

WildOhio

M A G A Z I N E

2012 SPRING EDITION
MARCH/APRIL



RESTORING THE SANDUSKY

FISHING THE RUN | SPRING TURKEY HUNTING | THE ART OF TAXIDERMY

MAKING THE MOVE

Thank you for your loyal readership, your photos, your calls, your letters, and your support over the years. We hope you will stay with us for the next stage of our journey in conservation information. Beginning with the next issue (May/June) of *Wild Ohio* Magazine, there will be a fee for memberships to cover some of the mailing and printing costs. There will be two options for annual memberships, which include six issues of *Wild Ohio*. Annual memberships (six issues) will be offered for \$10. Readers who purchase certain items from the Division of Wildlife, including hunting or fishing licenses, can receive six issues of *Wild Ohio* for just \$5 per year. Turn to the back cover of this issue for more information.

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IN THE NEXT ISSUE

WHAT TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF WILD OHIO MAGAZINE

**VERNAL POOLS • FLY FISHING FOR CARP
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MAKING BAIT • FLOAT TRIPS ... AND MUCH MORE!**

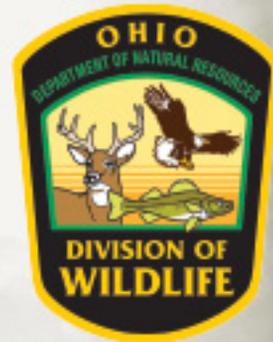
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The mission of the Division of Wildlife is to conserve and improve fish and wildlife resources and their habitats for sustainable use and appreciation by all.



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MAGAZINE

VOLUME 23, NUMBER 2

COVER FEATURE

TABLE OF CONTENTS



8 BALLVILLE DAM REMOVAL

The restoration of the Sandusky River and return of walleye to Fremont begins at the Ballville Dam.

FEATURES

12 FISHING THE RUN

The walleye/white bass run draws thousands of anglers to two specific Lake Erie tributaries.

14 ASIAN CARP

The Asian carp battle for the Mississippi watershed now looms at the doorstep of the Great Lakes.

22 THE BUDDY SYSTEM

It is always beneficial to have the right equipment for the right person.

24 CHERISHED

A story of a father's long-lost firearm and a pursuit to find the cherished heirloom.

26 MOVING SKIN

The art of taxidermy requires the knowledge and skills of several fields of craftsmanship.

28 OWC VISITOR CENTER FACELIFT

The Old Woman Creek Estuary is proud to open its newly remodeled visitor center to all Ohioans.

ON THE COVER: WALLEYE

photo by *Eric Engbretson*

Eric's subjects are wild and unrestrained - free to swim away at any moment. He has been honing his skills since 1993 and has amassed thousands of images taken from the Great Lakes region. To view more of Eric's images, visit underwaterfishphotos.com.

DEPARTMENTS

4 WILD THINGS • **NEWS FROM AROUND THE DIVISION**

6 LAW ENFORCEMENT • **FIELD NOTES/BEHIND THE BADGE**

16 WATCHABLE WILDLIFE • **SAUGER**

18 WILDLIFE ART • **RIVER JACK**

20 BACKYARDS FOR WATERLIFE • **UNDERWATER STRUCTURES**

21 CONSERVATIONIST CORNER • **DICK KOTIS** ▶

30 OUTDOOR SKILLS • **INLAND SHORE FISHING**

32 READER'S PHOTOS • **IMAGES FROM AROUND OHIO**

34 THIS ISSUE IN HISTORY • **SEPTEMBER 1936**

35 WILD GAME GOURMET • **TURKEY & PERCH**



FRED ARBOGAST HAWAIIAN SPOON



WILD SCIENCE

Turning Gizzard Shad into Saugeyes

by Joseph D. Conroy, Fisheries Biologist, Inland Fisheries Research Unit

Stocking reservoirs with sportfish, like walleye or saugeye, provides additional fishing opportunities for anglers throughout Ohio. Stocking the right number of sportfish in a particular reservoir depends on many factors. Having adequate prey for the stocked fish to eat is one of the most important considerations. In Ohio, gizzard shad are the primary prey fish. In a Division of Wildlife sponsored study, researchers set out to determine the number of saugeye that could be fed by the gizzard shad present in Burr Oak, Piedmont, and Pleasant Hill reservoirs in 2002–03. During each season in these two years, the scientists determined saugeye diets and growth, and estimated how many gizzard shad were in the reservoirs. They then combined these measurements to estimate the total amount of gizzard shad eaten by saugeyes to answer the question: “Do fish have enough fish to eat?”

They estimated that saugeyes in Burr Oak, Piedmont, and Pleasant Hill ate 900–34,000 pounds of gizzard shad per season with a majority of those gizzard shad consumed by the youngest, most recently-stocked saugeye. As expected, saugeyes ate the most during summer and the least during winter. They also found that less than 40 percent of the available gizzard shad in these three reservoirs were eaten by saugeyes, and most often, only about 10 percent of the gizzard shad were consumed.

So, is there enough prey for stocked saugeye to eat? In these reservoirs there appears to be plenty of gizzard shad to keep saugeye bellies full.



PHOTO CONTEST ANNOUNCED

The fourth annual Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp Contest will feature black-capped and Carolina chickadees, which are common in Ohio and frequent backyard feeders. The two species look nearly identical, but black-capped chickadees occupy the northern 1/3 of the state, and Carolina chickadees are found in the southern 2/3 of the state.

Photo entries into the competition will be accepted Aug. 13-31, and the photographer with the winning image will receive \$500. The contest is open to Ohioans age 18 years and older, however, budding photographers, age 17 and younger, will be able to compete in the youth division. For complete contest rules, visit wildohiostamp.com.



NEW METHOD WELL RECEIVED

Launched just one year ago, the new license and game check system was put to the test over the past year. For the first time in Ohio, hunters had their choice of method to check in their deer and turkey – online, by phone or in person. While the numbers varied slightly from season to season, hunters’ top choice was calling in their kill (44%), followed by Internet check (36%). Traditional options were still available, as 20 percent checked their deer and/or turkey in person.



HUNTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTOR HONORED

Lowell Hoy was presented the Wildlife Award by Allen County Wildlife Officer Craig Barr during Hoy's final hunter education course, held in 2011. Hoy has been a volunteer hunter education instructor for 32 years, teaching six courses a year. Hoy is an avid hunter and fisherman, and is especially fond of squirrel hunting. He still runs the Allen County 4-H club he started over 35 years ago.

TOURISM LEADER AWARDED

Ohio Sea Grant Sustainable Tourism Program Director, Melinda Huntley, has been awarded the 2011 Paul Sherlock Award, the highest honor in the Ohio tourism industry. Since 1975, the Sherlock lifetime achievement award has recognized 28 outstanding individuals who demonstrate outstanding service to the development and promotion of Ohio tourism. Huntley has worked in the Ohio tourism business for more than 20 years, serving in various capacities with the Sandusky/Erie County Visitors and Convention Bureau, Cedar Point, and the Ottawa County Visitors Bureau. She was instrumental in designating the Lake Erie Coastal Ohio Trail as a national scenic byway, and she has led Ohio State Ohio Sea Grant's Sustainable Tourism Program since 2006. Huntley was a key collaborator in the creation of the Lake Erie Birding Trail, a connected series of 84 birding sites along Lake Erie to increase bird watching tourism in the area.

WHEELIN' SPORTSMEN HUNT A SUCCESS

The 2011 Wheelin' Sportsmen event sponsored by American Electric Power, NWTF Wheelin' Sportsmen, NWTF Wolf Creek Chapter, and the division hosted 38 sportsmen and women. Participants killed 20 deer during the two-day event held on the AEP ReCreation Land in Morgan County. Over 100 volunteers donated their time and expertise to ensure a quality and successful experience for the participants.



DEER PROCESSOR PLEADS GUILTY

Anonymous tips to wildlife officers began an investigation into illegal activities at Happy Jack's Deer Processing in Miami County. The owner of the establishment pled guilty to one charge of the sale of deer meat and guilty to one charge of failing to keep accurate records. Sentencing included fines and restitution, as well as forfeiture of 521 packages of deer trail sticks and summer sausage and 698 pounds of venison. A portion of the forfeited venison was not processed at the time of seizure. However, Ted Davis of Davis Meats in Sidney, and the Shelby County Chapter of Whitetails Unlimited donated the processing costs and labor needed to donate the meat to a food bank. The venison was donated to the Bethany Center located in Piqua.

Wildlife
CALENDAR

March 1, 2012
WILD OHIO MAGAZINE MEMBERSHIPS
• available for purchase •
wildohio.com

April 21-22
YOUTH TURKEY SEASON
wildohio.com

April 23 to May 20
OHIO SPRING TURKEY SEASON
wildohio.com

May 5-6
FREE FISHING DAYS
wildohio.com



Don't forget to mark on your Wild Ohio calendar!

wildohio.com
for up-to-date events

FIRST VERIFIED BOBCAT IN NORTHWEST OHIO

A male bobcat was caught and verified in November 2011 in Williams County. Although known to exist in Ohio's more heavily wooded southern counties, this is the first verified report of a bobcat in northwest Ohio.





FIELD NOTES



Q. How far from a baited area do I have to be to hunt spring turkey?

A. Baiting of wildlife is a controversial subject. There is no biological need to feed or bait game animals. Good habitat provides ample food throughout the year and particularly in the spring. To avoid any question of whether you are hunting spring turkey over a baited area, do not place bait for any wildlife in the months of April and May.

The law states: "It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt or take a wild turkey by the aid of baiting or on or over any baited area."

The legal definition of baiting is: the placing, exposing, depositing, distributing or scattering of shelled, shucked, or unshelled corn, wheat or other grain, salt or other feed so as to constitute for such wild turkeys, mourning doves or migratory birds, a lure, attraction or enticement to, on or over any area where hunters are attempting to take them.

The first key words are placing, exposing, depositing, distributing or scattering. This means someone put "bait" on the ground, directly or indirectly. The next key words are lure, attraction or enticement of the birds. There is not a set distance – if the turkey you are hunting is being drawn to the bait that was placed there, you are hunting with the aid of baiting.

The Ohio Revised Code defines a baited area as: any area where shelled, shucked, or

unshucked corn, wheat or other grain, salt, or other feed whatsoever capable of luring, attracting, or enticing such birds is directly or indirectly placed, exposed, deposited, distributed, or scattered and such area shall remain a baited area for 10 days following complete removal of all such corn, wheat or other grain, salt, or other feed. However, nothing in this paragraph shall prohibit:

"The taking of all mourning doves and migratory game birds, including waterfowl, on or over standing crops, flooded standing crops, including aquatics, flooded harvested crop-lands, grain crops properly shucked on the field where grown, or grains found scattered solely as the result of normal agricultural planting or harvesting, or if you restore and manage wetlands as habitat for waterfowl and other migratory birds, you can manipulate the naturally occurring vegetation in these areas and make them available for hunting; and

The taking of all mourning doves and migratory game birds, except waterfowl, on or over any lands where shelled, shucked or unshucked corn, wheat or other grain, salt, or other feed has been distributed or scattered as the result of bona fide agricultural operations or procedures, or as a result of manipulation of a crop or other feed on the land where grown for wildlife management purposes; provided, that manipulation for wildlife management purposes does not include the distributing or scattering of grain or other feed once it has been removed from or stored on the field where grown."

The key part of the second paragraph states *the grains found scattered solely as the result of normal agricultural planting or harvesting*. Any manipulating of a planter or harvesting device that would cause it to leave grain or seed on the field is not normal and would be considered baiting.

Q. Why aren't the new fishing regulations (Lake Erie walleye and perch) printed in the fishing digest? How do I find out what regulations are in effect?

A. Effective fisheries management requires laws that allow the Division to implement necessary regulations. Most laws require the division to establish regulations the year before implementation, allowing time to publish them in the fishing digest before the new fishing season (March 1 of the following year). This process works well for nearly all regulations, areas, and fish species in Ohio.

However, a specific law is necessary for Ohio's Lake Erie walleye and yellow perch daily bag limits, which take effect on May 1 of each fishing year and extending through April of the following year. Daily bag limits are the primary tool for regulating Ohio's fish harvests. This law allows managers to set bag limits that keep Ohio within its interagency harvest quotas established in late March of each year. Quotas are biologically-safe levels of catch that should not be exceeded. Because quotas aren't known until late March each year, this law enables managers to react quickly and set appropriate bag limits.

