

# Wild Ohio

Summer 2007

M A G A Z I N E

Ohio Department of Natural Resources

**DIVISION OF WILDLIFE**





**EDITORIAL STAFF**

**Vicki Mountz**  
Executive Editor

**Melissa Hathaway**  
Editor

**Lisa Smith**  
Technical Editor

**Vicki Ervin**  
Associate Editor

**Chad Crouch**  
Designer

**Tim Daniel**  
Photographer

**OHIO DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Ted Strickland**  
Governor, State of Ohio

**Sean D. Logan**  
Director, Dept. of Natural Resources

**Anthony T. Trevena**  
Deputy Director, Dept. of Natural Resources

WILD OHIO (ISSN 1061-1541) is published four times a year (March, June, September, and December) by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife, 2045 Morse Road, Bldg. G, Columbus, OH 43229-6693.

**Subscriptions are free**

To subscribe, send requests to the address below. Periodicals postage paid at Columbus, Ohio. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to—

**ODNR Division of Wildlife**  
2045 Morse Road, Bldg. G  
Columbus OH 43229-6693

Total distribution: 130,000  
Total Paid/Requested Circulation: 78,000  
Total free distribution: 52,000

**1-800-WILDLIFE**  
for general information

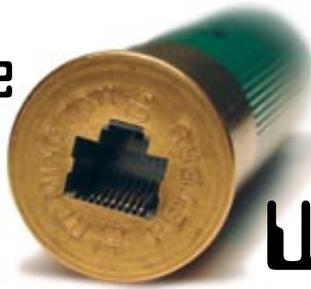
**1-888-HOOKFISH**  
for Lake Erie fishing report

**1-800-POACHER**  
to report poaching

**wildohio.com**  
division website

Total Copies Printed: 110,000 Unit Cost: 0.XXX Publication Date: XX/XX

**What's on the**



**Wildlife Web**

Sign up online for controlled hunts!  
Application period is June 1- July 31  
**visit [www.wildohio.com](http://www.wildohio.com)**

Sign-up for special hunting opportunities including deer hunts at various locations for adults, youth, and mobility impaired; early muzzleloader deer season permits; dove hunts; and adult and youth waterfowl hunts. Check the Division's Website for the most up-to-date list of controlled hunts.

Hunters may apply online June 1 through July 31 using Visa/Mastercard/Discover. If you prefer to submit an application via U.S. mail, you may download a hard copy of adult or youth controlled hunt applications from the Division's Website. The names of successful applicants will be posted on the Website in early September.

**Wild Ohio for Kids**  
ANNUALLY  
MAGAZINE



**Packed full of activities designed to teach and entertain children as well as adults.**

*Wild Ohio for Kids* is a free magazine and can be obtained by calling 1-800-WILDLIFE or by visiting one of our district offices. *Wild Ohio for Kids* is produced once a year and is not part of the *Wild Ohio Magazine* quarterly subscription and requires a yearly request. A valid mailing address is necessary to receive your free magazine.

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

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

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



## Create Your Own Little Piece of the Wild

National polls show that 40 percent of U.S. households do something to attract wildlife to their homes. This article features some simple ways to attract wildlife to your home and create your own nature haven.

6-9



### On the Cover: Bullfrog

The bullfrog, North America's largest frog, has a deep, resonant "jug-o'-rum" call that can be heard reverberating from Ohio ponds, marshes, and slow moving streams from late April through late summer. Photo by Tim Daniel.

## Features

### Nature Deficit Disorder

10-11

Ask your average 10-year-old today what they like to do and they're probably going to tell you they love to play video games, play on the computer, or watch TV.



### Flexing Some Mussel

16-17

For the first time in Ohio history, researchers are returning a species of freshwater mussel to the wild.

### The Tri-Valley Wildlife Area

18-19

From surface-mined land to valuable grassland wildlife habitat -- Ohio's version of the Great Plains.



## Departments

Wild Things	News From Around Ohio	4
Watchable Wildlife	Purple Martin	12
Wildlife Law Enforcement	Field Notes	14
Outdoor Skills	Let's Go Fishing!	15
Backyards For Wildlife	Q & A	20
For Wild Kids	Habitat Needs Help Too!	21
Wild Game Gourmet	Walleye and Venison	22
Reader's Photos		23

## News from around Ohio



### SPECIES OF CONCERN RECEIVE ACTION PLAN

Ohio has a new action plan for conserving wildlife species in order to prevent them from becoming threatened or endangered. The Ohio Wildlife Action Plan was approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) last spring. The action plan will also allow the Division to continue receiving grants under the State Wildlife Grant Program created in 2001. Since then, the USFWS has provided more than \$11 million in grants to Ohio for its conservation efforts. Ohio allocates the majority of its funding to wildlife diversity projects involving partnerships, research, and conservation. And, \$150,000 of the money is set aside each year for a competitive grant program. To learn more about Ohio's Action Plan, visit;

<http://www.teaming.com>



**TEAMING WITH WILDLIFE**  
*a natural investment*

### DIVISION ACQUIRES MEAD LANDS

The Division of Wildlife and ODNR Division of Forestry recently acquired Mead lands in Vinton, Ross, and Jackson counties. This land purchase provides public access to more than 20,000 acres. The Division of Wildlife acquired close to 5,000 acres in Ross and Jackson counties. The Division of Forestry obtained a conservation easement on more than 15,000 acres, which includes the Raccoon Ecological Management Area located in Vinton County. The National Wild Turkey Federation donated \$500,000 towards the purchase, and 15 different conservation clubs donated an additional \$7,000.



State officials held a news conference in Vinton County last December to announce the Mead lands purchase. *Pictured left to right:* State Representative Clyde Evans, NWTf Regional Director Walt Ingram, Rex Simms of NWTf Vinton County Sharpshooters, Division of Wildlife District Manager Jim Marshall, Dwayne Molihan of NWTf Vinton County Sharpshooters, Senator John Carey, and Diane Simms of NWTf Vinton County Sharpshooters.

### TRAPSHOOTING OPPORTUNITY

In a partnership between the Ohio State Trapshooting Association (OSTA), the Division of Wildlife, and the Cardinal Center Trapshooting Facility in Morrow County, the Cardinal Center is now open to the public for trapshooting practice on Saturdays through November 17, weather permitting. The hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There is no admission fee except for a minimal fee for clay targets.

The Cardinal Center is located at I-71 (exit 140) and State Route 61 near Marengo. For more information, call the Cardinal Center at (419) 253-0800. OSTA's annual tournament will be held at the facility June 18-24.



### A LETTER FROM A YOUNG HUNTER

I went out with my dad on the first day of the youth deer gun season (11/18/06). It wasn't my first time on a hunt. I have been out with my mom several times, but this was my first morning hunt. I got to experience the sounds of the woods waking up -- the first bird singing, the first turkey gobbling. We sat in a blind and waited patiently for the first deer to pass. The first through was a doe and two fawns. They didn't offer me a shot. So we sat a little longer and soon there was a lone deer. She was perfectly broadside and only 10 yards away. I noticed my dad's hands were shaking, but I was very steady. I took the shot. She only ran about 40 yards and down she went. It was the experience of a lifetime. I think everyone should get a chance to experience the thrill of a hunt.

Vanessa Byers, age 9  
Loudonville, Ohio

### A DUEL TO THEIR DEATH

Two young bowhunters found two bucks with locked antlers floating in a pond in Tuscarawas County last December. The deer apparently duelled to their death. The boys contacted County Wildlife Officer John Suchora who arrived on the scene to investigate. The boys were permitted to keep the antlers legally since the deer died of natural causes. The deer heads were mounted and displayed at the Holmes County Sports Show in Charm, Ohio.

# Wildlife CALENDAR

August 1 - 12

*See You at the Fair...*

State fairgoers who visit the Natural Resources Park will get a new treat at the Division of Wildlife display area. This year's star attraction is sure to be the new aviary where visitors will be able to walk along a boardwalk through the aviary for a bird's eye view of some of the state's common bird species



[www.wildohio.com/wildlife/calendar](http://www.wildohio.com/wildlife/calendar)

## HERRINGTON RECEIVES L.O.O.S. AWARD

Phyllis Herrington of Montpelier was recognized by the League of Ohio Sportsman as the "Hunter Educator of the Year." Herrington has been a hunter education instructor, primarily in Williams County, since 1999. Her inspiration was the late Hob McKarns, long-time outdoor writer for The Bryan Times, and a hunter education instructor himself. She is an active hunter and fisher, and is an excellent target shooter. Herrington also teaches for the National Rifle Association (NRA). She was recognized at their 99th Annual Convention and Awards Banquet last February in Fairborn. Herrington is a life long resident of Williams County.

