

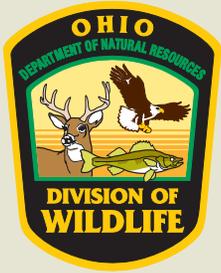
Wild Ohio

Summer 2008

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

Tim Daniel
Photographer

Chad Crouch
Designer

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Ted Strickland
Governor, State of Ohio

Sean D. Logan
Director, Dept. of Natural Resources

David M. Graham
Chief, Division of Wildlife

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

**ENROLL
ONLINE**

**BEAT THE FALL RUSH
FOR A HUNTER
SAFETY COURSE**

Instructor-led courses are held throughout the year in all of Ohio's 88 counties. These are conducted free-of-charge and average 8 to 12 hours in length. Find a course near you and enroll on-line.

**FREE
ONLINE**

**LOOKING FOR A
NEW PLACE TO
HUNT IN OHIO?**

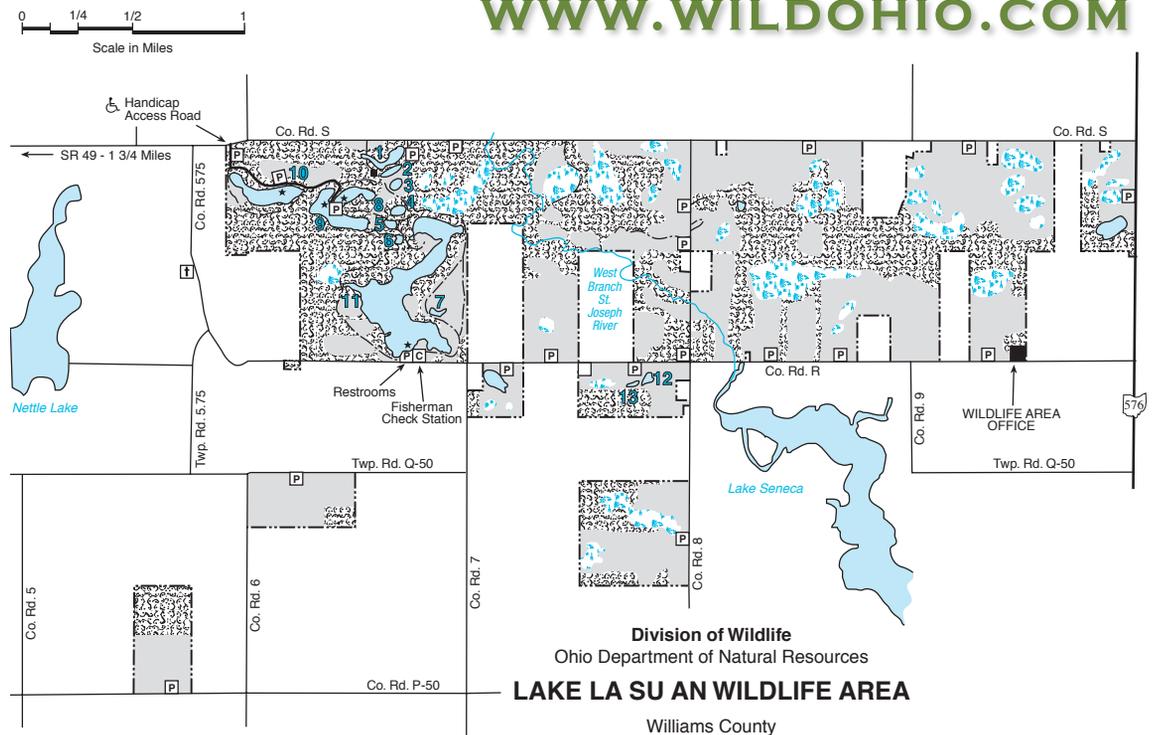
Go to www.wildohio.com to view or download free maps of public hunting areas throughout the state. The Division is working to provide hunters, via the Internet, vicinity maps of wildlife areas. These maps can be a great tool for those looking to hunt in a different section of Ohio. The map below is one of the areas you will find on the web.

**SIGN-UP
ONLINE**

**SIGN UP ONLINE
FOR CONTROLLED
HUNTS!**

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. The application period is June 1- July 31.

WWW.WILDOHIO.COM



Division of Wildlife
Ohio Department of Natural Resources
LAKE LA SU AN WILDLIFE AREA
Williams County
Public Hunting & Fishing
2,430 Acres

Lake/Pond Names	LEGEND
1 - Lake Mel	★ Boat Ramp
2 - Lake Us	P Parking
3 - Jerry's Pond	Grassland
4 - Hogback Pond	Woodland
5 - Lou's Pond	Wetland
6 - Clem's Pond	Pond
7 - Ed's Pond	Cemetery
8 - Lake Ann	
9 - Lake Sue	
10 - Lake La Vere	
11 - Lake La Su An	
12 - Lake Wood Duck	
13 - Lake Teal	

**HUNTING SEASON
IS JUST AROUND
THE CORNER!**

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



Eye to Eye with Butterflies

See up-close and learn about these winged wonders in the magical world of a butterfly house.

6-9

Features

Those Amazing Critters!

10-11

If wildlife watchers could observe their favorite critters 24-7, they would learn some pretty amazing and amusing things.



Lake La Su An

16-17

Trophy bluegills and wildlife watching on the Wabash end moraine.

Buckeye Badgers

18-19

Badgers in Ohio? A researcher gives us a closer look at these elusive animals.



Departments

Wild Things	<i>News From Around Ohio</i>	4
Watchable Wildlife	<i>Praying Mantis</i>	12
Wildlife Law Enforcement	<i>Field Notes</i>	14
Outdoor Skills	<i>Archery in the Schools</i>	15
Backyards For Wildlife	<i>Q & A</i>	20
For Wild Kids	<i>Dragons and Damsels</i>	21
Wild Game Gourmet	<i>Walleye and Fish Ruben</i>	22
Reader's Photos		23



On the Cover:
Praying Mantis



News from Around Ohio

RECORD MID-WINTER EAGLE COUNT

Observers counted a record 649 birds during last January's Mid-Winter Bald Eagle Survey. It was the highest number ever recorded during the event, surpassing the 2006 survey of 554. This year's total included 426 mature and 223 immature bald eagles.



Photo by Al Freeman

BLUE CATFISH NOW IN STATE RECORD FISH CATEGORY

The Ohio Division of Wildlife recently removed the blue catfish from the state endangered species list, therefore making it legal to catch and possess. According to Division of Wildlife fisheries biologists, joint research conducted with the Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources concluded that blue catfish populations in the lower Ohio River were substantial enough to warrant down-listing the species from endangered to "species of special concern." The Outdoor Writers of Ohio State Record Fish Committee, the organization responsible for Ohio's state record fish program, has enacted a set of guidelines for submitting a potential new state record blue catfish. These guidelines are available at

www.wildohio.com
www.outdoorwritersofohio.com

THREE RAPTORS DOWN-LISTED

Bald eagles, peregrine falcons, and osprey are now thriving in Ohio.

The Ohio Wildlife Council, at the request of Division of Wildlife biologists, changed the status of three Ohio raptors from endangered to threatened at its April council meeting. The Division's research has shown that populations of bald eagles, peregrine falcons, and osprey are successful enough that they can sustain themselves. The three species will continue to be protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918. And, the bald eagle will have additional protection under the Bald Eagle Protection Act. "Down-listing is a tribute to the dedication and hard work of biologists and volunteers across the state that assisted in the restoration of these raptors," said David M. Graham, chief of the Division.



NORTHERN BIRDS INVADED OHIO

The winter of 2007-08 was exciting for Ohio birdwatchers, as several species that rarely make it this far south appeared in large numbers. Boreal and tundra birds – species that live in northern forests of Canada and Alaska, and the vast treeless tundra beyond – graced many Ohio feeders. Southward invasions, which are termed "irruptions," are driven by food shortages. Most seed-producing trees have boom and bust years, and in lean years birds that depend on these crops are driven southward as they seek food. Most conspicuous were small finches called common redpolls. These hardy birds only invade in large numbers every decade or so. Last winter saw reports from nearly half of Ohio's counties, and many feeders of birds were delighted to have these northerners as guests. There were also above normal numbers of red-breasted nuthatches, and a smattering of pine siskins, red crossbills, and white-winged crossbills. For serious birders, most exciting of all was the appearance of two pine grosbeaks near Toledo. These big northern finches had not been seen in Ohio since 1987.