Anglers are advised of Lake Erie daily bag limits in April via the Division's website, news releases, and through a special publication (5084) that is distributed to all license vendors, Division of Wildlife offices, and wildlife officers. Publication 5084 only includes bag size regulations for walleye and yellow perch, as they are the only regulations that change in response to Ohio's interagency quotas for these species. Other fishing regulations are published in the digest each year.





BEHIND THE BADGE



Wildlife officers respond to many unusual calls, and are forced to think quickly and come up with solutions that satisfy each individual situation. There are times when that solution makes everyone happy, and there are times where no one is happy, but the job must be done. I became a wildlife officer because I wanted to help people and wildlife, and do the best job I can every day. The job is rewarding, but can be challenging.

Working in a county where there is a high human population, I have experienced people and wildlife coexisting in urban environments, and I have seen my share of conflicts with wildlife. In most cases, people enjoy watching wildlife, many from the comfort of their own homes. However, wildlife can get themselves into situations where they are injured or have jeopardized public safety. That is when an officer is called to intervene.

One of many wildlife hazards I have responded to was in an area where an injured doe found itself in a parking garage full of cars. I knew when I got the call that the po-

lice and the media were both on scene. I called in the help of a nearby officer as well as the local district office. Officers are often faced with “worst-case-scenarios,” and I wanted permission and approval to euthanize the deer if the situation called for it. Contrary to popular belief, officers are not equipped with tranquilizers or guns to administer them. There are several reasons for this. First, when an animal is shot with a tranquilizer, it does not drop immediately (unless you are on-set in Hollywood). Often, the drug takes time to work, and the animal that is tranquilized can get agitated. Second, in the case of deer, there are no tranquilizers that are approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). You might wonder why that matters. The quick explanation...if a deer is tranquilized, it could theoretically re-enter the population. Deer are a popular game animal in Ohio; hunters harvest upwards of 200,000 each year. Harvested deer are consumed as venison. The chemicals used in tranquilizers are not approved for human consumption.

Back to the parking garage; when I arrived I saw a doe that was badly injured by its distress and causing damage to its surroundings. It was a bad situation that was rapidly getting worse. The situation was assessed, a decision was made, the scene was secured, and the deer was lethally removed.

Another deer call in the same city took me to a large bus garage where a deer had wandered. A well-meaning group of employees had confined the deer to the electrical room, and assured me it was a fawn. Hopeful that a small deer could easily be removed, I retrieved a dog crate from my truck. As I entered the room and saw an adult doe looking at me over an industrial sized lathe, I knew the crate option was out. The walls of the room were lined with electrical panels, and electric conduit pipes filled almost every other area in the room. It was the most valuable and unsafe area in the building, and inside of it a large, confused wild animal was on the loose. As with most cases of confinement, the deer was overly stressed and had injured itself to the point that it could barely walk. The injuries were potentially fatal, and the deer could not be corralled out of the room and into traffic (the garage sat near a busy highway). The deer was euthanized – not always the most popular decision, but a decision that was made after considering the impact on people and wildlife.

As a wildlife officer, the ability to think on your feet is a big part of the job. The intent of our actions takes into consideration what is best for the people and wildlife involved in a situation. After each situation and at the end of the day, I remain dedicated to conserving and protecting Ohio’s fish and wildlife resources.

SANDUSKY RIVER RESTORATION

by John Navarro and Roger Knight
Fish Management, Division of Wildlife

There has been a significant change in the way people view rivers and streams in this country. In the past, we used them as a convenient way to dispose of industrial and human waste. These sins led to fires in the Cuyahoga River in the 1960s that caught the attention of the nation and led to dramatic improvements in our water quality through the 1972 Clean Water Act. We have also tried to tame and control rivers and streams for our benefit by building dams, straightening channels, and encroaching on floodplains. These actions, technically known as “hydro-modification,” have negatively affected aquatic habitats and the animals that depend on them. In some cases, hydro-modification has caused catastrophic impacts on people and property. A vast majority of the people in this country now view rivers and streams as a valuable natural resource and wish to reverse the damage, including the removal of dams that no longer serve a useful purpose.

This brings us to the Ballville Dam on the Sandusky River in the city of Fremont. The dam is 34-feet tall, 407-feet long, and has stood for almost a century. But if things go as hoped, it will not see its 100th birthday. The originally dam, built in 1911 to provide hydro-electric power, was destroyed by a flood in 1913. It was rebuilt and eventually converted to a steam-electric plant, due to in-



tain times of the year. With a compromised source of drinking water and an aging dam posing a safety hazard, the city weighed its options and decided to build a water-supply reservoir and potentially remove the Ballville Dam. Assistance to the city was provided through partnerships with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Wildlife.

Since the removal of the Ballville Dam is dependent on the city’s drinking water source, step one in the process was to build a new upground reservoir. Many cities have found that an upground reservoir provides a cost-effective, long-term source of reliable and safe drinking water, although up-

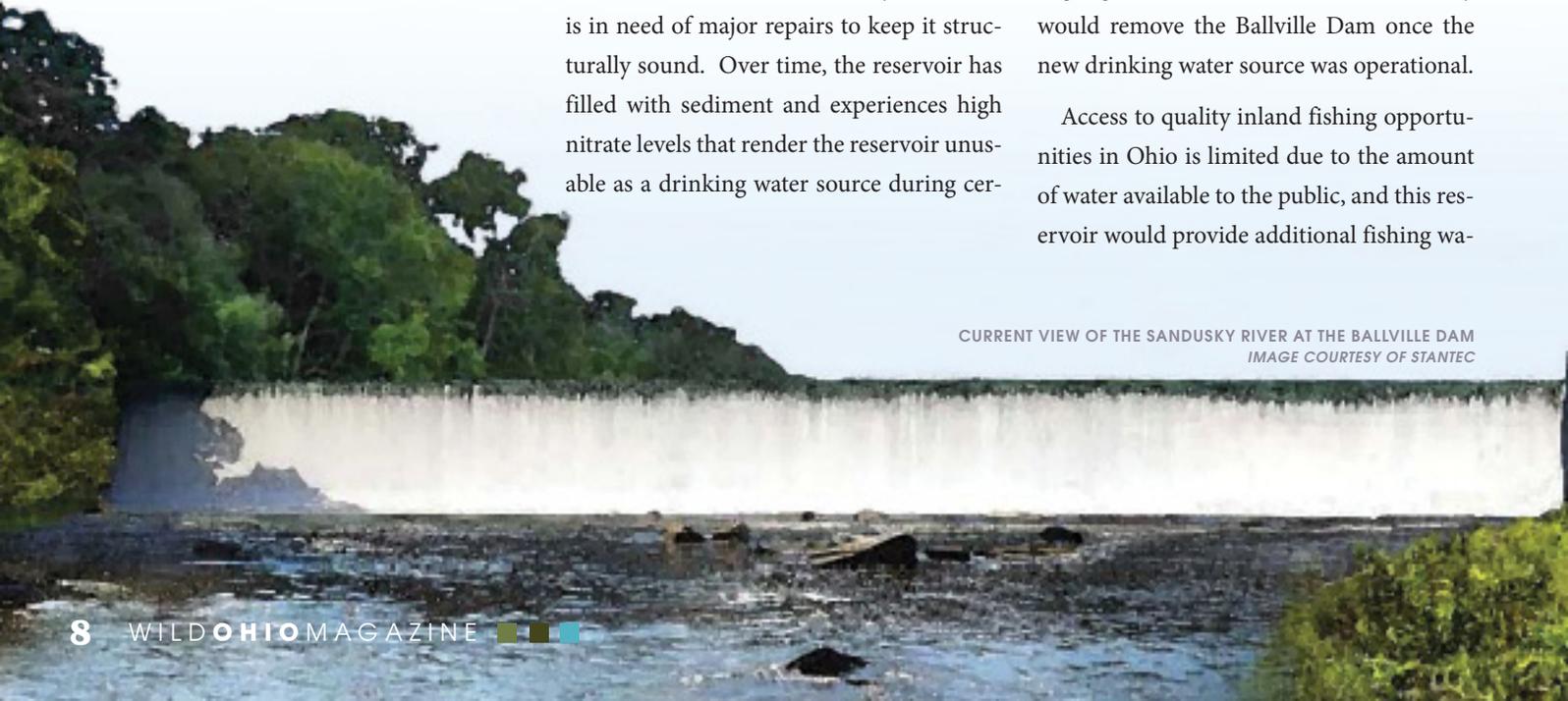
front construction costs are substantial. The Division of Wildlife was able to assist the city in building the reservoir with two stipulations: the first was that the reservoir would be open to the public for boating and angling, and the second was that the city would remove the Ballville Dam once the new drinking water source was operational.

Access to quality inland fishing opportunities in Ohio is limited due to the amount of water available to the public, and this reservoir would provide additional fishing wa-

sufficient year-round water flow. In 1959, it was sold to the city of Fremont for one dollar, with the impounded 24-acre Ballville reservoir serving as its primary water supply.

The dam has seen better days and now is in need of major repairs to keep it structurally sound. Over time, the reservoir has filled with sediment and experiences high nitrate levels that render the reservoir unusable as a drinking water source during cer-

CURRENT VIEW OF THE SANDUSKY RIVER AT THE BALLVILLE DAM
IMAGE COURTESY OF STANTEC

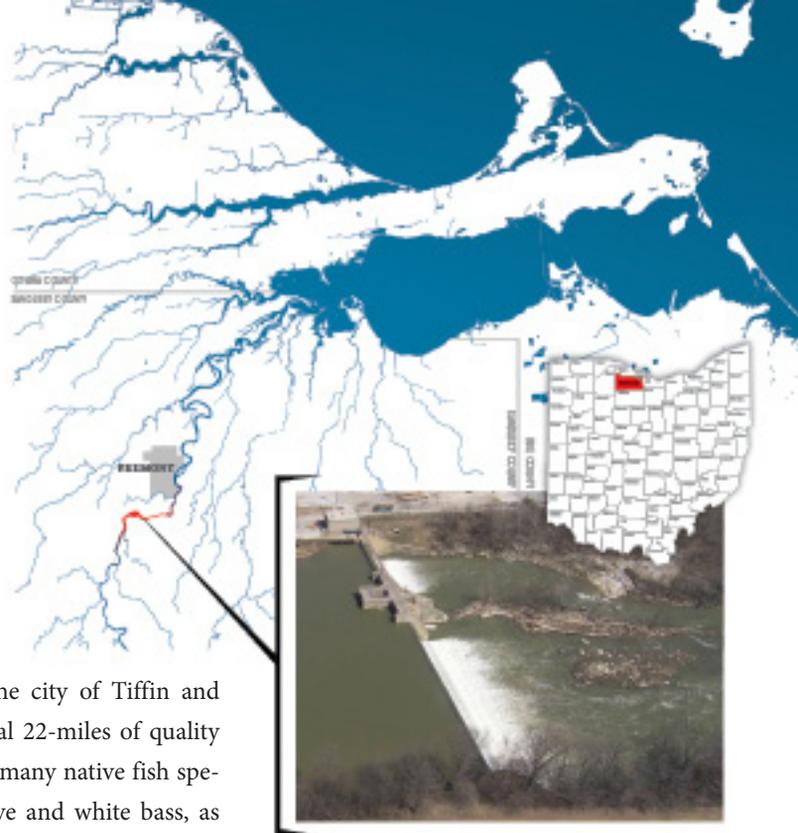


ters. Public waters available for recreation are scarcest in northwest Ohio, and the Division of Wildlife is always looking for ways to increase fishing opportunities, be it through opening access to existing areas or creating new ones. The newly constructed reservoir and associated boat launch ramp will permit angler access to the reservoir and a horsepower restriction on outboard motors will ensure a fishing-friendly atmosphere. This reservoir will also be completely accessible to shore anglers. When completed, this construction will increase inland fishing in northwest Ohio that will benefit all anglers.

