

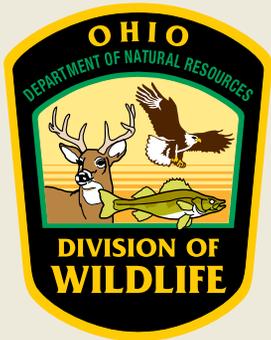
Wild Ohio

Spring 2011

M A G A Z I N E

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE





EDITORIAL STAFF

Vicki Mountz
Executive Editor

Susie Vance
Editor

Lisa Smith
Technical Editor

Vicki Ervin
Associate Editor

Tim Daniel
Photographer

Chad Crouch
Designer

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

John R. Kasich
Governor, State of Ohio

David Mustine
Director, O.D.N.R.

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EXPERIENCE FISHING

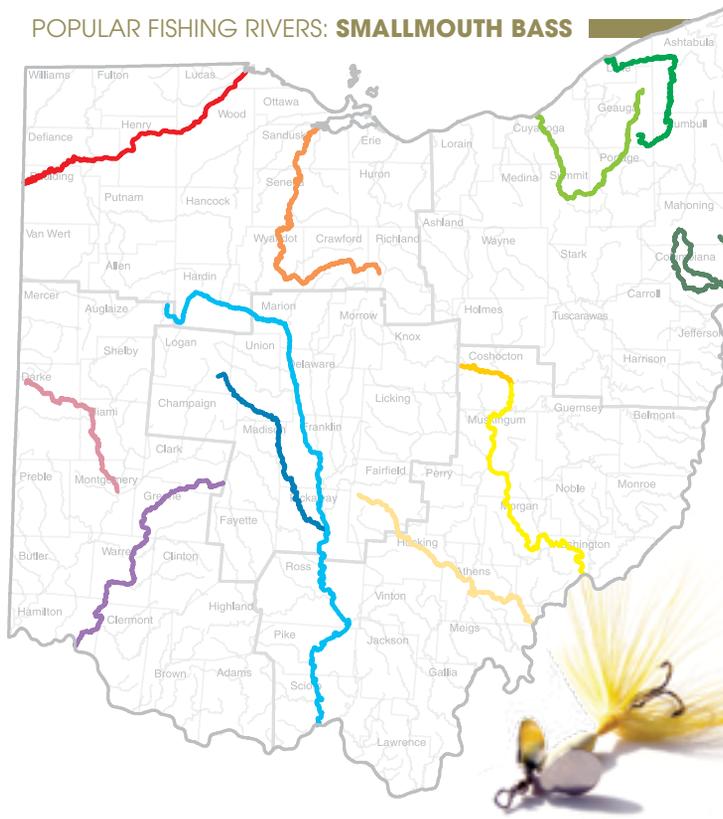
OHIO'S FREE FISHING DAYS

A CHANCE TO EXPERIENCE OHIO'S GREAT FISHING

Ohio anglers may fish in any of the state's public waters without having to buy a fishing license. Never fished before? This is a great opportunity to experience fishing before buying a license. Hook just one and you'll be hooked yourself!

MAY
7-8

POPULAR FISHING RIVERS: SMALLMOUTH BASS



CENTRAL OHIO

- Big Darby Creek
- Scioto River

NORTHWEST OHIO

- Maumee River
- Sandusky River

NORTHEAST OHIO

- Cuyahoga River
- Grand River
- Little Beaver Creek

SOUTHEAST OHIO

- Hocking River
- Muskingum River
- Walhonding River

SOUTHWEST OHIO

- Little Miami River
- Stillwater River

See page 6 (Cuyahoga River) and page 15 (Outdoor Skills) in this issue for tips on smallmouth bass fishing.

NEXT ISSUE



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

- Bears in Ohio
- Controlled Burns
- Ohio's Northern Cardinal
- Habitat Management Project
- 2011 Legacy Stamp Winner
- Creating a Vernal Pool
- Insect Safari
- ... and More!

WILD OHIO MAGAZINE

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Office for Diversity and Civil Rights Programs-External Programs
4040 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 130
Arlington, VA 22203

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

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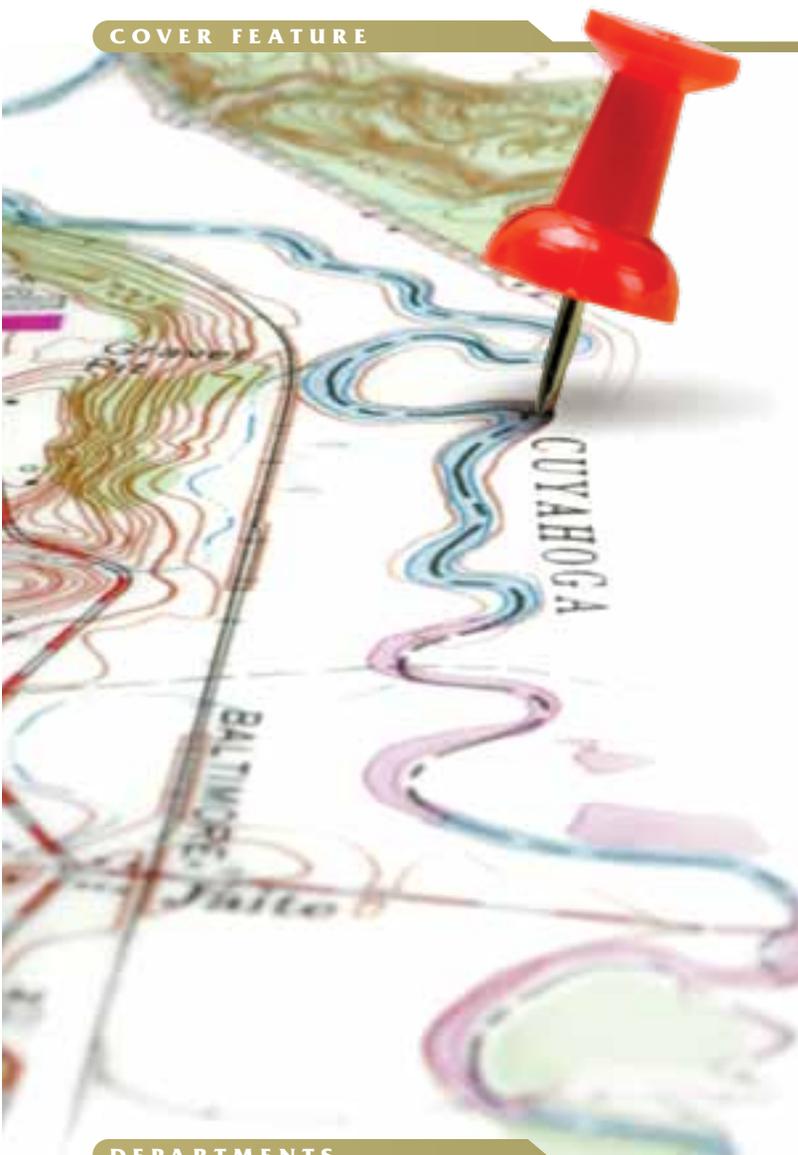
SPRING 2011 VOLUME 22, NUMBER 1

SCARLET TANGER



COVER FEATURE

T A B L E O F C O N T E N T S



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Once neglected, the Cuyahoga River is cleaned up and teeming with fish.

