prepared,
Many families gathered, the hunt supper shared.

They feasted on pheasant, potatoes, and celery green,
Two cakes, oyster dressing, and sweet homemade ice cream.

On that first hunt supper day, there was such good cheer,
That the families decided to gather the next year.

That meal became tradition, each year always the same —
The menu, the family, and the hunting of game.

So the hunt supper continued, unchanged with time,
Until the flourishing pheasants got much harder to find.

Instead of grassy pastures, farmers planted crops in rows,
Their habitat disappeared — pheasants had nowhere to go.

With no pastures and hay, cattle and sheep,
The pheasants no longer had any safe place to sleep.

The fencerows were gone and the ground was left bare,
So the hawks and the fox could find pheasants there.

With things different now and the pheasants all gone,
Would the hunt supper tradition continue on?

But the men still rose early, up from their beds,
When autumn turned all the maple trees red.

Instead of pheasants, rabbits were their game,
The hunt was different, but the hunt supper remained.

But then farmers planted more pastures, after many years went by,
Once more giving pheasants a safe place to hide.

And then this very day, with the autumn maple trees of red,
We all got up early from our nice warm beds.

We formed a line in the field, each with a gun.
We walked and searched out pheasants. The 100th hunt had begun.

Then we all took aim as the game birds took their flight,
With so many pheasants we'll eat well tonight.

Then the game birds were cleaned and properly prepared,
Many families gathered — the hunt supper shared.

And we feasted on pheasant, potatoes, and celery green,
Two cakes, oyster dressing, and sweet homemade ice cream.

Photo by Bill Heban



Photo by David Van Meter



Photo by Laszlo Lengyel



OHIO WATCHABLE WILDLIFE

By Melissa Hathaway

The mention of chipmunks for many of us brings to mind an image of the animated singing trio of Alvin, Simon, and Theodore on the big screen. But wildlife enthusiasts often see these furry striped critters with puffy cheeks in real life scampering across the forest floor or perched on a log.

A common sight in the fall is that of chipmunks scurrying about with bulging cheek pouches. These pouches are stuffed with nuts and seeds to be stashed later in secret hiding places, including the animal's burrow, to cache for winter.

Twenty-two species of native chipmunks, all of the genus *Tamias*, are found in North America. The Eastern chipmunk, *Tamias striatus*, is one of the most widely distributed, and the only species we have here in Ohio. *Tamias* is Greek for "storer," a reference to the chipmunk's habit of collecting and storing food.

Chipmunks typically inhabit deciduous forests and brushy areas, according to the "A to Z Species Guide" at wildohio.com. These squirrel-like mammals have reddish-brown fur with five black stripes on their backs. The stripes are separated by

brown, white, or gray colors. Their diet consists of seeds, nuts, meat, eggs, insects, and bulbs. Although chipmunks are mostly ground-dwelling rodents, they regularly climb trees in the fall to gather nuts, fruits, and seeds.

LIFE UNDERGROUND

Chipmunks dig extensive, shallow burrows in the ground, carrying away dirt in their cheek pouches. Tunnels are typically 20 to 30 feet in length, but more complex burrow systems occur where cover is sparse. The burrows include a nesting chamber, one or two food storage chambers, several side pockets connected to the main tunnel, and several escape tunnels. They favor areas with structures such as stone walls, rotting logs or leaves, or other heavy ground cover to hide burrow entrances. When present in large numbers, chipmunks may become a nuisance for some homeowners by burrowing under patios, retention walls, or foundations, which can cause structural damage.



Photo by Alisa Gergec



Photo by Bill Heban

EASTERN CHIPMUNK AT A GLANCE

BREEDING SEASON:

February through April and
June through August

LITTER SIZE:

4-5

TYPICAL FOODS:

omnivorous: feeds on seeds,
fruits, meat, eggs, insects,
and bulbs.

Eastern Chipmunk

Chipmunks spend the winter in their burrows in a torpor state until early March. They awaken every few days to snack on the nuts and seeds they have stored in their cache chamber and some may appear from their burrows on mild, sunny days.

Unlike other animals of the squirrel family, the Eastern chipmunk has two breeding seasons: one February through April and the other June through August. Four to five young are born after a gestation period of about 31 days. The young do not appear above ground until about six weeks of age.

CHIP, CHIP, CHIP

You might think the chips and chirps you are hearing in a forest are those of songbirds when they might actually be coming from a chipmunk. They communicate with each other by making a variety of sounds, including the “chip” for which they are named. You can go to the “A to Z Species Guide” at wildohio.com and listen to audio of the chipping sound of a chipmunk.

NOW WHERE DID I HIDE THOSE NUTS?