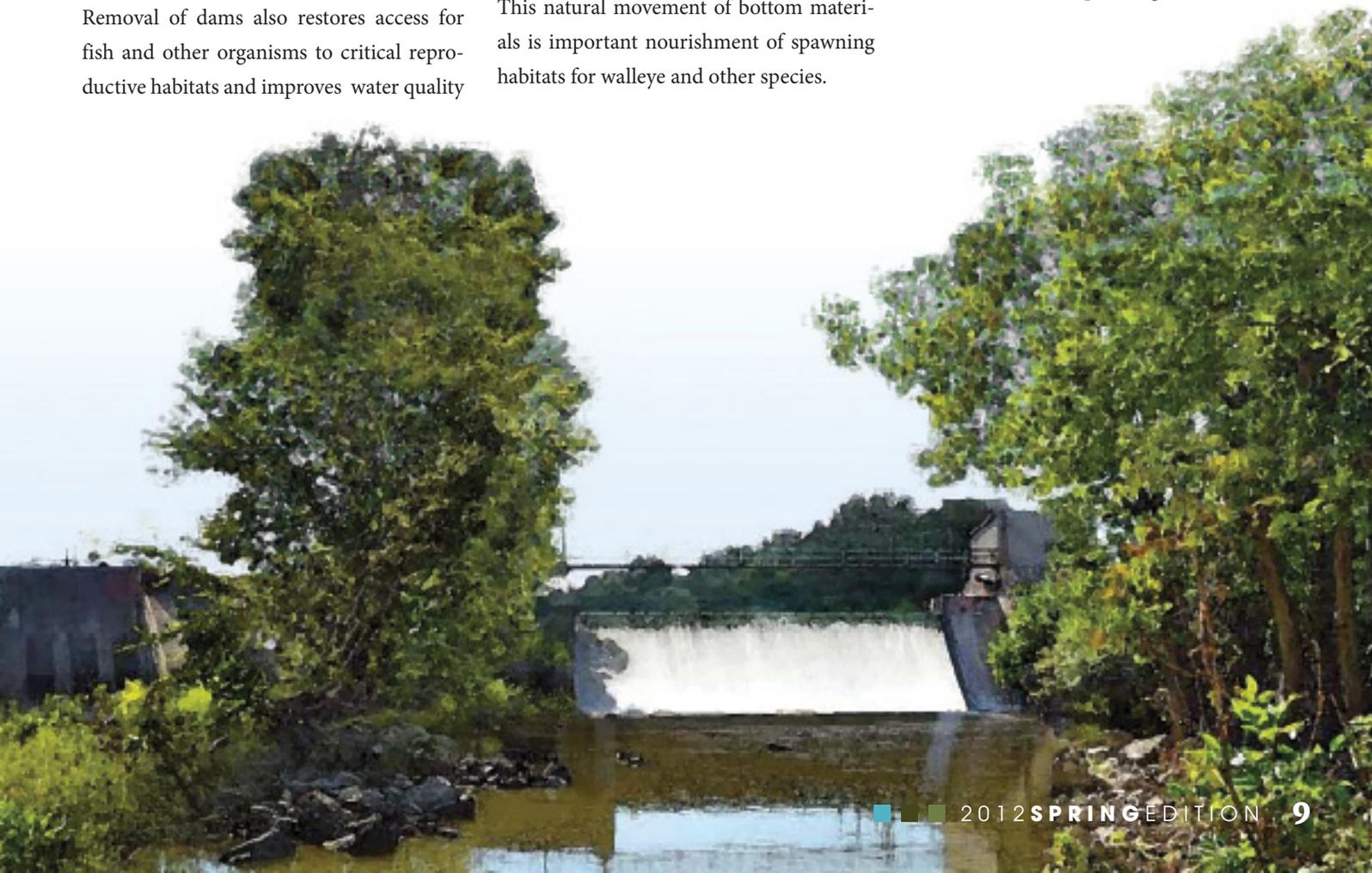
The Division of Wildlife advocates for river restoration by removing dams when they no longer serve a useful purpose. Many dams in Ohio do provide significant benefits to Ohioans, including flood control, drinking water, recreation, and hydro-power. Dams that no longer serve a useful purpose can be removed to restore the river to a natural free-flowing system, creating aquatic habitat and improving water tables. Removal of dams also restores access for fish and other organisms to critical reproductive habitats and improves water quality

by eliminating the pond-like area behind the dam that traps sediment.

The Ballville Dam sits on the Sandusky River and is the first dam as you move up the river from Sandusky Bay and Lake Erie. Removal of the dam will make the Sandusky River free-flowing up to the city of Tiffin and open up an additional 22-miles of quality spawning habitat for many native fish species, including walleye and white bass, as well as rare species like the river redhorse and the greater redhorse. Removal will also improve the quality of habitats downstream of the dam by allowing the river to act naturally and move rocks and other materials past the dam area during high flow periods. This natural movement of bottom materials is important nourishment of spawning habitats for walleye and other species.



Lake Erie walleye reproduction in the past few years has been down, which has negatively affected the fishery. Walleye depend on the Maumee River and the Lake Erie reef complex for reproduction. The addition of 22 miles of spawning habitat on the



Sandusky River could increase walleye production by over 10-fold, making the river a major contributor to the Lake Erie walleye population and helping to boost the fishery. Lake Erie walleye are a major contributor to Ohio's economy and bring in millions of dollars to Ohio's North Coast. People from all over Ohio, adjoining states, and around the country come to northern Ohio to fish for walleye, as well as other species like yellow perch, steelhead, and smallmouth bass. Restoring the Sandusky River back to a free-flowing river and a major contributor to the Lake Erie walleye population would help keep this economic engine humming.

The next phase of the project was to develop a plan. The city hired Stantec Consulting, a company with experience in successful dam removal, to design the project. Not surprisingly, dam removal projects are often complex and must follow various state and federal environmental guidelines that are enforced through permits. Permitting processes must incorporate biological, social, and economic issues and allow for sufficient public input. A necessary step for environmental permits, formally known as a feasibility study, is to identify and weigh all alternative options to achieve project goals and to select a preferred option that best accommodates all identified issues. Stantec's feasibility study for the Ballville Dam removal identified three options: no action,



installing a fish passage device on the dam, and dam removal. Removing the dam was the preferred option after considering all issues, and a public consultation is underway. The biggest issues to be addressed with the Ballville Dam project are managing the large amount of sediments behind the dam, controlling the flooding risks from ice jams, and addressing any cultural loss felt about the dam.

Stantec estimates that there are about 840,000 cubic yards of sediment stored behind the Ballville Dam, which would essentially cover the city of Fremont (7.5 square miles) with about one inch of sediment, or fill up about one fourth of Ohio State's football stadium. That's a lot of dirt! But to put it in a different perspective, 840,000 cubic yards is about the same as the cal-

culated maximum load of 867,000 cubic yards of sediment being delivered by the river to Sandusky Bay in any given year. In other words, the dam is trapping only small amounts of new sediments each year and most are carried in the water over the dam and ultimately to Sandusky Bay and Lake Erie. Scientific tests have shown that these sediments are low in contaminants and are actually no different than what already exists in the bay and lake. The plan will be to drain the reservoir with much of the dam still in place, which will allow for some of the sediments to move downstream as the reservoir drains, while exposed areas become vegetated and resistant to erosion. This method of pulsed sediment releases could keep up to 40 percent of the sediments in place and minimize impacts on the downstream environment.

PROJECTED VIEW OF THE SANDUSKY RIVER
IMAGE COURTESY OF STANTEC

Ice jams are another issue that has to be considered when removing the dam. During winter to early spring, ice formation in slow moving portions of rivers or reservoirs can block water flow and cause serious flooding. Dams can hold back ice and minimize floods from jams. However, they also can contribute to the problem under certain conditions. The city of Fremont experienced terrible floods in 1937, 1959, and 1963 with the dam in place, but none since floodwalls were installed along the river banks in 1972. So, the dam and the floodwalls are important for flood control. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers determined that ice pillars would essentially accomplish the same thing as the Ballville Dam if properly placed. Stantec recommends putting large pillars upstream of the main reservoir as part of the dam removal project to minimize the risk of flooding.

Cultural losses are also important. Some structures have historical value that must be considered when removing dams. The dam itself falls into that category. Historical value can be preserved in ways that will still allow dam removal, such as monuments and mu-

seums. Potential loss of the reservoir will affect some private property owners along the reservoir and issues will be addressed as restoration efforts along the reestablished river move forward and positive or negative impacts are better understood. While lakefront property may no longer exist, restored river bottom areas would revegetate over time and provide a different type of recreational value for property owners and other users.

So what is the cost of removing the Ballville Dam and who will pay those costs? The answer is about \$8.8 million dollars, which the city has secured through funds from the OEPA, the USFWS, and ODNR. The OEPA funds largely come from the Water Resources Restoration Sponsorship Program (WRRSP), which essentially allows the city to use their interest payments on loans related to their other water infrastructure projects (like the upground reservoir) for ecological restoration work (such as dam removal). The USFWS contribution comes from the U.S. Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act, which awarded a \$2 million grant to the Division of Wildlife

for dam removal. The division wrote and submitted a proposal for these federal dollars and is administering the grant at no cost to the city. The WRRSP funds from the city also serve as the required non-federal funding match for the Federal Restoration Act funding. In short, the city has acquired enough funds to remove the dam and, if all goes as hoped, removal of the Ballville Dam can occur by the end of 2012.

If you are in Fremont in 2012, stop by the dam site and see the progress with this restoration project. With completion of the upground reservoir and removal of the dam, the city can alleviate its chronic water supply and dam safety issues. After the dam is removed, the river will quickly be restored to its original channel and natural flow, fish will be able to access high quality spawning sites upstream, and anglers, canoeists, and other recreational users will benefit, as will the local economy that is tied to these activities. Healthy rivers are important to the landscape of our ecosystem, and the removal of the Ballville Dam will pay dividends well into the future. ♡



Fishing THE RUN

by Mike Wilkerson
Northwest Ohio Fish Management Supervisor,
Ohio Division of Wildlife



Late in January or at least by the first big thaw on Lake Erie, the calls from anxious anglers start pouring in to ask when fish will start moving up the rivers. By the time the ice has started to really melt, the phone lines have overheated. When March rolls around, most anglers have made plans to head to the Maumee or the Sandusky with visions of full stringers dancing in their heads. Thousands of anglers look forward to the annual spring walleye and white bass spawning runs in the Maumee and Sandusky rivers. The division estimates that anglers spend 147,000 hours fishing the Maumee River for walleye from the middle of March through April. Anglers expend another 3,000 hours in this time frame targeting white bass. That is a total of 6,125 days of fishing effort in a six-week window targeting a concentrated population of fish.

So why do walleye and white bass concentrate in these two rivers? All fish species seek out areas that meet their spawning requirements. Since both walleye and white bass require similar types of habitat, it makes sense that they would use the same areas. The Western Basin of Lake Erie is great habitat for these two species because it is shallow and very productive compared to the rest of the Great Lakes. This attracts walleye and white bass by the millions every spring. Not all of the walleye in Lake Erie migrate up these two rivers, but a large number do. The current population of walleye in Lake Erie is estimated to be around 16 million fish. So, even though only a percentage of the Lake Erie fish make the run, that could mean somewhere in the neighborhood of one million fish entering in the Maumee River during the spring run. The Sandusky River has a smaller sized run, but still has a very large number of fish available to anglers.

Both species of fish are looking for similar habitat, just at slightly different times of the year. Walleye spawn in April when water temperatures are between 40° and 55°F, while the white bass spawn in late April through May when water temperatures are between 50° and 60° F. So it is possible for a lucky angler to catch the end of the walleye run and the beginning of the white bass run at the same time. Both species of fish are looking for areas of the rivers that have a gravel or rocky bottom with good water flow. When they find these areas the females will drop their eggs on the bottom while at the same time the males fertilize the eggs. The eggs are left alone and will hatch usually hatch in 10 to 20 days, depending upon the water temperature.



bit.ly/fishnews ←

Although temperature is a critical part of the timing of the spring spawning run for these fish, other factors do play a part. For example, the length of daylight hours and increased water flow, especially following warm spring storms, can cue fish to spawn. So how can an angler tap into that timing? For the spring fish runs, look to the trees. There are several adages used to guess when the run will start. For walleye, when the lilacs are beginning to bloom, the fish are starting to run. By the time the lilacs are in bloom the run should be in full swing. For white bass, when the dogwood trees are blooming the fish are spawning. So, by watching the river temperatures, and a few cues around the neighborhood, anyone can get a sense of when to load up the gear and head for the river.

