

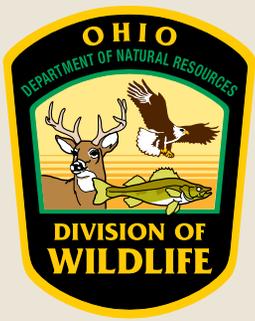


# Wild Ohio

Summer 2011

M A G A Z I N E

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE



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### NEXT ISSUE



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

- Sandhill Crane Project
- Acorn Benefits
- Trail Cameras
- The New Lake Erie Birding Trail
- 2011- 2012 Hunting Regulations
- Vernal Pool: Part 2
- Venison Recipes ... and More!

### WILD OHIO MAGAZINE

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# Wild Ohio

M A G A Z I N E

SUMMER 2011 VOLUME 22, NUMBER 2

CAMEL CRICKET  
JIM MCCORMAC

COVER FEATURE

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*The female Eastern amberwing might be less showy than its bright-orange male counterpart, but she is just as stunning when captured in a creative photograph. Photo by Sharon Cummings*



EASTERN AMBERWING (FEMALE)  
NATALIE BEALE

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GREEN FROG  
LASZLO LENGYEL



## News from Around Ohio



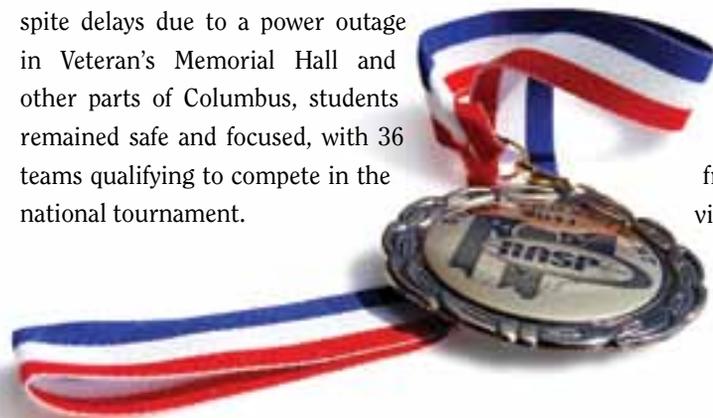
### 2011 NASP STATE TOURNAMENT

Ohio's largest National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) tournament to date was held March 4 in Columbus in conjunction with the Arnold Sports Festival. The state tournament is a chance for students to compete in target archery, and their scores are used to qualify for the National NASP competition held in Kentucky in May.

A total of 1,274 student archers from 54 teams across the state competed. Each competitor could score a maximum of 300 points by shooting arrows as close to the center of a target as possible. Despite delays due to a power outage in Veteran's Memorial Hall and other parts of Columbus, students remained safe and focused, with 36 teams qualifying to compete in the national tournament.

Hocking College in Nelsonville awarded scholarships for the first, second, and third place finishers in the male and female final shoot-off this year. In addition, any of this year's high school NASP participants are eligible for a 10 percent scholarship toward their first quarter tuition at Hocking College.

The National Archery in the Schools Program is used to teach target archery in a school's gymnasium. The curriculum covers archery, safety, equipment, technique, concentration skills, and self-improvement. For more information on the program, or to see a complete list of scores and standings from the tournament, visit [ohionasp.com](http://ohionasp.com).



### T.I.P. REWARDS EIGHT OHIOANS

Eight Ohioans received a combined \$2,420 in rewards for reporting wildlife violations to the Turn-In-a-Poacher (TIP) hotline during 2010. As a result of these calls, 31 people were convicted of poaching wildlife, including white-tailed deer and wild turkeys, and fined a total of \$20,621 by Ohio courts. The TIP program encourages individuals to anonymously report wildlife violations by calling 1-800-POACHER (800-762-2437). This number is answered 24 hours a day, seven days a week. TIPs can also be reported via the Internet at [ohiotip.com](http://ohiotip.com).



### INCREASING BOBWHITE QUAIL BOUNDARIES

Biologists in southwest Ohio continue an ongoing initiative to increase the range of bobwhite quail. Wildlife management staff have trapped and transferred quail from areas with abundant populations to areas with good quail habitat and few quail. The quail were originally trapped in Brown, Preble, Highland, and Butler counties where the quail populations are stable. In recent years quail have been released in Clark, Darke, Shelby, and Miami counties.



## 2011 WETLANDS HABITAT STAMP WINNER

The artwork of Tom Morgan Crain of Branson, Missouri, won first place in this year's Ohio Wetlands Habitat Stamp Competition. Crain's rendering of mallards in flight, selected from a field of 20 original paintings, will appear on the Ohio wetlands habitat stamp issued in fall 2012.

Second place honors went to Douglas Walpus from Tennessee with his painting of snow geese and the third place entry was by Phillip Brevick from Ohio with his painting of mallards.



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



## MARIETTA COLLEGE RECEIVES NSSF GRANT

Marietta College is one of 36 colleges nationwide to receive a grant from the National Shooting Sports Foundation's Collegiate Shooting Sports Initiative to help establish competition and club shooting opportunities. The Second Amendment Club, founded by Marietta College students in spring 2010, was awarded grants for the purchase of and supervised maintenance of competition firearms and to host a regional collegiate shooting competition.



## 2011 FISH OHIO

The Fish Ohio program was designed to recognize anglers for noteworthy catches of Ohio's fish. Each angler with a qualifying catch receives a collectable Fish Ohio lapel pin. To receive a collectable pin and certificate, anglers will need to register online at fishohio.org. Anglers will receive a Fish Ohio pin for their first entry each year, and a Master Angler pin for qualifying entries in four different species categories in the same year.

### Note:

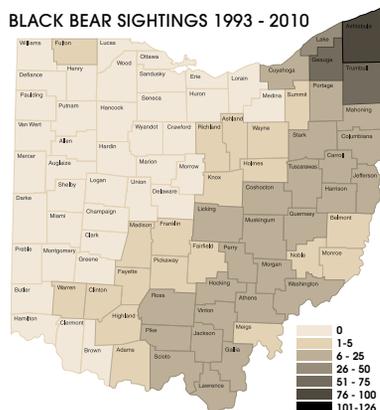
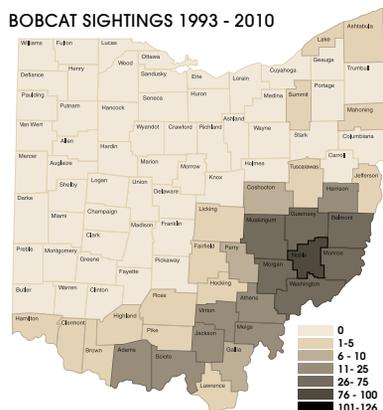
- Fish must be taken by legal angling and not from pay lakes.
- Application deadline is January 15, 2012.
- Possible state record fish must be kept frozen for verification by the Outdoor Writers of Ohio.

## WILDLIFE DIVERSITY CONSERVATION AWARD

Doug Wynn of Russell's Point received the Wildlife Diversity Conservation Award at the 2011 Wildlife Diversity Conference. Wynn is a well-known herpetologist and retired biology teacher from Westerville North High School in Franklin County. He has dedicated years of work to the conservation of the state endangered timber rattlesnake, Eastern massasauga, and plains gartersnake. His research has expanded knowledge of these species as well as educated the public, dispelling many of the myths and misinformation associated with these animals.

## BOBCAT AND BLACK BEAR SIGHTINGS IN 2010

Biologists verified 106 sightings of bobcats and 64 sightings of black bears in Ohio during 2010. Sightings for both of these state-endangered species have slightly increased from last year's reports. Sightings of bobcats and black bears can be reported to your local wildlife district office.