SQUIRREL DOGS

Jeff Skarupa of McDonald, PA wrote to *Wild Ohio* magazine suggesting that we inform our readers about a little known breed of dog that hunts squirrels. Yes, squirrels. Skarupa has been hunting with squirrel dogs, or mountain curs, for a long time in Ohio. He and a friend use their mountain curs to hunt squirrels in the Salt Fork and Highlandtown/Brush Creek wildlife areas, as well as participate in competition. One of his dogs, Two Bits, has 17 titles including 2007 World Reserve Squirrel Champion and Ohio State Squirrel Champion. Two Bits has a son that is Ohio State Coon Champion, and a daughter that is World Bench Champion.

According to Skarupa, these dogs are silent hunters, and do not bark until they tree a squirrel or raccoon. To locate its owner, the dog will bark one or two times. The mountain cur is a multi-task, fearless, working breed. They also hunt bear, boar, ring-necked pheasant, grouse, and rabbit, as well as herd cattle. The breed originated in the United States in settlement times and was especially common in the Ohio River Valley.

Skarupa noted that Old Yeller, portrayed in the book and movie, was a mountain cur, although the dog that appeared in the movie was a Lab variety.

OHIO'S KIDS GETTING A "PASSPORT TO FISHING"

The Division of Wildlife is actively participating in the new Passport to Fishing youth program sponsored by the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation. The youth angling program is geared toward youth ages four to 17, and is promoted as an easy way to learn the basics of angling, and to get kids outdoors and on the road to a lifetime of recreational activity. It is a quick and easy program intended to be used with half-day and whole-day fishing events. The station-based curriculum teaches casting, knots and rigging, habitat and handling of fish, and local information. To find a Passport to Fishing event in your area, call or visit

1-800-WILDLIFE (1-800-945-3543)
www.wildohio.com



BECOME A PASSPORT TO FISHING INSTRUCTOR

Passport to Fishing is tailored so that instructors and assistants, even those without knowledge of aquatic education, can take advantage of the rewards that teaching youths how to fish can bring. The program lends itself well to conservation clubs, 4-H, scout, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Boys and Girls Clubs of America, and many other civic groups. Each workshop is free, and is open to anyone affiliated with youth-based organizations.

If you would like to attend a workshop to become a certified instructor for the Passport to Fishing Program, contact Jennifer McCray at

1-800-WILDLIFE (1-800-945-3543.)

ATTENTION LAKE ERIE ANGLERS!

YELLOW PERCH BAG LIMIT REDUCED FOR WESTERN LAKE ERIE

The daily bag limit for yellow perch will drop from 30 to 25 fish per angler to take effect July 1, but only in waters west of the Huron Lighthouse. The daily bag limit will remain at 30 fish per angler in Ohio waters from Huron eastward. Any boats landing west of Huron, Ohio will be subject to the 25 fish daily bag limit, while boats landing at Huron or points east will be subject to a 30 fish daily bag limit.



WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE DUCK BLIND AT HEBRON

Jeff Link of Cleveland (below, son Justin Link of Columbus, and golden retriever Buddy took advantage of the wheelchair accessible duck blind at the Hebron Hatchery (Licking County) built by Hebron staff and the Ohio Waterfowlers Association last year. "I want others like me to see that they can get out and just do it," commented Jeff. Interested hunters can contact the Hebron Hatchery at (740) 928-8092.



Photo by Andy Hagle



with

eye TO eye Butterflies

by Melissa Hathaway

What better way to observe and learn about butterflies (Lepidoptera) than to get right up close and personal with these winged jewels. Butterfly houses are popping up across the country offering close encounters with colorful butterflies from around the world. These indoor butterfly gardens, usually a glass greenhouse, allow visitors to walk among hundreds of free-flying beauties. The one thing these exhibits all have in common is that they educate and encourage people to support the preservation of butterflies and their habitat.

Most butterfly houses and exhibits in Ohio are seasonal, opening in May or June and closing sometime in

September. The experience is educational and entertaining for anyone of any age who steps into the magical world of a butterfly house. As you leisurely stroll among the lush gardens, you are surrounded by hundreds of fanciful fliers. Soft background music, benches, and splashing waterfalls often help to set the stage in the butterfly menagerie. Visitors can get eye-to-eye with butterflies and observe these fascinating creatures as they flit, dance, feed, mate, bask, and alight on about colorful blooms.

Butterflies are everywhere and visitors must keep a watchful eye of where they step or sit. These dainty creatures are not shy of humans, and some may actually land on a visitor's skin or clothing. Most butterfly houses provide a mirror at the exit so visitors can check their clothing for any hitchhiking butterflies that might escape. Most butterfly houses also have pupa displays where you can observe adult butterflies emerging from their pupa prior to being released among the indoor foliage. Many facilities have staff on hand to answer questions and provide butterfly information and interesting trivia. Gift shops are often available and offer butterfly merchandise, everything from A to Z, for butterfly enthusiasts!



Conservation Starts in Your Own Backyard

The Toledo Zoo's butterfly house was a popular attraction from the minute the Zoo opened its doors last summer. Unlike many butterfly houses across the country, there are no tropical or exotic butterflies included in the zoo's exhibit. All butterflies on display, usually 10 to 15 different species at a time, are native to Ohio and the United States, because that is the story the zoo is trying to tell.

"There are conservation efforts all around the globe, and this butterfly display is nice because it showcases something right in your own backyard," said Andi Norman, director of marketing and public relations. "The exhibit shows visitors that they can help preserve butterflies by simply planting the correct plants to attract butterflies to their yard. If we can establish that connection right here, then hopefully they will grow to care about the whole globe. It's one thing to go out and talk about our conservation efforts, but to showcase it for people to actually experience has a far greater impact."

The Toledo Zoo is one of only a handful of zoos in the country that has a conservation program and captive breeding facility specifically geared toward butterflies. The Zoo's conservation efforts have been a template program for other institutions across the country. The Zoo was also instrumental in forming the Butterfly Conservation Initiative among zoos and aquariums with a goal to conserve butterflies that are in trouble in the United States and Canada.



The Zoo's work with butterflies began with conservation efforts for the state and federally endangered Karner blue butterfly that disappeared from the state in 1992. The Zoo has reared Karner blues collected in Michigan from eggs to adults and released them in the Oak Openings region in Lucas County. The Division of Wildlife is a partner in the project. Other butterfly conservation projects include the endangered purplish copper and swamp metalmark, each found in only a small, single location of the state. The swamp metalmark hasn't been seen since 1988 and is probably extirpated.

"The Zoo's butterfly captive breeding facility is behind the scenes and out of public view, so the butterfly display is a good way to highlight the Zoo's conservation efforts," said Mitchell Magdich, curator of education. "People can come into the butterfly house and see examples of native butterflies, some that are endangered. Visitors can interact with them, experience their beauty, and see the flowers that attract them. This gives us a means of telling people the conservation story about butterflies here in Ohio that are in trouble because of habitat loss and other problems.

"One of the great experiences visitors have in the butterfly exhibit that they can't get with other animals on exhibit is that direct visitor interaction. You can't do that with tigers, sloth bears, or elephants," added Magdich.

Butterflies from Across the Globe

The butterflies that supply butterfly displays are not taken from the wild, but raised on butterfly farms from across the country and the world. The Toledo Zoo gets its butterfly stocks, native to the U.S., from several suppliers in Florida and Texas. Most butterfly houses feature tropical butterflies that are shipped from such exotic locales as Central and South America, Africa, and Asia. Since butterflies typically live for only about two to four weeks, stocks must be ordered on a regular basis. The stock is shipped in the pupa stage, packed in cotton. Once the butterflies emerge from their pupa, they are released for free-flying about the butterfly house. Stocks are often rotated (delivered from Costa Rica one week and Malaysia the next), so repeat visitors can observe different butterflies on their visits. Depending on the size of the butterfly house operation, free-flying butterflies may number several hundred to 1,000 at any given time and as many as 30 or 40 species may be on display.

Strictly regulated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, butterfly display operators must follow strict guidelines. Butterflies are potential plant pests that could do serious damage to the agricultural crops, or can bring parasites in from other counties. Proper permits must be obtained, and operators must provide all the proper criteria for the butterflies' needs including proper nectar plants, sunlight, proper temperature, and humidity.