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Many dams in Ohio serve a vital role while others have outlived their usefulness.

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Hunting for arrowheads can lead to surprises and an enjoyable pastime.

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The 2011 license and permit sales and game-check system goes online.

ON THE COVER: SMALLMOUTH BASS

Known for their acrobatic abilities and putting up a strong fight, smallmouth bass can be found in every county. Photo by Eric Engbretson

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CRAYFISH



News from Around Ohio



Lee Howley, left, and Roy Kroll, Ducks Unlimited

2010 DUCKS UNLIMITED OHIO CONSERVATION PARTNER OF THE YEAR

Lee Howley has a distinguished record of contributions and achievements at the local, state, national and international level that reflect his lifelong commitment to conservation. Lee is in his 13th year as a member of the Ohio Wildlife Council and currently serves as the advisory board's chair. Service at high levels of government, including to U.S. Presidents, has not diminished his eagerness to engage the concerns of everyday hunters with his

characteristic sincerity, objectivity, and resolve. Howley has been a driving force in an unprecedented effort to establish an association among the private landowners of Ohio's marshes in southwest Lake Erie to conserve waterfowl habitat. Lee has also worked diligently with federal and state regulatory agencies to improve standards and approaches to wetland restoration, providing increased incentives for wetland conservation statewide.



HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE BLIND AT DEER CREEK

The Safari Club International, Pickaway County Sportsman's Club, Deer Creek Chapter of Pheasants Forever, Pickaway Plains Chapter of Ducks Unlimited, and the Logan Elm Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation built and donated a handicap-accessible waterfowl hunting blind at Deer Creek Wildlife Area.

CATCH THE ACTION AT THE YOUTH FISHING PONDS IN AKRON

"Fish On! Fish On!" was a frequently heard refrain last year around the Wildlife District Three Youth Fishing Area in Akron. More than 2,700 youngsters, age 15 and under excitedly announced hooking into fish – many of which were Fish Ohio-sized catfish, bluegills, bass, and even a few trout and perch. The Division of Wildlife accommodated nearly 1,500 of the young anglers during specially scheduled weekday programs; the rest of those youngsters reeled in their catches on Saturdays and Sundays between Memorial Day and Labor Day. The fishing area, part of Portage Lakes, is very accessible, and a Division of Wildlife staff member is on hand to bait hooks, provide equipment, and answer questions. There is no fee to participate thanks to proceeds earned from the sale of Ohio fishing licenses. For complete details, call Wildlife District Three at (330) 644-2293 or go to wildohio.com and click on "Contact Us." Mark your calendars: the youth fishing area opens for the season on Saturday, May 28!



OHIO WILDLIFE LEGACY STAMP PHOTO CONTEST

Salamanders are the subject of the 3rd Annual Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp photo contest. Ohioans with a passion for wildlife photography are encouraged to focus their cameras on the state's native salamander populations.

Ohio has 25 native salamander species. One of the best times of the year to see these secretive amphibians is during their breeding season, which coincides with the first warm rains of spring. Learn more about salamanders in the Buckeye State at ohioamphibians.com.

The contest is open to all Ohioans age 18 years and older. Entries will be accepted August 1-20. The photographer with the winning image will receive \$500. Budding photographers, age 17 and younger, will be able to compete in the youth-only division. For complete contest rules visit wildohiostamp.com



GREEN SALAMANDER

WILDLIFE DIVERSITY PARTNER'S MEETING

Statewide partners in wildlife diversity efforts met with the Division of Wildlife for the third year to discuss current projects and gather input for future collaborative ideas concerning natural resources conservation. Participants also served as judges in the Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp photo contest. This year's event will be held again in September at a location to be determined.



NEW STATE RECORD STEELHEAD CERTIFIED

A new Ohio record steelhead (rainbow trout) has been certified by the Outdoor Writers of Ohio State Record Fish Committee. The state record steelhead, weighing 21.3 pounds, was caught in Lake Erie by Jason Brooks of Tallmadge, on June 25, 2010, around 11:00 a.m. while he was trolling off Avon Point in Lorain County. Brooks' record steelhead measured 38 inches in length, with a 22-inch girth.



THREE LOCKED BUCKS

On occasion in the white-tailed world, bucks become "locked" together during a duel. Bucks with their antlers intertwined usually occur in pairs, but Brien Burke found this trio of bucks locked together and drowned after they fell into the creek that winds through his Meigs County property. It is difficult to establish which antler goes where, but the trio consists of a 122-inch, 7-point with a broken tine, a 140-inch, 10-point, and a 169-inch, 11-point deer.

Wildlife CALENDAR

March 26

SHREVE MIGRATION SENSATION
shreveohio.com

April 29 – May 1

MOHICAN WILD "ART" WEEKEND
mohicanwildlifeweekend.com

April 29 – May 1

FLORA QUEST
Shawnee State Park & Forest and the Edge of Appalachia Preserve
flora-quest.com

May 14

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY
birdday.com

May 5 - 15

BIGGEST WEEK IN AMERICAN BIRDING
Magee Marsh Wildlife Area and Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge
biggestweekinamericanbirding.com

wildohio.com
for up-to-date events

THE CUYAHOGA RIVER IS ON FIRE

by Ken Fry



The Cuyahoga River passes through four counties in northeast Ohio.

The Cuyahoga River may have a certain reputation among historians, but the most recent reputation the river has earned is fast-spreading among the fishing world. The reputation? The river is H-O-T, hot with the bite of smallmouth bass.

There is no denying that the Cuyahoga River was neglected and abused in Ohio's past. The fire of 1969 was one of several fires documented on the Cuyahoga River. The Cuyahoga River, aptly named for its crooked nature by the Iroquois, was a valuable resource for the Native Americans. In the eyes of some Native Americans, fire is a symbol of renewal or cleansing.

The rebirth of the Cuyahoga River and rivers across the country began with the fire of 1969. This fire received national attention after TIME Magazine published an article describing the event. The attention served as a springboard for an environmental movement, leading to legislation that created new regulations on water control standards and strengthening the laws already in place. Recovery of the nation's rivers, including the Cuyahoga, has allowed people to find previously hidden resources and opportunities.

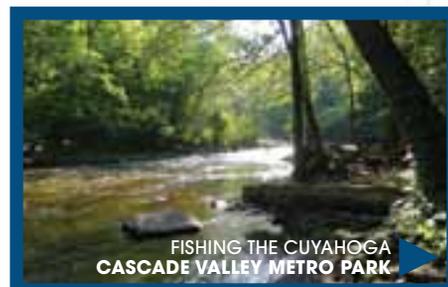
An important resource, the smallmouth bass, also known as bronzeback, smallie, or small-jaws, is native to Ohio and is found not just in Lake Erie, but throughout Ohio's rivers, streams, and

lakes. The smallmouth fishery in Lake Erie is wildly popular and rightly so, but smallmouth fisheries in the rivers and streams are often overlooked. Although the smallmouth caught in the rivers and streams tend to be smaller than their Lake Erie brethren, they still fight just as hard if not harder. Pound for pound, the river smallies' fight is up there with the best of them. Hooking into these smallmouths on the Cuyahoga can make for a very memorable day along the river.

The Cuyahoga River also has healthy populations of other sport fish such as channel catfish, Northern pike, freshwater drum, common carp, and panfish like bluegill and crappie. Division of Wildlife biologists have also verified reports of some sizable steelhead caught seasonally in different sections of the river.