# THE VIEW FROM HERE

## *A Snapshot of Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp Winners*

by Laura Jones

**D**o you ever forget you are human and get lost in being a frog? Wildlife photographer Sharon Cummings says she does on a regular basis. “When I’m in the field on a shoot I lose all sense of time and space in my being. I get so in to it that I totally forget myself and what it’s like to be human.”

Cummings was the winner of the second annual Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp photo contest. Her image of an Eastern amberwing dragonfly alighted on the 2011 Legacy Stamp. Proceeds from the collectible, \$15 stamp go to the Wildlife Diversity Fund, supporting habitat restoration, wildlife research projects, creation of wildlife educational materials, and efforts to restore and conserve endangered and threatened species.

“I was very excited as I read about the stamp. I thought it would be a good way to get some exposure and have some fun while supporting wildlife conservation,” Cummings said about the photo contest.

Her passion for photography was sparked with the gift of a Mamyia 35mm SLR camera from her husband in 1976. She’s always had a love of the outdoors, Cummings says, but credits photography for letting her see nature in a whole different way.

“It has allowed me to see and learn more about nature than I ever could have out of a book. I’ve seen so many things from behind a camera that normally I would not have noticed.”



SHARON CUMMINGS



EASTERN AMBERWING  
SHARON CUMMINGS

“When I do nature photography, I try to put myself into the species, to get into their environment and see things at their level.” Such was the case during the “soggy frog shoot.”

“I started off by putting the tripod leg in the water. Then it was my toe. I ended up in water up to my chest! Only after I got out, dripping wet with swamp goo, did I realize that for the last 30 minutes the electronic key fob to my car and my cell phone had been in my pocket underwater.” She says the drowned electronics were worth the shot.

Cummings says she likes to capture wildlife in motion, “when I can really show viewers how this animal acts in its own environment.”

A resident of Graytown in northwest Ohio, Cummings has been volunteering her time and camera skills at the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge since 1992. She has donated numerous photos to the refuge for their use in publications and around the visitor’s center. Cummings also leads groups on walks and provides photo tips to budding shutterbugs. She says that her goal is to inspire others to get involved and become passionate about both photography and nature.



WOOD DUCK  
SHARON CUMMINGS

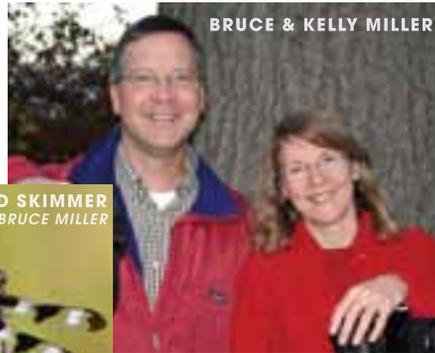
“I love that the sale of the Legacy Stamp is helping to conserve wild areas,” says Cummings. “I think that the state of Ohio took a bold step forward by starting this program. I think it’s fantastic and I believe that over time it will just grow and grow.”

## PHOTOGRAPHY IN TANDEM

The second runner up in the second annual Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp photo competition was Bruce Miller. The central Ohio native submitted a photo of a twelve-spotted skimmer dragonfly that he captured at Highbanks Metro Park, just north of Columbus. His camera of choice: the Canon 4D with a 100-400mm lens

Miller's vocation is accounting. His avocations are photography and birding. Although he says that

might be changing. "I still love photography," he says, "but the more I get involved with birding, I'm finding the less I pick up the camera."



Miller credits his wife, Kelly with helping him see beyond shooting what he calls a "perfectly acceptable photo" to one that incorporates depth and composition. On the flip side, Kelly said Bruce is her go-to-guy for technical questions, as she is an accomplished "hobbyist" photographer.

"I'm the tech guy and she's the artist. Together we make a pretty good team."

Miller's tip for aspiring wildlife photographers: "Learn all you can about a species' habits and you'll get the best pictures."

## SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

Buy the collectible Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp and show that you support:

Endangered and threatened fish and wildlife conservation

Keeping common species common

Habitat restoration, land purchases, and conservation easements

Educational products for students and wildlife enthusiasts

Wildlife habitat and research projects

Visit [wildohiostamp.com](http://wildohiostamp.com) to buy your Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp and invest in a wild legacy today.



## LEGACY STAMP CONTEST

The third annual Ohio Wildlife Legacy Photo Contest is underway. Interested photographers should focus their cameras on anyone of Ohio's 25 native salamander species. Learn more about the contest at [wildohiostamp.com](http://wildohiostamp.com). For youth photographers see the back cover of this magazine.

# LIFE UNDER THE

Caves are cool. Caves are mysterious. Ohio has caves, though not on the same scale as neighboring Kentucky's Mammoth Cave. In fact, most of us would find Ohio's smaller caves to be a pretty tight fit. Yet these caves are distinctive in both composition and ability to provide critical habitat to some of the state's most interesting flora and fauna.

More than 300 caves are known to exist here, confined to a 40-mile wide belt in the western half of the state between Lake Erie and the Ohio River. Most of them, save a notable and commercially owned few, are not very extensive.

Geologically speaking, they occur in what's known as a karst landscape – one that sits atop carbonate rock, such as limestone or dolomite. As water seeps through the soil, it picks up carbon dioxide and becomes acidic. It then dissolves the carbonate bedrock and over thousands of years forms sinkholes, springs, disappearing streams, underground drainage systems, and caves.

## ANATOMY OF A CAVE

As a habitat for wildlife, caves are unique. They are less exposed to the daily climatic changes experienced on surface habitats such as woodlands, wetlands, and grasslands. Because of this, they provide relatively unchanging environments for the animals within.



Four zones define the anatomy of a cave and each supports life forms that have adapted to those conditions. A

variety of flora and fauna flourishes at the **entrance zone**, from ferns and mosses to crayfish and salamanders. Moving farther into a cave where light progressively diminishes, you enter the **twilight zone**. Plant life is sparse here because without sunlight, photosynthesis cannot take place. Next

is the **transition zone**, where it is "lights out" and fluctuations in temperature and moisture are subtle. This microhabitat is a particular favorite for seven species of cave-dwelling bats. Last of all is the **dark zone**, the most remote part of a cave. Creatures living in the dark zone are called troglobites – small cave-dwelling animals that have adapted to living in total darkness and cannot survive outside of this environment.

The Ohio Division of Wildlife has documented 21 wildlife species known to ben-

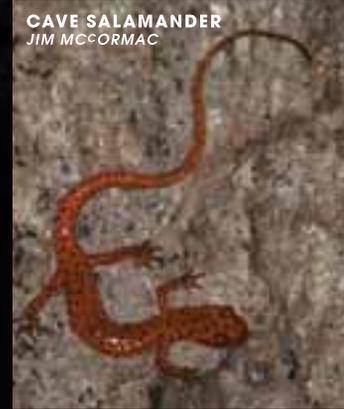
efit from cave habitats. Five mammals, one amphibian, and two endangered invertebrates are dependent on caves for a significant portion of their lives. Of that number, 11 are listed as endangered or species of concern in Ohio: the Allegheny woodrat, Indiana bat, Eastern small-footed bat, Rafinesque's big-eared bat, tri-colored bat, little brown bat, big brown bat, Northern long-eared bat, cave salamander, Ohio cave beetle, and Kramer's cave beetle.