Chipmunks fulfill several important functions in forest ecosystems. These little cachers are a valuable forest inhabitant by storing and scattering nuts and seeds, thereby promoting forest growth. Chipmunks do not always remember all of their hiding places so some of their buried treasures are forever lost to memory and germinate to become trees. In the food chain, chipmunks play an important role as prey for other mammals and birds, and are also predators themselves when the opportunity presents itself, especially regarding birds’ eggs and nestlings.

VIEWING OPPORTUNITIES

Look for Eastern chipmunks in forests, as well as suburban gardens and city parks. They prefer habitat that provides features that conceal burrow entrances and provide perching sites such as rocks, stumps, or fallen logs.



WILDLIFE LAW ENFORCEMENT

Field Notes



MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO POACHING \$23,000 TROPHY BUCK

LARGEST RESTITUTION FOR A POACHED DEER EVER IMPOSED IN OHIO

A Scioto County man pled guilty to four wildlife violations in Adams County Court last April and was ordered to pay \$23,572.05 in restitution. Johnny B. Clay, 37, of Minford, pled guilty to four charges including taking a deer in a closed season, hunting without permission, no hunting license, and no deer permit.

In addition to paying restitution, imposed by the division, the judge ordered him to pay \$1,500 in fines, \$134 in court costs, and to forfeit the deer as well as the bow he used to kill it. In addition, Clay will lose his hunting privileges for life.

Clay had 10 prior wildlife convictions for deer violations and has spent time in jail for several of those offenses. He will be entered into the Wildlife Violator's Compact and most likely will lose hunting rights in 33 other states.

The typical trophy deer, scored according to Boone & Crockett (B&C) guidelines, netted an impressive 197 2/8. This deer was the largest typical white-tailed deer harvested in North America during 2009. In Ohio, this deer

would rank fourth all time in the Buckeye Big Buck Club records.

Concerned citizens contacted Division wildlife officers about the questionable taking of the trophy deer in March 2010. Upon closer investigation, the officers discovered that the deer was unlawfully taken in Adams County during 2009. Clay then checked the deer in as a Kentucky archery kill.



Under Ohio's new law, the restitution value for individual white-tailed deer is derived from the formula listed in 1531.201 of the Ohio Revised Code. The value is determined by measuring the antlers and using a mathematical formula plus the value derived for wildlife. The formula for white-tailed deer will be applied to all individuals whose gross score exceeds 125 Boone and Crockett (B&C) inches.

FATHER AND SON PAY HIGH PRICE FOR POACHING

POACHING OF TROPHY-CLASS DEER RESULTS IN FINES AND RESTITUTION TOTALING MORE THAN \$5,000

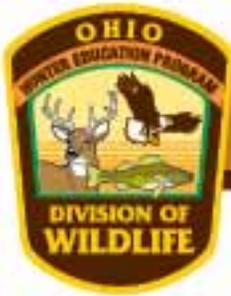
A father and son poaching team from southwest Ohio received restitution costs and fines in Hillsboro Municipal Court for wildlife violations, including taking deer in a closed season and providing false information to a check station. During the 2009 archery season, a Division of Wildlife investigation stemming from a tip from a landowner resulted in multiple charges relating to the illegal harvest of deer for the two southwest Ohio men.

The investigation found that one of the men shot a deer in Highland County the day prior to the opening of the Ohio archery season. On the following day he checked it in at an Adams County check station as an archery harvest. He then cut the head off of the deer and disposed of the carcass along a township road. The man then used one of his deer tags to check in a deer shot by his father on November 3, 2009 at an Adams County check station.

The man pled guilty to charges of taking deer in a closed season, litter, and tagging deer taken by another hunter. He was ordered to pay restitution totaling \$5,047. The deer he illegally harvested the day prior to the opening of archery season scored 152 4/8" exceeding the 125" limit; the restitution price of the deer was determined under the 2008 revised restitution laws.

His sentence included three years of hunting license revocation, forfeiture of the bow used to kill the deer, and the shoulder mount of the deer. He also paid a waiver for \$825 in the Adams County court for two charges of providing false information to a check station.

The father was charged with hunting without permission, hunting without a license, and failure to temporary tag deer. He paid a waiver of \$825.



OUTDOOR SKILLS

Gear Up for Dove Hunting



The mourning dove's fast flight, quick changes in direction, and alert nature make it one of the most challenging game birds to hunt. Doves are found in nearly all agricultural fields in the state, and many state wildlife areas have fields planted specifically for dove hunting. So now is the time to gear up and head out for a fast-action dove hunt!

The mourning dove is the most popular, abundant, and widespread game bird in North America. Its adaptable lifestyle and high reproductive rate have allowed its population to flourish in both agricultural and urban areas. Biologists estimate that at least four million doves are in Ohio each fall, many of which are migrants moving through Ohio during the fall hunting season.