TOLEDO ZOO
(419) 385-5721
www.toledozoo.org

1

BUTTERFLY HOUSE OF WHITEHOUSE
(419) 877-2733
www.butterfly-house.com

2

THE BUTTERFLY HOUSE AT PUT-IN-BAY
(419) 285-4855
www.perryscave.com

3

BUTTERFLY KINGDOM ON KELLEYS ISLAND
(419) 746-2252

4

CLEVELAND BOTANICAL GARDENS
(216) 721-1600
www.cbgbgarden.com

5



Fun for the Whole Family

Of all the things to do and see on the popular tourist destination of South Bass Island, Put-In-Bay's Butterfly House is a must. The Duggan family owns and operates numerous family-oriented attractions on the island, but the Butterfly House appeals to the largest audience.

"My parents had been to a few butterfly houses around the United States and my dad wanted to add another attraction that was both family and nature oriented," said manager Dee Dee Duggan. "We ended up with a 4,000-square foot greenhouse with plants, butterflies, a water feature, and a 5,000-square foot store featuring mostly garden and butterfly-related items."

Duggan had to get schooled on butterflies very quickly. She spent 10 days with the staff at a butterfly house owned by their consultant in

Branson, Missouri to get her initial training the spring they opened their butterfly house in 2004.

"Butterfly houses give people a chance to see nature, even if it's inside a greenhouse with a controlled temperature. It gives people a chance to get back to nature."

Carol and Chuck Graigs have worked at the butterfly house since it opened. "Most visitors stay 20 to 30 minutes, but those taking pictures stay much longer," said Carol Graigs. "They especially like to photograph the iridescent blue morpho. When it lands, it closes its wings so the photographers stay until they finally get that perfect shot with open wings."

"The monarch is probably the most recognizable butterfly in the United States, but the blue morpho is the most recognized butterfly in the world," added Chuck Graigs. "Many visitors come in

search of the blue morpho because they have seen the movie 'The Blue Butterfly.' The movie was inspired by the true story of a young boy diagnosed as terminally ill who had a wish to catch the most beautiful butterfly on earth, the legendary blue morpho."

Butterflies All Year-Round

The Cleveland Botanical Garden's Glasshouse is the only place in Ohio where you can see butterflies year-round. Visitors step into a dazzling journey in a lush Costa Rican forest complete with a cascading waterfall.

But Cleveland's Botanical Garden is not just about plants as some people might think. The emerald gardens are the backdrop for an array of colorful butterflies and other tropical wildlife.

"When opening the exhibit in 2003, we decided we were going to be more than

just a botanical garden that displayed plant collections, but we were going to integrate animals," explained Cynthia Druckenbrod, director of Horticulture and Conservation. "One nice thing about this exhibit is that you don't see the same thing twice. You can come back and have a new experience every time with the different butterflies, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and insects."

Visitors meander through 10,000 square feet of tropical forest that includes a canopy walkway that provides a different perspective from the view up high among the forest canopy. Several hundred neotropical butterflies from Central and South America, including over 20 different species, are on display. Butterfly guides are available on loan for visitors to identify the butterflies they see. A pupa case provides examples of the different pupa of the different butterfly

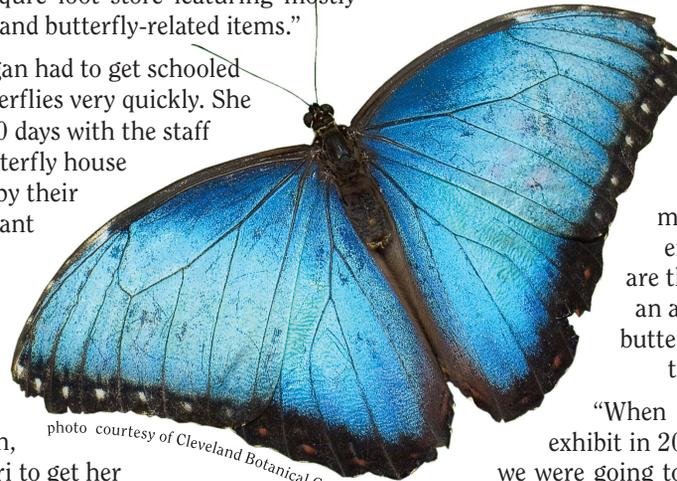


photo courtesy of Cleveland Botanical Gardens

**CLEVELAND
METROPARKS ZOO**
(216) 661-6500
www.clemetzoo.com

6

**FRANKLIN PARK
CONSERVATORY**
1-800-214-PARK
www.fpconservatory.org

7

**COX ARBORETUM &
GARDENS METROPARK**
(937) 434-9005
www.coxarboretum.org

8

**CINCINNATI ZOO &
BOTANICAL GARDEN**
1-800-94-HIPPO
www.cincyzoos.org

9

**KROHN
CONSERVATORY**
513-421-5707
www.butterflyshow.com

10

species. Butterflies that hatch from their pupa each day in the display case and quarantine room are released at 2 p.m. In the spring and summer, visitors can step outside the Glasshouse among 10 acres of gardens to look for butterflies of Ohio.

Several colorful tanagers, including the red-legged honeycreeper, bananaquit, and *violaceous euphonia*, fly and feed about the plant life inside the Glasshouse. "The birds add a wonderful, active element, and they work well with the butterflies," Druckenbrod said. "The birds are nectar and fruit eaters. If we had insect feeders (butterfly feeders), that would defeat the purpose."

Other wildlife include the only open foraging leaf cutter ant colony in the country, as well as tropical frogs, lizards, crickets, and other insects.

Slow Down, Enjoy, and Learn about Butterflies

Some butterfly attractions include outdoor gardens landscaped to attract native butterflies from the surrounding area. The Butterfly House of Whitehouse, Ohio includes a picnic area and seven acres of outdoor gardens planted with native species. "It's a simple example to show people what they can do to attract butterflies to their own backyard," said owner Duke Wheeler.

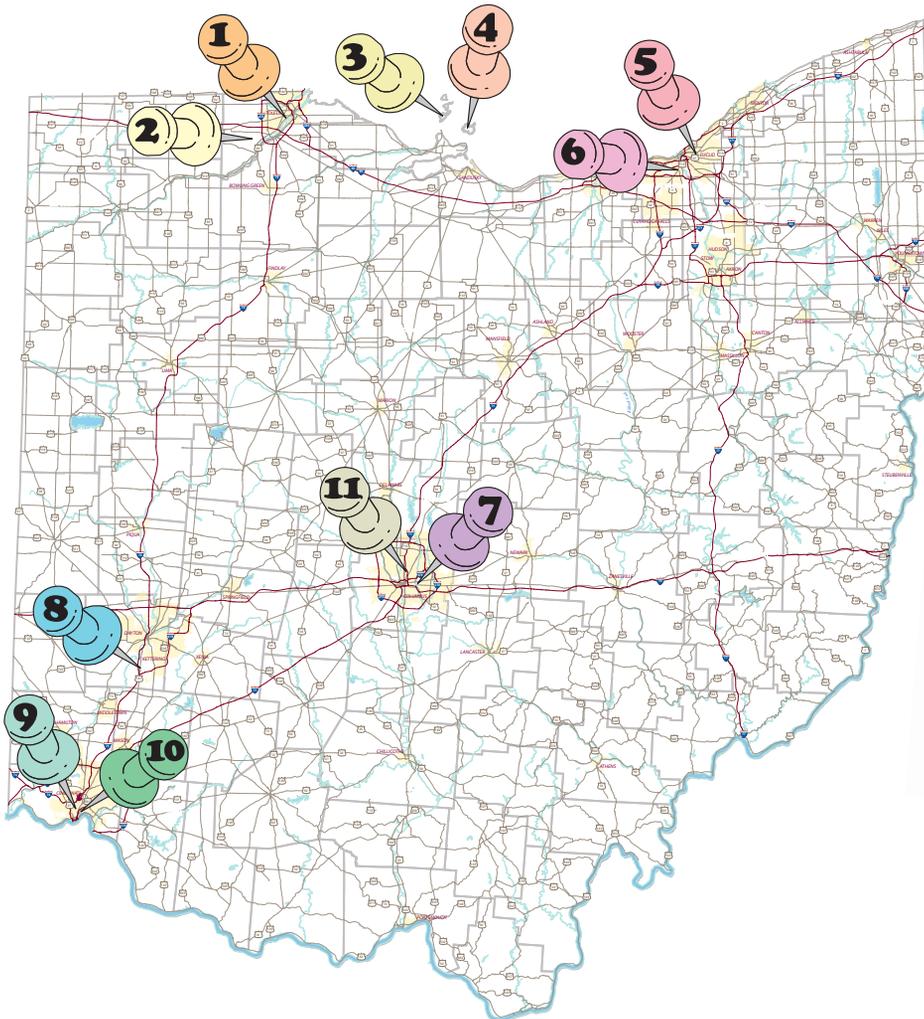
Inside the butterfly house, visitors can stroll among over 1,000 exotic butterflies. Wheeler and his wife decided to build the butterfly house after a visit to one on Mackinac Island.