Work by the Division of Wildlife and its partners is focused on the protection and enhancement of these unique habi-

KNOWN & PROBABLE KARST AREAS  
ODNR GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



Carbonate Bedrock  
Limestone/Shale  
No Karst  
Probable Karst



CAVE SALAMANDER  
JIM MCCORMAC



ENTRANCE ZONE

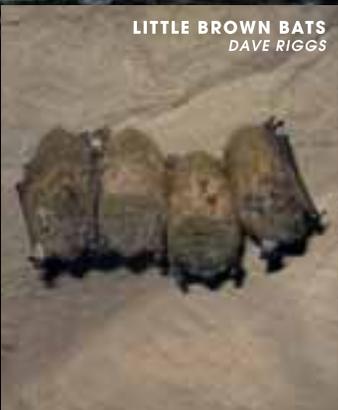
TWILIGHT ZONE

# THE BUCKEYE STATE

by Laura Jones



HOLLY KELLAR & BOB WIEDEKE  
KEVIN KISSELL



LITTLE BROWN BATS  
DAVE RIGGS

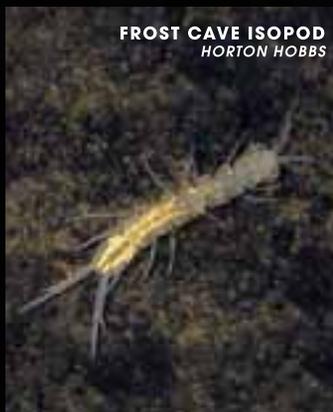
tats for listed species, along with other more common species living in and around caves. Most of Ohio's caves are on private property. Because of this, the division is provid-

ing technical assistance to any landowner wanting to protect cave systems and the adjacent landscape.

The division is also supportive of efforts to survey and research cave-dependent invertebrates – often the species that live in the most remote zones of a cave.

Collaboration with Dr. Horton Hobbs, a biology professor at Wittenberg University and Ohio's foremost cave scientist,

has been key in the survey and research of caves. Hobbs has made it his mission to map the world beneath our feet and record the organisms living within. He also has been instrumental in garnering recognition for the unique value of caves and cave life. Hobbs' efforts helped to establish Ohio's Cave Protection Act in 1989, making it illegal for a person to kill, harm, or disturb any cave life, or to damage, destroy or remove any cave feature.



FROST CAVE ISOPOD  
HORTON HOBBS

## WHY SHOULD WE CARE ABOUT LIFE DOWN UNDER?

Wildlife, regardless of its habitat, improves the quality of all our lives. Ensuring a healthy future for Ohio's subterranean worlds also means good news for our drinking water supply. Cave life is dependent upon sinkholes – surface depressions that funnel water and organic material into this nutrient-starved environment. Whatever is within a watershed, natural and man-made, is going to eventually find its way into the world below.

Unfortunately, sinkholes are viewed by some as natural landfills. Everything from couches and Styrofoam products to refrigerators and oil cans have been illegally dumped in Ohio's sinkholes. Pollutants leach from this refuse, causing harm to wildlife below and potentially contaminating the drinking water upon which we depend.

## - NOTE -

This article does not reference the caves and caverns that are open for public touring. These amazing places no doubt once provided shelter to diverse plants and animals, but over time, their ecology has been altered. Today, while these caverns may no longer be unique wildlife habitats, they are excellent places to discover some fascinating geological wonders.

Want to do something wild and wonderful for caves and other habitats across Ohio? Support the Wildlife Diversity and Endangered Species Program with the purchase of an Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp. Your investment will support field research, land purchases, production of free educational materials, and more.

Learn more about the Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp at [wildohiostamp.com](http://wildohiostamp.com).

TRANSITION ZONE

DARK ZONE



# ON FIRE, UNDER CONTROL

THE BENEFITS OF PRESCRIBED BURNING

by Jennifer L. Windus

**H**ave you ever seen smoke, fire or blackened ground on a wildlife area? Some people find it hard to believe that intentionally lighting fires on certain areas can be so beneficial.

Fire plays an important role in creating, restoring, and maintaining certain natural habitats in the Midwest. Habitats that benefit from fire include grasslands, oak savannas, and oak-hickory forests. Historically, fires were ignited by Native Americans to encourage new vegetative growth and attract game animals. Fires can be naturally ignited by lightning strikes, usually during the driest times of the year (spring and fall). Areas where fires historically or naturally occur are considered fire-adapted, meaning regular fires will control woody succession and stimulate herbaceous plants.

Today's land managers still use fire as a beneficial tool. Planned or "prescribed" burns consider, and at times replicate historic and natural occurrences of fire. The terms "prescribed burning" or "prescribed fire" mean that fire is purposely used as a land management tool.

The use of prescribed burning to manage habitats for the benefit of wildlife and plant species is a widely recognized practice. Fire has long been used to manage prairies and other grasslands. Burns provide many benefits including top-killing woody species, removing dead vegetation, recycling nutrients, encouraging flowering in some native plants like orchids and lupines, and enhancing nesting and brood cover for upland game and grassland bird species. In addition to conservation ben-

efits, burning is one of the most efficient and cost-effective management tools used by the Division of Wildlife. Other habitat management tools, such as mowing and herbicide application, have a definite use and purpose, but do not always provide the same benefits of a prescribed fire.

While fire is essential to maintaining quality habitats, it must be used safely and responsibly. This will ensure that there is no negative impact to the plants and animals that live in the area, adjacent lands and residences, air quality, or the crew conducting the burn. Each fire must be carefully planned with a set of habitat objectives, necessary site and weather conditions, and an extensively trained crew to conduct the burn. If fires do not follow detailed burn plans, serious consequences can occur that threaten the habitats in Ohio that continually benefit from this tool.



**KARNER BLUE**  
U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

Prescribed fires are not as simple as lighting a match and watching the grass burn. In Ohio, prescribed burns can only be conducted under the supervision of a certified prescribed fire manager. A fire manager must have the necessary training and experience to be certified by the Ohio Division of Forestry. In addition, fire managers must obtain burn permits from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and a burn waiver from the Division of Forestry. If the prescribed burn is conducted on ODNR lands, then the manager must also follow a Prescribed Fire Management Directive that provides guidance on burn crew qualifications, burn plans, and protective safety equipment. In recent years, the Ohio EPA has instituted regulations in regards to open burning permits for smoke management.

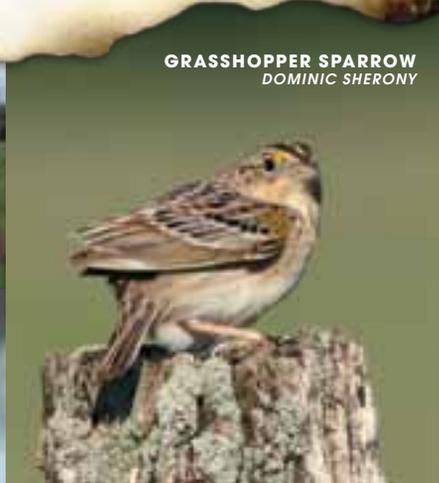
The Division of Wildlife annually attempts to burn 4,000 to 5,000 acres of wildlife area land. Weather conditions do not always allow managers to reach this goal. While the division plans to burn a percentage of its grassland areas in a rotation of every three to four years, weather conditions, including wind speed and direction, temperature, and humidity, must be within a range specified in the burn

plan. In addition to the weather conditions, other details must also be in place, such as the burn crew, safety equipment, firebreaks, working equipment, and a contingency plan for managing the fire if conditions deteriorate. The fire manager has a lot to plan for and manage on the day of the burn to ensure success. The division does not conduct prescribed burns on private land; however, biologists from the Division of Wildlife and Pheasants Forever provide technical advice to landowners about prescribed burning, particularly on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) lands where fire is a recommended land management practice.