"Dove hunting in September is a great way to go out and enjoy the outdoors. It kicks off the start of the hunting season for most sportsmen and women," said Jim Schott, area manager of Pickerel Creek and Resthaven state wildlife areas in northwestern Ohio. "I think a lot of folks who hunt dove enjoy it because of the fast action.

"I highly recommend dove hunting for beginners and youths. It's warm and usually very pleasant outdoors. It's also simple and easy. A gun, shells, and a bucket are really all you need."

DOVE HUNTING TIPS

- ▶ The most successful dove hunters begin their season by scouting possible hunting areas in late August or early September.
- ▶ Likely hot spots include recently harvested soybean, corn, hay, or wheat fields.
- ▶ A water source nearby will make the area more attractive to doves.
- ▶ Hunters should set up along a fencerow or other cover.
- ▶ Small blinds may be used to hunt the middle of a field; brush piles, small bushes, or even camouflage clothing may be equally effective.
- ▶ Dove hunters often hunt in teams, with individuals around the edge of a field to keep the birds moving.
- ▶ Dove decoys and calls may improve hunting success late in the season when fewer doves are moving through the state or as doves become more wary.
- ▶ Since doves will usually remain in an area until they are frightened away, hunters should try to hunt an area only every other day or so.

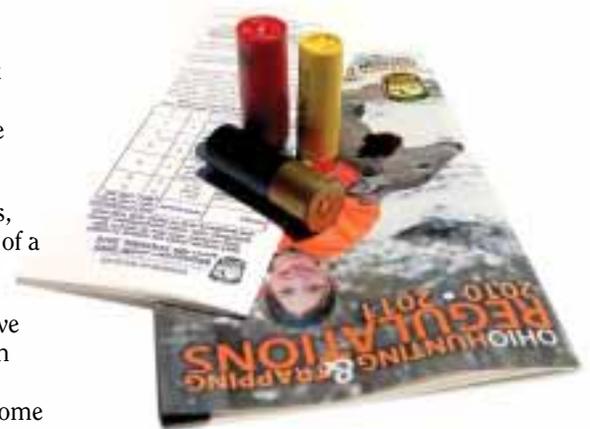
EQUIPMENT

Twelve- or 20-gauge shotguns with improved cylinder or modified choke and a couple of boxes of 7-1/2, 8, or 9 shot shells are the most popular combinations. Smaller shotguns such as .410 and 28-gauge are also suitable, but beginning dove hunters may find these smaller gauges discouraging since they carry fewer shot for harvesting fast-moving doves.

Regardless of which gauge is chosen, hunters should always pattern their guns before the season begins and limit their shots to 40 yards or less.

REGULATIONS

Federal regulations for dove hunters prohibit live decoys, baiting, or shotguns that hold more than three shells. In addition, Ohio regulations prohibit shooting doves from wires, utility poles, or buildings. Refer to the federal regulations published annually by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Migratory Game Bird Hunting Seasons (Publication 298), and the annual Ohio Hunting and Trapping Regulations (Publication 85) for more information.



For information about dove hunting clinics or hunter education courses, public dove hunting areas, and wildlife area maps, go to wildohio.com or call 1-800-WILDLIFE.

Youth Hunter Photo Album

FROM DEER TO SOFTBALL, THE GIRL'S GOT GAME

Alexis has been hunting for more than five years and says like many young hunters she started with squirrels and rabbits. At that time, the gun and the rabbits were almost as big as she was. Since that time she has moved on to hunting geese, ducks, deer, pheasant, and turkey. She hopes to add coyotes to the list soon.

Becoming renown for harvesting a buck that scored 178 0/8 inches typical during the 2008 hunting season, she was no stranger to success in the field. The buck, taken the day after Thanksgiving with a crossbow, was not her first, but her fifth deer. That trophy isn't what keeps her hunting though. It could be the memories she's making with her family, a competitive spirit; maybe it's just to feel the wind in her face and watch the day break from the deer stand.

"IT'S NOT ABOUT GETTING THE BIG BUCK"

Not surprisingly, her most memorable hunt is the first deer she ever shot. No trophy or ribbon can replace the feel of having your first successful hunt. She says, "For me it's not about getting the big buck, it's about getting out and seeing a lot of deer and hopefully getting one." It's about the skills she's building and the opportunity to get outside with her dad Dennis, she adds.

Alexis encourages other prospective youth hunters to get out and give it a try. "Just keep trying even if you miss, and it's okay to take a doe instead of the big buck." She exudes the wisdom of a hunter that has spent many a day in the treestand or on foot in the squirrel woods.