"As we walked into the facility the feeling of peace and beauty was unbelievable. It's such a serene and beautiful environment.

We discussed it and thought we could do the same thing in northwest Ohio. We did a little studying and research and built this facility. Not only did it make us feel good, but it gives us a lot of opportunities to make other people feel good as well."

The facility also raises monarchs in a separate facility. Each August the staff holds a monarch egg hunt where they teach families how to recognize and raise a monarch from the egg stage, to metamorphosis, to an adult butterfly. In September they hold an event where they tag monarchs and release them in the local population to begin their migration to Mexico. One of their tagged monarchs was found and released in early November in Port Lavoca, Texas. It had averaged 28 miles a day.

"When people visit the butterfly house, I hope they enjoy the beauty of just seeing a beautiful insect, and have an opportunity to relax and slow down. At the same time I hope they learn a little bit about what they can do to improve the environment, and get a little more involved in conservation to protect these and other creatures we are living with."



11

**DIVISION OF WILDLIFE
BUTTERFLY HOUSE AT THE
OHIO STATE FAIR**
Natural Resources Park
July 30 - August 10, 2008
1-800-WILDLIFE
www.wildohio.com

those **amazing** critters!

by Jamey Graham



reptiles

- ❑ All rattlesnakes give birth to live young rather than laying eggs!
- ❑ A common Ohio snake is often called the “gardener snake” by those who have misheard the name “garter.” The garter snake was named due to its resemblance to a garter, an item of clothing not much used these days.
- ❑ The name corn snake probably originated not from an association with barns and corncribs, but from the similarity of its belly markings to the checkered patterns of kernels on Indian corn.
- ❑ The sex of turtle egg embryos is temperature dependent. Males are produced at incubation temperatures of 73 to 75 degrees Fahrenheit, while females are produced at 86 to 88 degrees Fahrenheit. In the middle of the range both sexes are created.



amphibians

- ❑ The term amphibian comes from the Greek word *amphi* which means dual and *bios* meaning life. It's true that some amphibians lead a double life; some time is spent in both the water and on land.
- ❑ The American bullfrog is the largest frog in North America reaching lengths up to eight inches.
- ❑ Fourteen species of lungless salamanders live in Ohio. These animals do not have lungs or gills, but absorb oxygen through their skin. If their skin dries out, they will suffocate due to their inability to absorb oxygen.
- ❑ Toads have long been blamed for causing warts. The “warts” on toads are actually glands that produce a liquid that burns sensitive mouth tissues of predators!



birds

- ❑ Simply having feathers does not permit birds to be creatures of the sky. Bird bones are strong and hollow; an adult bald eagle only weighs a whopping 10-12 pounds!
- ❑ Woodpeckers have a barbed tongue which they use to extract their prey from the holes they have drilled with their chisel-like beaks.
- ❑ American kestrels possess a pair of false eye spots, or *ocelli*, on the nape of the neck. These dark circles may be a form of protective coloration since they look like “watching eyes” and may deter predators!
- ❑ Unlike other raptors that carry prey in their talons to rip apart before eating, owls often carry their prey with their bill and swallow it whole. Bones, fur, and other indigestible items are regurgitated as pellets!

We get much pleasure and entertainment from observing the wildlife around us. If wildlife watchers could follow their favorite critters around 24-7, they would learn some pretty amazing and amusing facts about Ohio's wildlife.

Whether a form of protection, feeding, courtship, mating, or raising young, animals possess some pretty impressive and unexpected adaptations to help them survive in their environment.

Test your wildlife knowledge by placing a checkmark next to the amazing animal

facts that you already knew before reading it here.

Many thanks to the Woodland Park Zoo (Seattle), Akron Zoo, and Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, as well as Division of Wildlife staff members for their contributions.



insects

- Worker bees perform a waggle dance when they return to their hive from the field. This dance indicates the location of a food source. The direction of the food source from the hive, in relation to the sun, is indicated by the angle of the dance. The distance of the food source from the hive is correlated with the length of the waggle and the number of waggles.
- Butterflies differ from all other insects in that they have scales covering their wings and often their bodies. Did you know they also taste with their feet?
- The eardrums of a katydid are located in its front legs. They just have to move their front legs to hear in any direction! They can also jump nearly 20 times their body length!



Fish

- Fish have been on the earth for 500 million years.
- Biologists age fish in two ways - either by counting the rings on scales (just like aging a tree) or more precisely, by studying *otoliths* (ear bones).
- Deep water fish have less bone in relation to flesh. They can therefore endure higher pressures and are flexible enough to eat a quantity of food at one time during their infrequent meals.
- Underneath the scales, running along the middle of the fish's body from head to tail, is a system of fluid-filled canals and specialized cells. The canals and cells transmit vibrations to the brain which help fish detect objects including predators and prey.



mammals

- The least weasel is the smallest carnivore in the world.
- Bear cubs cannot urinate or defecate unless stimulated by their mother. The purpose is to retain water and urea within the closed hibernation system.
- Otters may swim in circles, creating a whirlpool which brings up fish hiding on the bottom of the water system!
- Gray foxes are the only canids (dogs) that can climb trees.
- The pygmy shrew is the smallest living mammal. Its weight is about equal to that of a dime.
- The opossum is the only marsupial native to North America.



WATCHABLE WILDLIFE

Story by Melissa Hathaway

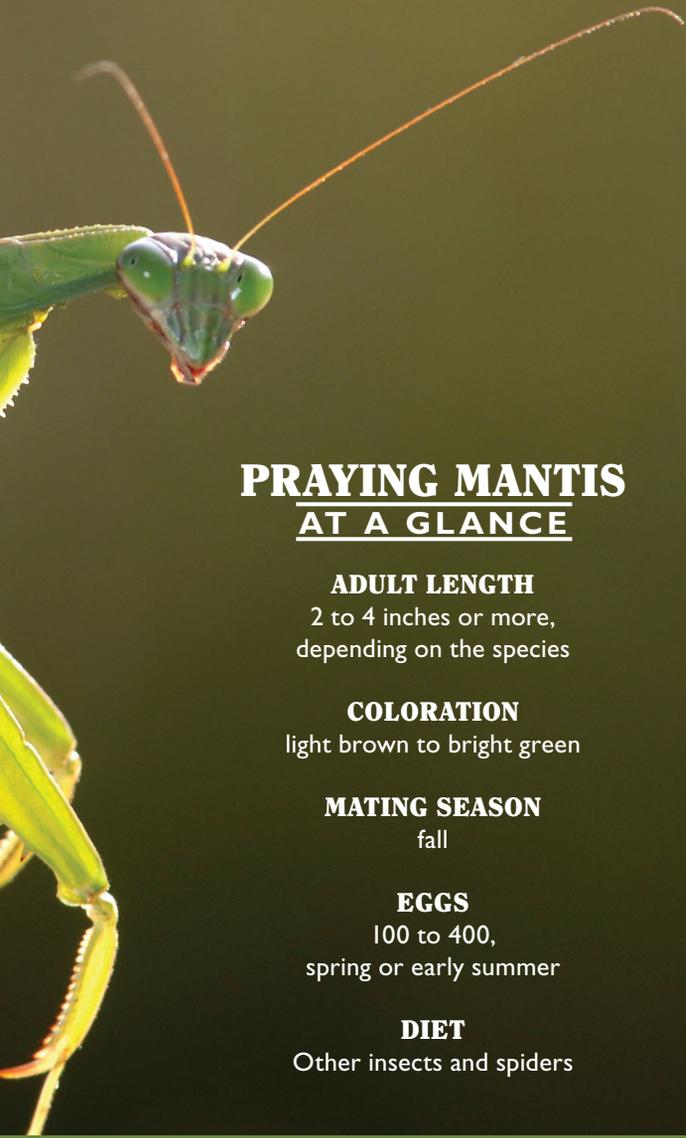
It is a real treat to find a praying mantis in your garden. These beneficial insects not only prey on garden pests, but are fun and fascinating to observe. The praying mantis, or mantid, got its common name because of the way it holds its body upward and large forelegs together as if it is praying.