The Cuyahoga River has come a long way since the mid-1900s. What may be even more impressive is how far society has come, realizing the importance of natural resources and the measures that need to be taken to protect these resources for future Ohioans. One great day of fishing on the river, whether it's the Cuyahoga River or any other Ohio waterway, will leave a fire burning inside every avid smallmouth angler. Once you catch that fire, be sure to pass it on.

Cascade Valley Metro Park in Summit County has a nice balance of riffles, runs, and pools offering some of the best smallmouth fishing anywhere on the Cuyahoga River.

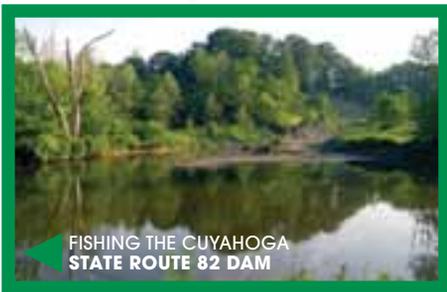


FISHING THE CUYAHOGA
CASCADE VALLEY METRO PARK

Along the 85 miles of meandering river there are numerous public fishing access points. The following locations are just a handful of fishable places on the Cuyahoga River. Make sure to check for park-specific fishing regulations before venturing out. Remember to receive written permission prior to accessing stretches of river that flow through private property. Entering onto private land without permission from the owner is illegal. It is also important to note that between May 1 and the last Friday in June it is illegal to possess a smallmouth from the Harvard Bridge down river and into Lake Erie.



Eldon Russell Park, owned by Geauga Park District, offers about a half mile of river for pursuing smallmouth. When the conditions are right, this stretch can offer some really exciting action.



S.R. 82 Dam, located in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, provides spectacular scenery while chasing the bite of the smallies. This area is recommended especially during the fall not only for the bite, but also its aesthetic value.



Kent Dam Interpretive Park, owned by the city of Kent, is a park tucked in the city itself. The historic importance of the Cuyahoga River can be felt while fishing this area. Only a portion of the original dam remains allowing for quality smallmouth fishing above and below the dam.

OTHER LOCATIONS

If the Cuyahoga River is too far of a drive, refer to the map on the inside front cover for smallmouth rivers and creeks that may be a little closer to home.

Targeting locations that hold smallies is important, but timing can be the difference between a fair fishing trip and a trip worthy of being titled a "fishing story."

THE TACKLEBOX

Refer to page 15 for the best smallmouth baits: crayfish, baitfish, and insects.

THE CALENDAR

Fishing the Cuyahoga River for smallmouth can be enjoyed almost year round. There are two peak opportunities when the bite is scorching hot. These peaks take place during the transition periods from spring into summer and summer into fall. Smallmouth can be caught virtually anywhere throughout the river during this time of year, so work the whole river slowly.

During the summer focus on the larger pools and holes, especially if the water level is down. Wet wading, making use of an old pair of sneakers or water shoes instead of waders, is often the way to go during the summer.

Waders are very important during cooler months. For best results during the colder months slow down the presentation of the baits or lures. Avoid fishing days after big rains. The river is often murky, high, and moving too fast. Never venture out onto any ice-covered river. The current makes the ice thin and weak, and therefore unsafe.

BIRDING THE GRAVEYARD

SHIFT

Tufted Titmouse
David Van Meter



Pine Siskin
David Van Meter



by Jim McCormac

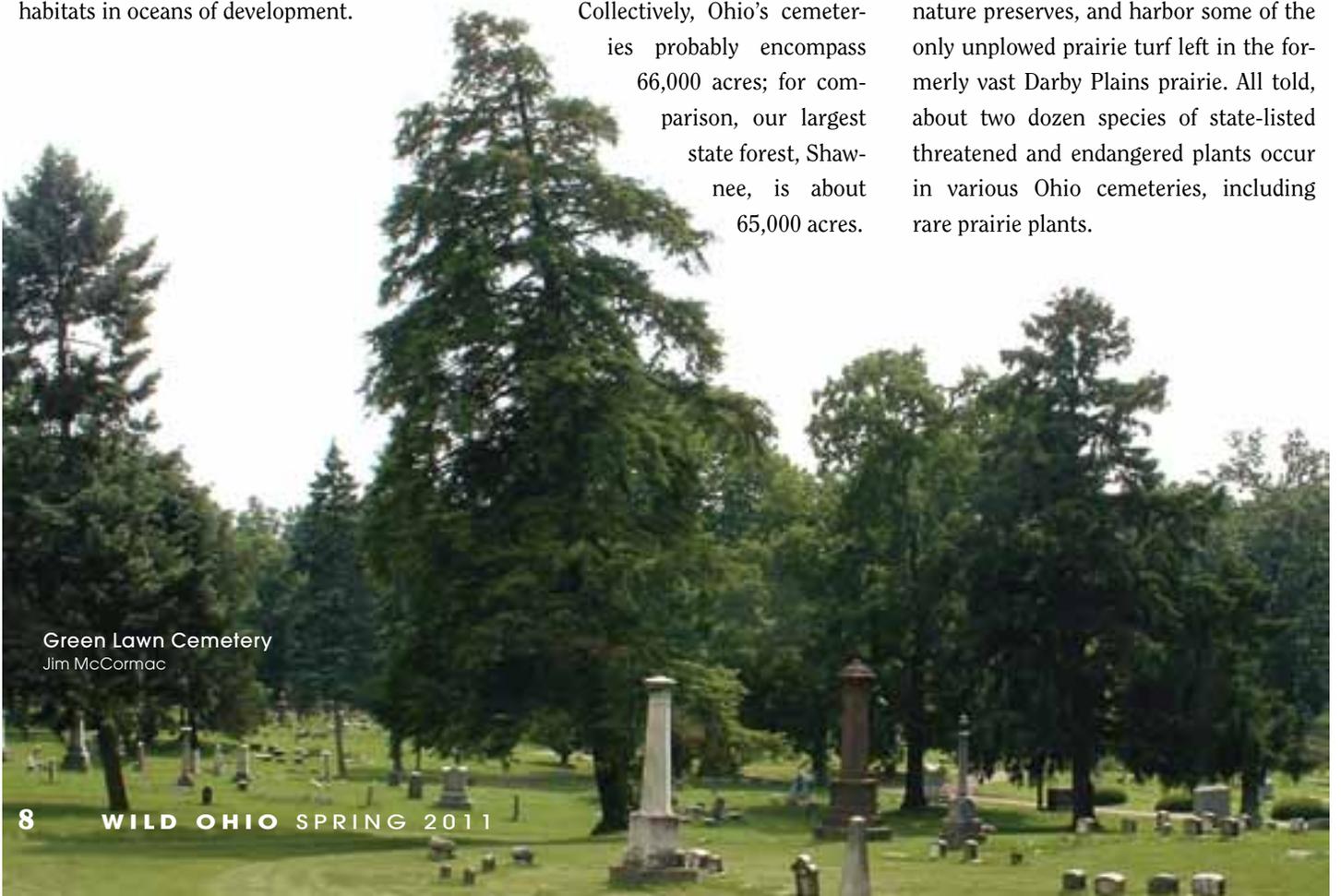
Cemeteries aren't often thought of as ecotourism magnets, but they can be. Birders have long known that graveyards – especially urban ones – can lure massive numbers of migrant birds. Nearly every species of songbird so far recorded in Ohio has turned up in a cemetery, including some of the rarest of the rare. Why? Trees and greenery. Cemeteries often serve as urban oases; the best habitats in oceans of development.