Also recognized at the League of Ohio Sportsman's banquet were former U.S. Senator Mike DeWine, former Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Director Sam Speck, and Division of Wildlife Chief Steve Gray. The League of Ohio Sportsman is the Ohio affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation, one of the largest conservation organizations in the country.

## AMERICANS SUPPORT HUNTING AND FISHING

A nationwide survey, conducted by Responsive Management of Harrisonburg, Virginia, found that support for hunting and fishing has remained strong over the past decade. About three out of every four Americans approve legal hunting and more than nine out of 10 approve recreational fishing. As Americans become more knowledgeable about the role of hunting in wildlife management as well as how much money hunting and fishing contribute to fish and wildlife conservation efforts, coupled with a visible increase in deer in urban areas and the need to actively manage their populations, Responsive Management's research shows that the public continues to approve of hunting. For more information, visit [www.responsivemanagement.com](http://www.responsivemanagement.com).



## NEW APPRENTICE LICENSE GETS NEW HUNTERS AFIELD

Many young hunters took advantage of Ohio's new apprentice hunting license in its first year. Preliminary figures collected from the sale of Ohio hunting licenses indicate that more young people have joined the hunting ranks. Sales of youth hunting licenses are up 33 percent from last year's record total. Youth deer permit sales are up almost 60 percent, youth spring turkey permit sales are up 31 percent, and youth fur taker numbers rose 65 percent.

The apprentice license allows new hunters, both adults and youth, to sample the experience of hunting under the mentorship of a licensed adult, prior to completing a hunter education course. The apprentice hunting license was developed as part of a nationwide effort called "Families Afield," designed to remove barriers that prevent hunters from passing along the hunting heritage.



## GREEN-WINGED TEAL TO GRACE 2008 HABITAT STAMP

Artwork of a pair of green-winged teal by Jeffrey Klinefelter of Etna Green, Indiana won first place at this year's Ohio Wetlands Habitat Stamp design competition. This was Klinefelter's second win in an Ohio conservation stamp competition. His painting of a ring-neck duck won the competition in 2002. In 2005 and 2006 he won competitions in Oklahoma and Nevada, respectively.

Approximately 28,000 Ohio wetland stamps were purchased last year. Proceeds from stamp sales help fund vital wetland habitat restoration projects in Ohio. The competition was held last February at the annual Ducks Unlimited Convention in Eastlake.

# create your own little

**N**ational polls show that 40 percent of U.S. households do something to attract wildlife to their homes. From installing bird feeders, nest boxes, or garden ponds, to planting shrubs, trees, and flowers favored by specific wildlife species, rural and city dwellers alike are creating their own little pieces of the wild.

Wildlife around our homes provides valuable recreational and educational experiences, and adds something special to our lives. Added benefits include aesthetic appeal to your property, fragrant flowers, cooling shade, windbreaks, natural insulation, and reduced yard maintenance.

“Gardening for wildlife is an excellent way to combine two very popular hobbies,” said Donna Daniel, wildlife biologist for the Division of Wildlife and host of the “Backyards” segment of the Division of Wildlife’s *Wild Ohio* TV show. “It doesn’t take a lot of money or skill and in many cases can be quickly successful providing instant gratification! It is so rewarding to see wildlife benefit from your efforts.”

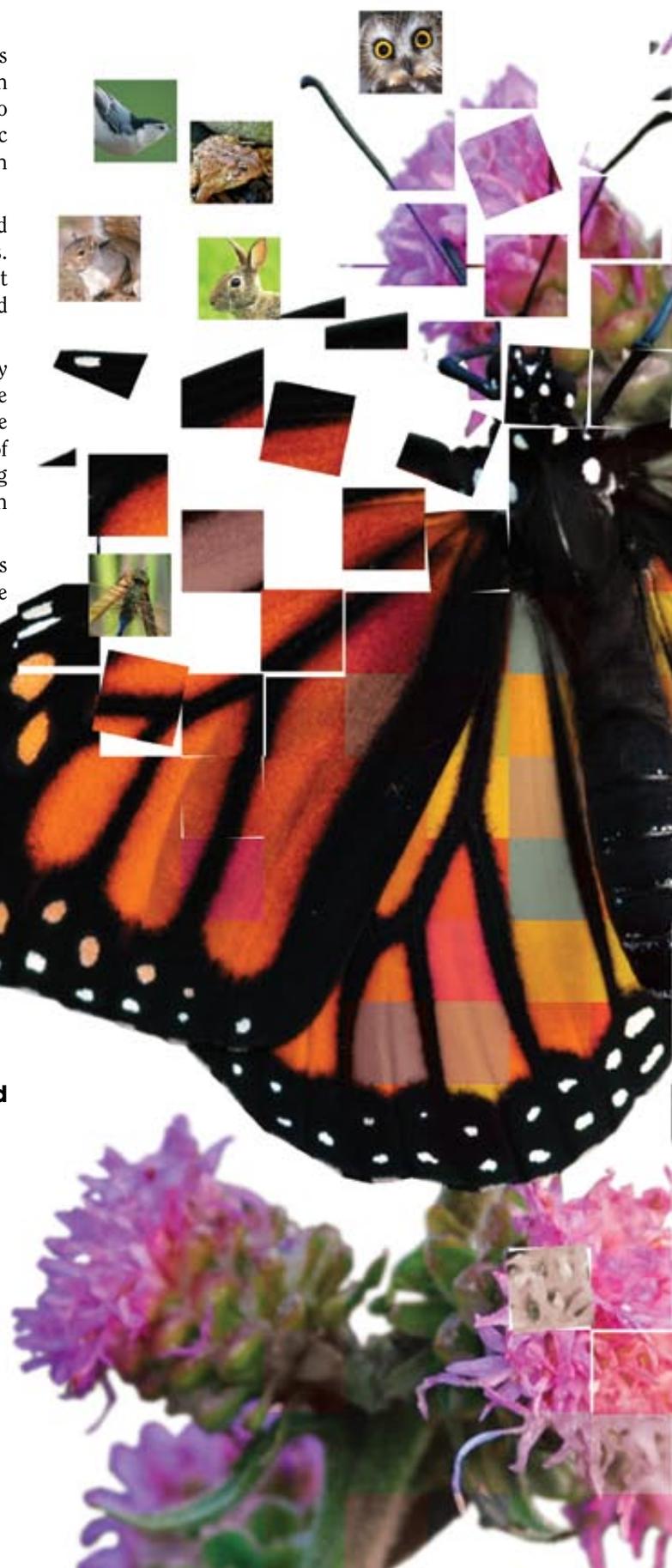
It is a simple concept: the four basic needs of any wildlife species are food, water, shelter, and space. Larger spaces with diverse vegetation can attract a greater variety of wildlife. But, a well-laid-out variety of food, cover, and water in even a small yard can entice a diversity of species to your home. Habitat features that provide for the year-round needs of wildlife are especially beneficial.

Your projects may be extensive and ongoing over several years, or they may include a few minor habitat improvements completed in a couple of months. Regardless, once you get started and reap the benefits of having wild critters as neighbors, you will want to continue to add and improve the wildlife habitat around your home.

## ATTRACTING WILDLIFE TO YOUR HOME

### Getting Started

- ▶ Determine what wildlife is likely to be in your area and which ones you want to host (birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, insects, or a variety of each).
- ▶ Learn about their habitat and food requirements.
- ▶ Take an inventory of the habitat currently available on your property. Does it provide food, water, and shelter for the animals you want to attract? What is missing?
- ▶ Sketch a map of your property that includes the existing man-made structures and landscape features. Then pencil in the plantings, structures, and other features you would like to add.





# piece of the wild

by Melissa Hathaway

## ATTRACTING WILDLIFE TO YOUR HOME

### Gardens and Border

Flower gardens provide a cornucopia of survival needs for a wide variety of species. Many people create gardens using plants that specifically attract hummingbirds or butterflies. Refer to a list of plants that are used by specific species, which can be found in wildlife gardening books or from the many available wildlife gardening sites on the Web, including the Division's Website at [www.wildohio.com](http://www.wildohio.com).

The more nectar/pollen producing plants you have, the more species you may attract. Additionally, seeds produced by garden flowers are eaten by many birds. Do you live in an apartment or condo and have no yard to work with? Container gardens can easily transform a balcony or patio into a site for wildlife.