Because they are so widespread throughout the world, praying mantises have historically been a part of folklore in numerous cultures. Europeans once believed praying mantises were connected to God because of their prayer-like posture. Arabic and Turkish cultures believed mantises were pointing toward their sacred Mecca. In Africa, the mantis was thought to bring good luck. In the United States, it was once thought mantids killed livestock. Movements of the praying mantis have been adopted in Chinese martial art forms to represent the flow of energy through the body.

Some 20 species of praying mantises inhabit North America, but the three most common are the Carolina, Chinese, and

European mantises. The Carolina mantis is native to this country, while the European and Chinese mantids were deliberately introduced to control agricultural insect pests.

Perhaps the common name for the praying mantis should be “preying mantis” because of its fierce predatory behavior. These stealth hunters have wings, but spend most of their time sitting motionless in one place waiting patiently until their prey comes within reach. They also often stalk their prey, slowly inching closer until close enough to nab it. They are masters of camouflage blending into the surrounding vegetation unnoticed by other insects. Their large compound eyes give them a large field of vision and their head can swivel 180 degrees to detect movement. When an unsuspecting insect comes close, the mantid lunges out and grabs it. Their long body and strong, pincer-like forelegs aid in quickly catching their prey. Rows of tiny, sharp spines along the inner part of the forelegs also help hold the prey securely with little chance of escaping.



PRAYING MANTIS **AT A GLANCE**

ADULT LENGTH

2 to 4 inches or more,
depending on the species

COLORATION

light brown to bright green

MATING SEASON

fall

EGGS

100 to 400,
spring or early summer

DIET

Other insects and spiders

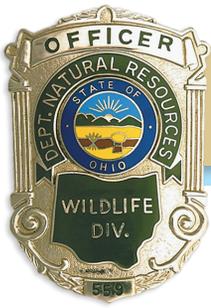


The Praying Mantis

These carnivores have voracious appetites for other insects, often garden pests including many species of beetles and moths. Other table fare for mantids include aphids, crickets, grasshoppers, bees, butterflies, caterpillars, mosquitoes, and other mantids. They have also been known to eat larger animals such as tree frogs and hummingbirds. They do not bite humans, but the prickly spines on their forelegs give a pinching sensation. Predators of mantises include birds, bats, frogs, and snakes.

Female praying mantises are cannibals, known for their strange habit of sometimes biting the head off of their partner during or after mating. The female lays her eggs in the fall on twigs or stems, as well as other surfaces such as fences, buildings, and lawn furniture. The eggs are laid in a mass within a sticky, frothy substance that hardens into a protective egg case, or *ootheca*, about the size of a walnut shell. The female dies within several weeks after laying her eggs. The nymphs, which look like tiny adults without wings, emerge from small holes in the ootheca in the spring or early summer.

Praying mantises may be present in gardens and meadows in the spring through early fall, but their excellent camouflage helps them blend in with leaves, grass, and twigs. Their color ranges from light brown to bright green, depending on the vegetation. Look for mantids perched near flowers waiting for prey. Look for egg cases, about the size of a walnut shell, when trimming back garden plants in late fall or spring.



WILDLIFE LAW ENFORCEMENT

Field Notes

STATE OF OHIO - vs - JAMES M. MAYSE JR.

Wild animals in the state of Ohio belong to all Ohioans and the Division of Wildlife manages all wildlife on the public's behalf. The Division works hard to ensure that all people have an equal opportunity to enjoy wildlife through hunting, fishing, trapping, and viewing. When a person violates this privilege by illegally killing and making a profit off of Ohio's wild animals, it is a very serious crime. Wildlife officers uncovered one such operation in Franklin County.

Investigators working in an undercover capacity purchased deer jerky from James M. Mayse, Jr. of Circleville after seeing his advertisement at a Columbus bait store. Commercial sale of wild deer meat is illegal. The Division of Wildlife sent samples of the jerky to the Wyoming Game and Fish Department's Wildlife Forensic and Fish Health Laboratory for DNA analysis. It was confirmed that at least two individual deer were used to make the jerky.

Mayse also processed deer. All legally harvested deer in Ohio must be tagged at a check station before they can be processed or used in any way. When the officers brought Mayse an untagged deer for processing, Mayse accepted it, no questions asked.

During a conversation, Mayse bragged about killing a nice 12-point buck a few miles from his home. In the same time period, the TIP line (1-800-POACHER) received information about a 12-point deer being poached off city of Columbus property, close to where Mayse reportedly hunted. Officers had another lead to investigate.

By the end of the two-year investigation, Mayse confessed to killing the 12-point deer on city of Columbus property without permission, making and selling deer jerky, and processing untagged deer. Mayse stole from the people of Ohio and suffered the consequences. Among other penalties, he was sentenced to write this apology letter to all Ohioans.

January 2, 2008

A POACHER'S APOLOGY TO THE PEOPLE OF OHIO

Re: State of Ohio v. James M. Mayse, Jr., 2006 ERB 75696

Dear Ohioans:

I am a meat processor in Franklin County. On October 31, 2007, I was convicted of violating Ohio's wildlife laws. Specifically, I was convicted of possessing untagged deer parts, selling whitetail deer meat, and hunting without permission on private property, namely, the Southerly Wastewater Treatment Plant owned by the city of Columbus.

For my crimes, I spent 60 days under house arrest with a GPS tracking unit strapped to my ankle. I am also performing 100 hours of community service removing trash from Franklin County roadways and stream banks, and I must pay nearly \$3,000 in fines and restitution for the animals I illegally processed and hunted. I forever forfeited to the Ohio Division of Wildlife all of my meat processing equipment and the bow I used to poach the deer. I am not allowed to hunt in Ohio for three years, and I can't possess any Ohio wildlife or wildlife parts for five years. I will be on probation until the year 2012. If I violate any condition of my probation, I could go to jail for over 14 months.

I am sorry for the crimes I committed, and I would like to remind everyone of the following:

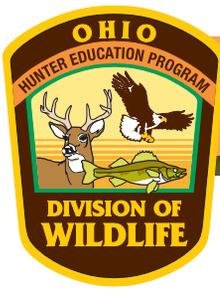
It is **ILLEGAL** to buy or sell whitetail deer meat.

It is **ILLEGAL** for taxidermists or meat processors to possess untagged whitetail deer.

It is **ILLEGAL** to hunt on private property without the written permission of the landowner or authorized agent.

If you would like to report a violation of Ohio's wildlife laws, call 1-800-POACHER. If you have any questions about the wildlife laws of Ohio, please contact your local Division of Wildlife District Office or call 1-800- WILDLIFE. If you have questions about the prosecution of wildlife crimes in Franklin County, you may call Assistant Franklin County Prosecuting Attorney Heather Robinson at (614) 462-3555.

Sincerely,
James M. Mayse, Jr.



OUTDOOR SKILLS

Archery in the Schools

CHANGING LIVES ONE ARROW AT A TIME

Ohio's National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) continues to grow in leaps and bounds. After starting with 12 schools in 2004, Ohio currently has 226 Ohio schools trained to teach the program. More than 650 students from 29 schools participated in Ohio's second annual

state tournament in February. Eighteen Ohio teams received qualifying scores that made them eligible to attend the NASP National Invitational Tournament in Kentucky in May. NASP promotes instruction in international-style target archery as part of the physical education curriculum, to improve educational

performance and encourage participation in the shooting sports among students in grades 4-12.

One Ohio NASP participant wrote the following seventh grade English class presentation about her participation in NASP.



ARCHERY IN THE SCHOOLS

By Meagan Walker, Troy City Schools

When it comes to most sports, a lot of people say "I can't do that" or "I'm not good enough to do that," but there is one sport that everybody should be able to do. That sport is archery. The National Safety Council rates archery more accident-free than every other sport like soccer, golf, tennis, basketball, volleyball, and football.