SPECIAL REGULATIONS

Anglers new to fishing the walleye run should be aware of a few special fishing regulations that apply from March 1 to May 1 in certain areas of both the Maumee and Sandusky rivers. These special regulations include: 1) anglers can only fish from sunrise to sunset, 2) no treble hooks are allowed, and 3) only one hook per line can be used. The hook used can be no larger than one-half inch from shank to point. For more details on river areas and regulations, visit the fishing pages at wildohio.com.

GEAR

It does not take specialized gear to fish the walleye run. When fishing from shore or wading into the river, it is a good idea to wear neoprene waders. Uninsulated waders can cause an angler to become dangerously cold while fishing in 50° F water. In addition to good waders, which help you get close to the action, your favorite rod and reel will serve you well. If you are new to the sport you can pick up a standard spin casting reel and medium action rod from any sporting good store. You can usually buy a starting level rod and reel combo for around \$25.

The most important part of your gear can be the tackle you select. Over the years, river walleye anglers have tried all kinds of tackle. The current popularity winner is a Carolina rig with a floating jig head tipped with a brightly colored rubber tail. The bullet weight (usually starting at ¼ oz. but up to ¾ oz. in faster water) goes on the line first. The line is tied to a swivel, and a leader of 18 to 24 inches is added to the other end of the swivel. A floating jig head will replace the hook at the end of the leader. Most anglers add a brightly colored twister tail (rubber worm) in white, yellow or neon. This lure can be used for white bass as well, although anglers will often replace the plastic tail with a live minnow with good results.



To cast, anglers typically stand in lines near the bank with enough space from one angler to the next for everyone's safety. During the peak of the spawning run, the number of anglers can be large and the lines can get crowded. Most anglers stand facing across the river and then cast their line towards the middle of the river. The goal is to have the lure land almost directly in front of you. Casting too far upstream will likely result in a snag and the loss of your lure. However, even a perfect cast can lose a lure in this rocky-bottomed area. Once the lure is cast, the river will push the lure downstream and the angler should let the weight bounce along the bottom waiting for a walleye to strike. Walleye will strike a lure very lightly; it is sometimes hard to determine when a fish picks up your lure. Pay close attention to the feel of the lure in the water and watch the rod tip very closely. White bass anglers usually do not have any question when a fish strikes as these fish hit a lure hard.

The walleye and white bass runs are always an exciting time of year for people everywhere. On any given day of the run, a person can see license plates from four or five different states. It is a great time to renew your connection with the great outdoors or spend time with family and friends. The walleye and white bass spawning runs in the Maumee and Sandusky rivers truly signal the start of another fishing season. ♥

**Sign up for Ohio's weekly
Fishing Report at wildohio.com**

• The report will be emailed to you every Wednesday, April through October •

THE ASIAN CARP

by John Navarro and Roger Knight
Fish Management, Division of Wildlife

What is big and silver, can swim and fly, eats tiny food particles, and can knock you out of a boat? The answer is the silver carp, which is one of two Asian carp species now on the loose in the Mississippi River and likely heading for Ohio. You've probably seen the news stories about jumping fish, or you can type "jumping fish" in YouTube and see video clips that will make you laugh, but the reality is not a laughing matter. By the end of this article you should realize that aquatic invasive species in general, and Asian carp in particular, are bad for all of us. Asian carp refers to a group of fish from China that includes silver and bighead carp. Both species are distinctive in appearance with low-set eyes and large upturned mouths that distinguish them from other native fish.

These nonnative fish were imported in the early 1970s in an attempt to improve water quality by removing algae from aquaculture ponds in the southern U.S. If they had stayed in the ponds, the story would have a happy ending. But as with almost all of our intentional introductions of nonnative species, this one has a tragic ending. Flooding in the south inundated the aquaculture facilities and allowed Asian carp to escape into the Mississippi River, where they have quickly made it upstream as far as Minnesota. Along the way, they took a detour up the Illinois River and are within striking distance of Lake Michigan and the rest of the Great Lakes.

So what makes the Asian carp such a successful invader in North America? Our country lies in the same latitude as their native habitats in eastern Asia. Seasonal changes in water temperature here are not limiting to these cold-blooded creatures. They are very prolific spawners. A female Asian carp can spawn by its fourth year of life and can produce up to a million eggs each year. On top of that, they can spawn more than once in a year to take advantage of ideal weather and habitat conditions. This strategy of dumping lots of eggs over an extended spawning period ensures that good numbers survive to adulthood. These carp are highly adapted filter-feeders that eat tiny plant and animal plankton that make up the base of the food chain in aquatic ecosystems. They can live 20 years or more, and easily exceed 50 pounds. They are among the largest fish in our rivers. This large, long-lived fish can swim a great distance and potentially have a wide-ranging impact on other species for many years, as compared to other smaller invading fishes that live only two to three years, like the round goby.



We know Asian carp negatively impact native species but how do they impact you? The biological concern is that if they are able to become established in the Great Lakes, they could wreak havoc on fisheries that are valued at \$7 billion a year. Decreased catches of native species have been evident in the Mississippi River where Asian carp are present. Silver carp are also renowned for leaping high out of the water when disturbed by watercraft. Several boaters have already been seriously injured by these leaping fish. Imagine getting hit by an object that weighs more than a bowling ball, especially if you are traveling at 30 miles per hour!



SILVER CARP
T. LAWRENCE

COURTESY: GREAT LAKES FISHERY COMMISSION



BIGHEAD CARP

supply. This also created a direct connection between the Mississippi River basin to the south and the Great Lakes basin to the north and fish are able to move freely between the two watersheds. The only thing that is keeping Asian carp from moving into Lake Michigan is an electrical barrier system that repels fish. The barrier's effectiveness has never been fully tested, and it is only being used as a band-aid until a permanent solution is developed. A recent study by the Great Lakes Commission looked at the feasibility of permanently separating the basins to prevent the movement of Asian carp and other invasive species and hopefully prompt action will be taken to implement these actions.

Another problem is that there are other natural and manmade connections along the watershed boundary that Asian carp could use to get into the Great Lakes. Some of these connections are in Ohio. Two of the connections are related to the old canal system, one located at Grand Lake St. Mary's, and the other at the Ohio and Erie Canal at Long Lake in Akron. Two other connections are at low lying areas in northeast Ohio that, when flooded, make a connection between the two watersheds. The Division of Wildlife plans to monitor these areas for Asian carp using a newly developed sampling technique called environmental DNA. This tool is right out of CSI and tests water for the presence of Asian carp DNA. This eliminates the need to sample for fish by allowing researchers to sample the water for what fish leave behind, allowing for detection of fish in the area.

Hopefully, it is clear that bringing invasive species into the U.S. is a bad idea that can impact native species, cost you money, and even cause you bodily harm. Please support invasive species prevention efforts to keep them out. ■

So what is being done to fix this problem now that Asian carp are here and on the move? There are really few options once an invasive species is established and spreading because free-flowing rivers act like super highways that facilitate their movement. But there are opportunities to prevent Asian carp from moving into new watersheds. Watershed boundaries are natural boundaries to fish movement, but these barriers have been breached by man.

One of these manmade breaches is south of Chicago where in 1889 the city of Chicago reversed the flow of the Chicago River to move sewage away from their drinking water



WATCHABLE WILDLIFE

SAUGER

by Eric Weimer

Lake Erie Fish Biologist, Ohio Division of Wildlife



Sauger are a member of the perch family, a group of fish that includes yellow perch, walleye, the hybrid saugeye, and the extinct blue pike. Sauger have always been important to Ohioans, both commercially and recreationally; however, early records of sauger catches in Ohio are suspect given their similarity to walleye. Prior to 1850, early settlers in Ohio mistakenly thought sauger and walleye were the same species, with the sauger being the male. Fortunately, by 1885, sauger and walleye were recognized as two distinct, albeit closely related, species.

Sauger have rows of dark spots between the spines of the dorsal fins and three to four dark, saddle-like bands across their back. Walleye tend to be more 'plain' in appearance. Sauger don't grow as large as walleye, with most adults being less than 15 inches in length. The state record sauger is 24 inches long and a little over seven pounds, while the state record walleye is a whopping 33 inches long and weighed over 16 pounds. Sauger eat mostly invertebrates (insects such as mayflies and crayfish) and small fish, including gizzard shad and minnows, although diet

may change depending on sauger size and seasonal changes in prey availability. Sauger may live as long as 12 years, although a fish half that age is considered relatively old.

Sauger are not widespread throughout Ohio. Most of Ohio's sauger are found in the Ohio River or its larger tributaries. Sauger are at home in rivers, particularly ones that are turbid (or muddy). Historically, sauger were also common in Lake Erie, especially in the western part of the lake. Sauger prefer high turbidity, and this helps to segregate sauger from walleye where both species live together. Similarly, sauger are found in areas with silt bottoms more often than walleye.

Sauger spawn in the spring when water temperatures reach between 40-55°F. Prior to spawning, they seek out spawning habitat in water depths between 1 and 12 feet. Spawning habitat consists of areas with gravel or larger-sized substrate; in some cases, spawning has been documented on sand-covered bedrock. In rivers, spawning areas typically have moderate or low water flows. Spawning occurs in small groups at night. Females broadcast their eggs on the

spawning substrate while one or more males attempt to fertilize the eggs. The number of eggs produced increases with the size of the female; most females will lay between 10,000 and 50,000 eggs, but the largest females can produce over 200,000 eggs. Fertilized eggs are sticky, and attach to the substrate until hatching.

Sauger were once plentiful on Lake Erie; however, the combined effects of habitat loss caused by pollution and commercial overharvest caused sauger to all but disappear by the 1970s. Commercial catches of sauger in Ohio topped five million pounds in 1885, and averaged over 600,000 pounds between 1925 and 1950. A sauger stocking program was undertaken by the Division of Wildlife in the late 1970s with some success, but natural reproduction was insufficient to sustain the recovery, and sauger all but disappeared within 10 years of the end of stocking. Efforts are currently underway to determine if habitat conditions are suitable for another attempt at restoring this native species to Lake Erie.

Sauger are so closely related to walleye that the two species can produce a viable hybrid offspring called the saugeye. Saugeye occur rarely in the wild, but each spring Division of Wildlife hatchery staff cross sauger sperm with walleye eggs for the purpose of stocking. Saugeye take on the best characteristics of both parent species, combining the faster growth of the walleye with the sauger's tolerance for turbidity. In a highly altered environment with limited spawning habitat like many Ohio reservoirs, the fast growth and high survival of the saugeye are a perfect combination.