To paraphrase Benjamin Franklin, there are two certainties: death and taxes. You may be able to dodge the latter, at least for a while, but you'll never escape the former. We've got the cemeteries to prove it. There are over 3,300 cemeteries dotting Ohio's landscape, and they range in size from the sprawling 733-acre Spring Grove Cemetery in Cincinnati to tiny postage stamp-sized plots.

Collectively, Ohio's cemeteries probably encompass 66,000 acres; for comparison, our largest state forest, Shawnee, is about 65,000 acres.

A staggering array of biodiversity is protected within Ohio's cemeteries, from prairie remnants to old-growth trees. Pioneer cemeteries were founded before large-scale landscape changes occurred, and some of these historical sites protect important ecological relicts. Perhaps our two most famous pioneer cemeteries are Bigelow and Smith just west of Columbus. Both have been designated as state nature preserves, and harbor some of the only unplowed prairie turf left in the formerly vast Darby Plains prairie. All told, about two dozen species of state-listed threatened and endangered plants occur in various Ohio cemeteries, including rare prairie plants.

Green Lawn Cemetery
Jim McCormac





Kirtland's Warbler



Bigelow Cemetery
Jim McCormac

Even though Bigelow and Smith cemeteries are an acre or less, they offer interesting birding opportunities. A summertime visit can produce red-headed woodpecker, vesper sparrow, orchard oriole, and horned larks in the surrounding fields. An added bonus is standing in miniature seas of prairie grasses, surrounded by coneflowers and royal catchfly.

It is the large urban cemeteries that are really on the birder's map. Perhaps the most famous of them all is Green Lawn Cemetery on Columbus' south side. This 360-acre burial ground was founded in 1848, and is the second-largest Ohio cemetery. Thousands of birders have descended on Green Lawn over the decades, but the binocular-toters are vastly outnumbered by the birds that stop in to rest and refuel. A good mid-May day can produce over 20 species of warblers, many of them in big numbers. Great rarities have thrilled scores of birders at Green Lawn, including Kirtland's and Swainson's warblers, Mississippi kites, and Harris's sparrow.

If the birding gets slow at Green Lawn, there are other diversions. The cemetery is also labeled an arboretum, and plays host to nearly all of the native trees found in the Buckeye State. Many of the oaks predate the establishment of the cemetery, and

are over 300 years old. There are several state champion trees – the largest known specimens to exist in the state – such as a spectacularly mammoth black maple. Cemeteries throughout Ohio host many state champion trees. At least 20 percent of the 191 tree species listed in the Ohio Division of Forestry's register of big trees are found in cemeteries. Small wonder these places are so bird-friendly.

Another interesting sideline of cemetery-birding is actually the core business of cemeteries: the people who are interred in these places. Green Lawn Cemetery is the final resting place of humorist James Thurber, seven Ohio governors, World War I flying ace Eddie Rickenbacker, and Samuel Prescott Bush, great-grandfather of President George W. Bush. Many of our cemeteries, especially the larger ones, have similar historical significance and offer a fascinating glimpse into our past.

Various conifer species are often planted in cemeteries, as pines, spruce and other evergreens have symbolism – they indicate eternal life. These cone-bearing trees are also important to birds, especially winter finches that stage periodic southward irruptions from their northern breeding grounds. An irruption is a short-distance movement by birds when food shortages

occur, forcing them to venture further afield.

Winter finches include pine siskins, purple finches, common redpolls, and red- and white-winged crossbills. Cemeteries with large conifers are often the best places to find these species, and sites such as Toledo's Woodlawn Cemetery have taken on legendary status among birders for their bounty of winter finches. Scores of birders visited Woodlawn and many other cemeteries two winters ago, when there was an enormous exodus of white-winged crossbills from the northern boreal forests. These fascinating parrot-like birds are distinctive in that the tips of their bills cross over, creating a forceps-like pry bar, the better to pop scales off cones and get at the nutrient-rich seeds.

A fairly recent cemetery-related phenomenon has been the appearance of merlins overwintering in large urban cemeteries. These pint-sized falcons are bird-eaters, and prefer open savanna-like habitats with scattered large trees and plenty of songbirds to snack on. Apparently big graveyards fill the bill, and merlins are now established winter residents in Cincinnati's Spring Grove Cemetery, Green Lawn in Columbus, and Calvary Cemetery in Cleveland, to name a few.



Smith Cemetery
Jim McCormac



White-winged crossbills in Green Lawn Cemetery
Dr. Bernard Master

THE EFFECTS OF DAMS



Dams have been a fixture on the human landscape for ages. The first dam for which reliable records exist was built on the Nile River sometime before 4,000 B.C. near the ancient city of Memphis. In Ohio, there are over 2,600 dams, 1,600 of which are state regulated. Dams are structural barriers built across streams and rivers that obstruct or control the flow of water in those rivers.

The early 20th century is known as the dam-building era in North America. Most of the large dams built in the United States were built during this period by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Land Management, and private power companies. Most dams are designed to generate electricity, supply water for agricultural, industrial, or residential needs, to control flooding, for recreational purposes, or to enhance river navigation. Many of the dams in Ohio still serve an important purpose; however, many have outlived their usefulness and continue to affect streams.

IMPACTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Despite of the many uses for dams, they also have numerous impacts on natural rivers and streams, and the plant and animal communities that rely on them. One effect that a dam has on a river system is altering the pattern of disturbances that plants

and animals have adapted to over the centuries. Animals, in particular fish, have evolved to take advantage of predictable patterns in their changing environment, such as spring floods. Most fish that make spawning runs into tributaries do so in the spring, a period when river flows tend to be high. These higher flows are good for the fish eggs and larvae for many reasons, but most importantly help them travel to floodplains or bays which will be their nursery grounds downstream.

Dams also cause scouring and armoring of the riverbed, particularly downstream of the dam. Rivers and streams typically carry sediment as a function of stream power. Stream power is the rate at which a stream can do work, especially the transport of gravel, silt, and debris, called “load.” When the stream’s velocity slows down, it drops its bed load. This happens when the stream runs into the reservoir that is formed by the dam. As water drops over the dam face, the stream has lots of stream power, but no bed load, so it picks up sediment below the dam. It’s as if the stream has been “starved” of its sediment. As a result, the area below the dam is no longer a suitable environment because it lacks the needed nutrients and habitat for fish and other wildlife to survive. So once the area below the dam is scoured, it is never replenished unless the dam is removed and gravel, silt, and debris are allowed to move downstream.

IN OHIO

by Jeff Tyson



Hoover Dam • Westerville, Ohio
Eric Josephat

Dams also cause changes in the temperature of the stream itself. Once water enters the dam pool, or reservoir, it can layer such that warmer water is at the surface and cooler water is near the bottom. Depending on whether the water is released from the top of the dam or bottom of the dam, the downstream water temperature can be warmer or cooler than it normally would be if the dam wasn't there.