While neglecting to burn fire-dependent habitats could cause the habitat to disappear, improper timing of burns may also have direct negative impacts on wildlife and plants. Reptiles and amphibians begin emerging from the ground and birds begin nesting in the spring. The division has developed guidelines to minimize impacts to wildlife, particularly where rare species have been documented on wildlife areas. This may mean conducting burns before April 15, monitoring soil temperatures prior to a burn, rotating burn units, and promoting patchy burns.

Other agencies, organizations, and private land managers in Ohio, including The Nature Conservancy, the Division of Forestry, Wayne National Forest, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Pheasants Forever, and several metropolitan park districts including Columbus, Hamilton County, Toledo, Cleveland, Five Rivers, and Erie County, also use prescribed burning. To develop consistent goals, share expertise, and improve awareness of the benefits of prescribed burning, these partners have planned the formation of an Ohio prescribed fire council.

So the next time you notice a fire or blackened ground on a wildlife area, think about all the wildlife species and their related habitat that have benefited. Questions regarding prescribed burning can be directed to your local wildlife district office, or contact 1-800-WILDLIFE.



GRASSHOPPER SPARROW  
DOMINIC SHERONY

Many species of wildlife, including butterflies, birds, reptiles, bats, and amphibians are all important considerations when planning a burn.





BOB GOULD



CARA BELL



BILL HEBAN

# OHIO WATCHABLE WILDLIFE

by Mary Warren

I have a friend who loves cardinals. If you would go to her house you would find a cardinal in every room. She has cardinal dishes, pictures, figures, ornaments, and books on cardinals. If we are out birding and someone says “It’s just a cardinal” she will immediately correct them and launch into a lengthy explanation of why there are no “just cardinal” birds. Each one is brilliant and handsome. My six-year-old grandson’s favorite bird is a cardinal, or as he calls it, a red bird. I love to see the excitement on his face when he sees one at the birdfeeder. While most people take cardinals for granted, a lot can be learned from my friend’s and grandson’s enthusiasm for this common, but beautiful bird.

The Northern cardinal is a very popular bird. The cardinal was the first bird to be given official state recognition when, in 1926, it was designated as the state bird of Kentucky. As most of us know, it is the state bird of Ohio, but it is also shared by Illinois, Indiana, North Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia. In many states, the appearance of this bird is also depicted on license plates.

In her book, *100 Birds and How They Got Their Names*, author Diana Wells says “To know the names of birds is to understand something about human passions - the scientific urge to explain, the poetic desire to describe, the ambitious claim to possess, and the spiritual need to be close to heaven.” The name “cardinal” actually comes to us from the Catholic Church, as their officials historically wore bright red garments. Red was a sign of affluence and power and was an expensive color to obtain before synthetic dyes. Consequently only the elite could afford red clothing. The male cardinal is unmistakable and is the only crested red bird in America.

While taking a field ornithology course, the instructor had us listen to many birds and tested the students on individual bird songs. He once had a cardinal on the test 10 different times! Indeed, cardinals do make a lot of different songs and calls. They are one of only a few species where the female sings as well. Most birds sing to attract a mate or to defend their territories, so they

The male cardinal is an unmistakably brilliant red with black facial markings and a crested head. Females also have a head crest, but overall are duller in coloration. Female cardinals are a grayish, brown-red with true red only on their wings, tail, and crest. The red bill is also a distinguishing characteristic. As with many other species of birds, the muted appearance makes the female cardinal less conspicuous to predators when she is nesting.



## VIEWING OPPORTUNITIES



Cardinals are very common backyard birds that live in a variety of habitats including woodlands, brush, and forest edges. They eat a variety of seeds that their thick, cone-shaped beak is well adapted to handling. Putting up a backyard feeder is a great way to see cardinals all year long.

# *The Northern Cardinal*

are most vocal in the spring nesting season. Because cardinals don't migrate and will sing at any time of the year, their songs are often heard and their cheery whistle is easily recognized.

Another interesting thing about the male cardinal is its habit of "attacking" its reflection in windows and car mirrors. Thinking that there is another male in his territory, he may become intent on trying to make the intruder go away. But reflections don't leave and they don't sing. This confuses the cardinal and puts him into full battle mode. This behavior may go on for weeks, but usually stops when the breeding season is over.

The cardinal is found abundantly throughout virtually all of the eastern United States in a variety of habitats and is a common backyard bird. You can attract these birds by putting up a bird feeder filled with sunflower seeds, their favorite food. The bird's thick, conical-shaped bill is designed for cracking seeds. I've had first hand experience with just how strong their bite is. Once

while helping release birds from a mist net at a banding station, one clamped down on my finger. I expected to see blood dripping from my hand, but luckily escaped with just a bruise once the bird finally released his powerful grip on me.

So take a lesson from my friend and grandson and the many visitors of the Sportsmen's Migratory Bird Center at Magee Marsh who really appreciate this common, but spectacularly colored bird. Many visitors from western states are awed by how plentiful and beautiful this bird is. It is all a matter of perspective. The next time you see a Northern cardinal, take time to really notice just how distinctive this avian delight is. Enjoy the sights and songs of this species year-round. Watch the mating behaviors in the spring and the family groups in the summer. You can find cardinals among gloriously colored autumn foliage and looking striking against the purest of a winter snow. Happy Birding!



## WILDLIFE LAW ENFORCEMENT

# Field Notes



### OHIO WILDLIFE OFFICERS RECEIVE TOP HONORS

**JIM ABRAMS** • The Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers honored Wildlife Officer Supervisor Jim Abrams with the 2010 Officer of the Year Award. Officer Abrams retired last July after 35 years of service. He was a field training officer and instrumental in the formation of the Division of Wildlife's Firearms Training Unit.

**ERIC BEAR** • The Ohio Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWF) has honored Wildlife Officer Eric Bear with the 2010 State Officer of the Year Award. Officer Bear has been serving Ohioans as a wildlife officer since 1998 and is currently assigned to Washington County.

**DUANE BAILEY** • Wildlife Officer Duane Bailey was honored as Ohio's Shikar Safari Wildlife Officer of the Year. Officer Bailey resides in Paulding County where he has been assigned for more than 28 years. Officer Bailey has been serving Ohioans for 30 years, and currently serves as a field training officer.

**KEN BEBOUT** • The Mississippi Flyway Council recognized Wildlife Officer Ken Bebout as their Ohio Officer of the Year. Officer Bebout started his career with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources as a park officer in 1981. Ken joined the ranks of Ohio's Wildlife Officers in 1993 locating to Pickaway County, where he is currently assigned.

**CHRIS GILKEY & CHRIS RICE** • The Ohio Bowhunter's Association (OBA) has honored Chris Gilkey and Chris Rice as the OBA Officers of the Year. Officer Gilkey is currently assigned to Adams County and is a graduate of the 2005 Wildlife Officer Academy. Officer Rice is assigned to Union County and is a graduate of the 2007 Wildlife Officer Academy.



### MAN FOUND GUILTY OF POSSESSING ENDANGERED SPECIES

A Crawford County man was found guilty on one count of possessing an endangered species and a second count of deterring an officer, both first degree misdemeanors. The Crestline, Ohio man changed his plea of not guilty to no contest on both charges during a pre-trial hearing in the Crawford County Municipal Court. He received \$1,500 in fines plus court costs and was placed on probation for three years.

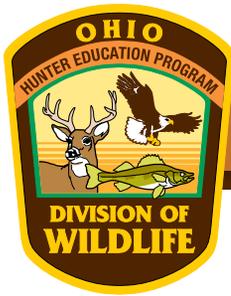
According to a Division of Wildlife investigator, the man alleged that he had discovered a hellbender salamander that someone dropped off in a bucket on his front porch. The animal was nearly two feet long and weighed over 2 ½ pounds.