JOINING THE RANKS OF THE BUCKEYE BIG BUCKS

During the 51st Annual Buckeye Big Bucks Club's (BBBC) banquet, Alexis received four different awards for her buck that officially scored 178 0/8 inches typical. She also went on to win "Best of Show" in the typical antlers taken with a crossbow division at the 2009 Ohio Deer & Turkey Expo in Columbus. Alexis added another BBBC buck to her hunting resume during the 2009-2010 seasons harvesting a deer scoring 144 7/8 inches.

Founded in 1957 by Merrill C. Gilfilan, the BBBC's goal is to encourage trophy hunting by Ohio hunters, establish and maintain a permanent record of Ohio's trophy deer taken in fair chase, foster wise management of this valuable resource, and promote a positive relationship among hunters and landowners. Each year the club honors hunters who harvest "typical" deer that meet the minimum 140-inch scoring requirement and "non-typical" deer meeting a minimum 160-inch score requirement. Scores are determined by using the Boone and Crockett scoring system.



No trophy or ribbon can replace the feel of having your first successful hunt.





Name: Alexis Kemp
Age: 13; 8th grader
Hometown: Blanchester
Hobbies: Hunting, horseback riding, hiking, and fishing with her family

HUNTING, 4-H, SOFTBALL, AND MORE

Although Alexis fills the seasons with hunting, she finds time to be a typical 8th grader. She spends time with friends and family; she has two younger sisters, and is also very active in sports and 4-H. Her success in the woods is mirrored on the softball field and in the show arena at the county fair. Her dad coaches her champion softball team and her mom is very supportive and involved in all of Alexis' activities. Alexis is in her second year of showing horses and says it's a lot of fun. She uses the patience she gets from hunting in all aspects of her life and admits it comes in handy while she's training horses. When asked how

her friends feel about her hunting she smiles and says they call and ask how it went and if she has any deer jerky to share.

As for the future, Alexis intends to continue striking a balance between all her passions. Would she consider a future job in the outdoors? You bet! She says she would like to be a wildlife officer. With her love of hunting and experience in the outdoors she's well on her way. As if she's not busy enough Alexis says, "I recently received a compound bow and I'm practicing with it in hopes of filming some of my hunts." She just may be able to add "Pro Staff" to her credentials.



YOUTH HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND

Many of Alexis' hunting accomplishments have taken place during the regular statewide seasons. She has also taken advantage of youth hunting opportunities offered in Ohio. The Division of Wildlife sets youth hunting seasons for small game, deer, waterfowl, and wild turkey. Information for these seasons, including dates and locations, can be found at wildohio.com. Youth hunts provide an opportunity to get into the field with an adult and gain valuable experience and ultimately fill a photo album with memories.

In a time of declining license sales, female youth hunters appear to be making a place for themselves in the outdoors. Over the past four years hunting licenses sold to female youths have risen steadily – 5,175 sold during the 2006-2007 season and 2009-2010 sales totaling 6,443. Hopefully, Alexis' story will be inspirational to all youth hunters. Remember, it's not about the big buck; it's about taking the doe too.

2010-2011

OHIO HUNTING & TRAPPING REGULATIONS

As approved by the Ohio Wildlife Council, hunters are no longer required to purchase a regular deer permit before purchasing antlerless deer permits. Also, hunters in nine northwest Ohio counties will be given a higher deer bag limit. The change to the deer zones includes moving nine northwest Ohio counties from Deer Zone A to Zone B. The counties are Allen, Defiance, Fulton, Henry, Lucas, Paulding, Putnam, Van Wert, and Williams.

Hunters can again buy antlerless deer permits at reduced prices for hunting in an urban zone, participating in a Division of Wildlife-authorized controlled hunt or hunting during the September 25 to November 28 portion of the deer season. The sale of reduced-price antlerless permits will cease after November 28, so hunters need to commit early to buying and using the extra reduced-cost permits to take full advantage of this opportunity. The deadline for using the antlerless permit will be extended to December 5 for those hunting in Deer Zone C. Cost of the antlerless deer permit remains \$15.

Those hunting in urban zones and at Division of Wildlife-authorized controlled hunts will again have a six-deer bag limit, and those deer will not count against the hunter's zone bag limit.

Either a \$15 antlerless deer permit and a valid hunting license or \$24 deer permit and a valid hunting license are required to hunt deer in Ohio. A hunter may take only one antlered deer in Ohio, regardless of zone, hunting method or season.

During the December 18-19 portion of the deer-gun season, hunters will be allowed to hunt other legal game species in season as long as hunters meet specified requirements, such as the hunter orange requirement for deer-gun season.