Lastly, dams stop fish migration. The abundance of species in the Great Lakes that used streams for spawning has been reduced due to dams. For example, when European settlers first arrived in the Great Lakes region, sturgeon were so numerous during their spring spawning runs that they were reportedly capable of capsizing fishing boats. Other species, such as walleye, sauger, white bass, and numerous sucker species continue to have restricted spawning habitat caused by dams.



Ballville Dam • Fremont, Ohio

The Ohio Division of Wildlife has been involved in numerous projects to remove dams that no longer serve a useful purpose. Over 50 dams (mostly lowhead dams) have been removed in Ohio since 1973 by a variety of state, local, federal, and private entities.

Dams that the Division of Wildlife has assisted in removing or bypassing have ranged in size from the three-foot high Camp Miaconda Dam on the Ottawa River, to the 14-foot high Kent Dam on the Cuyahoga River. Other dam removals that the Division of Wildlife has been involved with include the Munroe Falls Dam on the Cuyahoga River, the Coho Dam on the Huron River, the German Farm Dam on the Auglaize River, and the Woodyard Dam on Wolf Creek in Morgan County.

The complexity of dam removal has varied relative to the size of dams removed. The Coho Dam removal was fairly simple, as the dam was owned by the Division of Wildlife, was located on Division of Wildlife property, and was located on a non-navigable portion of the Huron River, so state and federal permits were not needed. Removal of the Kent Dam on the Cuyahoga River was complex because of the historical nature of the dam and the wide range of potentially affected interests.

Several dam removals are pending, including the Euclid Creek Dam in Cuyahoga County and the Ballville Dam on the Sandusky River. The Ballville Dam removal will be one of the largest dam removals in Ohio (35 feet high by 423 feet wide) and will open up an additional 22 river miles of spawning habitat in the Sandusky River for Lake Erie species, including walleye and white bass. It will hopefully contribute to successful hatches for numerous species using the Sandusky River into the future.

For more information please go to the Division of Wildlife Web site at wildohio.com, and click the Fishing link, and then select the Stream Conservation link on the sidebar. Additional resources are available on the ODNR Web site, Division of Soil and Water Resources, Dam Safety program.



OHIO WATCHABLE WILDLIFE



Story & Photos by Tim Daniel

TREE SWALLOWS - NO ORDINARY BIRD

Lifting a weathered and warped wood plank from the front of nest box number six, I made a delightful discovery one June morning: a nest full of seven-day-old tree swallows. Adult tree swallows are very territorial and, not unexpectedly, they swooped in and attempted to chase me away from the nest. Looking closely, I noticed that the nest of grass was lined with feathers – a very elegant home for one of Ohio’s most common and viewable bird species.

While tree swallows are common, there is nothing ordinary about them. They are built for catching bugs in flight. With long slender wings for speed, a forked tail for maneuverability, and a short bill and wide mouth, they are able to capture insects on the wing.

ATTRACTING TREE SWALLOWS

These cavity nesters can be attracted to your backyard by constructing nest boxes in open areas. Installing them far away from

wooded lots will help dissuade house wrens from using the box. A grid of nest boxes allows the landowner to have a “swallow garden” area to enjoy them all summer long. Competition with bluebirds will sometimes occur, but this can be overcome by pairing boxes no more than 10 to 20 feet apart. Since tree swallows will not allow another pair of swallows to nest within 20 feet, the second box is free for bluebird use. One of the exciting elements of having tree swallow nest boxes is the ability to examine the nesting material as well as the eggs and young.

The collecting of nest feathers is often fraught with competition, and it is not unusual to see more than one swallow go after the same feather. You can join the fun by tossing a handful of down feathers in the air; if the wind catches just right the birds will come in and grab them in midair. Tip: use a long piece of PVC to blow the feathers high enough to catch the wind. This is a great, interactive way for the entire family to watch and enjoy



Tree Swallows

these entertaining birds. Finding feathers is the only real challenge. Chicken feathers work well and having someone nearby that raises chickens or ducks will help in your search.

After fledging and during migration tree swallows become very communal, and it is common to see hundreds of them perching together. Areas with abundant wetlands and suitable perches are used by the young to rest and feed. It can be quite an astonishing sight to see this many birds in one location and it will not disappoint you if you search for areas nearby that have suitable habitat. A fitting place to nest doesn't involve wetlands as much as it involves bugs. If there is a good supply of insects in the area, the adults will use the boxes and have plenty to feed the young.

If bats are the silent predators of the night sky, ridding the air of mosquitoes, then tree swallows are their raucous daytime counterparts. Active and full of sound, swallows dart back and forth, scooping up insects on the wing.

VIEWING OPPORTUNITIES



Watching tree swallows is great entertainment, but if you're not ready to have a nest box in your yard, consider visiting a park, wildlife area, or other public land with ponds and wetlands – water plus insects equals some extraordinary little birds known as tree swallows.

For more information about tree swallows and other Ohio wildlife, visit wildohio.com.

Swallows can add a certain charm to the garden with high-pitched calls. One of the best ways to consistently attract these birds is to build your swallow nest boxes with predator guards attached. The addition of these mechanisms provides the swallows with a safe place to live and lay their eggs without the danger of predation from hungry raccoons or snakes.

Commercial guards are available, or make your own using gutter downspout cut about three feet long and placed over the post just under the nest box.



WILDLIFE LAW ENFORCEMENT

Field Notes



THIS YEAR, STATE WILDLIFE OFFICERS WILL:

- Contact nearly 100,000 hunters, trappers, and anglers in the field
- Speak to hundreds of clubs and organizations
- Patrol thousands of acres of state land and water
- Make thousands of arrests ■ Fly aircraft missions ■ Handle violation reports

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO THIS YEAR? ARE YOU UP TO THE CHALLENGE?

If so, think about joining the wildlife officer team to work in law enforcement, wildlife conservation, and public service. The Division of Wildlife expects to begin the process of hiring new officers this spring. The Wildlife Officer Cadet Academy is planned to be announced in April.

INTERESTED?

You must have a minimum of an Associates Degree or completion of undergraduate core course work in fish and/or wildlife management, biology, environmental science, law enforcement, criminal justice or related fields. You must be 21 years of age, have a valid driver's license and pass a drug screening, polygraph, physical and psychological exams, and an intensive background investigation. In addition, you must demonstrate physical fitness according to standards established by the Ohio Peace Officers Training Commission. An interest in hunting, fishing, trap-

ping, boating, and other outdoor recreation is helpful.

If you are interested in becoming a state wildlife officer with the Division of Wildlife, contact the Law Enforcement or Human Resources Sections for information on the hiring process at 614-265-6300. The training academy would start in January 2012 for the final cadets selected. You can view information about wildlife law enforcement and other Division of Wildlife career opportunities at wildohiocareers.com. You may also contact Cadet Training Officer Jim Quinlivan at 614-265-6314.

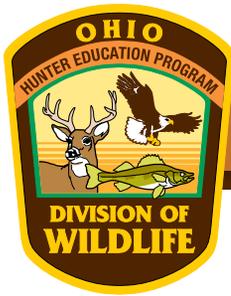
POACHERS RACK UP \$7,794 IN FINES AND RESTITUTION

Two Seneca County men were sentenced last July and paid \$4,625 in restitution for the illegal taking of a deer in the 2009 deer hunting season. The two Republic, Ohio residents pled no contest in Tiffin Municipal Court.