Gregg Lipps, a herpetologist and expert on hellbenders, believed the female hellbender was about 50 years old and carrying eggs.

During the investigation, it was discovered that a Passive Integrated Transponder or PIT tag had been implanted in the animal's body by a biologist from the New York Department of Environmental Protection.

The poacher denied being in New York or knowing anyone from New York. After searching records, however, the investigator found that the man had been in New York the three days prior to coming into possession of the hellbender.

The hellbender was cared for by the Columbus Zoo and later returned to New York authorities for release in that state.



# Take A Kid Fishing

by Matt Neumeier



JAKE

Introducing a child to fishing can lead to a lifetime of discovery and respect towards the environment and our natural resources. While introducing kids to fishing can be quite rewarding, there are also many challenges in making those crucial first trips successful. For most kids, early success is what leads to future desire.

Following a few simple steps can help ensure a good first experience, which can help to make fishing a lifelong hobby.

### DO YOUR HOMEWORK

- ☺ Review the current fishing regulations online at [wildohio.com](http://wildohio.com) or by calling 1-800-WILDLIFE
- ☺ Learn about the fish you are after. Look up seasonal tendencies, preferred natural foods, and lures and baits used to catch them.
- ☺ Scout and pre-fish. Do not take the kids looking for fish. Find the fish first, and then take the kids.
- ☺ Bait shops, Division of Wildlife fishing reports, and online forums are great resources for finding quality fishing on public waters.

### MAKE IT FUN

- ☺ Check your ego at the door. The trip is not about you - your attention should be directed towards helping.
- ☺ Dress for the occasion. Wear comfortable clothing. Nothing ruins a trip faster than being too hot or too cold!
- ☺ Pack drinks and food.
- ☺ Don't become frustrated if their minds wander or they become bored. Fill slow times with teachable moments about what you're doing. Try discussing and handling the bait you are using, or take advantage of whatever is interesting now.
- ☺ Let them reel in every fish - even yours.

### FIND A PLACE TO FISH

- ☺ Farm ponds are usually an easy place to fish. Remember to get permission and follow the landowners' rules.
- ☺ Public waters offer more access, but the fishing tends to be more seasonal. Great seasonal bites include crappie, white bass, saugeye, and rainbow trout.

### PROPER TACKLE AND RIGGING

- ☺ Resist the urge to attract young fisherman with toy equipment. You can get a quality rod and reel for less than \$20. Use catching fish as the attractor.
- ☺ Use size appropriate tackle. Smaller hooks, weights, and bobbers generally catch more fish.
- ☺ Use live bait. Bait shops can help you find the appropriate bait depending on what fish you are after.
- ☺ Learn proper bait presentations so you are using the right rig in the right place at the right time.

### CREATE AND PRESERVE THE MEMORY

- ☺ Be enthusiastic!
- ☺ Celebrate all successes, no matter how big or small. All catches deserve applause, as do good casts, baiting hooks, and tying knots.
- ☺ Take pictures and display them. It is amazing what children can recall from a picture.
- ☺ Keep a journal. This will not only help accurately preserve your memories, but it will also help make them, and you, a better angler.
- ☺ Keep their catch. A great sense of accomplishment can come from harvesting and eating something they caught.

# Something's a Bruin in the Buckeye State

by Scott Peters

I can vividly remember the first time I saw the unmistakable sign of a bear that had clawed a tree in the mountains of western Maryland, where I first started deer hunting. A few years later in West Virginia, I saw my first bear in the wild at a mere 20 yards. Last October, I was lucky enough to harvest a bear in Vermont while on a moose hunting trip. I have also been fortunate enough to handle a number of live-trapped bears, although most of them were trapped for nuisance reasons. My fascination with bears continues, and I hope to help others understand more about Ohio's black bear population.

There is an old saying in the wildlife profession: "A fed bear is a dead bear." Unfortunately, many bears are euthanized each year in other states because they became acclimated to the food humans provided them. As black bears are starting to return to Ohio, my biggest role as a wildlife manager is educating citizens about ways to coexist with black bears. First and foremost, black bears are an endangered species in Ohio and are protected by law. Second, black bear attacks in North America are extremely rare. Finally, most potential nuisance bear situations can be avoided.

A little biology on bears will hopefully ease some of the potential fears and misconceptions about them. Black bears are omnivorous, opportunistic feeders and will eat anything from berries and nuts to insects and dead animals. They will forage largely on herbaceous material until they cannot take in enough nutrients and calories to maintain their daily functions.



At that time, they will enter a den to sleep or simply curl up for the winter in a brush pile. Like most Ohio mammals, bears are not true hibernators so they can be easily disturbed from their chosen den location throughout the winter. Thus, a hiker or a hunter may have an opportunity to see an Ohio bruin at any time of the year; a rare and likely positive experience that should not cause alarm.

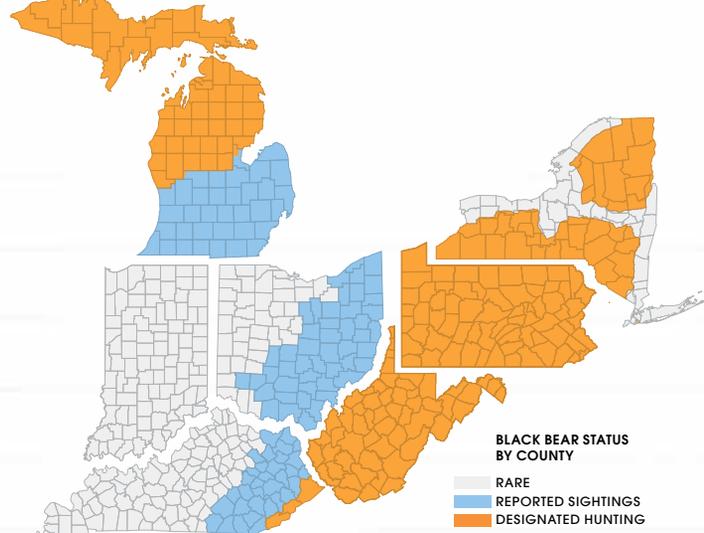
Outdoor enthusiasts should keep in mind that black bears can easily be equated to large raccoons. The black bear and large raccoon analogy may seem amusing, but many of the measures used to prevent nuisance raccoon situations can



also be employed to deter bears. One of the most common problems caused by humans is allowing bears to eat from trash cans. Simply storing trash cans indoors (shed or garage) and putting the trash out the day of pick-up instead of the night before can go a long way towards preventing conflicts. Bird feeders should be taken down for at least two weeks when a bear is known to be in the area. Outside pet food dishes are strongly discouraged because bears will readily eat cat or dog food. Keep gas/charcoal grills clean and store them inside a shed or garage. Finally, for anybody who has beehives, I strongly recommend protecting them with electric fencing. Bears can do tremendous damage to beehives, and it is much easier to prevent bear damage from initially occurring than to deter a bear that develops a taste for honey.

The Division of Wildlife has a bear policy that works with cooperation from the public. Bears are not relocated if they occasionally wander into an urban or suburban area, or get into trash or birdfeeders. The best response to bears that are moving through the area is to remove the food attractants. If a bear persists with nuisance behavior or does not leave the area, the next step is to haze the bear using techniques that do not permanently harm the bear, such as loud sounds or rubber bullets. If hazing proves ineffective or if the bear is in a situation where escape is unlikely, then the bear may be trapped and relocated. To help the division document an individual bear's history, trapped and relocated bears are chemically immobilized and ear-tagged before being released back into the wild.