When someone puts a ball up in the air and gets running, jumping, and spinning around, almost anything can happen. You expect injuries whether it's turned ankles, twisted knees, or torn ligaments. Nearly 3,000,000 students have participated in the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) since its inception in 2002 and there have been zero accidents where people have shot others, due to safety precautions. The NASP says "Archery is safe because, as a shooting sport, the field of play or 'range' is designed with safety in mind. A waiting line is set for people who are not shooting to stand behind.

To shoot archery you need a bow, arrows, quiver, target, lines, safety curtain, and if you need them guards to protect your fingers and arm. First you stand on the waiting line and wait for the first whistle to be blown. Then move up to the starting line and aim to

where you want to shoot. Once the second whistle has had been blown, reach into the quiver and grab an arrow. With the white vane facing you, click the arrow directly under the notch. Put three fingers under the arrow and pull back to the corner of your mouth. Aim and release. Repeat until you are out of arrows. Then return to the waiting line and put your bow down. Wait for everyone to finish shooting and wait for the whistle.

Once the whistle has sounded, enter the shooting range and stand on the retrieval line. Once you have been given the command, score your arrows and pull them out. Carry them back to the quiver with the tips down and your hands covering the tips. Some people think archery is hard when it really isn't. It just takes a lot of concentration and a very quiet room. If archery was hard, people with physical disabilities wouldn't play it. To get better, all you have to do is practice. It's as easy as that.

Archery is obviously popular because only five out of the fifty states don't participate. Most of those states are working to get the program in their state. I think archery is a fun and easy sport and I hope to continue with it for a long time.

lake

LA SU AN

by Thomas Lavergne

wildlife area

Nestled in the far northwest corner of Ohio in Williams County, Lake La Su An Wildlife Area sits unnoticed by most passersby. Those folks that are aware of Lake La Su An know it mostly because of its reputation for superb pond fishing. Trophy catches of bluegill and largemouth bass are the norm!

Michigan is only a half mile from the northern edge of the wildlife area, and Indiana is less than six miles away from the western end of the area. Most of the anglers and other wildlife enthusiasts who visit Lake La Su An have no clue of its history, geographical significance, and uniqueness.

“This 2,430-acre wildlife area is just the opposite of what visitors envision when they think of northwest Ohio,” said Doug Soards, wildlife area manager. “Instead of vast, open, flat farmland, the area has large grassland meadows, gently rolling hills, 14 lakes and ponds that dot the area, and large tracts of oak ridges and bottomland hardwoods interspersed with wetlands.”

On the Wabash Moraine

So why is the wildlife area so different than the rest of northwest Ohio? Lake La Su An is located on the Wabash end moraine that was deposited during the Wisconsin glaciation period about 10,000 years ago. The Wisconsin glacier was the last to invade Ohio. End, or terminal, moraines are ridges of debris, such as gravel and rocks, deposited at the end of the glacier. They usually reflect the shape of the glacier’s terminus. Glaciers act much like a conveyor belt carrying debris from the top of the glacier to the bottom where it deposits it in end moraines. Terminal moraines mark the

maximum advance of the glacier. The rest of northwest Ohio is influenced by lake plains in which the largest amount of level lands in the state are found.

The wildlife area was originally a beech-maple hardwood forest that contained beech, white ash, white oak, red oak, and sugar maple. This combination of hardwood species still dominates the area. Also found here are poorly drained lowland areas that form wooded wetlands, as well as several restored wetlands. The 14 ponds range in size from ¼ acre to 82 acres.

The terrain is moderately to gently sloping, with 90 feet in elevation change throughout the area. Drainage goes into the St. Joseph River, which cuts through the middle of the property. Roughly one-half of the wildlife area is interspersed with woods and wetlands. The other one-half consists of mostly grasslands with a small portion of cropland. The plant and animal life is very much determined by the debris deposited by the Wabash end moraine and the soil that formed on it.

Managing for Wildlife

Wildlife management activities include the development of warm and cool season grasslands, according to Soards. Many of the historical wetlands have been restored along with the protection of remaining wetlands and wet woods. Woods have been protected and improved and most of the former crop fields have been returned to meadow to prevent soil erosion on the steeper slopes.

The cottontail rabbit is the most abundant upland species. Ring-necked pheasant also occur here in good numbers. Populations of fox squirrel and white-tailed

deer use the area as well. Also abundant are furbearers, particularly raccoon and muskrat. During the spring and fall migrations, waterfowl are attracted to the lakes, ponds, and wetlands. A growing population of wild turkey also inhabits the area.

Many of the restored wetlands on the area provide good locations to observe migrant shorebirds. Migrating warblers can also be seen in the many woodlands along the gravel access road surrounding Lake La Su An. Walking along this area road can be very enjoyable, as deer, beaver, and woodpeckers can be seen at any time. Sandhill cranes and osprey nest on the area. Bald eagles are often seen during the spring and fall migration. Grassland birds such as the Northern harrier, short-eared owl, bobolink, Eastern meadowlark, and dickcissel are often observed during the breeding season.

A Unique Fish Management Opportunity

Prior to the Division's purchase of the property in 1981, an unexploited fishery resulted in high quality largemouth bass and bluegill populations in many of the lakes and ponds.

"To maintain the quality of the fishery, special fishing regulations and management techniques are used," said Larry Goedde, fish management supervisor for Wildlife District Two. "The key ingredients to the management success at La Su An are controlling the number of anglers, regulating the number of fish caught, monitoring fish populations, and improving habitat. All fishermen on the area must register before fishing and must check out before leaving."



Some ponds on the wildlife area require a reservation before a person can fish. This allows fisheries biologists to keep track of any fish removed from the area. Electrofishing and trapnet surveys conducted in the spring give biologists a good handle on the area's fish populations so the Division can manage them for maximum enjoyment of fishermen. "By managing habitat we can increase fish populations and reduce vegetation that has resulted in large bluegill and bass," said Goedde.

Anglers can make a reservation to fish at Lake La Su An on Mondays from 8 a.m. to noon at (419) 636-6189. Due to regulations that are specific to the ponds, it is a good idea for fishermen unfamiliar with the regulations to call the Division of Wildlife District Two Office in Findlay at (419) 424-5000.

The Division strives to give Ohioans the best and most diverse habitat available for wildlife viewing, hunting, trapping, and fishing. We take tremendous pride in our work in managing these areas for generations in the future. Lake La Su An is a good example of this.

LAKE LA SU AN AT A GLANCE

SIZE
2,430 acres

FISHING
14 ponds; special regulations, bag limits, and length limits apply.

HUNTING
Open to hunting during open seasons; turkey hunting by youth only with controlled hunt permit (by drawing).

TRAPPING
Open to trapping during the open season.

WILDLIFE OBSERVATION
Eastern cottontail rabbit, ring-necked pheasants, wild turkeys, white-tailed deer, fox squirrels, raccoons, muskrat, beaver, bald eagles, Northern harriers, short-eared-owls, bobolink, Eastern meadowlark, migrating waterfowl, shorebirds, and songbirds. Sandhill cranes and osprey nest on the area



BUCKEYE BADGERS

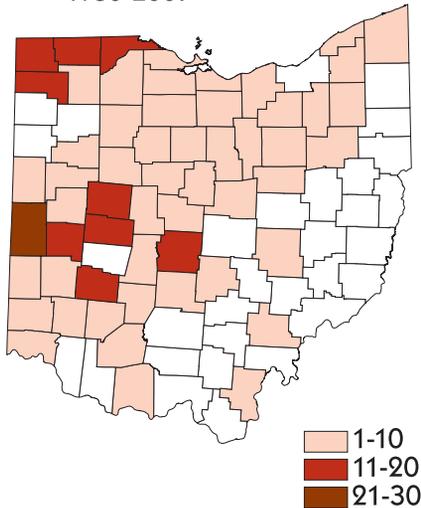
by Melissa Hathaway

We've heard of the University of Wisconsin Badgers, and the phrase "Don't badger me," but badgers in Ohio? Yes, badgers live in the Buckeye State! Just ask Jared Duquette, who recently completed his master's work on badgers from the School of Natural Resources at The Ohio State University.

Duquette spent the past two years studying these elusive members of the weasel family that inhabit Ohio, but are seldom seen. “I grew up trapping and had caught badgers, so I knew how pugnacious and ornery they are, but I knew little about them going into the study,” explained Duquette. “It is one of those animals we just don’t know much about.”

Duquette’s research augmented previous research and historical data compiled by the Division of Wildlife to help establish an estimated population, distribution, and favored habitats of badgers. Duquette and the Division of Wildlife also collected about 40 roadkill badgers and from necropsies (dissection of a corpse) looked at age, diet, and reproduction.