AT A GLANCE

SIZE

Length: less than 15 inches
Weight: less than 7 pounds

LIFE SPAN

Up to 12 years

PEAK ACTIVITY

Mid-April to Mid-September

HABITAT

Found in the Ohio River and its larger tributaries; prefers areas with high turbidity and silt bottoms

EGG PRODUCTION

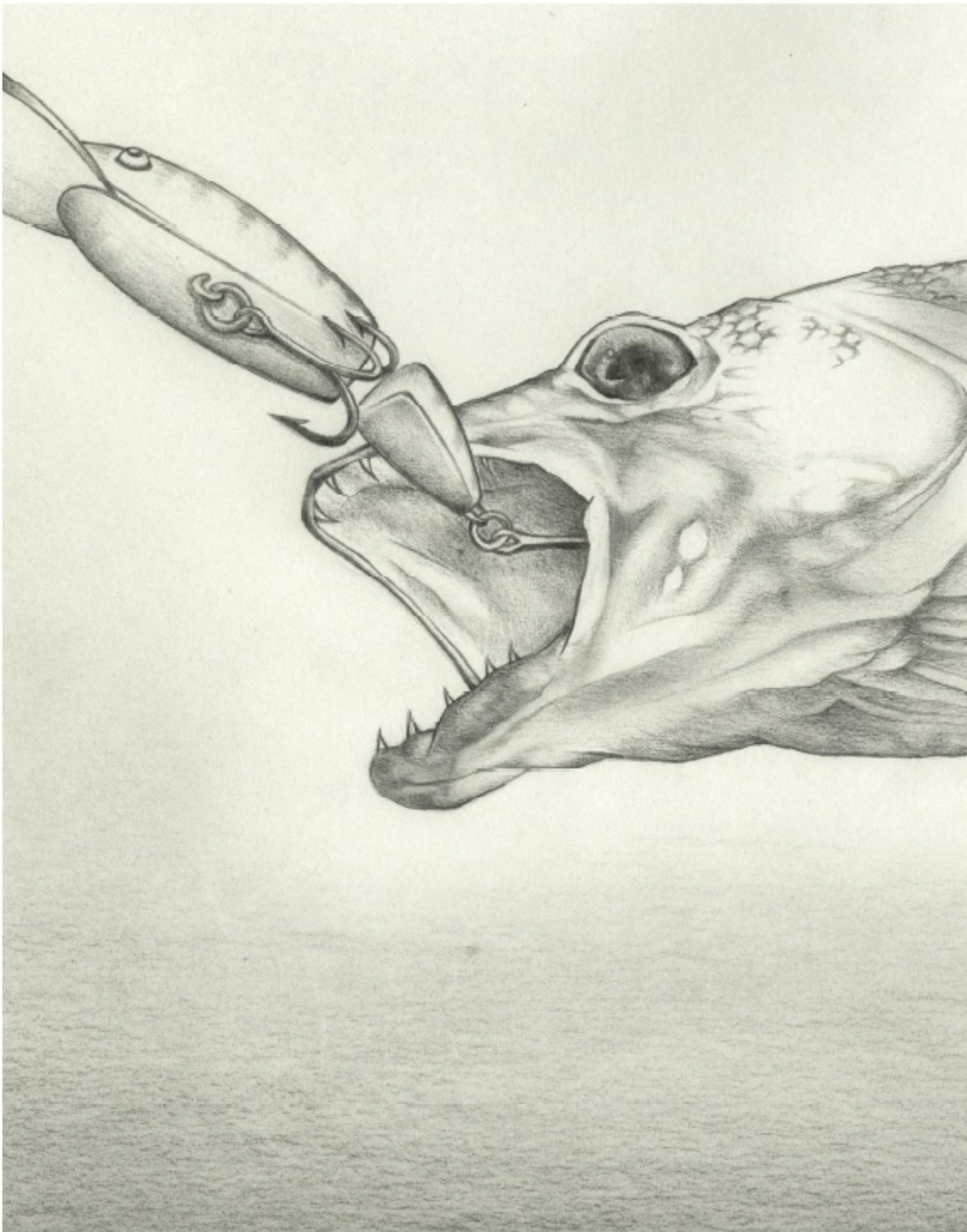
10,000 to 50,000 per female

TYPICAL FOODS

Mostly invertebrates, such as mayflies and crayfish, and small fish

OHIO HOTSPOTS







SAUGER

"RIVER JACK"

- 2012 -

ARTWORK BY JESH FOLDEN

Where the angler does not visit or treads cautiously, the river jack moves gracefully through tumultuous waters with the precision of a surgeon and the mettle of a fighter pilot.

ODNR ART IN THE LOBBY

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) is offering creative Ohioans (artists, photographers, sculptors, etc.) an opportunity to showcase their talent in the ODNR Art in the Lobby. An artist will be featured for a month and their work displayed in a gallery area. For additional information contact Beth Pratt (614-265-6957) or Gus Smithhisler (614-265-6965).

Artwork by Jesh Folden is on display through the month March.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources
2045 Morse Road, Building E
Columbus, Ohio 43229-6693

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Jesh Folden is a senior graphic designer at Holophane in Granville, Ohio. He received a Fine Arts Degree in Advertising and Graphic Design from the Columbus College of Art and Design in 1999.

During his many fishing trips with his grandfather and father, he was often inspired to draw wildlife and outdoor scenery. As an adult, his love for the wilderness has continued. In his free time, you can find him kayaking, camping with his family, and hiking in the woods.

You can see more of Jesh's work at
jeshfolden.carbonmade.com

To request additional information about becoming a *Wild Ohio* Artist, email us at wildohiomagazine@dnr.state.oh.us



CONCENTRATING ON FISH

by Marty Lundquist

Fisheries Biologist, Ohio Division of Wildlife



When fishing, knowing where fish are is half the battle. Fish attractors are used to draw fish to an area thereby increasing an angler's chance of catching a fish. Attractors work in both ponds and lakes, but are most effective in water bodies with limited cover or habitat. If you have a body of water on your property that has fish, or that you would like to have fish, consider adding some underwater structures.

Fish use attractors for cover, orientation, and a source for food. Small fish use tight spaces as cover to hide from larger fish. Dense brush piles, evergreen trees or a pile of concrete blocks provide cavities for small fish to hide in. Where there are small

fish, larger fish will be present looking for a meal. Larger fish will use concentration devices to ambush prey fish as they swim by. Fish attractors also give algae a place to grow. Aquatic insects eat the algae, and both small and large fish eat the insects.

Attractors can be built from tree branches, evergreen trees, concrete blocks, wood poles, PVC pipe, plastic tubing, rocks, tires or pallets. Concrete blocks wired to branches or evergreen trees make a good concentration structure. Drive wood poles or PVC pipe into the lake bottom to form stake beds. Spider blocks, which are plastic

block, are used by crappie and other adult fish. Keep in mind that wood structures will break down and have to be replaced more often than plastic or concrete.

If you are fishing from shore, you are limited to the amount of cover you can fish. Fish attractors should be placed within an easy casting distance from shore. A good depth to place attractors is from 5 to 12 feet. Attractors placed at this depth are useable by fish all year long. Place some fish attractors in deeper water if it is available (20 feet) to attract adult fish in the summer and fall. Fish attractors can be installed from land during low water levels, or from a boat. An easy way to install attractors is to set them on the ice and let them place themselves during the spring melt. When building a pond the best time to install structures is



before the pond fills. Don't forget to record the GPS coordinates or have some other way (landmarks) to find the structure again when it comes time to fish.

Even if you don't have a pond on your property, building and placing fish attractors can be a good project for fishing clubs or Boy Scout troops. Permission from the controlling agency is needed before placing an attractor in a lake. Every year the Division of Wildlife installs evergreen trees in several lakes around the state. Locations can be found on the lake map pages at wildohio.com.





CONSERVATIONIST CORNER

DICK KOTIS

by Susie Vance
Editor, Ohio Division of Wildlife



The more you learn about Kent resident Dick Kotis, the more you realize how respected he is in the angling world. An Ohio Department of Natural Resources Cardinal Award recipient, past president of the American Fishing Tackle Manufacturers Association and the Sport Fishing Educational Foundation, inductee into the Fishing Hall of Fame, advisor and board member for organizations including the Sport Fishing Institute, the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, the International Game Fish Association, and the American League of Anglers, Kotis is a true been-there, done-that kind of guy...with a modest and friendly manner to boot. The more of his stories you hear the more you will want to hear, and the more you will realize he is a true conservationist – his lifelong work affecting local economies, Ohio angling, and fisheries across the nation.

Like so many others of his era, Dick grew up with childhood conservation lessons coming from outings with his father. A love of the outdoors continued through his life as he pursued a career in education and athletics with Kent State University. In the late 1950s, he went to work for the Fred

Arbogast Company, a legendary fishing lure manufacturer in Akron. Kotis spent 35 years as the president of the company famous for lures including the Jitterbug, the Hula Popper, and Fred Arbogast's first manufactured lure, the Tin Liz.

One of Kotis' favorite parts of his life-of-lures was working at sport shows and interacting with anglers. An avid angler himself, which is a bit of an understatement as Kotis has fished all regions of North America from Central America to the Arctic, he enjoyed what he considered problem solving at an underwater level. Thinking like a fish, Kotis and his lure designers had a goal to sell lures, but he knew that those lures must catch fish to be a success. Ideas came from all over – fish biologists and weekend warriors contributed to the lure design at Arbogast in one form or another.

While working these sport shows in the early 1960s, Kotis had an idea that he compared to the point and shoot camera. If steps are simplified, and people understand how to do something, they are better at it. With that thought, Kotis drew on his educational background and participation in athletic clinics and began offering some of the very first fishing clinics to sport show attendees.

In the early 1980s, a movement to amend the Dingell-Johnson Act was on the forefront of the fishing world. The amendment Act (Wallop-Breaux, 1984) would expand the original Act to include an excise tax on all fishing equipment as well as motorboat fuel. The Act would fund motorboat access

sites as well as aquatic education programs in state fish and wildlife agencies. While at first blush this was an unpopular idea, especially for the manufacturers who would incur the original charges, Kotis called on his fellow manufacturers to support this important legislation. Kotis travelled to Washington to testify on behalf of the Act, knowing that the more funding that was available to create fishing opportunities, the more success would be had, and the more equipment sold. An angler through and through, he knew that while the sale of equipment was good, the feeling of "fish-on" was better.

So what is one man, so recognized for his success in the fishing world, the most proud of? His involvement in the creation of a program that recognizes Ohio anglers for their fishing efforts. To the thousands of anglers who have been recognized by the popular Fish Ohio! program, you have Mr. Kotis to thank. The idea he shared with the Division of Wildlife started as small lapel-pins that he shared during business trips for the Fred Arbogast Company. With patience and persistence, an idea that bolsters the confidence (and bragging rights) of anglers fishing Ohio's waters was introduced, and has been going strong for more than 30 years.

Now retired, Kotis can be found spending time with family, forever fishing, and passing on his conservation ethic to his grandson.



THE BUDDY SYSTEM

by Chelsea Herrick

THE DO'S & DON'TS OF SPRING TURKEY HUNTING WITH A NEWCOMER

Imagine you and a friend are in the woods on a cool, crisp spring morning in April when you hear a couple of gobblers calling in the hollow below you. Your heart starts pounding as you hear them responding to your hunting partner's call, and you hope they will be within sight in minutes. Knowing your partner said you could take the first shot, your gun is raised and you see the red head and beard of a beautiful spring gobbler. You shoot the gobbler and with the biggest smile you stand up, high-five your partner, and while still shaking from excitement you share with one another the moments that led up to the shot.

A successful spring turkey hunt with another person is not a walk in the park (or woods!). It can be a challenge, but rewarding to those who stick with it, especially if you have a mentor to show you the ropes to increase your chances for success. You don't have to be a pro to mentor a friend.

By following a few simple techniques you will be on your way to a memorable hunt shared with a close friend.

PRIOR TO THE HUNT

Introduce a new hunter with a scouting trip to find out where the turkeys are roosting, feeding, and using trails in the area you plan to hunt. Next, finding the best-fitting shotgun and target practice is essential. Shotgun parts, such as the stock and barrel, can be modified to best fit the shooter for comfort, ability, and accuracy. Shotguns designed to reduce recoil, or "kick," are great for youth so they are not reluctant to shoot the gun. Once the appropriate shotgun is selected, both hunters should target practice in short intervals to avoid fatigue and frustration.

Helping a newcomer pick out camouflage hunting clothing ahead of time, including gloves and mesh face mask for total concealment, is critical since wild turkeys can see color. A cushion to sit on while leaning up against a tree will provide comfort. Finally, make sure you both have the appropriate licenses and permits, and have read all regulations.

FIRST MORNING OUT

Make sure new hunters know the importance of sound from the moment you arrive at a hunting spot. Be sure to talk in a whisper and avoid slamming vehicle doors as you arrive and get ready to head out. Hike in, start listening for turkeys right away, and when shooting time arrives quietly load your gun. Be flexible and hunt on days with good hunting conditions, without wind or heavy rain. This will help a new hunter enjoy a more successful and pleasant outing. Setting up a blind can be useful if hunting with a fidgety youth or someone with a mobility impairment. Health and safety concerns can be greatly reduced by hunting with a buddy.

YOU'RE ONTO BIRDS

If you hear birds that are close enough to start calling, pick a good spot up against a tree to set-up, so both hunters can see the turkeys and be comfortable. This will enable sitting still for a longer period of time. Sitting together is essential so the experienced hunter can whisper instructions. Allowing a new hunter to take the first shot will prove to be more successful and rewarding. Try to stay as stealthy as possible to avoid spooking turkeys or other wildlife.