**OHIO**  
**ENDANGERED**  
 64 bears confirmed in 2010



**INDIANA**  
**EXTIRPATED**  
 Black bears are extirpated

**MICHIGAN**  
**MANAGEMENT IN SELECT COUNTIES**  
 2,115 bears harvested in 2010

**KENTUCKY**  
**MANAGEMENT IN SELECT COUNTIES**  
 2009 was Kentucky's first modern black bear season

**PENNSYLVANIA**  
**STATEWIDE HUNTING**  
 3,090 bears harvested in 2010

**NEW YORK**  
**MANAGEMENT IN SELECT COUNTIES**  
 1,064 bears harvested in 2010

**WEST VIRGINIA**  
**STATEWIDE HUNTING**  
 2,392 bears harvested in 2010

Currently, there is no hunting season on black bears in the Buckeye State. Bears are protected, and their population is not high enough to warrant a hunting season. Bear populations increase slowly. Surrounding states have stable-to-increasing populations and it is only a matter of time before bear numbers increase in Ohio (particularly the eastern third of the state).

Most Ohio bears are males that are dispersing during the bear breeding season in June and July. While males may travel hundreds of miles after separating from their mothers, females move only a short distance because female offspring are tolerated within a mother's home range. This is nature's way of preventing inbreeding. Female dispersal is also why it takes a long time for breeding bear populations to become established in Ohio. Examining the bear harvest data of West Virginia and Pennsylvania leads biologists to realize that relatively few bears are harvested close to Ohio's borders. The highest bear harvests adjacent to Ohio occur in northwestern Pennsylvania and corresponds with the higher numbers of bear sightings coming from the northeastern portion of our state.

Over the next several years, I fully expect the bear population to increase in Ohio. If you are fortunate enough to see

a bear in Ohio, please report your bear sighting to 1-800-WILD-LIFE (945-3543) or the nearest wildlife district office. Division of Wildlife staff use this information to better understand this species as the population continues to grow in Ohio.

Now that you are "bear aware," go enjoy Ohio's bears, but do it from a safe distance and remember they are protected by law.





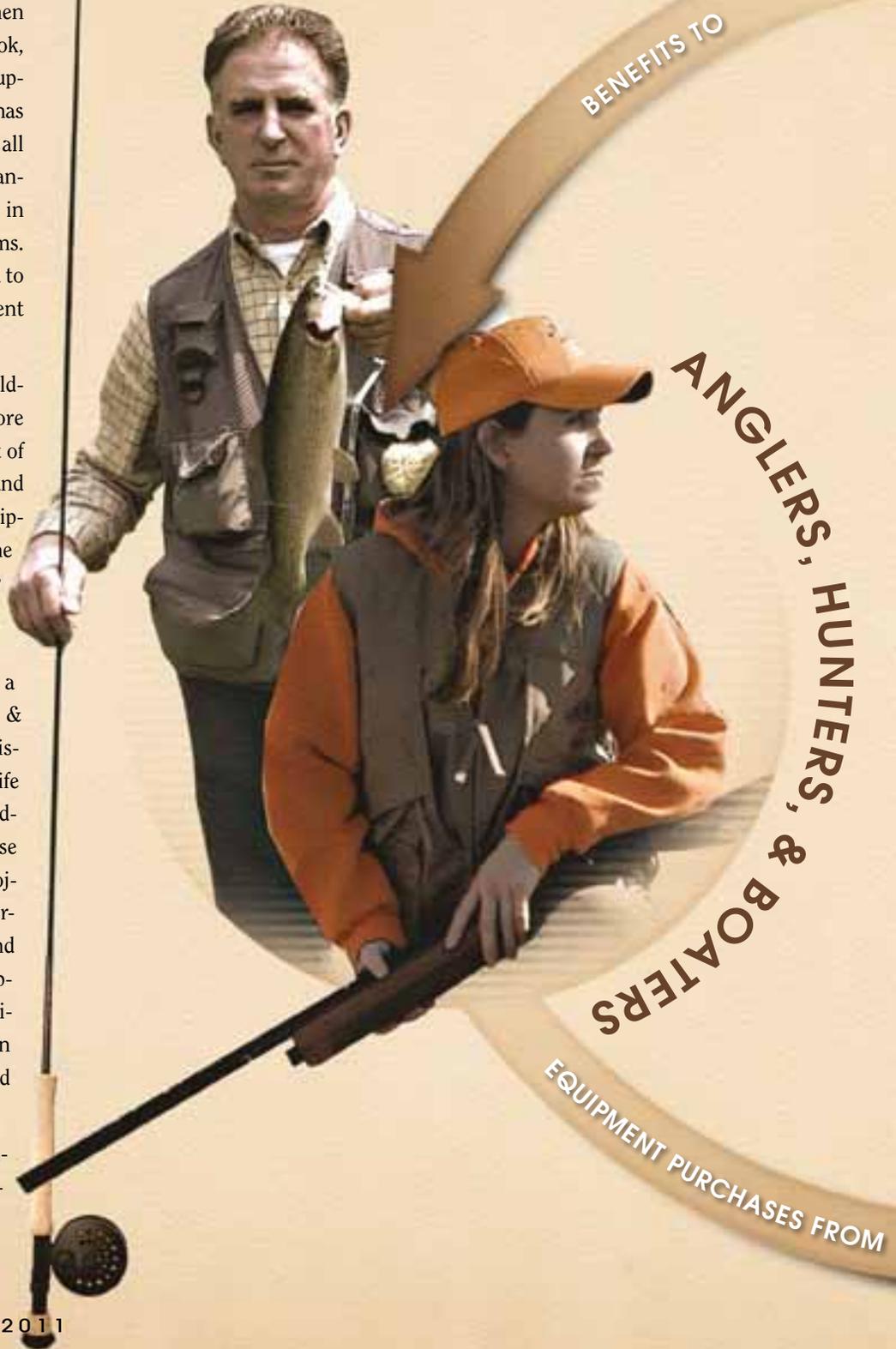
# SPORT FISH AND WILDLIFE RESTORATION ACTS