Check the 2010-2011 Ohio Hunting and Trapping Regulations or go to wildohio.com for the maximum number of deer permitted to be taken in each of the deer hunting zones, and all other hunting and trapping season dates and regulations.

HUNTING SEASONS	OPENING DATE	CLOSING DATE
Small Game: Squirrel (<i>gray, red, fox</i>)	Sept 1, 2010	Jan 31, 2011
Small Game: Mourning Dove	Sept 1, 2010	Oct 24, 2010
	Dec 6, 2010	Dec 21, 2010
Small Game: Ruffed Grouse	Oct 9, 2010	Jan 31, 2011
Small Game: Cottontail Rabbit	Nov 5, 2010	Feb 28, 2011
Small Game: Ring-necked Pheasant/Chukar	Nov 5, 2010	Jan 9, 2011
Small Game: Bobwhite Quail	Nov 5, 2010	Nov 28, 2010
Small Game: Fox, Raccoon, Skunk, Opossum, Weasel	Nov 10, 2010	Jan 31, 2011
Small Game: Crow (<i>Fri. Sat. Sun. Only</i>)	June 4, 2010	Mar 13, 2011
Small Game: Coyote	No closed season	
Small Game: Wild Boar	No closed season	
Small Game: Groundhog	Closed for deer gun season only	
Waterfowl: Ducks, Geese	See Publication 295 and 298	
Wild Turkey: Fall	Oct 9, 2010	Nov 28, 2010
Wild Turkey: Spring	April 18, 2011	May 15, 2011
White-tailed Deer: Archery	Sept 25, 2010	Feb 6, 2011
White-tailed Deer: Early Muzzleloader	Oct 18, 2010	Oct 23, 2010
White-tailed Deer: Youth Gun	Nov 20, 2010	Nov 21, 2010
White-tailed Deer: Gun	Nov 29, 2010	Dec 5, 2010
White-tailed Deer: Gun	Dec 18, 2010	Dec 19, 2010
White-tailed Deer: Muzzleloader	Jan 8, 2011	Jan 11, 2011

YOUTH HUNTING SEASONS	OPENING DATE	CLOSING DATE
Youth Hunters Small Game Season	Oct 23, 2010	Oct 24, 2010
	Oct 30, 2010	Oct 31, 2010
Youth Deer Gun Season	Nov 20, 2010	Nov 21, 2010
Youth Spring Wild Turkey Season	April 16, 2011	April 17, 2011
Youth Spring Wild Turkey Hunts: <i>Specific Areas Only</i>	April 18, 2011	May 15, 2011
Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days	See Publication 295	
Youth Waterfowl Opening Day Hunts	Selected areas only	
Youth Controlled Deer Hunts: <i>Application Only</i>	Application period is June 1 through July 31	
Youth Controlled Waterfowl Hunts: <i>Application Only</i>		

TRAPPING SEASONS	OPENING DATE	CLOSING DATE
Fox, Raccoon, Opossum, Skunk, Weasel	Nov 10, 2010	Jan 31, 2011
Mink, Muskrat	Nov 10, 2010	Feb 28, 2011
Mink, Muskrat, Raccoon, Opossum, Skunk, Weasel <i>(Erie, Ottawa, Sandusky, and Lucas County east of the Maumee River)</i>	Nov 10, 2010	Mar 15, 2011
Beaver: Statewide	Dec 26, 2010	Feb 28, 2011
River Otter <i>Open in specific counties</i>	Dec 26, 2010	Feb 28, 2011

TOP 25 COUNTIES FOR REGISTERED TROPHY BUCKS 1958 - 2009 (BUCKEYE BIG BUCK CLUB)

#1. LICKING COUNTY 616

- | | | | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|
| 2. Muskingum 580 | 6. Athens 362 | 10. Tuscarawas 295 | 14. Knox 281 | 18. Gallia 241 | 22. Jackson 209 |
| 3. Guernsey 376 | 7. Ross 336 | 11. Jefferson 291 | 15. Morgan 276 | 19. Noble 237 | 23. Highland 208 |
| 4. Coshocton 371 | 8. Washington 316 | 12. Vinton 286 | 16. Meigs 271 | 20. Harrison 223 | 24. Lawrence 208 |
| 5. Hocking 364 | 9. Fairfield 309 | 13. Perry 281 | 17. Belmont 265 | 21. Richland 210 | 25. Delaware 207 |

2010 - 2011 WHITE-TAILED DEER HUNTING ZONES

ZONE A

A hunter may harvest no more than **2** deer in Zone A during the 2010-2011 season.

The Antlerless Deer Permit is NOT valid in Zone A after **Nov. 28, 2010**.

ZONE B

A hunter may harvest no more than **4** deer in Zone B during the 2010-2011 season.