THE DO NOT'S

DON'T LET YOURSELF BE SEEN OR HEARD

Getting too close to where a turkey is roosting can be detrimental to hunting success. Focus on being less-aggressive early in the morning because if the birds are spooked off the roost or from the field openings early, it could be hours until you see or hear them again. Save the anxious desire to pursue birds for later in the hunt when you may have to cover a lot of ground to locate birds.

Since turkeys can detect movement better than a person, it is crucial to train yourself and your buddy to use your eyes when scanning the horizon, not your whole head. Turkeys also have the ability to hear and pinpoint sound better than humans. Avoid making any unnatural sounds like snapping sticks while walking, rubbing your back up against a tree, or crinkling snack wrappers.

DON'T GIVE UP EASILY

Nothing can change quicker than action in the turkey woods. A change in location or time of day can take you from not seeing or hearing any turkeys to a gobbler responding and hot-footing it your way. gobbler activity can vary over the four-week spring hunting season. In the first week of the season, you may not hear much gobbling because toms may be with hens until late morning, but by the end of the season, it could sound like a Gobbler concerto as toms continue to look for hens not on the nest. The most challenging turkeys are those that come in silently. Always be still and ready, and know that at any second a red head could be staring you in the eye.

DON'T TAKE A RUSHED SHOT

The excitement and anticipation of the moments leading up to seeing a gobbler can quickly diminish with a miss or a shot taken that is too far away. You can avoid riding this emotional roller coaster if you take a few precautionary steps. First, make sure you let the birds come into close range, 35 yards or less, to make a successful shot. It is a good idea to talk about shot boundaries as you set up; let new hunters know not to take a shot until the turkey passes a certain point. Remember, turkeys in an open field look closer than they really are. Second, don't lift your head up to see if you got the bird before you follow through with your shot. This eagerness can lead to disappointment.

Take the time to identify a tom from a hen and make sure it has a beard. Teach your partner that when multiple birds come in together to make sure the gobbler you plan to shoot is not too close or in line with another bird. Don't pressure your partner to take a rushed shot and always provide plenty of positive reinforcement and encouragement.

Nothing can make your heart pound faster than the thunderous gobble of a wild turkey. Be sure to carry a camera to save fond memories of your first trophy gobbler hunt. Helping a buddy learn the tactics and challenges to harvest this magnificent bird can be one of the most rewarding parts of passing on our hunting heritage.

IF NO ACTION

Move 100 yards and try locator calls such as an owl, crow or hen turkey to elicit a gobbler to respond. Continue moving on and repeating until gobblers are located. Take the time to enjoy spring bird calls, look for wild flowers, pick some tasty morel mushrooms, and enjoy being outdoors. If action is slow, make it a shorter day to keep the enthusiasm for the next hunt.

NOTES FROM THE REGS

2012 SPRING TURKEY HUNTING SEASON

A valid Ohio hunting license and spring turkey permit are required.

DATES & HOURS FOR SPRING HUNTING

April 23 - May 5

1/2 hour before sunrise to noon

May 6 - May 20

1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset

COUNTIES OPEN TO SPRING HUNTING

Open statewide except
Lake La Su An Wildlife Area

HARVESTING LAWS FOR SPRING HUNTING

2 bearded turkey bag limit

Only one (1) bearded turkey may be taken per day. Persons wishing to take a second wild turkey during the spring season must purchase a second spring turkey permit.

Turkey must be checked by
11:30p.m. on the day of harvest.

It is legal to use a leashed dog to recover wounded turkeys in the spring season.



CHERISHED

by Ken Fitz

Law Enforcement Program Administrator, Division of Wildlife

If you ask a group of hunters or shooters what their favorite firearm is, you will likely get a different answer from just about everyone in the group. They may offer a variety of reasons for why they prefer one gun over another, depending on the situation. Ask about their most precious firearm, the one that means the most to them, and you may get a different answer. It may be the gun they used on their first successful hunting trip, a gift from a family member or close friend, or a family heirloom.

I grew up, like most shooters, with a .22 rifle in my hands. I spent a lot of time in my younger days behind the barn, punching holes in a pile of tin cans. Later I pro-

gressed to removing the groundhogs from local soybean fields. I also shot on the Erie County Conservation Club Junior Rifle Team in indoor competitions.

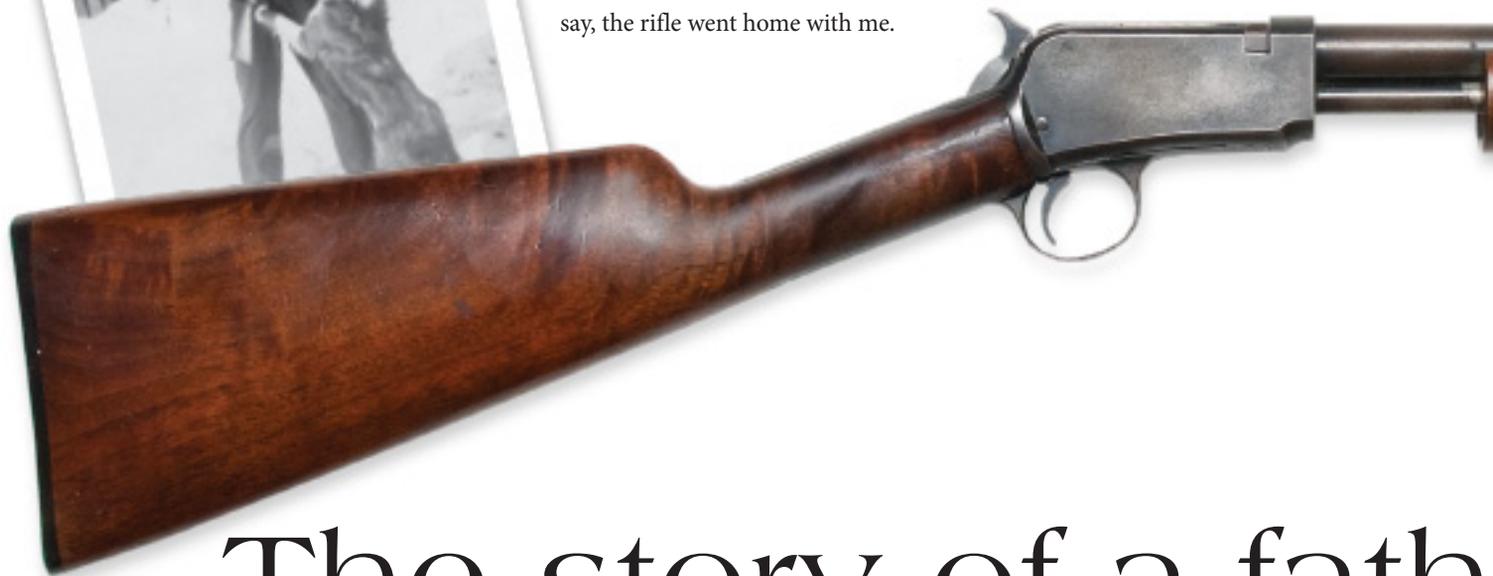
When I wasn't hassling the groundhogs or destroying tin cans, I was active in a local Boy Scout troop. One of the adult leaders asked me if I knew anyone that would want to buy an old target rifle he had, explaining that it had a case, all of the attachments and a scope to go with it. I was interested in the target scope on the rifle, so I went to his house after the meeting and offered to buy just the scope. He informed me it was a package deal, all or nothing. He said I could make an offer.

I went home and told my parents I wanted to buy a rifle, and the next day, with their permission, went back to the leader's house. I offered him \$175, all the money I had, and a substantial sum for a 16-year-old kid. Mr. Mitchell said he wouldn't take \$175, but that if I promised to give the rifle a good home I could have it for \$100. Needless to say, the rifle went home with me.

Within a week, I was offered \$400 for the rifle and scope combo. I did not sell it. In fact, word got back to Mr. Mitchell that I had turned down the substantial offer. He said he was proud of me for keeping my word on "giving the rifle a good home."

More than 30 years later, I still have that rifle. When I look at it in the safe, or take it the range, it reminds me of Mr. Mitchell, a veteran of WWII, a man active in the church as an usher every Sunday morning, and a dedicated leader of young men in the Boy Scout troop even after his sons had grown and moved on. It reminds me of a man who was proud of me for keeping my word. It is a firearm I cherish for many reasons, but it is not my most cherished.

When I was growing up and shooting with my family, I would hear my father talk about his first rifle. It was one he no longer had, one he sold and always regretted. I heard it was "the most accurate," best rifle he had ever fired - a Winchester .22 pump.



The story of a fath

Dad grew up on the farm. He worked for his parents in the Fitz Brothers Dairy, and had to pay his own way, buying school supplies out of his meager wages. Somehow, he managed to save enough money to buy his first gun, that Winchester pump, at the beginning of WWII, before he joined the U.S. Navy.

After serving in the U.S. Navy in the Pacific, he went back to work at the dairy, met my mother, and started raising a family. Growing short on cash, but tall on children, he sold the Winchester to my Mom's brother, Joel Christiansen, also a dairy employee. Uncle Joel sold the rifle to a neighbor boy, Paul Semprich, whose father worked at the dairy, and he eventually sold the rifle to my cousin, Paul Christiansen. In time, Dad bought a replacement rifle, but he always yearned for the "one that got away."

Decades later, when my uncle passed away, Mom and Dad attended his funeral. My cousin Paul approached my father and said, "Uncle John, you won't believe it, but I still have that old .22 rifle that used to belong to you." Dad tried in vain to buy the rifle back, but cousin Paul said he wasn't interested in selling it to him.

During one of the family Christmas celebrations in the early 1990s, someone pulled

out a long slender gift from behind the tree and handed it to Dad. Wondering what it was, he unwrapped the gift to discover his old Winchester, still in great condition.

Understand that my father was not particularly adept at showing emotion, other than when he was angry. Not that he was angry a lot, but that was just his way. When he unwrapped the rifle, he cried, one of the few times I ever saw him shed a tear. He couldn't believe he finally had his rifle back, after 40 years. A few months later, he asked me to shoot the rifle, to "sight it in," saying his eyes weren't as good as mine. I think he just wanted me to shoot it, and as expected, it was dead-on.

My father passed away in 2006. A year or so later, my mother asked me what I wanted for Christmas. I told her she did not need to buy me anything, but she persisted. I told her to "just give me a .22 rifle." When she asked for an explanation, I told her to "think about, you will figure it out."

In a few weeks, at the family Christmas celebration, my siblings and I all received a card from Mom, and as I watched, everyone pulled a department or home improvement store gift certificate from the envelope. My card contained no such gift certificate, but it had written in Mom's neat cursive "Please take the .22 rifle. I am sure Dad would like you to have it. Cherish it as he did."