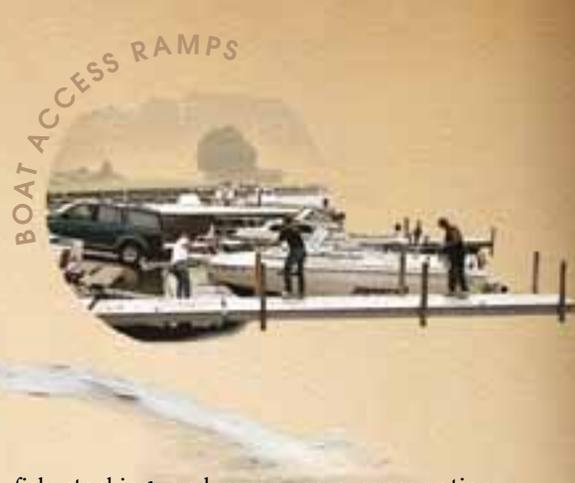
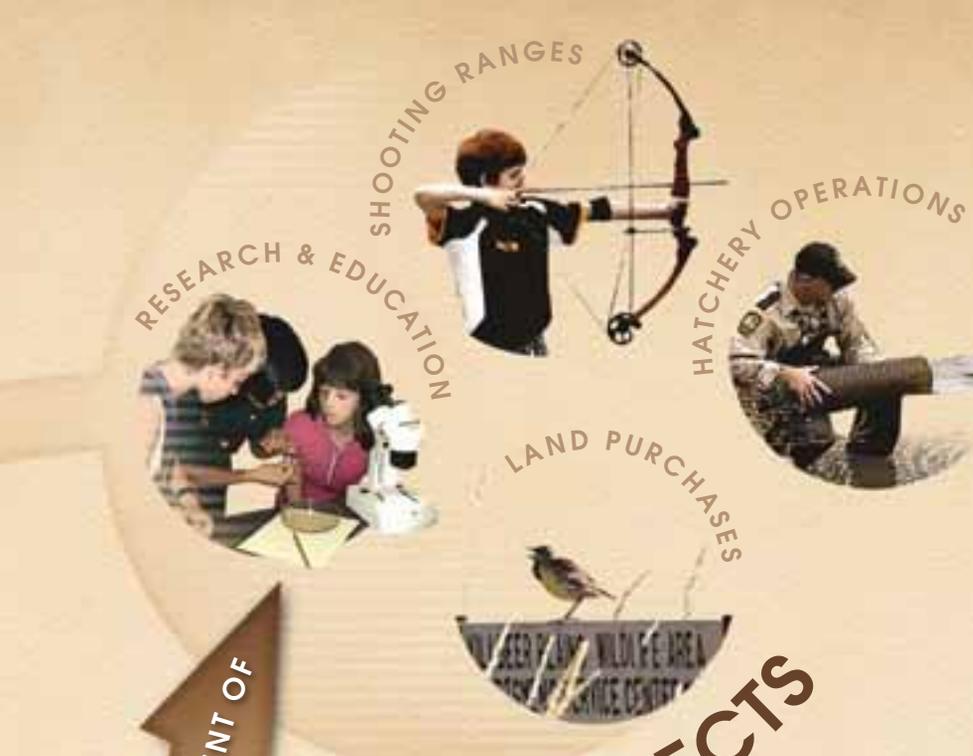
A PARTNERSHIP FOR WILDLIFE

**W**henever sportsmen and women pick up a shotgun, bait a hook, or gas up their boat, they are supporting fish and wildlife restoration. Ohio has a rich outdoor heritage that is enjoyed by all – and funded largely by hunters, shooters, anglers, and boaters through the Federal Aid in Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration Programs. Each year, close to \$400 million is dedicated to fish and wildlife restoration and enhancement projects across the country.

These programs, focused on fish and wildlife conservation, have been around more than 60 years and are based on the concept of “user pay/user benefit.” Hunters, anglers, and boaters purchase a variety of sporting equipment to take part in these activities. The manufacturers that produce equipment pay an excise tax reflected in the retail price of certain items like guns, ammunition, fishing tackle, etc. That money goes into a fund that is administered by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS). The USFWS distributes these funds to state fish and wildlife agencies including the Ohio Division of Wildlife. The state fish and wildlife agencies use these funds for specific projects. These projects result in improved and increased opportunities for those same hunters, anglers, and boaters who originally bought the equipment. When the quality of outdoor experiences is enhanced, more people take part in them, and the manufacturers produce and sell more equipment.

This cycle benefits sportsmen and women, and all who enjoy fish and wildlife, tremendously. Land purchases, boat ramp construction and maintenance, research,



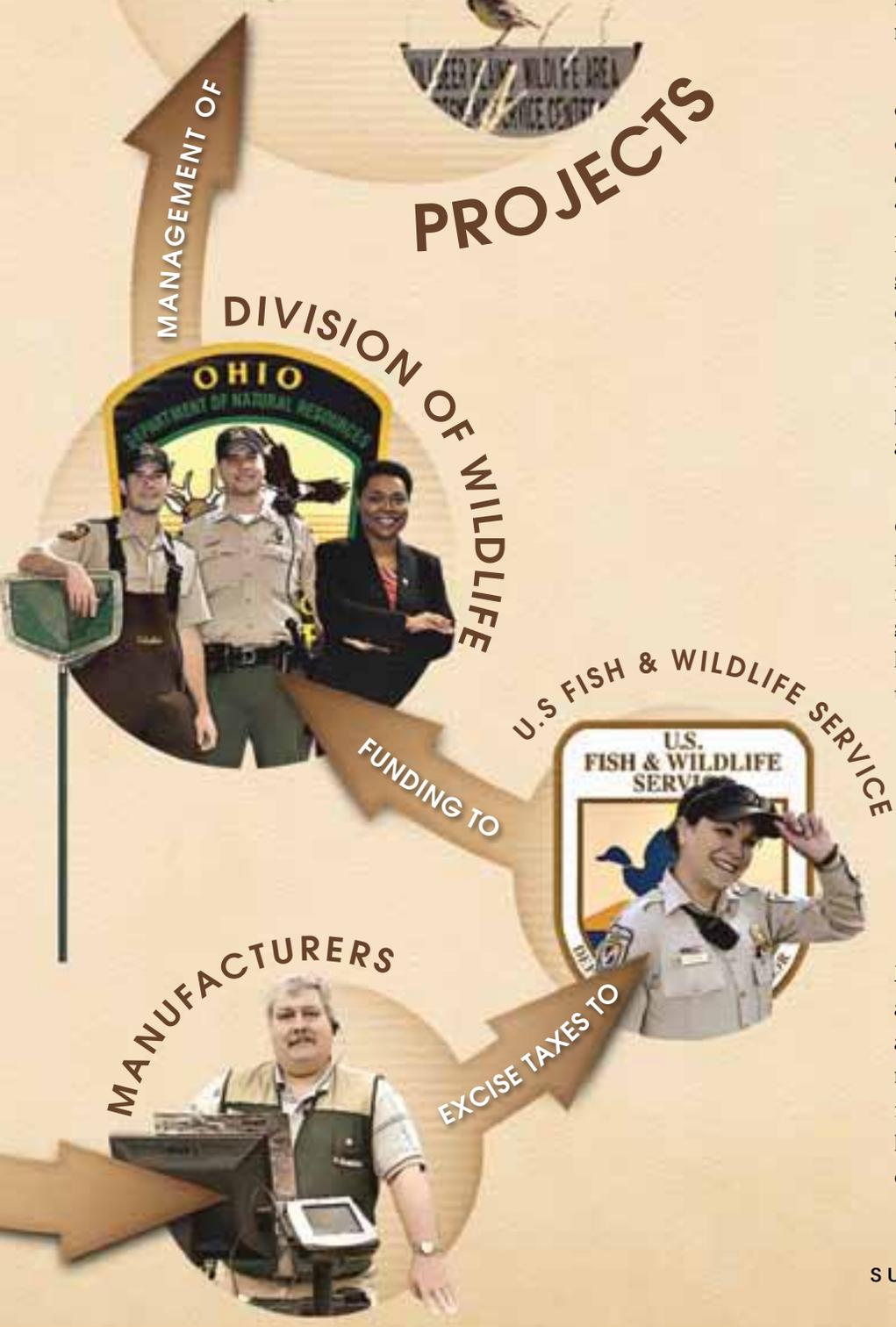


fish stocking, and many more conservation projects have been accomplished with this funding. These projects are critical to Ohio's fish and wildlife conservation efforts.

Each state is eligible for a certain amount of funding based on proportions and ratios of land, water, and hunting and fishing licenses sold in the state. However, the phrase "no such thing as a free lunch" does apply. Funding is awarded to each state through a grant. The Division of Wildlife must spend a certain percentage of money to "match" the total amount of the grant. Each project that is funded by these grants must be carefully planned and meet requirements for funding as defined by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

In addition to funding and planning requirements, when a state participates in these federal aid programs, they agree to enact legislation to protect these funds. The state must guarantee that the proceeds from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses go directly to the state's fish and wildlife fund and are only used for fish and wildlife conservation. This ensures that both federal and state fish and wildlife funds - which are paid by hunters, anglers, and boaters - are used to benefit hunters, anglers, and boaters.