**Badger Distribution
1980-2007**



Duquette explored numerous parts of the state in search of badgers. He and several members of the trapping community live-trapped eight badgers in northwest Ohio and Darke County, after which Duquette transported them back to the lab at Ohio State where he strapped radio telemetry harnesses to their backs. After releasing them where they were captured, he could track their movements, habits, and den sites. He also installed cameras at some of their dens.

Duquette found that Ohio’s badgers prefer undisturbed grasslands and woodlots, especially edges of these habitats, as well as riparian edges. Most of the older reports showed badgers in the agricultural, northwest corner of the state, as he expected. However, he found that about 99 percent of the badger

activity is not just in northwest Ohio, but above the glacial line and encompasses about 55 counties. The county supporting the largest number of badgers during his research was Darke County.

“Badgers are very dependent on the soil type and associated habitats in those areas where they can find abundant food,” Duquette said. “Ninety-nine percent of these carnivores’ diet is small mammals such as mice, shrews, and other rodents. And they will also eat small woodchucks.”

Native to Ohio, badgers were thought to exist in the major prairie pockets of the state prior to European settlement. According to Duquette, badgers most likely originally inhabited the area north of the Great Black Swamp in northwest Ohio, the Shelby-Darke county area of western Ohio, west of Chillicothe, and the current Plain City area in west-central Ohio. Duquette found the main epicenters of badger activity in these historic areas.

“Most people don’t even know badgers exist in Ohio because probably 95 percent of their movements are at night. Even farmers who have badgers on their property, after living in an area all of their lives, don’t even know badgers are there. They think the burrows are groundhog burrows.”

Duquette explained that both badgers and woodchucks (groundhogs) have a network of burrows, but the difference is that woodchucks, as well as coyotes, will dig straight back. A badger digs like a breaststroke swimmer, digging out to the side, which creates a butterfly shape entrance. Also, a badger hole will typically be much larger (a foot in diameter), and usually have a large mound of dirt at the entrance.

“Surprisingly, I’ve gotten photos of badgers using woodchuck burrows and vice versa,” said Duquette. “We’ve actually documented badgers and woodchucks using the same burrow in the same day!”

Another interesting discovery was that their home ranges are smaller than what Duquette anticipated. The only other study done in the Midwest was in 1995 in an agricultural setting in Illinois, similar to Duquette’s research. The male’s average home range was 26 square miles, and female’s home range about 13 square

miles. Here in Ohio, Duquette found the male home range to be only about two to three square miles, and female home range about one to two square miles. Duquette noted that this suggests Ohio’s badgers have abundant food, and do not need to travel around as much.

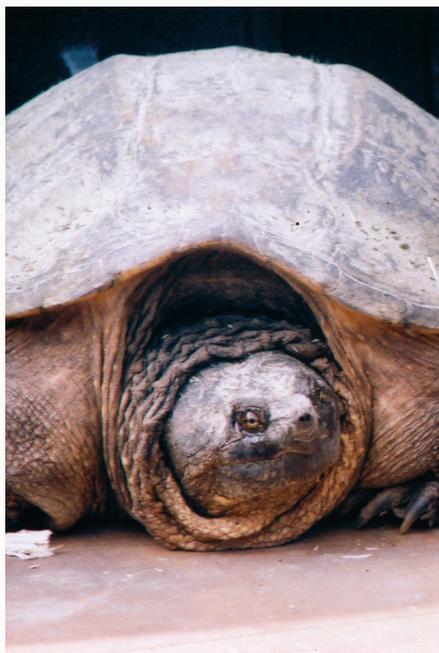


Badgers, a species of concern and protected in Ohio, are related to mink and otter. A stocky, medium-sized mammal, adults weigh 12 to 30 pounds with a body length of 20 to 30 inches. Short legs and long, curved front claws make them expert diggers. They are gray to yellowish-brown in color with black patches on their cheeks. A white stripe extends from the top of the head and down the neck and back. Because of their shaggy fur, loose skin, and short legs, badgers appear to “flow” along the ground. A male badger is referred to as a boar, a female a sow, and a young badger a cub. And just as their stereotype suggests, badgers can be vicious, but are also “big bluffers,” according to Duquette.

“They have to be vicious by nature because they are so slow and smaller than most other carnivores. Just like any other animal, if they are cornered they have to defend themselves. Badgers will actually start digging to try to get away from predators.

Badger Observations Wanted!

If you see a badger or suspect you have a badger on your property, please contact the Division of Wildlife at 1-800-WILDLIFE.



Q: We found this turtle but don't know what kind it is. Some people asked if we were going to eat it. Do people really eat turtles?

Lantz & Lorne Rossman, Bryan, Ohio

A: This is a common snapping turtle and yes, they make for good eating. Turtle meat resembles chicken breast in texture and flavor and usually provides the "fixings" for turtle soup. Large individuals may weigh over 35 pounds with a 14-inch long shell! One should be cautious handling snappers because of their powerful jaws. Snapping turtles eat aquatic plants, fish, birds, and small mammals. They generally stay in water, but females will venture out onto land to lay eggs in the summer. There are many ways of catching turtles including the use of banklines, floatlines, and traps. An old-fashioned method is called "noodling" whereby one reaches into muskrat holes and root tangles along a stream and simply pulls a turtle out by its tail. Everyone must have a fishing license to take snapping turtles, even landowners. Details can be found in the current fishing regulations brochure.



Q: How can I keep Carolina wrens from getting caught in a rat trap?

Sandra Martin, Alliance, Ohio

A: By nature, Carolina wrens are very investigative birds. They often poke around structures near to or on the ground, gleaning insects along the way. So, unfortunately they sometimes do meet with danger like a snap trap. One way to minimize catching animals you don't want in a snap trap is to place a cardboard box upside down over the trap. Make sure the height of the box allows the trap to operate properly inside. Cut small openings in each end of the cardboard to allow the intended prey to enter the box. This method won't completely guarantee another wren won't meet an unlucky fate, but your effort to conceal the trap will at least help lessen the chance.

pg 21 answers: 1. Twelve-spotted Skipper
2. Ebony Jewelwing 3. Eastern Pondhawk
4. Calico Pennant



Q: How can I keep squirrels from eating my tomatoes?

Dorothy Kish, Cleveland, Ohio

A: Eliminating squirrels from the backyard vegetable garden can be challenging. Repellents are not a good choice in this case because what will repel the squirrels from eating the harvest will likely repel you as well! One option would be to physically exclude the squirrels by enclosing individual plants (on all sides and the top) with chicken wire or a small mesh welded wire fencing that the squirrels cannot climb through. Another consideration might be to give the squirrels alternate foods, such as peanuts or ear corn, in the hopes they might leave the tomatoes alone. Nuisance squirrels can be trapped and relocated provided 1.) you live in an area where local ordinances permit trapping, and 2.) you have permission from the landowner where you release any squirrel(s) you capture. Finally, if other methods do not alleviate the damage, you may ask your county wildlife officer if you qualify for a kill permit.

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.



for Wildlife



For Wild Kids

DRAGONS AND DAMSELS

by Jen Dennison

As the heat of summer kicks in, sometimes it's hard to find things to do. Here's a fun way to pass the day outside. Take a walk to a nearby pond and bring along your binoculars, sunscreen, and maybe a notepad and pencil if you like to draw. Go on a dragon and damsel hunt!

What do dragonflies and damselflies look like? They are very similar, but dragonflies are generally thicker and a little bigger, have larger eyes, and are easily identified when they are resting because they hold their wings out to the sides of their bodies. Damselflies are typically slender, almost dainty with smaller eyes, and they hold their wings straight above their bodies when they are resting. Both can have very colorful bodies and many have markings on their wings.

Dragonflies and damselflies are some of nature's best "bug zappers" because they eat a lot of mosquitoes and flies throughout their lives. Dragonflies and damselflies are insects so they have

three body stages as they go through metamorphosis. While on your hike, you may see one of these large insects hovering low over the water. Use your binoculars to get a closer look and you might notice that it periodically touches its long abdomen to the water's surface. It's likely a female laying eggs in the water. From these eggs hatch the insect larvae, also called a nymph. Dragonfly and damselfly nymphs live in the water for as long as four years. As a nymph, they also eat a lot of mosquito larva.