Regardless of how or where you garden, consider leaving some or all of the plants standing well after frost. It is common practice for some folks to clean up their gardens in the fall, but leaving the dead vegetation and seed heads in place until spring will continue to provide food and shelter for a multitude of wildlife throughout the winter months.

Native plants are certainly a good choice to attract wildlife. But many cultivated varieties can be quite beneficial as well. Definitely avoid invasive species of plants (those that escape cultivation and spread unchecked.) Also, you will increase the numbers of insects attracted to your property if you avoid using pesticides. This in turn will bring in insect eating birds such as robins, wrens, blackbirds, and thrushes, as well as increase numbers of bees and butterflies.

If you have space, another option for creating food, cover, and nesting areas for wildlife -- with the added benefits of colorful blooms and reduced mowing -- is to plant areas with perennial wildflowers and grasses. During the summer, small birds like meadowlarks and bluebirds find hundreds of small insects there to feed their young. Tall, native prairie grasses such as switchgrass, big bluestem, and Indiangrass provide nest sites and winter cover for many grassland birds, rabbits, and deer.

## ATTRACTING WILDLIFE TO YOUR HOME

### Water Sources

Most wildlife species are very mobile and can usually find enough water in nearby ponds or streams, or from rain, morning dew, and even from the bodies of the prey they eat. However, providing standing water in birdbaths, small ponds, and sprinklers can be an effective way to attract wildlife, especially during the extreme of winter freeze or summer drought.

If you decide to provide water, remember to keep it fresh and unfrozen! Small water areas, filled with algae, can be toxic to some wildlife species as well as provide the ideal living site for mosquitoes.

**Nest Structures**

Creating artificial places for shelter and nesting is very worthwhile, as long as you take the time to install and maintain the boxes properly. Never just nail a bird house to a fence post or tree. Be sure to mount a nest box properly on a sturdy post with a predator guard to make it as safe as possible.

A nest box for birds, a bat box, or even a few logs in a cool place can provide a secure place for some wildlife species to raise their young, hide from predators, and escape from harsh winter weather. Nest boxes, as well as plans to build nest boxes specifically designed for a variety of wildlife species are available. Some of the structures available include those designed for bluebirds, wrens, tree swallows, purple martins, kestrels, wood ducks, squirrels, raccoons, owls, and bats. After installing a nest box, you can sit back and enjoy watching the nesting activities and the rearing of young. Like feeders, nest boxes are excellent education tools for the kids to learn about and appreciate wildlife.

**Bird Feeders**

A survey of *Wild Ohio* magazine readers showed that 68 percent feed wildlife at home. Feeding stations are as entertaining to humans as they are beneficial to wildlife. Bird feeders come in a wide variety of types and sizes (hopper, tube, platform, and suet feeders) specifically designed to hold feed to attract various bird species. Use a variety of feeder types to provide a smorgasbord of foods. Black-oil sunflower is the favored food of most Ohio birds. Use thistle for finches, peanuts and suet for woodpeckers, and millet for ground feeders such as mourning doves and juncos. When placing feeders, keep in mind that many birds favor trees and shrubs close by their food sources for perching, winter cover, and quick escape from predators.

Keeping feeders well stocked especially early and late in the day will help birds survive in harsh winter weather. And, be sure to clear feeders of ice and snow. It won't matter how much seed is in the feeder if the birds can't get to it. After a snowfall, sweep or shovel snow out from under your feeders so birds can get at food that is on the ground.



**Tress and Shrubs**

Besides offering cover for birds and mammals, many trees and shrubs are sources of food in the form of fruit, seeds, and nuts. Trees such as oak, walnut, hickory, hazelnut, or beech that provide hard, winter mast (nuts) attract large seed-eating birds, small mammals, and deer. Fruit and berry-producing shrubs attract a wide variety of birds, as well as squirrels, raccoons, deer, and many butterflies. A tangle of briars is the perfect escape cover for wildlife. Briar plants might include holly, blackberry, greenbrier, and other brambles.

Since many trees offer a food source for only a short period of time, choose a mix of trees and shrubs that will provide food throughout the four seasons of the year. For example, wild black cherry and mulberry in summer, crabapple and flowering dogwood in fall, and American holly and birch trees (for their buds) in winter. The greater the variety you provide, the more diverse wildlife and greater numbers you will attract.

The heavy cover of dense evergreens, such as spruce and cedar, offer nest sites, hiding areas from predators, and good winter cover. Some winter birds such as cardinals, mourning doves, and chipping sparrows feed on the seeds hidden in the cones of several varieties of conifers.

**Bonus Features**

If a tree gets struck by lightning, becomes diseased, or dies, don't cut it down. Leave the snag for wildlife. Snags with their dens and hollows are needed by many wildlife species for shelter, foraging sites, and nest cavities. Snags are favored by a variety of species such as woodpeckers, nuthatches, raptors, squirrels, and bats.

Brush piles, decaying logs, compost piles, rock piles, and stone fences are also valuable habitat for wildlife. They supply cover for chipmunks, rabbits, songbirds, salamanders, toads, snakes, and even hibernating butterflies.

“Leaf litter,” decaying leaves, and other plant debris provide shelter and nutrient-rich food for an amazing world of creatures. When raking leaves in the fall, leave some behind in a small area for wildlife. Leaf litter critters include earthworms, beetles, mites, centipedes, millipedes, sow bugs, pillbugs, spiders, bees, moths, and even frogs and toads. Many of these prey species then in turn are food for other larger animals.

**Additional Information**

For additional information on attracting wildlife to your property, call the Division of Wildlife at 1-800-WILDLIFE or visit the Division's Website at [www.wildohio.com](http://www.wildohio.com).

- Publication 396: Urban Landscape Management for Wildlife
- Publication 37: Attracting Birds in Ohio
- Publication 394: Planting Trees and Shrubs for Wildlife
- Publication 389: Artificial Nesting Structures for Wildlife
- Publication 419: Nest Box Plans (only at offices or by phone)

For information on plants to avoid:  
Ohio's Top 10 Invasive Plants  
[www.dnr.ohio.gov/dnap/invasive/default.htm](http://www.dnr.ohio.gov/dnap/invasive/default.htm)



# Do Today's Kids Suffer From

There is growing evidence and research that our physical, mental, and spiritual

By Mary Warren

On most any day I would rather be outside than inside. On days that I don't get outside, I feel out of sync. How did I get that way? Is there a direct relationship between my experiences as a child and my love of nature today? Richard Louv, author of "Last Child In The Woods" coined the phrase "nature deficit disorder" (NDD). What exactly is it? How does a parent know if their kids suffer from NDD, and what can they do to help eliminate it? Please read on for some possible answers to these questions.

Ask your average 10-year-old today what they like to do and they're probably going to tell you they love to play video games, play on the computer, watch movies, or watch TV. If it's not electric or fast moving it can't be fun -- right? You suggest they go outside. You may get a weird look followed by something like this, "There's nothing to do outside. And it's too hot (or too cold). And there are bugs out there!" Sound familiar? If we think about it, we soon realize that many of today's kids do not have much contact with our natural world.

I had the privilege of belonging to Camp Fire, a national youth organization, when I was growing up. As the name implies, we did a lot of camping and had many other outdoor learning experiences. I was given many opportunities to explore our natural world and was motivated by professionals who made it fun. I had so much fun, I stayed in the organization for 10 years and later came back to work for them! My love of the natural world eventually led me to a career in natural resources as an interpretive naturalist.

Some of the barriers between children and nature might include fear, not knowing where to go, outdoor activities are discouraged by local zoning laws, no time, and no interest or knowledge of

nature. Let's take a closer look at these. There are many options of where to go to find nature, but start with your own backyard! You don't have to go to Yellowstone National Park to experience the wonder of the great outdoors. Many local park districts, wildlife areas, and conservation organizations offer a variety of programs on nature. There are publications that list many opportunities for enjoying the outdoors in a variety of ways. Pick an activity that sounds fun to you. Whether it's fishing, hunting, bird watching, nature photography, or just a walk in the woods -- find what interests you and your kids.

Fear from a parent that their child is in danger outside is probably the biggest obstacle to be overcome. Yes, there is a fear of strangers with kids being told not to go beyond their yard, but there is also a fear of nature itself. The media often feeds on this fear when they tell us about such things as the disease carrying mosquitoes that are just waiting to bite us! It is just human nature to fear the unknown. But the more we allow ourselves to be outside, the more comfortable we will become in being outside.