The major perpetrator was charged with aiding another in jacklighting, failure to immediately attach a temporary tag, providing false information to a check station, use of a falsified temporary deer tag, hunting before/after hours, hunting deer with an unlawful firearm, hunting with the aid of a motor vehicle, shooting from a roadway, and receiving stolen property. He paid \$1,656 in fines and court costs, was sentenced to 60 days in jail with 40 days suspended (20 days jail served), received a lifetime revocation of his hunting rights, and was ordered to pay restitution of \$4,625 for the deer.



His accomplice was charged with jacklighting, possession of an untagged deer, aiding another in hunting with the aid of a motor vehicle, and aiding another in shooting from the roadway. He paid \$1,513 in fines and court costs, was sentenced to 30 days in jail with 30 days suspended, and received a two-year revocation of his hunting rights. A deer head and a New England Firearms .22-250 rifle with scope were forfeited to the state.



The Smallmouth Tacklebox

by Ken Fry



Common crayfish baits that drive smallmouth crazy

Smallmouth bass are opportunistic feeders, eating just about anything they can fit into their mouths. The best bait to use, however, is what is naturally found in the river. There are three main groups on which smallmouths feed: crayfish, baitfish, and insects.

BAITFISH

Live baitfish can be used in a similar manner as fishing with live crayfish. Rather than using a jighead, try a plain hook with a split shot eight to 12 inches above the hook. This allows the bait to have a more natural movement when being retrieved through the current. More streamlined baitfish-patterned crankbaits are highly effective in deeper runs and pools. Fly anglers will use streamers when trying to mimic baitfish.



Smallmouth will aggressively feed on baitfish and their artificial equivalents.



Insect baits, both live and artificial, are widely popular for targeting smallmouth.

INSECTS

A smallmouth will smack a variety of live insects when anglers use a hook and split shot combo. Two commonly-used baits are hellgrammites and insect larvae such as maggots, wax worms, and meal worms. Although manufacturers do make soft, insect-imitating plastics and crankbaits, this category is best suited for those who fish with flies. There are many insects out there to imitate, but few have a proven track record. Popular smallmouth flies include dark colored woolly bugger, hellgrammites, dry flies, and poppers.

CRAYFISH

There are two popular techniques for using live crayfish - a floating or a cast and retrieval method. For the floating method, use a float to keep the crayfish right above the river bottom and cast at the edge of the current. The current will carry the float, dragging the crayfish along with it.

The cast and retrieval technique uses a jighead hooked through the tail of the crayfish. In slower water use a lighter jighead (1/16 ounce) and in faster water use a heavier jighead (up to 1/4 ounce). Smallmouth will sometimes instinctually bite a particular retrieval pattern. Vary the retrieval pattern until you pinpoint a pattern that works. Crankbaits with a crayfish coloration work well in rocky substrate and riprap, but hooks will get snagged and a few will be left behind. Soft plastics imitating crayfish have long been the go-to artificial bait for smallmouth anglers. Bump these along the stream bottom and woody snags for best results. Flies resembling crayfish are a favorite with fly-fishing anglers.

Recommended hook sizes range from size 4 to 1. The amount of weight used is dependent on the swiftness of the current and the desired presentation of the bait. The use of a swivel is a must when river fishing. It will help prevent the line from coiling, keeping a reel free of the dreaded bird nest. When fishing a new stretch keep it simple and start by using these live baits or their artificial equivalents before venturing onto specialty baits or lures.



SURFACE HUNTING FOR ANCIENT TREASURES

A NOT SO ANCIENT PASTIME FOR THIS WILDLIFE ENTHUSIAST AND AMATEUR ARCHAEOLOGIST

by Jamey Graham

Hunting is a passion of mine and in more ways than one. A favorite hunting “season” is summer, particularly on muggy days preceded by light morning rain. That might sound crazy to many Ohio sportsmen and women, but I’m talking about hunting for artifacts, not one of the state’s popular game species!

My family refers to this pastime as “amateur arrowhead hunting” while I, in my toddler days, preferred “airhead hunting.” Whatever we called it back then, it meant a fun-filled day spent searching for ancient tools sculpted from stone by those who lived in the Ohio Valley long before it was settled by Europeans.

My father’s knowledge of and passion for the ancient tools made by people who lived in the Ohio River Valley more than

2,000 years ago was contagious. We would scour the fields near our home in the Hocking Hills of Fairfield County not only for arrowheads, but pottery shards and small cutting tools – remnants of Ohio’s Native American culture. By default, we learned about other time periods, depending on the kinds of artifacts we found. Among the splendid treasures we discovered were teeth belonging to now-extirpated woodland elk and centuries-extinct mastodon, old coins, and musket balls from the mid-19th century, as well as flint from flint-lock muzzleloaders used by early Ohio settlers. We never knew what to expect, which just fueled our desire for the hunt.

While we seldom found anything of real significance, such as bird stones, (prehistoric stone carvings), we never returned

home empty handed. It might sound clichéd, but truthfully, through our discoveries we grasped a renewed sense of wonder about Ohio history, along with a tightening of the bond between us as a family. Invariably, one of us would pocket a pretty rock, fossil from a past geologic age, toad, turtle, or new-to-us insect. We also brought home plenty of stories to share. A favorite of mine is when I laid eyes on my first American pipits. My father, boyfriend, and I were out hunting arrowheads – ironically, on the same property where I spend most of my fall hunting whitetails – when I spotted the birds, natives of the Arctic tundra. Fellow birders will understand my feeling of being on Cloud Nine that day. Discover more information about this species on the *A to Z Species Guide* at wildohio.com.



ADENA POINT

- Mottled White Flint Ridge Chalcedony
- found in NW Medina County

Usually attached to wooden or bone handles to create spears or knives



ARCHAIC EXPANDED NOTCH POINT
(also known as “E” notch point)

- Chert
- found in Fairfield County

Commonly found with a variety of beveled points



LATE ARCHAIC/EARLY WOODLAND
PENTAGONAL POINT

- Multi-Colored Flint Ridge Flint
- found in Fairfield County

This specimen is unfinished

WHERE TO HUNT

If you don't own land where artifacts can be hunted and kept, consider exploring private lands. Privately-owned lands can be treasure troves to those with a practiced eye for artifacts, but never trespass! You must ask and receive permission from the property owner ahead of time. Be polite, respectful, and detailed about your goal when making the request. Who knows, you might open the door to a new friendship and even an arrowhead hunting buddy!

Most landowners have generously allowed me to keep my finds, but I always share those treasures before hitting the road. I also take the time to thank the owner once again for letting me hunt their land. If you'd like to go back for future hunts, cultivate additional goodwill by offering to help the landowner repair a fence, mow the lawn or run an errand. Open invitations are crucial to arrowhead hunting success. I have visited the same properties for years and I still find treasures. Don't ever give up on a spot because you failed to find something exciting the first time. While scouting for the 2008 deer season, I discovered a beautiful ash-gray, fish-point arrowhead in the same field I have walked through at least a hundred times! Not coincidentally, a small stream runs parallel to the field where I found this precious point.

Most public lands prohibit the taking of prehistoric or historic artifacts. If you are lucky enough to discover a treasure, use a camera to record the find and leave the relic for others to discover.

Many state and local parks, historical sites, and museums provide excellent exhibits showcasing information about Ohio's prehistoric and historic cultures.