The Antlerless Deer Permit is NOT valid in Zone B after **Nov. 28, 2010**.

ZONE C

A hunter may harvest no more than **6** deer in Zone C during the 2010-2011 season.

The Antlerless Deer Permit is NOT valid in Zone C after **Dec. 5, 2010**.

No more than one (1) antlered deer may be taken per license year



GEAR UP FOR ANOTHER RECORD DEER SEASON

Ohio deer hunters had another great year during the 2009-10 season, killing more than 260,000 deer for the first time. The season surpassed the 2008-09 record total of 252,017 deer. Ohio continues to provide world-class hunting for white-tailed deer. Yet another record-breaking buck was taken in Ohio during last year's season. The 35 1/8-inch left main beam is the largest ever recorded by Boone and Crockett and the right main beam measured an impressive 34 1/8 inches. The 18-point, non-typical (non-symmetrical antlered) deer was taken by Brian Stephens on November 30, 2009 with a muzzleloader in Highland County. The buck scored in at 232 5/8. Hunters continue to play a vital role in managing Ohio's deer herd. They've embraced regulation changes, which increased the harvest of antlerless deer, and they've donated a significant amount of venison to feed the less fortunate in Ohio through the Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry program (read more on pages 6-9). Approximately 475,000 people hunt white-tailed deer in Ohio.

GOT PERMISSION?

September marks the traditional start of hunting season! No matter what species you plan on bagging this season, you must have landowner permission to do so on private property. Be courteous and respectful of landowners when seeking permission to hunt on their property and remember to act in a way that will get you permission in the years to come. Download easy-to-use permission to hunt forms at wildohio.com. Also, HuntOhioFarms.com connects Ohio farmers experiencing deer damage problems with responsible hunters looking for a place to hunt. See the back cover of this issue of *Wild Ohio* magazine for information and go to HuntOhioFarms.com for more details.

TOP 5 DEER

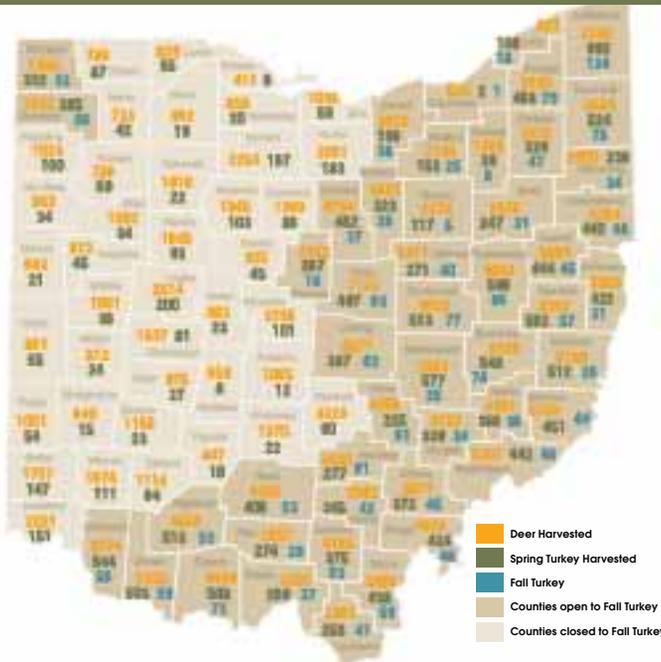
1. Coshocton **9,635**
2. Tuscarawas **9,009**
3. Licking **8,571**
4. Guernsey **8,289**
5. Harrison **8,043**

TOP 5 SPRING TURKEY

1. Ashtabula **990**
2. Tuscarawas **596**
3. Muskingum **577**
4. Harrison **562**
5. Guernsey **548**

TOP 5 FALL TURKEY

1. Ashtabula **124**
2. Geauga **79**
3. Trumbull **78**
4. Coshocton **77**
5. Guernsey **74**



TOP 5 DEER

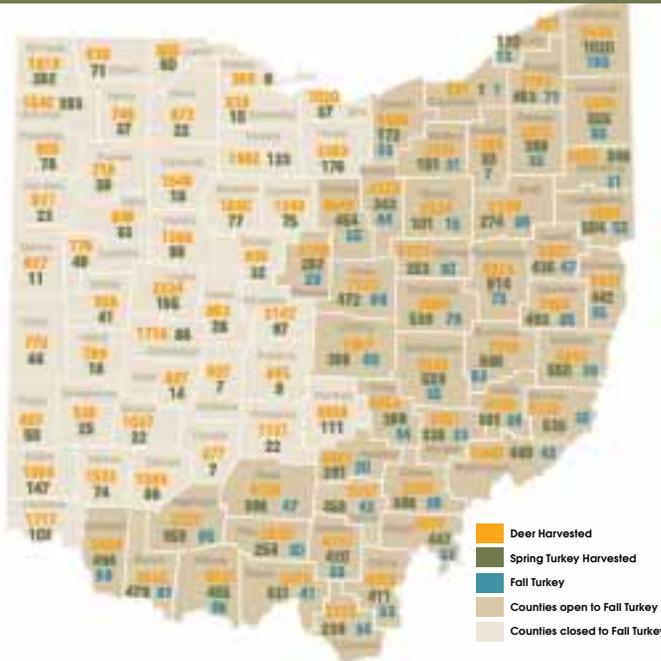
1. Coshocton **9,564**
2. Tuscarawas **8,814**
3. Licking **7,967**
4. Guernsey **7,916**
5. Harrison **7,454**