Many of our newer neighborhoods today are too manicured and sterile. There is no creek, woods, or even a patch of weeds to explore. Signs prohibiting building forts, or splashing in a pond, fishing, climbing trees, or simply exploring are often seen more frequently these days.

As for time, we make time for the things that are important to us. So the key is to make being outdoors more of a priority in our lives. But lack of time is a legitimate obstacle. We sometimes have our kids lives so structured that we barely have time to eat and sleep! We need to allow time for unstructured outdoor play, imagination, dreaming, exploring, and discovering our natural world. Another factor is that we are more often concerned about the loss of nature than its wonder.

Richard Louv writes,

**"A kid today can likely tell you about the Amazon rainforest, but not about the last time he or she explored the woods in solitude or lay in a field listening to the wind and watching the clouds move."**

A friend of mine noted how kids today learn all the names of the latest craze, Pokemon or Digimon for example. Instead why not encourage our kids to learn the names of plants and animals? Things that will always be around to enjoy and their names won't change next week. I thought that was an excellent observation. If we make learning about nature fun, when it comes time for our kids to decide whether to stay inside and watch TV or go outside for a hike, they will CHOOSE to be outside. It is a choice and our job as parents, grandparents, naturalists, and conservationists is to provide some of those outside choices!

The benefits and rewards of being outdoors far outweigh any barriers to being outdoors. There is growing evidence and research that our physical, mental, and spiritual health is directly associated with nature. Those people who are outdoors frequently are usually happier than those who never go outside. Parents of kids who suffer from Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Syndrome note that nature can offer a calming effect.

If I am having a stressful day, I know that I can go outside and just listening to the birds can make me feel better. Most of

# Nature Deficit Disorder?

health is directly associated with nature.

us who love the outdoors, can relate some “epiphany” experience with nature as a child. For me it was my time spent with Camp Fire. In particular I remember seeing a baby bluebird in a nesting box for the first time. It made a lasting impression on me.

You may be thinking, well I don't have kids or grandkids so why should I care about nature deficit disorder? I say to you, what happens when we take away opportunities to be outdoors? Who will be the stewards of the land? It is everyone's job to reconnect kids to nature. That knowledge that we are helping future generations to enjoy the wonders of nature is what gives us hope. Imagine if each school had nature appreciation as a required course! As we become more and more “tuned in” to the high tech world, let us not tune ourselves out to nature in the process. I must close now because I'm taking my grandkids camping and hopefully creating some memories that will spark something inside of them and last a lifetime. I'll leave you with one final quote to ponder. From John Muir: “But in every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks.”

For more information, visit the Children and Nature Website at:

[www.cnaturenet.org](http://www.cnaturenet.org)

“But in every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks.”

*John Muir*



## **PURPLE MARTINS** **AT A GLANCE**

### **MATING**

Monogamous

### **NUMBER OF EGGS**

2 to 7

### **INCUBATION PERIOD**

15 days

### **YOUNG FLEDGE**

26 to 31 days

### **ADULT WEIGHT**

1.9 ounces

### **NUMBER OF BROODS**

1 to 3

### **ADULT LENGTH**

7 1/2 inches

### **DIET**

Insects

Photo by: © Tom Vezo / VIREO

# **WATCHABLE WILDLIFE** • *Purple*

by Jamey Graham

Over one million North Americans are purple martin hobbyists who put up man-made purple martin houses on their property, according to the Purple Martin Conservation Association. Purple martin enthusiasts get many hours of entertainment right in their own backyards by watching the aerial acrobatics of these intriguing birds.

Martins are aerial insectivores. They eat only flying insects and their acrobatic abilities allow them to catch these insects in flight. Martins have a very diverse diet including dragonflies, damselflies, flies, midges, mayflies, stinkbugs, Japanese beetles, butterflies, moths, grasshoppers, cicadas, flying ants, and the list goes on. Contrary to popular belief, purple martins do not actually consume high quantities of mosquitoes. Studies have proven that martins feed high in the sky whereas mosquitoes are low-flying insects that stay in low, damp places. Martins concentrate on larger flying insects; mosquito populations are affected by the martins' insect-eating relatives, such as barn and tree swallows which are common in Ohio.

Since martins feed on flying insects, they are extremely vulnerable to starvation in cold temperatures or rainy weather.

It only takes two or three days for a martin to starve if poor weather persists. This is where the purple martins' "friends" come in. Thanks to volunteers such as those of the Akron-based Portage Lakes Purple Martin Association (PLPMA), purple martins have a greater chance of getting through the tough times. They know just where to place purple martin houses for best success, how to reduce competition from other birds, and how to keep these birds' bellies nice and full.

According to Larry Hunter, president of the PLPMA, location of a martin house is key. "A wide open area at least 30 feet from human housing and no trees taller than the martin housing within 40 to 60 feet is ideal," explained Hunter. Tall bushes, shrubs, and vines will prevent the martins from taking up residence. "Once you establish the ground, erect white martin houses in April when most martins will be making their way back to Ohio. Most martins that populate a site in April are after-second-year birds (birds that nested last year) and they will start new colonies. White houses are best because they reflect the heat of the sun and are also much easier to spot from the air," noted Hunter.



Larry Hunter, president of the Portage Lakes Purple Martin Association, talks to a group about attracting purple martins.



## Martins

To deter other birds from taking over martin houses, Hunter suggests cleaning out nests that do not belong to martins. "Repeatedly lowering the houses and tearing out invasive nests is a good way to keep sparrows, starlings, and other birds out," said Hunter. There are many other tips and techniques; however, including simply adjusting the dimensions of the entrance holes.

Making sure martins have plenty of food is another responsibility of the PLPMA. Hunter and his crew of members gather to feed scrambled eggs to the purple martins when the weather is downright nasty. Prolonged bad weather such as rain, snow, cool temperatures, or drought can be especially hard on the winged critters. "Insects are few and far between when the weather is uncooperative, so we help Mother Nature out a little, by flinging bits from dozens of scrambled eggs into the air. The martins grab the eggs just as though the eggs are insects flying around," said Hunter.

Purple martins are the largest members of the swallow family in North America, measuring 7 ½ inches long and weighing 1.9 ounces (55 grams). Purple martins spend the non-breeding

season in Brazil then migrate to North America to nest. Here in Ohio, these birds are totally dependent on human-supplied housing.

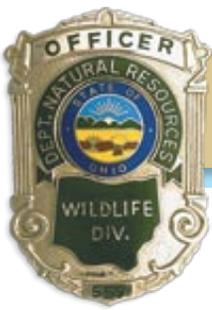
The pair bond of the purple martin is monogamous meaning these birds only bond with one mate during a whole breeding season. The pair works together equally to build a nest out of mud, grass, and twigs inside a man-made martin house. Once the young hatch, both parents feed the young continuously until they fledge. But the parents aren't out of the woods just yet. The young fledglings continue to be dependent on the parents for food and training for another week or two. Fledglings may return to their home at night to sleep during this period.

For more information on attracting these fascinating birds to your property, contact  
**The Purple Martin Conservation Association**

(814) 833- 7656

[www.purplemartin.org](http://www.purplemartin.org)

For more information on joining the Portage Lakes Purple Martin Association, call Larry Hunter at (330) 644-1540.



## WILDLIFE LAW ENFORCEMENT

# Field Notes

### TIP CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF STOPPING POACHERS

Turn In a Poacher (TIP) is celebrating its silver anniversary. No longer are Ohio's sportsmen and women finishing in second place to poachers. Since the creation of the TIP program 25 years ago, Ohio citizens have been helping TIP fight wildlife crime.

The program encourages wildlife enthusiasts to keep watch of Ohio's wildlife. "The callers really want to protect the resource," said Jerry Scott, the first coordinator for Ohio's TIP program. "TIP has been a successful tool in reporting illegal activity and also a great PR tool. The program's goal is to reduce the amount of wildlife violations through communication with the public."

TIP has been achieving that goal. Over the last calendar year the TIP hotline has seen a 22 percent increase in call volume.

The difficult part of enforcing wildlife crime is that it is a victimless crime. It is up to the citizens of Ohio to be the voice for wildlife.

"TIP is a great example of law enforcement and the private sector working together," said Ron Ollis, law enforcement program administrator for the Division of Wildlife. "TIP, Inc. provides the funding and administration of the reward fund, while the Division of Wildlife provides the manpower and equipment to disseminate the information to the field officers."