And that is my most cherished firearm, and the story of how it left the family and came back, and eventually came to me. I shoot it occasionally, but I often pull it out of the safe and think of the man it represents. He was the boy that scrimped and saved to finally buy the rifle he wanted. He was the man that volunteered and served his country. He was the man that made sacrifices to raise my siblings and me. He taught me to keep my word to my scoutmaster. He shared his love of the outdoors, of fishing, hunting, and target shooting. He was the reason that I am who I am today, why I hunt, fish, and shoot, and taught my children to do the same. That is why I cherish his rifle, because I cherish him and his memory. ■

er's long-lost firearm



MOVING SKIN

THE ART OF TAXIDERMISTRY

by Susie Vance
Editor, Ohio Division of Wildlife

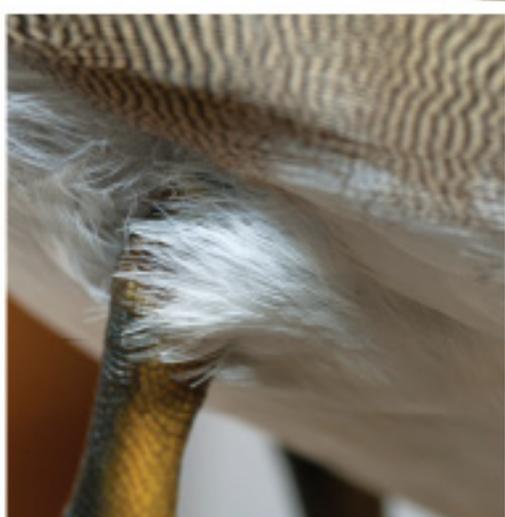
It takes a carpenter, mechanic, painter, plumber, welder, and artist to move skin. Taxidermy, loosely interpreted as taxi = move and dermis = skin

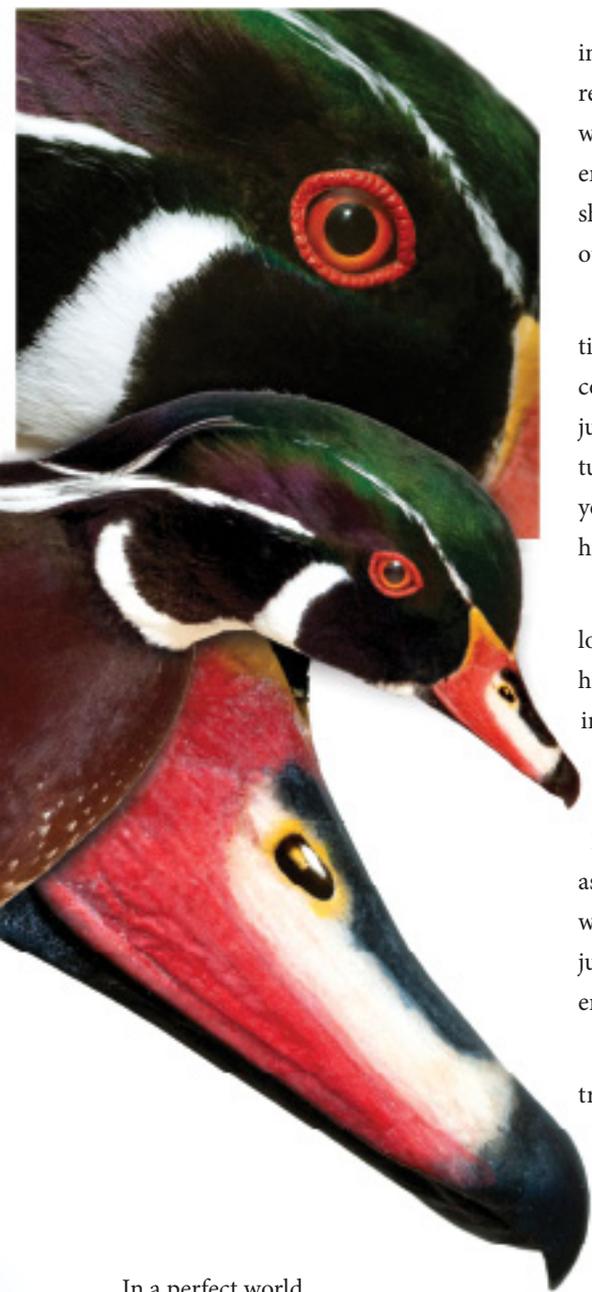
is an art that has been practiced for centuries, with some of the earliest work traced back to ancient Egyptians and their mummification practices. Taxidermy hit a peak in popularity during the Victorian Era when people used taxidermy in decoration and fashion, and museums began using taxidermy in displays.

While the uses and methods of the trade may have changed over time, the ultimate goal remains the same – to make the end product (referred to as a “mount”) look the same as it did the day it was alive.

Experienced taxidermists will study an animal in its natural setting to familiarize themselves with everything from stance, alignment, and color, to balance and movement. Many taxidermists keep not only photos of mounts they have completed, they also keep a library of live animal photos for reference.

Taxidermists who want to learn more about moving skin will enter shows or competitions, not for the desire to win (although that is a nice reward), but for the desire to improve. Experienced and often renowned taxidermists judge entries in taxidermy competitions. Armed with penlights, magnifying lenses, and stacks of reference books, judges carefully review and document each entry often spending an hour or more with each piece. While 60 minutes may seem like a long time to spend looking at a posed dead animal, judges are meticulous, combing every square inch of fur, feathers or scales. While details are important, (Are the eye membranes tidy? Is there any overspray of paint onto feathers or fur?) judges also consider the overall appearance. Would an animal in the wild be found in the same pose it has been displayed? Are the colors accurate? Has the competitor blended correctness with creativity?





In a perfect world, taxidermists could just spend their time and efforts striving for perfection in competition. However, the art form is a profession for many, and they apply knowledge gained in competition to their daily work.

Taxidermists preserve more than animal forms. Many times, they are responsible for preserving memories for hunters and anglers. To help a memory last a lifetime, experienced taxidermists agree that proper preparation of an animal in the field is key to a long-lasting mount. Nothing can compromise a potential trophy more than leaving it in the back of a truck while visit-

ing taxidermist shops to view work, ask for references, and make a decision of whose work is most aligned with a hunter's preferences. Sportsmen who consider taxidermy should select a taxidermist long before an outing in the field.

When selecting a professional preservationist, or just viewing a taxidermist's work, consider the perspective of a competition judge – look at details as well as the big picture. Preparing a list of specific questions you have or things you would like to see can help guide you in your search.

Taxidermy workplaces usually have a lot going on all at once, from skinning and hide scraping, to epoxy work and painting. While it may seem like (hopefully, controlled) chaos, it should be relatively clean, with some semblance of order. Look closely at works in progress, as well as completed mounts. Take a whiff of their work – nothing should smell like rot. Don't just ask for references, talk to past customers to see how their work is holding up.

Taxidermists are typically jacks-of-all-trades, but they usually have a preference or specialty. If ducks are your bag, consider a taxidermist with a keen waterfowl interest or specialty. Some taxidermists are masters in fish art, while others may be deer only. It is important to get specific direction for the care of your specific fish and/or game in the field and before it is delivered to the taxidermist.

If your hunt is a success, your taxidermist will ask how you want your memory preserved. Instead of providing an exact pose, consider providing information like where the mount will be displayed and what the most important aspect of the mount is to you. Ask for their input, after all, they are the professional.

Taxidermists are required by law to keep records of all work, whether it is still in the freezer or complete and in the hands of the owner. Be prepared to provide information including any necessary tag numbers associated with your trophy to be.

Lastly, if you have the opportunity, consider attending a taxidermy show. The more information you have about what to look for in a quality mount, the better decisions you can make about preserving your memories.

If you'd like to take a look at hundreds of fish and wildlife mounts, consider visiting the public display at the Ohio Taxidermists Association's 2012 Ohio Taxidermy Championship. The event is held in Mansfield, and will be open to the public on March 31 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. For more information, visit ohiotaxidermists.com 🐾



Bit.ly/taxidermy101



by Ann Keefe

Wildlife Communications Specialist, Old Woman Creek



SPEND A DAY AT THE NEW

Looking for an outdoor adventure? The Old Woman Creek National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR), is a 573-acre wetland research site in Huron, Ohio, where visitors can come enjoy the Reserve and its newly renovated wetland visitor center. The exhibits are a fun, easy way for visitors to learn about wetlands, get children and students outdoors, take a family hike or a guided canoe trip on the estuary, and enjoy interactive wetland science exhibits. Teachers can even schedule field trips to experience the estuary and visitor center exhibits.

In October 2011, the Reserve unveiled the exhibits in the Mike DeWine Center for Coastal Wetland Studies. Ohio Attorney General Mike Dewine stated in a letter to the Reserve staff, "It is an outstanding community asset and the exhibits will add a destination factor to an area already celebrated for nature-based tourism." Since its dedication, the center has hosted thousands to learn about coastal wetlands, their functions, current wetland research, and stresses to these critical natural resources. Educational topics including habitat loss, water pollution, aquatic invasive species,

and climate science are featured. All exhibits include a "What can you do?" feature to guide citizens in how they can get involved as stewards of our coastal wetlands and watersheds.

Upon entering the center, visitors will be greeted by a giant mural of the Great Lakes marking the 117 major freshwater estuaries of the Great Lakes region. Orient yourself to the Reserve and estuary by using a



gigantic Google Map table display. Hear recorded community voices of the past and present share their personal experiences at Old Woman Creek. Walk through dioramas of ecosystems found on the Reserve (prairie, shrub-scrub, forest and vernal pools, wooded creek, barrier beach, estuary, and lake). Help staff feed the turtle, snake, fish,



and amphibians that are on display. Play the role of scientist in the simulated laboratory that includes real-time data collected by underwater sensors in the estuary. Watch short videos featuring over 30 research partnerships with local universities and agencies in the Great Lakes region. Play the role of birder, waterfowl hunter or researcher as you make your way into the camouflaged blind with hidden bird viewing windows and live estuary webcams. Finish off your visit by tackling the coast's environmental challenges in an animated game, "Healthy Water, Healthy Community."

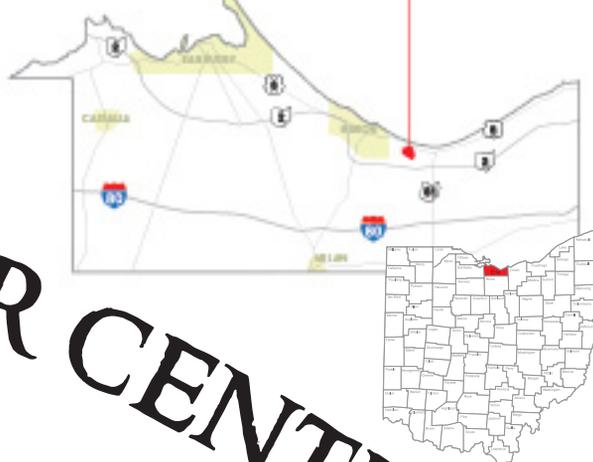
These exhibits were developed with two grants from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), private donations, and through the efforts of many collaborators. Speaking on behalf of NOAA at the dedication ceremony, Jennifer

WETLAND

VISITOR CENTER



IMAGE COURTESY RIGGS WARD



HALLWAY #1

Day, Great Lakes regional coordinator, said, “The new NOAA Kiosk at the Old Woman Creek Visitor Center is a perfect example of how the different parts of NOAA, including its state partners like the Reserve, can collaborate and create hands-on learning tools for all ages that brings NOAA to people at the local level in a meaningful way.”

One display features NOAA National Weather Service (NWS) data collected by Division of Wildlife wetland researchers in partnership with the NWS Cleveland forecast office. NWS uses this weather data to develop Lake Erie marine forecasts for boaters. NWS Meteorologist Michael Abair discovered how much weather impacts coastal wetlands like the Old Woman Creek estuary during a visit to the Reserve five years ago. Mike took on the task of creating an interactive touch screen display featuring NOAA programs, weather,

and the estuary. Mike along with Marty Mullen, senior forecaster, and several NWS technicians also contributed a real-time weather display. Mike said, “It’s nice to see a conceptual idea turned into a reality. The goal wasn’t just to display scientific information, but also to show people how weather and climate affect the estuary and the role NOAA plays in people’s lives.”



CLASSROOM / THEATER

In addition to the NWS, a host of other agencies and organizations collaborated with Old Woman Creek NERR on this project. Contributing partners are essential to the success of Old Woman Creek, including the ODNR Office of Coastal Management, Ohio Sea Grant College Program, Ohio Lake Erie Commission, Erie Soil and Water

Conservation District, NOAA Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory, several university researchers, WGTE Public Media of Toledo, Friends of Old Woman Creek, and many local conservation partners.

Estuaries such as Old Woman Creek protect Lake Erie by removing pollutants from streams and rivers and benefit coastal communities by buffering against floods and erosion. These valuable coastal wetlands also provide habitat for wildlife as well as a nursery for Lake Erie sportfish. The Lake Erie fishery contributes more than \$800 million to Ohio’s economy annually. Birders and other wildlife watchers spend nearly \$1 billion statewide each year on these activities.

The Old Woman Creek NERR is one of 28 reserves across the country. Its purpose is to improve the understanding, stewardship, and appreciation of Great Lake estuaries and coastal wetlands. To learn more about Old Woman Creek Reserve and estuaries visit oldwomancreek.org and estuaries.noaa.gov or call the visitor center at (419) 433-4601. ■

SHORE FISHING FOR INLAND WALLEYE

by Matthew D. Wolfe

Fisheries Biologist, Ohio Division of Wildlife



As I rev up my 150-horsepower motor, the thrill of fishing finally sets in. Wind rushes through my hair as I take off towards my favorite spot. All my lures are packed, the knots on my lures are perfectly tied, traffic is light, and the winds are low. It's going to be a great day on the water.