WHEN TO SEARCH

Early spring is an excellent time to walk agricultural fields since it is before seeds are sown, but after farmers have prepared them for planting. Plowed fields tend to yield the greatest number of finds; however plowing is less common these days with the introduction of the more environmentally friendly no-till farming.

You might not find quite as many artifacts in a no-till field, but the risk of damaged items is lowered, too.

My dad and I often made our greatest discoveries during a light rain or following a heavy rain. Rain settles the dirt, leaving small stones or artifacts exposed. Consider going out right after a rainstorm, ahead of the sunshine. Once the sun pops out, the ancient tools will glisten like diamonds in a desert. Cloudy days also are great since the lack of sunlight reduces the strain on your eyes and the hot sun doesn't scorch your back.



LEAD-SHAPED BLADE

- Chalcedony
- found in Fairfield County

A leaf-shaped blade or cache blade usually used as spear points. Sometimes they are found in caches, or deposits, that can include up to 200 or more specimens. According to the Ohio Historical Society one cache of 356 leaf-shaped blades, found in a Portage County bog, had been carefully arranged in a bark container and then buried, perhaps as part of a ritual.

HOW TO LOCATE

Hunt where there could be arrowheads. While that sounds elementary, what it means is that you must learn about where native people lived or where they gathered tool-making stone. Concentrate on areas that have surfaces already exposed by erosion, farming or construction. Don't overlook higher areas that often lead to old campsites and low-lying woodlands that might reveal long-ago hunting hotspots. Naturally occurring springs and streambeds would have attracted humans in prehistoric times just as surely as they do today. Become familiar with land surfaces and features: a topography map is a great tool for this purpose.

Once you learn the lay of the land, start searching. Don't start out looking for the artifacts themselves; rather look for shapes and colors that look out of place. Straight lines and evenly curved or tapered rock edges are good examples.

This article only skims the surface of amateur archaeology. The hardest part is making time to get out and go looking. There are an endless number of books, Web sites, and organizations where you can discover more about this pastime, and how to identify your finds. Two great sources are the Archaeological Society of Ohio (ohioarch.org) and Ohio Historical Society (ohiohistory.org).

I hope my story has inspired you to consider exploring the excitement of searching for arrowheads and other ancient artifacts – good luck and happy hunting!

NOTE: Never walk on or otherwise desecrate Native American earthworks. Like our cemeteries, these places are considered sacred by the people who created them. It also is illegal to remove artifacts and human remains from burial mounds.

WHAT ANGLERS, HUNTERS, AND TRAPPERS NEED TO KNOW

2011 LICENSE & PERMIT SALES AND GAME-CHECK SYSTEM

LICENSES AND PERMITS

1. KNOW BEFORE YOU GO • Don't assume the place where you bought your license last year is still selling them. Call ahead or check out the list of license agents at wildohio.com.

2. BUY EARLY • Buy your licenses and permits early to avoid lines. If you choose to visit an outlet rather than buying online, plan ahead. The updated license sales system requires specific information from you depending on what you want to purchase. This process will take longer for each customer at a license agent location. Visit the license agent's location when you have a few more minutes to spare. You can also obtain a customer ID number prior to going to the sales agent's location; see points 3 and 4 for details.

3. CUSTOMER NUMBER • A customer identification number will be assigned to everyone using the system. This number will be issued to you after you provide the required information for a customer account. This unique number will be your customer ID number for as long as you obtain licenses, permits, stamps, a membership including the magazine or apply for a controlled hunt or fish-

ing lottery. Your customer ID number will be printed on all licenses and permits issued to you. Visit wildohio.com to print your customer card and choose the "Manage Your Customer Account" link. A customer card that includes your name and customer ID number can be printed and then laminated for future use.

4. CUSTOMER ACCOUNT • Manage your customer account or create one. Every person who is issued a license, permit, stamp, magazine membership, or applies for a controlled hunt and/or fishing lottery must have a customer account. Your customer account will contain the required information to issue your requested product or service. Many sportsmen and women may have a customer account with a customer ID number if they have used their driver's license to purchase licenses and permits in the past. Visit wildohio.com and choose the "Manage Your Customer Account" link.

5. SSN REQUIREMENT • Social Security Numbers (SSN) will be required of all individuals, youth and adult, who plan to buy licenses and permits. Since you are buying a recreational license, the federal govern-

ment requires the Ohio Division of Wildlife to collect your SSN. Federal Statute 42, U.S.C. Section 666 requires the SSN of any individual to whom the state issues a recreational hunting or fishing license. When you buy a hunting and/or fishing license you must also give your full name, date of birth, gender, declaration of residency, mailing address, height, weight, hair color, and eye color.

6. SSN ALTERNATIVE • If you DO NOT have a SSN, then you must submit written verification, on form DNR 9151, that you have not been assigned a SSN. Upon receipt of this form, the Ohio Division of Wildlife will issue you an official customer ID number. Forms need to be mailed to the Ohio Division of Wildlife and could take a few weeks to process. This customer ID number will be used anytime a SSN would otherwise be required to obtain a recreational hunting or fishing license. Forms are available online at wildohio.com under Wildlife Publications, or by calling 1-800-WILDLIFE. Non-U.S. citizens who are also non-residents of Ohio will be asked for an alternative form of identification.

7. PRINTED LICENSES • Licenses purchased online or at a license sales agent location will be printed on an 8 1/2" x 11" piece of paper that can be folded down to





credit card size. Licenses and permits will appear on the left hand side of the document and the remaining space will be printed with information relevant to the license or permit purchased.

8. HIP SURVEY • The Harvest Information Program (HIP) survey will be different than in the past, but is still required. Hunters who plan to hunt migratory game birds, including ducks, geese, woodcock, rails, mourning doves, and snipe must call **1-877-HIP-OHIO (1-877-447-6446)** after obtaining a hunting license and take a short survey. Once the phone survey has been completed, a unique number will be provided to the hunter to write in a designated spot on their hunting license.

9. PROTECT YOUR LICENSE • License and permit paper will not be waterproof and must be protected. This is not new, just a reminder to customers. You should protect licenses and permits from the elements by carrying them in a protective pouch or wallet.

10. BE PREPARED • Always carry a pen with your license and permits. A watch will also be useful for recording the time of kill on your temporary and permanent tags.



GAME-CHECK

11. CHECK OPTIONS • Check your deer or turkey online at ohiogamecheck.com, by phone at **1-877-TAG-ITOH (1-877-824-4864)***, or at a license agent. Go to wildohio.com to find a participating license agent.

**Only those hunters with a permit number can use the phone check-in method. Permit numbers are unique and can only be used to check one animal. Landowner hunters who make their own temporary deer or turkey tags cannot use the phone-in method.*

12. LANDOWNERS • Landowner hunters who make their own temporary deer or turkey tag can check game online at ohiogamecheck.com or at a license agent. Participating license agents are available at wildohio.com.

13. PROTECT YOUR TAG • There will be no more metal tags. During the check-in process, a unique 10-digit number will be provided that you must record on the permanent paper tag. Protect your permanent tag!

BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE!

BONUS FEATURES • These items will also be available through the updated system, but only via the Internet: *Wild Ohio* Magazine, Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp, & Gift Certificates.

DONATE • Making a donation for conservation will be easy online.

ALSO AVAILABLE • Other Web-only features include finding and registering for a hunter education class and applying for a controlled hunt or fishing lottery.