The names of reward recipients are held and only known by TIP, Inc. and are not subject to public records request. This preserves the safety of the caller and the integrity of the program, according to Ollis. Since 1982, TIP has paid rewards in excess of \$109,000 to approximately 850 individuals netting nearly 2,000 violators.

In return, the Division has recouped nearly \$541,000 in fines and restitution.

"That's roughly five dollars for every dollar spent, and these numbers only include those that request rewards. Thousands of people call to provide information and never want to see a cent," Ollis added.

Fish and wildlife are valuable biologically, economically, and socially to the citizens of Ohio. The traditional use of the wildlife resource -- hunting, fishing, and trapping, along with many new uses such as wildlife viewing and photography -- pump millions of dollars into Ohio's economy. The illegal taking and removal of Ohio's threatened and endangered species along with unreported harvest of species like deer and turkey make the job for wildlife biologists increasingly difficult. Poaching threatens all these facets of our wildlife resource.

Some poachers create a business out of

overharvest of sport fish, removal of protected species into the "pet trade," or the illegal harvest of wild ginseng, poachers are greedy and have no concern about the impact to the resource.

In its 25-year history, calls to TIP have resulted in the apprehension of thousands of poachers and the shutdown of many major poaching rings. Cases such as "Clanbake," "Redbud," "Overbag," and most recently "Deal'n Deer," and the Marion County deer case are a testament to the importance of TIP and its role in deterring wildlife crime.

Citizens can help stop poaching by reporting violations or suspected illegal wildlife activity by calling toll-free 1-800-POACHER (1-800-762-2437). TIPs can also be sent via e-mail by linking to [www.wildohio.com/Contact/TIPform.htm](http://www.wildohio.com/Contact/TIPform.htm). Helpful information includes the county, specific location, date, time the violation occurred, description of the

violation, method used, number of participants, license plate numbers if possible, and your name and telephone number if willing. However, the caller's identity may remain completely anonymous. The more information that is provided, the better chance wildlife officers have at catching would be poachers.

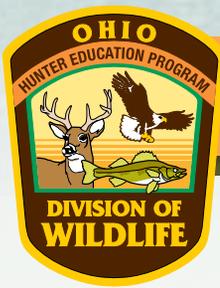
If you are interested in helping to protect our state's wildlife resource for future generations, TIP needs your help. Donations to TIP are tax deductible and are used to fund rewards and educational programming.

Poachers are stealing from you. Help TIP stop them! Donations should be sent, payable to TIP, Inc., to 2045 Morse Rd., Bldg. G, Columbus, OH 43229-6693.



Wildlife Officers Bill Runnels and Dirk Cochran display evidence seized in a recent Marion County deer case targeting a suspected poaching ring.

their illegal activities. Others are only in it to give themselves an edge over legitimate sportsmen. Whether the activity involves trophy deer racks or venison, sale and



## OUTDOOR SKILLS

# Let's Go Fishing

 by Marc Sommer

The first time I took my twins fishing at a local metro park, I spent a lot of time baiting and unhooking, baiting and unhooking. The day was perfect -- the kids were catching fish, the weather was nice, and although my one son kept eating the bait (hot dogs) we were together. Fishing with kids can be simple and enjoyable as long as you follow a few fishing fundamentals that will set them up for success.

"Success" starts with a little thing called bait. It can be as simple as nightcrawlers, crickets, red worms, or grasshoppers. Kids love catching these critters and there is no finer bait than what they find themselves. Grasshoppers are easiest to catch in the early morning before the dew has dried on their wings. Nightcrawlers are best caught in the evening, especially after a spring rain. A compost pile is a good way for kids to have a renewable source of redworms. The cost is minimal and the kids enjoy the adventure.

Fishing equipment doesn't have to be expensive and it should always be easy to use. Equipment can be as simple as a cane pole or the spincast rods and reels that are decorated with kids' favorite cartoon characters. Let them practice in the yard so that when fishing day arrives there is no frustration for them or you. In addition, equipment should include a bobber so the kids can see when a fish is taking their bait, six- to eight-pound test line, a small hook, and a small split shot. Size #6 hooks work well. The golden rule with hooks is that you can catch big fish on little hooks, but you can't catch little fish on big hooks.

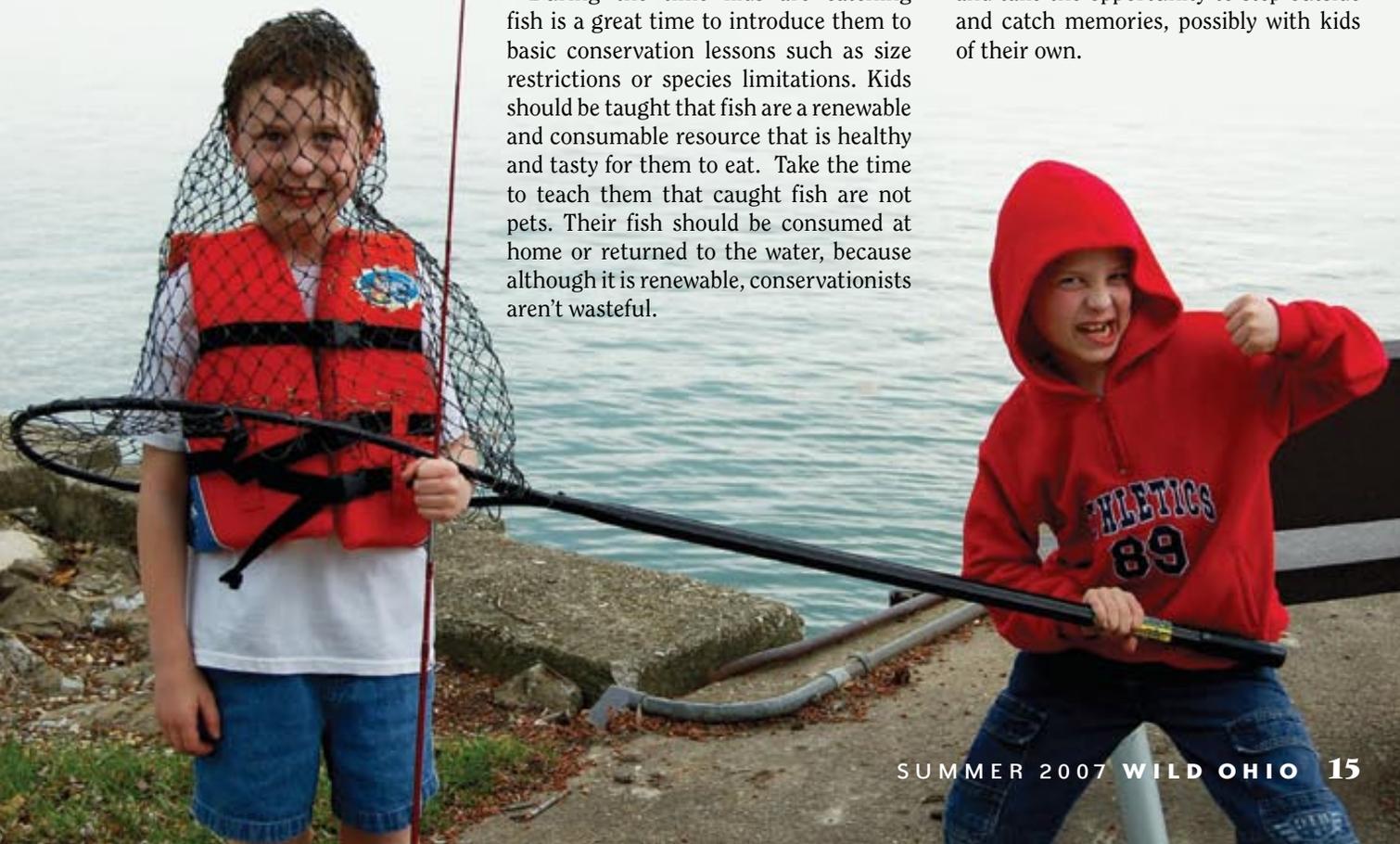
Instant gratification excites kids. When selecting a place to take a youngster, find a pond or lake that you know is full of easy-to-catch fish such as bluegill. Local metro park or farm ponds are great places to start. Catching a fish quickly equals success to the child and gives them a level of excitement that moves them to cast again.

During the time kids are catching fish is a great time to introduce them to basic conservation lessons such as size restrictions or species limitations. Kids should be taught that fish are a renewable and consumable resource that is healthy and tasty for them to eat. Take the time to teach them that caught fish are not pets. Their fish should be consumed at home or returned to the water, because although it is renewable, conservationists aren't wasteful.