TOP 5 SPRING TURKEY

1. Ashtabula **1,020**
2. Tuscarawas **614**
3. Guernsey **590**
4. Muskingum **559**
5. Trumbull **555**

TOP 5 FALL TURKEY

1. Ashtabula **165**
2. Adams **98**
3. Harrison **85**
4. Coshocton **79**





Feeding Squirrels - or not!

by Donna Daniel

You should be able to find these mixes, baffles, and squirrel-proof feeders at specialty bird feeding stores, or possibly local discount department stores, or by doing a Web search.

TALENTED ACROBATS

Many people want to deter squirrels from getting at their feeders, while others prefer to feed squirrels, or have just plain given up the fight. Feeding squirrels can be entertaining. Squirrels are talented acrobats, especially when it comes to obtaining food.

Nuts and corn are special treats for squirrels and specialty feeders are available to dispense these goodies. It is best to place squirrel feeding stations away from bird feeders to help distract them from the bird feeders.

Whether you love squirrels or simply put up with them, feeding them will be a big hit with both your family and the squirrels.



Eastern Gray Squirrels
Stu MacEachen

If you are one of the 82 million Americans that feed the wild birds in your backyard, chances are you're also feeding squirrels. Chances are even greater that you've experienced frustration with squirrels eating you out of house and home, or even damaging your feeders. Ohio is home to several species of squirrels – the most common found in your backyard one gray, fox or red, or a combination of species.

There are several ways to outwit the squirrels that raid your bird feeders:

- Special seed mixes that squirrels don't like to eat. Buy commercial bird seed with red pepper added or add it to bird seed yourself. (*Wild Ohio* magazine, winter 2008-2009)
- Baffles around poles to keep squirrels off feeders
- Special squirrel-proof feeders

RED SQUIRREL



GRAY SQUIRREL



FOX SQUIRREL



FLYING SQUIRREL



Watch Out for Homonyms!

by Melissa Hathaway

Below is a short story about a wildlife experience written by a young Wild Ohio reader. After reading Sarah's story, on a separate sheet of paper or in a journal, write a story about your own wildlife experience.

OWLS IN THE WOODS

by: Sarah Schott (AGE 9)

One day, my brother and I decided to go play on a rock pile near our house. After a while, my brother told me to stop playing. I stopped and we heard an owl. We sat down and started to listen to the owl. We were there for a long time. The next day, we heard the owl along with another owl. A few days later, I invited my friend over. We went to the rock pile. When we got there, we heard a lot of owls. It seemed like there were millions of owls. I think going there and listening to the owls is fun.

WINNERS OF THE YOUNG ANGLERS WRITING CONTEST

The contest appeared in the 2008-2009 *Wild Ohio for Kids* magazine. Readers were asked to submit a story about a fishing trip.

First place winners received a Zebco rod and reel combo, and second and third place winners received a digital fish weighing scale.

CATEGORY: 3RD & 4TH GRADE

Milan Bess
Zoe Ryan
Haylie Boodjeh

CATEGORY: 5TH & 6TH GRADE

Tim Brooker
Isabelle Ryan
Cheyenne Trammell

CATEGORY: 7TH & 8TH GRADE

Helen Varuhas
Kerry-Ann Williams

Winning essays will be posted online at wildohio.com.



Gray Treefrog
Mike Mainhart

The English language has many words that sound the same, but do not have the same meaning and are spelled differently. These words are called homonyms. A few examples are: which and witch, here and hear, seen and scene, sight and site.

There are two wildlife-related homonyms in each of the sentences below. See if you can find the misused words in each sentence and circle or highlight them. Then write the correct words on the spaces after the sentence.