Growing Sunflowers



Why not plant a little sunshine in your yard that you and the birds will enjoy? Sunflowers are easy to grow and will brighten up your garden with their bold coloration and dramatic size. There are many varieties of sunflowers available that may grow to 18 inches or as tall as 20 feet.

If you feed wild birds in your yard, you may end up with volunteer sunflowers that have been planted by birds or chipmunks. Whether you plant sunflowers on purpose or wildlife plants them for you, they are good to grow to attract a variety of birds.

In late summer when the seeds begin to set, it won't take long for the goldfinches to discover them. You can let the birds eat the seeds now or harvest some of the heads to postpone the treat for fall or winter.

When the sunflowers bloom, watch them closely. Once the flowers have been pollinated and the petals begin to droop; it's time to act before the birds devour all of the seeds. Place a piece of cheesecloth or an old nylon hose over the seed head. This will get the seeds to continue to develop and protect them from the birds. When the seed heads hang down and face the ground, cut them off of the plant and hang them in a warm place to dry. Once dried, you can put them out for your backyard birds or freeze them for a treat for your winter birds. You can also use the dried sunflower heads to make unique feeders for birds and squirrels.

SADIE SUNFLOWER

Sadie sunflower was created using a small log (10- to 12-inches long, three inches in diameter), four ears of field corn, and a dried sunflower head put together with deck screws, and then decorated with dried natural materials.





FOR WILD KIDS

Have You Been Outside Today?

by Mary Warren



There are so many fun things to do outside: watch clouds, catch a frog, smell the flowers, go fishing, hike a trail, look up at the stars, climb a tree, listen to birds, find animal tracks, go camping, play in the mud, run through a field, sketch or keep a nature journal, have a picnic, catch a butterfly, look for deer... the list goes on and on!

Sadly, many kids today do not get outside very often, but there is a group working in Ohio and across the country to change that. It's called "LEAVE NO CHILD INSIDE." You can contact one of the regions listed below to find out what is happening in your area of the state. Then go exploring and discover what adventure waits right outside your door!

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE OUTSIDE?

When I was outside, I

- Heard a bird sing
- Followed an animal track
- Drew a picture of an animal
- Found a hole in the ground
- Saw a bird's nest
- Caught a fish
- Chased a butterfly
- Turned over a rock
- Caught a frog
- Had a picnic
- Hiked a trail



LEAVE NO CHILD INSIDE OHIO REGIONS

CENTRAL OHIO
kidsandnature.org

GREATER CINCINNATI
Incigr.org

NORTHWEST OHIO
everykidoutsidenwoh.org

NORTHEAST OHIO
mmorris@starkparks.com

MIAMI VALLEY/DAYTON
LNCIMV@gmail.com





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.



Kevin Musgrave and Ryan Dop, both age 14, enjoyed a fine morning on Buckeye Lake last October. The boys bagged a limit of geese along with another eight ducks they took during the youth waterfowl season. Hank, the dog, also did a fine job retrieving all the birds.

Dan Musgrave, Lewis Center



One of the two hairless raccoons residing in Kristin Wehde's backyard.

Kristin Wehde, Centerville



John Sims photographed this midland painted turtle at La Due Reservoir in Geauga County.

John Sims, South Euclid



Steve Hathaway with a nice walleye taken on Lake Erie in May.

Melissa Hathaway, Port Clinton

FROM THE PHOTO GALLERY..... Below are just a few posted by our Web site users.



David Van Meter, Stark County



Danielle and Nicole, Ashtabula



Tylee, Belmont County



Tracey Moreland, Butler County



WILD GAME GOURMET

AS SEEN ON WILD OHIO TV • hosted by Vicki Mountz

Recipes



MICROWAVE WALLEYE with almonds



- 1 pound walleye fillets
- ¼ cup slivered almonds
- ¼ cup butter
- 1 teaspoon garlic or onion powder
- ½ teaspoon Cajun seasoning
- 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon or more chopped fresh parsley
- Salt and pepper to taste

Mix together lemon juice, parsley, salt and pepper and set aside. Combine butter, almonds, garlic powder, and Cajun seasoning in a glass or plastic bowl. Heat in microwave for one minute, stir, and heat for another minute, making butter and almonds golden. Place fillets in one layer in a microwave-safe dish coated lightly with cooking spray. Place almond mixture over fillets. Cover with plastic and microwave on high for about four minutes or until fish flakes easily with a fork. Drizzle with the lemon juice mixture and serve.

Contributed by Vicki Mountz

division of wildlife HEADQUARTERS

2045 Morse Road, Bldg. G
Columbus, OH 43229-6693
(614) 265-6300
1-800-WILDLIFE
1-800-750-0750
(Ohio Relay TTY only)

WILDLIFE DISTRICT ONE

1500 Dublin Road
Columbus, OH 43215
(614) 644-3925

WILDLIFE DISTRICT TWO

952 Lima Avenue
Findlay, OH 45840
(419) 424-5000

WILDLIFE DISTRICT THREE

912 Portage Lakes Drive
Akron, OH 44319
(330) 644-2293

WILDLIFE DISTRICT FOUR

360 E. State Street
Athens, OH 45701
(740) 589-9930

WILDLIFE DISTRICT FIVE

1076 Old Springfield Pike
Xenia, OH 45385
(937) 372-9261

TURKEY STIR-FRY

- Part of one turkey breast - grilled and sliced
- ½ pound shrimp - quick fried in sesame oil
- 2 cups broccoli florets
- 1 or 2 carrots, julienne
- ½ onion, minced
- 1 tablespoon garlic, minced
- One red pepper, sliced thinly
- Sesame ginger dressing
- Jasmine rice, cooked and seasoned

Optional

- Sesame seeds for garnish
- Green onions for garnish

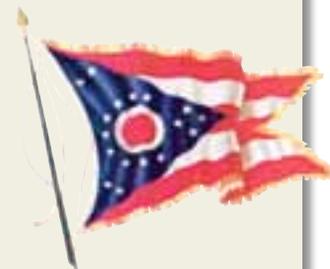
Blanch broccoli florets and carrots (lightly steam, then submerge in ice water) so vegetables are tender. Combine turkey, shrimp, broccoli, carrots, onions, and pepper. Add ginger sesame dressing to taste. Serve cold over a bed of cooled jasmine rice with garnish.

Contributed by Susie Vance



DIVISION OF WILDLIFE MISSION STATEMENT

To conserve and improve fish and wildlife resources and their habitats for sustainable use and appreciation by all.



for more great wild game recipes go to wildohiocookbook.com



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

The Ohio Division of Wildlife is on Facebook and Twitter!



LINDSAY



NICK

If you love hunting, fishing, birding, and all things *Wild Ohio*, join the wildlife conversation by “liking” the Ohio Division of Wildlife on Facebook or following the division on Twitter.

On Facebook, you can share insight and feedback with Division of Wildlife staff and other outdoor enthusiasts. Supporters will also find important information, tips, and activity ideas. To join the Ohio Division of Wildlife’s Facebook page, go to facebook.com/ohiodivisionofwildlife and click the “Like” button at the top of the page.

On Twitter, the division will post news releases, important deadlines and need-to-know messages. To follow the Ohio Division of Wildlife on Twitter, go to twitter.com/OhioDivWildlife and click “Follow.”