Constant action means constant attention to fishing, so if they start looking bored after 10 or 15 minutes, take the opportunity to go exploring. Look for frogs and bugs or some of the many birds that can be seen on and around the water. Downtime can turn into learning time for you and your kids. It also serves as a way for them to grow a lasting connection with the outdoors.

The last thing to remember is that this is a time for you and your kids to connect with each other. It is a way for them to get away from the daily grind that they are so used to and see that there is a world outdoors. Although they may not see it on the first or second outing, there will eventually become a time that they will understand that it was those outings with parents, grandparents, and peers that helped improve their quality of life.

Long after I am gone, I know that the skills and appreciation I passed on to my kids will be remembered. The kids will be able to reflect on those early outings and take the opportunity to step outside and catch memories, possibly with kids of their own.



# Flexing some mussel to save a species

by Melissa Hathaway

For the first time in Ohio history, researchers are returning a species of freshwater mussel to waters where it once flourished in order to save the species from extinction. Astoundingly, these Northern riffleshell mussels are being created in a laboratory.

After years of propagation efforts, juvenile riffleshell mussels, hitching a ride on a group of small fish, were released into the Big Darby Creek at the Batelle-Darby Metro Park in June 2006. Another release is scheduled for this summer.

The state and federally endangered Northern riffleshell mussel once resided in several rivers throughout Ohio, but exists today in only two Ohio streams -- Big Darby Creek in Franklin County and Fish Creek in Williams County. Habitat loss and numerous other factors have all but extirpated the mollusk from the state.

Ohio has one of the few populations of Northern riffleshell mussels left in the world so researchers are trying to boost that population by artificially growing them at a research facility and putting them back into the wild population.

Mussels for the project were reared, using cutting edge technology, at the

Columbus Zoo and Aquarium's Freshwater Mussel Research and Conservation Facility. The facility was established in 2002 to conduct research on freshwater mussels with the aim of propagating rare mussel species and releasing them back to their historic ranges.

Dr. Tom Watters is the director of the Freshwater Mussel Conservation and Research Facility and director and curator of Mollusks at the Museum of Biological Diversity at The Ohio State University (OSU). Mussels are long-lived, delicate creatures with the need for stability in their environment. When instability occurs, such as a pollution event, mussels do not have the ability to leave the scene to seek refuge in safer waters, explained Watters.

"Of Ohio's 80-some species of mussels, two-thirds of them are either extinct, extirpated, endangered, or are in such bad shape that we are losing them," Watters said. "In many of these populations, the only way they are going to survive is for humans to step in and propagate them for reintroduction because most of them are so far gone they are not going to be able to recover on their own. While small and seemingly insignificant, mussels play a vital role in filtering water systems and could hold cures for diseases, making any effort to boost the mussel population essential."

The release of Northern riffleshells into the Big Darby Creek was the result of many years of work and partnership efforts from a number of agencies including the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, Division of Wildlife, The Ohio State University, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Franklin County Metro Parks, and Army Corps of Engineers.

"This was a unique situation," said John Navarro, fisheries research administrator with the Division of Wildlife. Dr. Watters needed a place to house his facility, the zoo donated the property, and the Division of Wildlife contributed funding to establish the lab. Those partnerships were important in getting the project off the ground. Then as the project progressed, other partners came into play, such as the Franklin County Metro Parks that provided the location for the reintroduction.

## FLEXING SOME MUSSEL

### A Bizarre Life Cycle

Freshwater mussels may seem like boring creatures, when in actuality, they have some pretty fascinating habits. Mussels do not move around much so they use a host fish to disperse their young, explains Watters. These young mussels, called *glochidia*, are parasites to a host species, usually a fish. The glochidia attach themselves to the fins or gills of the host fish where they ride around for a period of time (days, weeks, or even months). Once partially grown, they drop from the fish and embed themselves in the river bottom to become adults.

But how do the young get to a host fish in the first place? "Every mussel species has a strategy for getting their young on a host, rather than just broadcasting the young and hoping for the best," Watters said.

Female mussels have some amazing ways of luring host fish. Many mussels will imitate a species that a fish preys upon. When the host fish such as a bass or walleye strikes at it, the mussel spews the glochidia into the face of the fish -- the fish is "parasitized." Some mussels package up their glochidia into sacs that look like fish fry, fish eggs, insect larvae, or other food for the host. The host winds up with a mouth full of parasites. The young mussels are taken through the gills of the fish where they attach themselves. In the case of the female Northern riffleshell, when a host fish comes to investigate, the mussel clamps down on the head of the host fish and releases the glochidia.



## FLEXING SOME MUSSEL

### Finding the Right Host

The facility is working with 60 different species of mussels, most of which are native to Ohio, and currently houses about 1,000 mussels. Part of the research involves host identification -- trying to find out what fish are being used by the different species of mussels.

"What we are finding is that most mussels are host specific and can't use just any fish that comes along. Some are using only one species of fish as a host and some are even using fish that are as rare or more rare than they are," he said. "Once you do that, you can propagate them by loading up that host with the mussel's larvae."



The researchers use a water-filled syringe to flush the glochidia from the impregnated female mussels. The glochidia are then placed in holding areas that contain fish that are known hosts for the mussels. Once parasitized the host fish are placed in individual aquariums. If the fish is a suitable host, eventually transformed juveniles will drop from the fish.

Juvenile Northern riffleshell mussels reared at the mussel research facility were placed on sculpins and darters, known host fish for the Northern riffleshell. OSU's role with the Northern riffleshell mussel project is to raise several species to act as host fish.

"This project embodies everything you look for in a conservation project -- dealing with local species and local issues, and has a broad partnership and constituent base," said Doug Warmolts, assistant director of Living



Freshwater mussels created in a lab were reintroduced into the wild for the first time in Ohio's history.

Collections, at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium. "Thanks to the efforts of those involved with the research center, these endangered mussels have been successfully cultured and released to the wild for the first time in the state's history."

Freshwater mussels are mollusks that belong to the same group of animals that include clams, oysters, scallops, snails, slugs, squid, and octopus. Over 300 species recently lived in North America (plus 200 fossil species), more than on any other continent. Ohio was one of the places most richly populated.

Unfortunately, freshwater mussels are one of the most threatened groups of animals on the continent. It is estimated that 70 percent of North America's freshwater mussels are extinct, endangered, or in need of special protection. Many of their problems stem from how they live and changes that have occurred to their habitat during the past 200 years.

Freshwater mussels are valuable to our aquatic ecosystems. They filter water and provide food for other species. They also respond to changes in water quality. Gradual mussel die-offs or sudden mussel kills are reliable indicators of water pollution problems and other environmental health concerns. Stable, diverse mussel populations generally indicate clean water and a healthy aquatic environment.

For more information on the **Freshwater Mussel Conservation and Research Facility**, visit [www.biosci.ohio-state.edu/~molluscs/OSUM2/columbus\\_zoo.htm](http://www.biosci.ohio-state.edu/~molluscs/OSUM2/columbus_zoo.htm)

Looking out over the Tri-Valley Wildlife Area (TVWA) in Muskingum County, visitors might think they are on the Great Plains of the western United States. Butterflies flit about the grasses and wildflowers, a hawk soars overhead, and the call of the Northern bobwhite quail can be heard in the distance.

This 16,200 acres of reclaimed surface-mined land provides important grassland habitat for wildlife and recreational activities for the public in the form of hunting, fishing, and wildlife observation. The property, formerly known as Muskingum Mines, also has extensive forested acreage.

The southern portion of the area, near the Muskingum River, consists of high quality wooded habitat that supports good populations of white-tailed deer, wild turkeys, squirrel, and ruffed grouse. The northern section is reclaimed grassland habitat and is the most visited because of the wide variety of bird species it attracts. TVWA is a true wildlife success story, and

one of the best grassland bird habitats in the state.

Much of eastern Ohio consists of Eastern deciduous forest except for tracts of land that were surface mined such as TVWA. Beginning in the 1940s, the landscape was drastically altered when soil was removed from the land's surface with very large dirt moving equipment to reach coal seams, usually 30 to 40 feet below the surface. In 1972 federal legislation required these lands to be "reclaimed," or replanted.

Upon reclamation, native plants had difficulty growing in the acidic soil. However, nonnative grasses and shrubs fared better, resulting in grasslands. Despite the presence of nonnative plant species, bird species have adapted well.