When a dragonfly or damselfly nymph transforms into an adult, it crawls from the water onto a plant and sheds the outer shell of the nymph and emerges as the adult form you will be looking for.

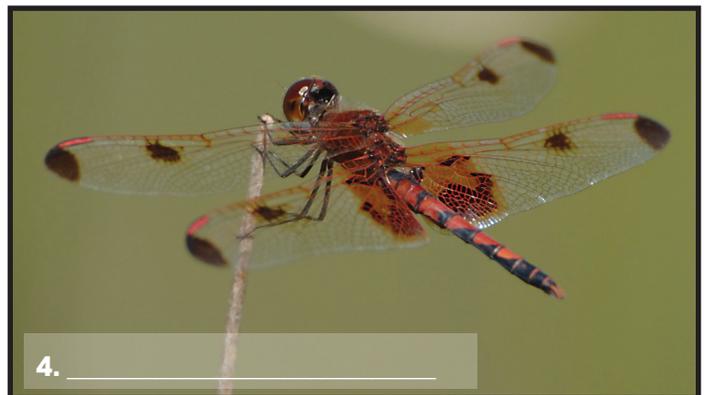
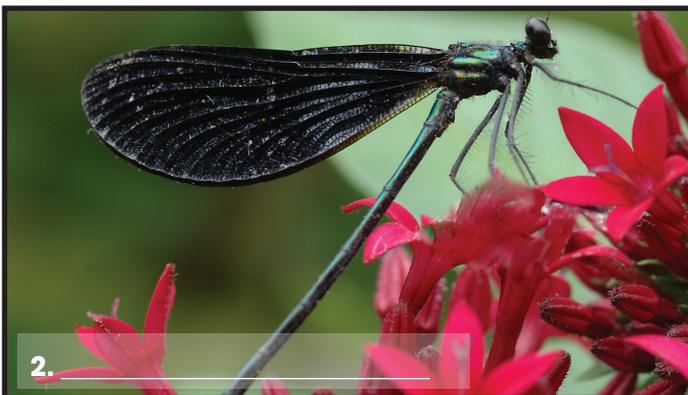
Other behaviors to look for besides egg-laying include "perching" or sitting on plants. This is a good time to try to draw them. You can make note of any "field marks," or identifying features that might help you figure out what species it is. Field marks include spots or stripes

on the wings and any bright coloring on the body. You'll also see the adults "patrolling." This behavior is usually exhibited by the males as they defend their territory. You may even see two males bang into each other if one enters another's territory. And you'll likely see a pair "chasing" each other around the pond. This is likely either two males in a territorial dispute or it may be a male chasing a female. And finally, if you see two dragonflies or two damselflies flying as if they are stuck together, they are probably a male and female mating.

If you want to learn to identify some of the 164 species of dragonflies and damselfies found in Ohio, you can order the Division of Wildlife's field guide by calling 1-800-WILDLIFE (1-800-945-3543). See if you can identify the species in these pictures using the following list!

*Ebony Jewelwing • Eastern Pondhawk
Twelve-spotted Skipper • Calico Pennant*

answers on page 20



WILD GAME GOURMET

recipes

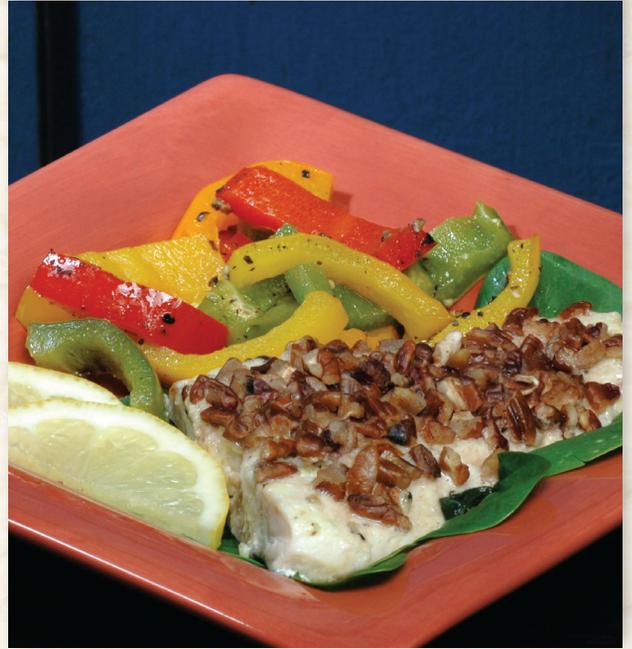
Wild Game Gourmet • photos by Tim Daniel
the Wild Game Gourmet as seen on **Wild Ohio** Video Magazine

Baked Walleye with Pecans

4 walleye fillets, or other preferred fish
Spinach
1 cup chopped pecans
1 cup of mayonnaise
1 tablespoon lemon juice
1 garlic clove, minced
1/2 teaspoon ground mustard
1/4 teaspoon pepper
1/2 teaspoon salt

Wilt spinach, drain, and spread on a sheet of aluminum foil. Arrange fillets on top of spinach; set aside. Mix together the mayonnaise, lemon juice, minced garlic clove, ground mustard, salt, and pepper. Spread over the walleye fillets. Cover with the chopped pecans. Fold aluminum foil making sure all edges are sealed. Bake at 375 degrees, 20-25 minutes or until fillets flake easily with fork.

Contributed by Billie Norris



Fish Reuben

Rye bread
Sliced sharp cheddar cheese
Cole slaw
Tartar sauce
Breaded fried or baked fish
Butter or substitute

Assemble ingredients to taste on rye bread. Heat sandwich in pan or on griddle until bread is lightly brown and the cheese is melted.

Contributed by Susie Vance



For more great wild game recipes go to 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.



"Maurice King took this albino buck with a crossbow in Richland County last October."
Maurice A. King III



"This albino white-breasted nuthatch is one of two albino birds that visited the Rouanzoin family feeder all summer."

Mr. & Mrs. Galen Rouanzoin, Newark, Ohio



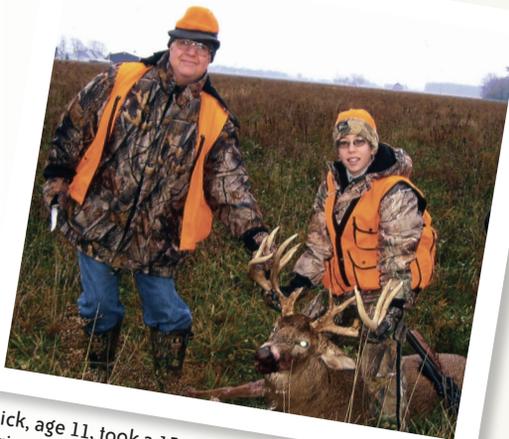
"Bobbie and Rick caught these lunker largemouth bass in a Champaign County farm pond."

Rick McCreary, Westerville, Ohio



"Five-year-old Kaelynn caught this large catfish on a Mickey Mouse rod and reel at Alum Creek."

Kristal Moore, Obetz, Ohio



"Nick, age 11, took a 15-point buck in Paulding County during the 2007 Youth Gun Season. He is pictured with his buck and his grandfather."

Ryne and Chris Dangler, Paulding, Ohio



"This endangered lake sturgeon was caught and released near Gull Shoal on Lake Erie."

Frank Cannon, Westerville, 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

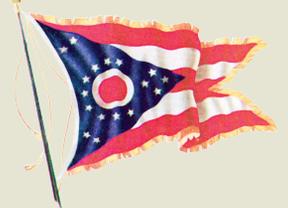
360 E. State Street
Athens, OH 45701
(740) 589-9930

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.



Hunt it, Fish it, Watch it!

Did you know that...

- **More Americans go fishing than play golf and tennis combined**
- **A buck taken in Ohio holds the world record for a non-typical white-tailed deer**
- **Ohio leads our surrounding states in people with an interest in birds and birding**
- **Ohio's Magee Marsh Wildlife Area is rated among the top 10 bird watching areas in North America**
- **Ecotourism is the fastest growing segment of the tourism industry with growth rates at 20-30 percent annually**

For hunting, fishing, and
wildlife viewing areas in Ohio
Visit www.wildohio.com

1-800-WILDLIFE (1-800-945-3543)

For lodging and other
outdoor recreation

Visit www.discoverohio.com

1-800-BUCKEYE (1-800-282-5393)



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



printed on recycled paper