Did I mention that I am NOT on the water yet, and my 150-horsepower motor is the one in my van's engine compartment?

You don't need to have an expensive boat setup or go out on Lake Erie to enjoy walleye fishing in Ohio. You don't even need a boat! Some of the best walleye fishing in Ohio can be found at inland lakes during the spring, after the walleye have spawned. By following a few quick tips, you should be able to land an 'eye without ever setting foot on a boat!

KNOW WHERE YOU'RE GOING

Before you make your first cast, you have to do your homework. Perhaps the biggest problem is figuring out where to go to find good walleye fishing near you. Last year, the Division of Wildlife stocked over 15 million walleye statewide in lakes, and that doesn't include natural walleye populations found in the Lake Erie tributary streams or the Ohio River. But where do you go to find the best walleye fishing? Check out the online "Fishing Forecasts" on the fishing pages at wildohio.com. The forecast is updated to inform anglers of the best walleye fishing statewide. This would be a great place to start finding the "best of the best" walleye spots near you!

Now that you've narrowed down your choices to a few areas, what's the best way to access the fish? After walleye have spawned in the early spring, they tend to be in shallower waters until the water temperatures climb towards 65°F. It's during this time-frame that you can catch walleye by wading or fishing from shore. Target shallow areas next to deep water drop-offs since fish moving in and out of deeper areas feed in these shallower spots. When you are planning your trip, make sure you target shallow areas that are publicly accessible, and that have deep water next to them.

Inland lake maps are available online at wildohio.com or by contacting your local district office. Make sure that you can legally access the areas that interest you. If you walk across private property without permission, it is considered trespassing in Ohio. Publicly accessible areas are clearly marked on the division's maps.



“Walleye fishing from shore can be productive, but you have to know where to go and what to throw. Figure out that much and you might never need to step on a boat again!”



KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THROWING

Spring walleye can be somewhat predictable. These fish are post-spawn so they have one thing on their mind.... eating! The best times to fish for them will be around dawn or dusk when they swim to shallower waters to feed. Some anglers even have success at night, but anglers should be careful wading with no light.

The best baits to throw this time of year will be replicas of baitfish. Small to medium crankbaits, husky jerks or jigs tipped with twister tails work best. If the fishing is tough and the fish are tight lipped, don't be afraid to use a jig head tipped with a live minnow. Sometimes it is hard to beat live bait! If one color is not working, switch it up, as a walleye's appetite for a particular color changes quickly. Presentation will be quick since you are trying to imitate the jumpy baitfishes

that are a walleye's favorite meal. Quickly jigging your bait works well, and you'll have to experiment with depths to see where the fish are holding.

Perhaps even more important than what you are throwing is what you are throwing it with. You want to fish the break in depth where the fish are moving to, but you have to be able to cast out past that depth and bring your rig back to shallow. To do that effectively, you need gear capable of making long casts. Light action spinning rods seven feet in length are common, and many prefer a light line. Six pound test line is fine, but you can cast farther (and still fish effectively) with four pound line. If you go with the lighter test, remember that you'll need to "play" larger fish to make sure that they don't break the lighter line.





READER'S PHOTOS

IMAGES FROM AROUND OHIO

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 website, go to wildohio.com.



My brother Mike's first target shooting/gun holding session - back in 1980.

~ Chris Aman

ON THE GALLERY

Did you know there is a gallery of historic wildlife photos online? View and share today's and yesterday's fish and wildlife memories!

TO SEE MORE, VISIT WILDOHIO.COM



This praying mantis hung-out in my yard for a few days last September.

~ Dave Rubsam



I was inspired to carve this flying squirrel after I received my summer 2010 issue of *Wild Ohio* (flying squirrel on the cover).

~ Jack Sedlak



I'm a new bowhunter, and this great buck is the second deer I've ever killed thanks to a mentor introducing me to hunting!

~ Brian Davis



Andrew (pictured with his grandpa) killed this buck with a muzzleloader during youth season.

~ Bryan Postlethwait



These future pheasant hunters already want to tag along next time!

~ Curt Wagner



This mystery bone I found at Fallsville Wildlife Area was identified as part of the jaw bone of a grass carp.

~ Dennis Kibbey



We captured this bobcat on our trail camera.

~ Mae Whiteley



A red-tailed hawk in Summit County.

~ Joe Prekop



This is Tyler's first deer, shot on our family farm during youth season.

~ John Downs



Lincoln's youth season deer.

~ Roby Williams



THIS ISSUE IN HISTORY

SEPTEMBER 1936 • BEFORE THE BULLETIN

by Susie Vance
Editor, Ohio Division of Wildlife



The *Ohio Outdoorsman* is one of the earliest publications of Ohio's Fish and Game Agency. A review of the 16 pages delivered in September of 1936 (only the second issue of a new concept, a magazine printed by the fish and wildlife agency) reveals the timeliness and the timelessness of conservation issues in Ohio. This issue in history sold at \$.05 a copy included:

Letters to the Editor from several readers praised the previous issue. A letter from O. M. Deibler, Pennsylvania's Commissioner of Fisheries, commended the decision to exclude advertisements from the pages of *The Outdoorsman*. Letters also included a note from a Reading, Ohio sportsman who felt that the pages of a magazine could not be hunted or fished, and that the "literary bunk" that was printed was a waste of time spent reading and funds spent printing.

In what was believed to be an effort to solve future drought-associated problems, **Dam Those Streams** suggested that creating more dam structures could be a great water source for sportsmen and farmers, providing a new fishing opportunity as well as irrigation water sources during the dry months.

In 1936, the commission was **Raising Ringnecks** at Wellington and Urbana farms. A total of 30,000 birds were raised and released during the year, with \$1.53 as the reported cost per bird. Bird rearing regiments were under the strict direction of the Nash family at both locations. Tom Nash had been charged with the Urbana operations since 1920, and his son, E.R. Nash, ran the Wellington farm.

The Rescue Squad recounted the recent drought, and the game protectors and sportsmen's efforts to relocate fish from dry ponds and creek beds. Several photos sent in by conservation clubs document the conditions of the dry month of August.

A page **With the Game Protectors** reported that Warren County Game Protector Clifford Hines had worked with local officials to reduce stream pollution. He proposed that halting industrial and sewage wastes from being directly deposited into Turtle Creek would improve fish habitat and water quality. One game protector issued a report of the game he observed; however, the names and locations associated with the report were not printed to "prevent too great an influx of nimrods into this particular territory during the season opener."

Information about **What Conservation Clubs are Doing** included reports that the Shelby County Deer Hunter's Association (formed in 1858) received a fish-stocking grant from the U.S. Bureau of Fisheries for stocking fish in the county's lakes and streams. The Lorain County Fish and Game Association, Inc. released pheasants, raccoons, rabbits, bass, catfish, and crappie to local lands and waters. The Montgomery County Fish and Game Protective Club of

Dayton held their golden anniversary celebration to honor members that had dedicated the past 50 years to conservation. The Marion Gun Club celebrated the installation of two new shooting traps with a racoon-roast dinner. The Ohio Federation of Women's Clubs considered their potential contributions to the proposed resource districts across the state. The Greene County Fish and Game Association scheduled their annual picnic and shooting program, and the Chagrin Valley Fish and Game Protective Association of Chagrin Falls called for new members to take part in the sporting events and operations held on the 9,000 acres of club land.

Kenneth A. Reid, an expert on current conservation legislation regarding waterways, shared his support for several **Anti-Pollution Bills Before Congress**. Citing the "deplorable conditions of some rivers and streams," especially those near industrial hubs, the author called for support to increase regulations on directly disposing waste into streams. Reid readily admitted that conservationists do not know all there is to know about chemical pollution in streams, but "Unless we as a nation stop and consider the potential ramifications of our actions, the consequences may be dire."

The page dedicated to **Ohio's Dogs and Dog Men** shared information about local foxhunts, beagle clubs, and bird dog clubs. Early advertisement for the Fairfield County Bird Dog Club of Lancaster's annual dog show, held in conjunction with the Fairfield County Fair, hoped to top last year's numbers of more than 400 entries in the pointer and setter category alone.

WILD GAME GOURMET

RECIPES

as seen on WildOhio Television
hosted by Vicki Mountz, Ohio Division of Wildlife

GREEK TURKEY

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- 3-4 turkey breasts, depending on size

MARINADE

- 1 cup freshly squeezed lemon juice (3-4 lemons)
- 1 teaspoon freshly ground pepper
- 1 tablespoon Greek seasoning
- 1 tablespoon Turkish oregano
- ½ cup extra virgin olive oil
- 4-5 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 teaspoon salt



SAUCE

- 1 teaspoon chicken base (Minor's, McCormick, etc.)
- 1 15oz jar artichoke hearts, quartered
- 2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- ¼ cup sun dried tomatoes, sliced
- ½ cup water



GARNISH

- ¼ cup Greek olives, rough chopped
- ¼ cup Feta cheese

WHAT YOU'LL DO

Mix together the Greek seasoning, oregano, salt, pepper, garlic, olive oil, and lemon juice. Reserve half of the marinade for the sauce. Pour the remaining marinade into a zip-top, gallon-sized bag then add turkey breasts. Marinate for one hour.

Preheat oven to 350°F. Remove the turkey from the marinade, discarding the bag and its contents. In a large frying pan, heat the olive oil over medium-high heat. Add the turkey breasts and brown on both sides. Place the turkey breasts in a greased baking dish and set aside. Add the reserved marinade to the frying pan and bring to a boil. Add the chicken base and water, and cook until slightly thickened and reduced (about 10 minutes). Add the artichokes and sun-dried tomatoes and cook for five minutes. Pour the sauce over the turkey and bake uncovered for 25 to 30 minutes, or until the turkey is cooked through. Garnish with olives and feta, and serve over pasta or rice.



SPICY PANKO PERCH

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- 1 lb perch fillets
- 1 cup flour
- Salt
- Pepper
- Chili powder
- 2 eggs
- Hot sauce
- Panko bread crumbs
- Oil for frying

SPICY TARTAR SAUCE

- 1 tablespoon sweet pickle relish
- ½ teaspoon lemon juice
- Chili powder to taste
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- Hot sauce to taste



WHAT YOU'LL DO

Place the flour and dry seasonings (seasoned to taste) into a plastic zip-top bag. Clean and dry the perch fillets, then add them to the bag to coat in the flour mixture. In a separate bowl, scramble the eggs and add hot sauce to taste. Dip each fillet into the egg mixture, then dredge in panko. Place the breaded fillets in heated oil and fry 2-3 minutes (depending on size of fillets) on medium heat. Panko will turn golden in color; fish should be fork tender and flake. Mix tartar sauce ingredients and serve with perch.





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this magazine was printed in Greenfield, Ohio

MADE IN OHIO FOR OHIO



THIS IS YOUR **LAST FREE** ISSUE OF *WILD OHIO* MAGAZINE

We hope you enjoy the newly enhanced *Wild Ohio* magazine. If you would like to continue to receive your copy of *Wild Ohio*, please purchase your annual membership. Annual memberships include **six** issues of cover to cover, advertisement-free, fish and wildlife information. Memberships include magazines in the winter, spring, summer, and fall, as well as a kid's issue and the calendar issue.



ON LINE

Log onto the Wild Ohio Customer Center at wildohio.com to purchase a membership for

\$10.00

For readers with a **VALID** hunting or fishing license, Ohio Wetland Stamp or a Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp purchased through the Wild Ohio Customer Center,* the cost is

\$5.00

**Members must have a license or stamp that is valid at the time of purchase to receive this discounted rate.*

Make sure your mailing address is correct on your licenses and stamps in order to receive your magazine!

A standard *Wild Ohio* membership is only **\$10.00**

If you would like to receive your *Wild Ohio* magazine without missing an issue, please purchase your membership by April 13.

Memberships are valid 365 days from the date of purchase. The expiration date of your membership is printed with the address on your magazine, so you know when your membership will expire.



BECAUSE WILDLIFE MATTERS



BY MAIL

If you do not wish to purchase your membership online, mail-in forms are available.

The cost of **mail-in** memberships is
\$10.00
 (includes processing and handling fees)

Please contact 1-800-WILDLIFE to request a mail-in form.

**Members who purchase Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamps in person, not using the online customer center will not be eligible for this membership rate.*

Telephone **orders** are **not** available.