"No one predicted that the revision of surface mine laws would create replacement habitat that would benefit declining bird populations," said Jim McCormac, avian education specialist for the Ohio Division of Wildlife. "When populations of grassland birds began

to increase on reclaimed strip-mined lands in southeast Ohio, it took Division biologists by surprise. About 250,000 acres in Ohio's Appalachian region that have been reclaimed from surface mining are now vital habitat for preserving species that depend on grassland and successional habitats."

Aside from the environmental effect, the economic impact of the birds is starting to show in the number of tourists coming to observe the birds, McCormac added.

The Division of Wildlife acquired TVWA in 1997 through a joint partnership venture between the Division and the Conservation Fund, a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing land and water conservation through various partnership projects. The Division's purchasing funds come from the sale of hunting licenses and the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration program.

The \$3,857,500 purchase, is the largest such single land acquisition ever made by the Division of Wildlife. Tri-Valley is

by Melissa Hathaway

# Tri Valley Wildlife Area

*a grassland oasis for wildlife*



the second largest wildlife area in the state; the largest being the 19,000-acre Woodbury Wildlife Area located in neighboring Coshocton County. TVWA derives its name from the convergence of the Muskingum River with Wills Creek and Wakatomika Creek, and the presence of the Tri-Valley Local School District.

“It’s a living experiment and the jury is still out as to how long it takes for an area to bounce back after being reclaimed. Tri-Valley was reclaimed about 20 years ago and has already become a boon for grassland birds,” McCormac said.

The best time for bird watching at TVWA is the summer months with peak breeding activity occurring in mid-June. One of the star attractions on the area is the Henslow’s sparrow, one of the most rapidly decreasing sparrows in the eastern U.S. Large numbers of this small secretive bird, as well as grasshopper sparrows, nest and are easily found on the area. Another favorite nesting species at TVWA is the blue grosbeak that winters in Central America, but has adopted these grasslands with a vengeance during the breeding season.

Another shining jewel in the avian world at TVWA is the Northern bobwhite quail, according to Wildlife Area Manager Mike Zaleski.

The severe cold, snowy winters of 1977 and 1978 were responsible for the crash of the bobwhite population across much of the county. The Division of Wildlife released about 260 bobwhite quail on the area in 2005 and 2006, and planted food

plots of native plant species preferred by quail. Now natural reproduction is occurring and the nostalgic whistle of the bobwhite can be heard across the grasslands of TVWA.

Zaleski adds, “It gives me a sense of pride that we have been able to successfully bring back an icon from our past. In my years with the Division of Wildlife one of the most frequently asked questions has been, ‘What are you going to do about the quail?’ Now I can tell these folks just what the Division is doing. It’s neat to be out on the area in the spring, usually May and June, and hear the call of the male bobwhite. I never had the chance to experience quail when I was growing up. Now I can see why so many people love to hear and see them, and are so sentimental about them. They are just a neat, neat bird, and I am fortunate to have the opportunity to help in their restoration.”

Other grassland species present include the savannah, field, and song sparrows, sedge wrens, white-eyed vireo, prairie warbler, common yellowthroat, yellow-breasted chat, indigo bunting, dickcissel, Eastern meadowlark, orchard oriole, Eastern kingbird, Northern harrier, and short-eared owl. Besides the avian species at TVWA, area visitors will see many butterflies. The nectar-producing plants found all across the area attract hundreds of thousands of butterflies. Species include monarchs, clouded sulphurs, black swallowtails, and meadow fritillaries.

A visit to TVWA in the dead of winter (January and February) when the winter raptors return should not be dismissed. Hawks and owls descend upon the area in the winter months, largely because of the large population of meadow voles. Meadow voles are our version of the lemming, having cyclical populations with peaks and lows, according to McCormac. In peak years these hardy little animals are prey for raptors on the area.

Raptors often seen in the winter at TVWA include short-eared owls, Northern harriers, rough-legged hawks, red-tailed hawks, and American kestrels, along with the occasional bald eagle or peregrine falcon.

## **TRI VALLEY** **AT A GLANCE**

### **SIZE**

16,200 acres of reclaimed surface-mined grasslands and forested acreage; second largest wildlife area in the state.

### **HUNTING**

White-tailed deer, wild turkeys, squirrel, and ruffed grouse

### **FISHING**

Largemouth bass, bluegill, and channel catfish can be caught in some of the area ponds. The Muskingum River can also be accessed in some areas of Tri-Valley.

### **WILDLIFE VIEWING**

Reclaimed grasslands in the northern section make it one of the best locales in Ohio for observing a variety of grassland birds. Good viewing sites are along Black Snake Road, Madison Hall Road, and Stone Church Road.

### **AREA HEADQUARTERS**

5960 Memory Lane  
Zanesville, OH 43701  
telephone: (740) 454-8296

### **DRIVING DIRECTIONS**

From I -70 at Zanesville, take SR 666, 7 miles north of Zanesville to Memory Road (area map available at area headquarters)

From I-70 east of Zanesville, take Route 93 north to Adamsville, turn left and go west on Mollie’s Rock Road into the wildlife area.



The Division of Wildlife hosted a birding tour for the media and birding enthusiasts at Tri-Valley.



Ohio’s reclaimed surface-mined lands provide habitat for many grassland birds.

# Backyards for Wildlife

by Donna Daniel

# Q & A



**Q:** This spider (and others like it) live in my front yard. What kind are they and what is the seam in the web used for?

Cheryl Bergdorf, Kidron, OH

**A:** This spider is known as the yellow garden spider. They are typically found in gardens, tall weeds, and sunny areas, and are important predators of flying insects. In late summer, the female deposits 500 to 1,000 eggs inside a round egg case up to one inch wide. She then dies. The eggs hatch in fall, but the spiderlings stay inside the sac through winter. They emerge in spring, growing to the size we notice by summer. The white, zigzag stripe down the center of the web is called the *stabilimentum*, but the exact function of it is unknown. When disturbed, this spider will drop to the ground and hide.



**Q:** We've found several of these spiders in our garage. Their bright yellow, black and orange coloring is beautiful! What are they?

Paul Schadek, Ontario, OH

**A:** This fairly common and harmless spider is the marbled orbweaver. Like most spiders, they are noticed mostly in late summer or autumn when the adults are large. Earlier in the year, small immatures are paler and not as conspicuous in much smaller webs. The spider in your photo is likely an adult female. This species has several color forms.



## Spider Bites ARE SPIDERS POISONOUS?

Most spider bites are very toxic to their prey – other insects. However, spider venom generally poses very little problem to humans because of our large size and body composition. The exceptions include the very young or aged, or those with compromised immune systems. Persons that are otherwise very sensitive to bee or wasp stings may also be affected by a spider bite.

## Dangerous Duo

THE BLACK WIDOW AND THE BROWN RECLUSE

Two groups of spiders (four species total) do pose a potential health hazard to humans. As the name implies, the recluse spiders--brown and Mediterranean--are relatively shy. Both the Northern and Southern black widow spiders are most associated with abandoned buildings. The pain felt from the bites of these spiders, while insignificant at first, may become quite severe after a few hours. Luckily, none of these spiders are common in Ohio and so are rarely encountered by people.

## Ohio's Spider Survey

- ☿ Spiders are an important part of healthy ecosystems.
- ☿ In Ohio, over 520 different kinds of spiders have been found, but there are likely many more.
- ☿ Dr. Richard Bradley, The Ohio State University, is conducting a study to enhance our understanding of spiders in Ohio.
- ☿ Donate a spider today! Volunteers are needed to contribute specimens.
- ☿ To learn more, logon to ▼

[www.marion.ohio-state.edu/spiderweb/Ohiospidersurvey.htm](http://www.marion.ohio-state.edu/spiderweb/Ohiospidersurvey.htm)

*Do you have a question that you've always wondered about concerning wildlife in your backyard? If so, send your questions to: address on the right. Due to space limitations, we regret that not all questions submitted may be answered. If you need a quick response to a question, please contact your nearest wildlife district office.*

**Wild Ohio Magazine**, Attention: Melissa Hathaway,  
Editor, 305 E. Shoreline Drive, Sandusky, OH 44870,  
or e-mail [melissa.hathaway@dnr.state.oh.us](mailto:melissa.hathaway@dnr.state.oh.us).