1. Black bares have thick, coarse hare.

2. Some animals live in wholes in the ground called burros.

3. Only won female queen bee lives in a hive; the rest are mails.

4. Earthworms come out at knight and also when it reins.

5. Predator or pray, wildlife knead good senses such as keen hearing to survive in the wild.

6. Butterflies can be found drinking nectar from flours, especially on warm, sunny daze.

7. Animals are vary protective of there young.

8. In bad whether, many animals choose to whole up for awhile.

BONUS: The sentence below has six homonyms.

A heard of dear including a dough with too fawns eight sum of the farmer's corn.

Answers: (1) Bears, hair (2) Holes, burrows (3) One, males (4) Night, rains (5) Prey, need (6) Flowers, days (7) Very, their (8) Weather, hole (Bonus: Herd, deer, doe, two, ate, some)



PHOTOGRAPHERS! You can post your photos on the Division of Wildlife's Web site Photo Gallery at wildohio.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 online 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.



Luke Simon pursued this buck for three years. He obtained many trail photos of the buck and even found the buck's sheds over the years. Patience and perseverance paid off on the last day of last year's deer gun season.
Donna White, Medina County



An excited Zach Hillman with his doe after a successful hunt.
Jamey Graham, Akron



I wanted to share this photo with you because this is my first coyote ever.
Seth Carles, Jenera



Bald eagle at Mosquito Creek Wildlife Area in Trumbull County.
John Sims



Nathan Coy with his channel catfish.
Elaine Coy, Saint Marys



"This flying squirrel took up residence in a tote bag left in a tree stand overnight."
Dave Orndorf, Sunbury



12-point buck taken in Vinton County last December.
Garold Riley, Albany



WILD GAME GOURMET

AS SEEN ON WILD OHIO TV • hosted by Vicki Mountz

Recipes



VENISON MEDALLIONS with mushrooms



- 1 pound venison tenderloin, cut in medallions
- Salt and pepper
- 1 large onion, sliced thin
- 2 cloves garlic, diced fine
- 3 tablespoons butter
- 4 ounces of your favorite mushrooms
- 1 1/2 tablespoons flour
- 1 cup water (or combination of wine and water)
- 1 beef bouillon cube

Sprinkle salt and pepper over venison and set aside. In large non-stick pan, sauté onions in 1 tablespoon butter until partially done. Add garlic and cook another 2 or 3 minutes; add mushrooms and sauté another 5 to 10 minutes. While vegetables are cooking, add venison to another skillet that can be put in 400 degree oven (stainless or cast iron). Put 1 tablespoon butter in pan and quickly brown both sides of the venison. Put the pan in a 400 degree oven for about 5 minutes, depending up medallion thickness. While venison cooks, add 1 tablespoon butter and the flour to the vegetable pan, stirring until it becomes a paste. Add the liquid and continue to stir until it develops a gravy consistency. Remove medallions and let rest 3 to 5 minutes. Serve vegetables and sauce over medallions.

Contributed by Vicki Mountz

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GAME DAY CAJUN FISH BITES

- 2 pounds fish fillets cut into bite-sized pieces
- Salt & pepper to taste
- 1 cup pancake mix
- 1 cup plain breadcrumbs
- 2 tablespoon Cajun seasoning (add more if desired)
- 1/4 cup water

Dipping Sauce

- 1 egg
- Vegetable oil for frying
- 1/2 cup heavy cream
- 1/2 cup horseradish (partially drained)
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon pepper

Heat about half of an inch of oil in a large, deep skillet over medium heat (about 360°). Salt and pepper fish pieces to taste then cut into bite-sized pieces. Combine pancake mix, breadcrumbs, and Cajun seasoning in a large, plastic food storage bag. Whisk water and egg in shallow bowl. Dip fish in egg wash. Transfer fish to bag and shake to coat with dry ingredients. Fry in hot oil 4 to 6 minutes or until golden brown, turning once. Remove to plate layered with paper towel.

Dipping Sauce: Whisk cream in medium bowl until thickened, but not yet holding stiff peaks. Gently fold in other ingredients. Transfer to serving bowl and chill at least 30 minutes prior to serving.

Contributed by Ray Petering



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.



for more great wild game recipes go to wildohiocookbook.com



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Columbus, OH 43229-6693

Looking for Some Farmland to Hunt this Fall?

It's not too early to start looking for a place to hunt this fall. There are farmers experiencing crop damage from deer that may be looking to thin the herd on their property by using hunters as a tool.

HuntOhioFarms.com can connect Ohio farmers with deer damage problems and responsible hunters looking for a place to hunt.

Hunters provide information about themselves, such as hunting preferences, availability, hunting implement of choice, etc. Then farmers search hunter profiles and find hunters that are a good match for their farm and circumstances. The program is a joint venture of the Ohio Farm Bureau and the Ohio Division of Wildlife with support from Whitetails Unlimited and the Quality Deer Management Association.

huntohiofarms.com