# For Wild Kids

## HABITAT NEEDS HELP TOO!

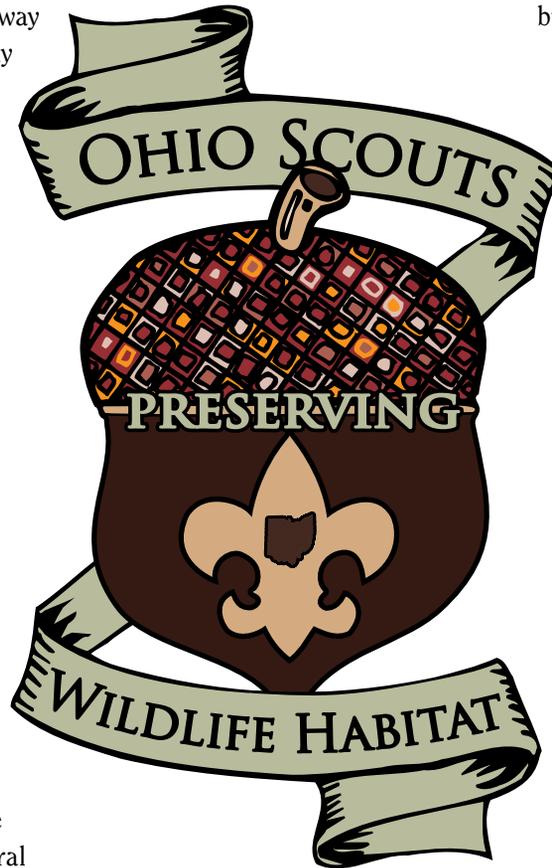
by Jen Dennison

The Division of Wildlife is always looking for help in creating habitat for wildlife in Ohio.

But how can kids get involved? One way is through the Scout program. Many Scout groups look for community service projects to participate in on a regular basis. A community service project is when you do something that benefits the area where you live, in other words your town, city, or neighborhood.

Some examples of community service projects that benefit wildlife include planting trees at your local park or school grounds, planting wildflowers or a butterfly garden at a local senior center, or creating bird feeding stations at wildlife and nature centers in your area. These types of projects not only create habitat for wildlife, but they also enhance the area for visitors and residents.

One such project took place here at the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) headquarters in Columbus. A young man by the name of



Gareth Burghes took on the task of reviving an underutilized nature area outside our office buildings. With some help from his scout advisor and fellow Boy Scout troop 474 members, he created new signs to help educate visitors on what kinds of animals and plants made their home in our pond. He also replaced some old bird viewing blinds with new wood blinds made from cedar. He and his troop mates also replaced the old, damaged feeders with new feeders. Gareth's project will enhance the enjoyment of the area by the ODNR staff as well as help increase the knowledge of local wildlife when the area is used for educational workshops and other events.

If you and your Scout troop or any youth group you might belong to would like to participate on similar projects with the Division of Wildlife, please contact your local wildlife office or call 1-800-WILDLIFE to inquire about possible volunteer opportunities.



"Before" shot of the bird blinds



Gareth installing new pond sign

# WILD GAME GOURMET

## r e c i p e s

Wild Game Gourmet • photos by Tim Daniel  
the Wild Game Gourmet as seen on **Wild Ohio** Video Magazine

### Walleye Fillets in Key Lime Marinade

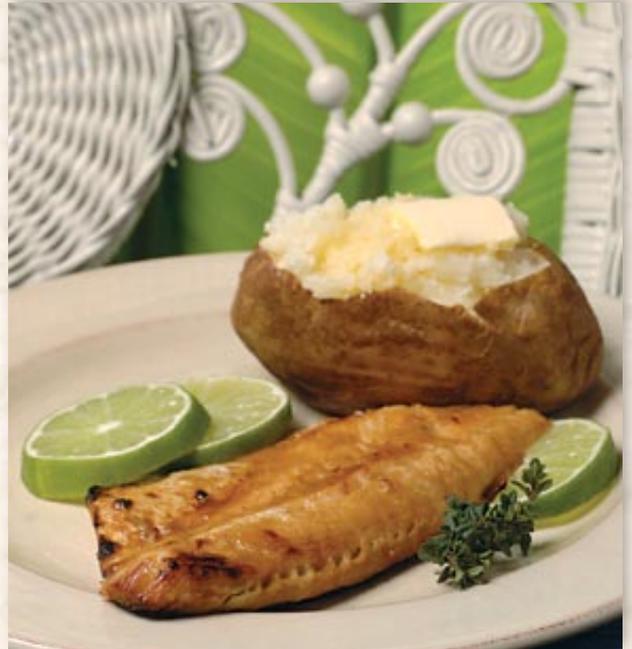
1 pound walleye fillets

#### Marinade

2 cups brown sugar  
1/2 cup butter (one stick)  
1 cup fresh lime juice  
1/2 cup soy sauce

Heat marinade ingredients to melt; let cool. Place walleye fillets in medium bowl. Pour marinade over fillets and marinate one hour. Place fillets on broiler sprayed with cooking oil or place on grill. Heat remaining marinade and use to baste fillets while cooking. Amount of cooking time will vary with thickness of fillets. Once fish flakes easily, it's done. Do not over bake.

*Contributed by Sally Biancone*



### Venison Stuffed Green Peppers

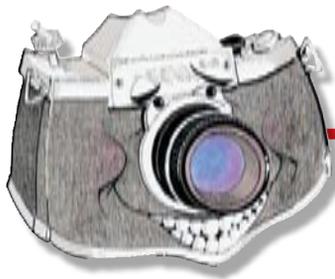
4 or 5 green peppers  
1/2 to 3/4 pound of ground venison  
1 medium onion  
1 tablespoon minced garlic  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1/2 teaspoon black pepper  
1/2 cup rice  
1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce  
1 cup shredded mozzarella cheese  
1 can sloppy joe sauce (26.5 oz)  
1 can diced tomatoes (14.5 oz)  
1 can mushrooms (4 oz)

Cut tops off green peppers and clean out seeds inside, set aside. Mix venison, onion, garlic, salt, pepper, rice, Worcestershire sauce, and 1/2 cup of mozzarella cheese. Add 1/2 can sloppy joe sauce and 1/2 can diced tomatoes to venison mixture. Fill green peppers with venison mixture and place in a crockpot. Mix together remaining sloppy joe sauce, diced tomatoes and mushrooms and pour over peppers. Cook peppers on low six to eight hours or on high four to five hours. When ready to serve, add remaining 1/2 cup mozzarella cheese.

*Contributed by Vicki Ervin*



**For more great wild game recipes go to [www.wildohiocookbook.com](http://www.wildohiocookbook.com)**



# READERS' PHOTOS

Wild Ohio magazine receives so many photos annually that we cannot possibly publish all of our readers' photos. However, the Division of Wildlife's new on-line photo gallery lets our Wild Ohio readers and other wildlife enthusiasts post their photos. To post photos on the Website, go to [www.wildohio.com](http://www.wildohio.com).



"My son Jacob got to take part in the Auglaize County Pheasants Forever youth dove hunt at Grand Lake St. Marys State Fish Hatchery last September. I wanted to pass on what a great event this was and what a great opportunity it was for youth to participate."

**Randy Olson, Van Wert, Ohio**



Ohio River catfish weighing in at more than 60 pounds!

**Matthew McKinney**



Honey bees.

**Eric Hakkarainen, Pierpont, Ohio**



More honey bees.

**Glenn E. Bayes, Monroe County**



"This injured hawk has found and taken to a wildlife rehabilitation center."

**Paula Fisher, Zanesville, Ohio**



"This little guy sat outside my window in a lilac bush for most of a day."

**Judy Wall, New Riegel, Ohio**



"This baby snapping turtle I found and photographed in my yard was barely bigger than my key!"

**Dave Rubsam, Mason, Ohio**

## DIVISION OF WILDLIFE HEADQUARTERS

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

## WILDLIFE DISTRICT ONE

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

## WILDLIFE DISTRICT TWO

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

## WILDLIFE DISTRICT THREE

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

## WILDLIFE DISTRICT FOUR

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

## WILDLIFE DISTRICT FIVE

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

## DIVISION OF WILDLIFE MISSION STATEMENT

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



Visit [WILDohiocoOKBOOK.COM](http://WILDohiocoOKBOOK.COM)

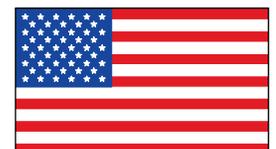


**Step outside of the kitchen.**

Are you looking for creative ways to prepare your wild game and fish? Then visit the [www.wildohiocoOKBOOK.com](http://www.wildohiocoOKBOOK.com) where you'll find a variety of fish and game recipes from *Wild Ohio Magazine* and our *Wild Ohio* television show. It's not your everyday cookbook. Check it out!



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



printed on recycled paper