This ongoing process does not happen without continued participation in the cycle. Manufacturers, sportsmen and women, state agencies and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service all work together in an intricate partnership focused on fish and wildlife conservation. The result of this partnership is improved and enhanced hunting, fishing, birding, boating, and other fish and wildlife recreation in Ohio.





# Vernal Pools

by Kathy Garza-Behr



### NATURE'S NURSERY, PART I

A vernal pool or pond is a temporary wetland that supplies breeding grounds as well as habitat for wildlife including reptiles, amphibians, birds, mammals, invertebrates, and a variety of plants. The pool can be formed by spring showers as well as melting snow or underground seeps. Generally less than three feet deep, they are often completely dry by the end of summer; spring fills the pool with water and life.

A vernal pool is not connected to a permanent body of water like a stream, river or lake. The pool does not contain a predatory fish population. The temporary status makes it a perfect breeding ground for frogs, salamanders, and toads. Often dubbed "nature's nursery," these vernal wetlands do more than supply wildlife

habitat; they also serve an important purpose in our watersheds. Just like a large wetland system, these seasonal pools slow runoff, and filter sediment and pollution from the waterway.

Along with the environmental benefits they provide, the vernal pool is also a great place to learn about the natural world. A vernal pool would be an excellent addition to any educational facility as an outdoor classroom. Life cycles, food webs, and water quality are just a few examples of educational lessons that a vernal pool can offer. A weekly trip to the site in the spring would be an exciting way to get outdoors and monitor the activity in and around the pool.

With a little luck, you may already have an existing vernal pool on or near your property. In the spring, water fills that little pothole in the pasture or along the woods' edge. After closer inspection, you may find life thriving in the shallow depression.

For more information on vernal pools and vernal pool monitoring, or to download instructions and monitoring sheets, visit the Ohio Environmental Council (OEC) website at theOEC.org. OEC has also produced a field guide that can be purchased, *Ohio's Hidden Wonders, A Guide to the Animals & Plants of Vernal Pools*. The field guide will help to identify animals and plants that call a vernal pool home.



If you are interested in creating your own vernal pool, stay tuned to the fall issue of *Wild Ohio*.



SPOTTED SALAMANDER  
JIM McCORMAC



**FOR WILD KIDS**

# In Search of Insects

by Melissa Hathaway



BEETLE  
BILL HEBAN

There are more insects in numbers and species in the world than any other group of animals. Insects exist in many habitats and many species are right in your backyard. Insects sometimes get a bad rap because some sting, bite, spread disease or damage crops. But insects are very valuable in the web of life. Many other animals eat insects to survive; birds, fish, amphibians, reptiles, some mammals, and even some insects eat other insects. Insects pollinate fruits and vegetables that provide food for other animals and humans. Insects also add grace, beautiful color, and gentle sounds to our world.

## INSECT SAFARI

*(A field guide to insects will be very helpful for this activity. If you don't have one, you can check one out at your local library.)*

Conduct an insect safari in your yard and see how many different insects you can find and identify. Some good places to look include grass, under logs and rocks, sidewalk cracks, spider webs, trees and bushes, around water sources, and in gardens (in the soil, stems, and blooms.) You can get the best vantage point by crawling around on your hands and knees. And don't forget to listen for the sounds of insects to help you find them (the buzz of a bee, chirp of a cricket).

### My list of insects:

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Using a small plastic bag, bug box, or jar, collect one of the insects you find. Examine your collection carefully and record the following information. Don't forget to let it go when you are done!

**Where did you find it?**

(grass, soil, flower)

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**What do you think it was doing when you found it?**

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**Does it have three main body parts?**

(head, thorax, abdomen)

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**Does it have antennae?**

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**Does it have wings?**

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**Where are the eyes located?**

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**What insect is it?**

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WOOLLY BEAR



# READERS' PHOTOS

*Wild Ohio* magazine receives so many photos annually that we cannot publish all of our readers' photos on this page. However, the Division of Wildlife's online photo gallery lets our *Wild Ohio* readers and other wildlife enthusiasts post their photos, where they can be used for many wildlife publications. To post photos on the website, go to [wildohio.com](http://wildohio.com).



Dale Smith, of Willard, was recently recognized in the America's Farmers Grow Communities<sup>SM</sup> program. Dale has chosen to direct his \$2,500 award to the local state and federally licensed wildlife rescue, rehabilitation and learning center, God's Little Critters.



My grandkids John (5) and Gina (4) Jones fishing a farm pond in northeast Ohio. The kids were catching so many fish, I put away my rod and just took pictures!  
*Ken*



Baby bluebirds being fed last summer in Meigs County.

*Victor Wolfe, Racine*



This is the second generation of albino squirrels that have lived in our neighborhood.

*Tim and Martha*



I shot this piebald deer while hunting in the Wayne National Forest in Hocking County on opening day of deer-gun season (2010).

*Joshua Asher, Preble County*

## WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHERS & ENTHUSIASTS!

You can now send your pictures directly to the editor through our new e-mail address, [wildohiomagazine@dnr.state.oh.us](mailto:wildohiomagazine@dnr.state.oh.us).



# WILD GAME GOURMET

AS SEEN ON WILD OHIO TV • hosted by Vicki Mountz

## Recipes



### ALMOND CRUSTED WALLEYE



- 1 - 2 walleye or saugeye fillets
- ½ cup almond meal (*ground almonds*)
- Panko (*Japanese bread crumbs*)
- Salt and pepper
- 1 egg, beaten
- 4 Tablespoons unsalted butter (*divided*)
- 2 Tablespoons canola oil
- 1 fresh peach or pear, sliced
- Splash of dry white wine (*sauvignon blanc, chardonnay, etc.*)

Mix the almond meal with a little panko and the salt and pepper. Place fish fillet in egg wash then roll in almond meal/panko mixture. Melt half of the butter and add canola oil in a pan over medium-low heat, then add fish and sauté about 4 minutes per side (*depending on thickness of fish*). Remove the walleye to paper towels, turn heat to medium high and add the sliced fruit. Stir and fry for a minute then add the remaining butter to sauce and cook until butter browns. Add wine and reduce. Place fish fillet on plate surrounded by fruit and drizzled with sauce. (Makes 2 servings)

*Contributed by Vicki Mountz*

### division of wildlife HEADQUARTERS

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

### WILDLIFE DISTRICT ONE

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

### WILDLIFE DISTRICT TWO

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

### WILDLIFE DISTRICT THREE

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

### WILDLIFE DISTRICT FOUR

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

### WILDLIFE DISTRICT FIVE

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

### SICILIAN SAUGEYE

2-4 medium-sized saugeye fillets or 1-2 large fillets  
(*walleye or sauger can be substituted with this recipe*)

Extra virgin olive oil for baking

#### For the Sauce

- 3 Tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- 1½ teaspoons dried tarragon
- 1 Tablespoon chopped capers
- 1 garlic clove, pressed
- Salt and pepper to taste

Lightly coat the bottom of a baking dish with extra virgin olive oil. Place saugeye fillets on the bottom of the pan. Bake uncovered in a 325° oven for about 30 minutes.

While the fish is baking: in a small saucepan combine the extra virgin olive oil, tarragon, chopped capers, garlic, salt and pepper; heat mixture over low heat, stirring occasionally. Remove fish from oven, when fish pulls apart easily with fork it is done. Let the fish rest for three minutes. Plate the fish, drizzle warmed sauce over the fish.

*Contributed by Rich Carter*



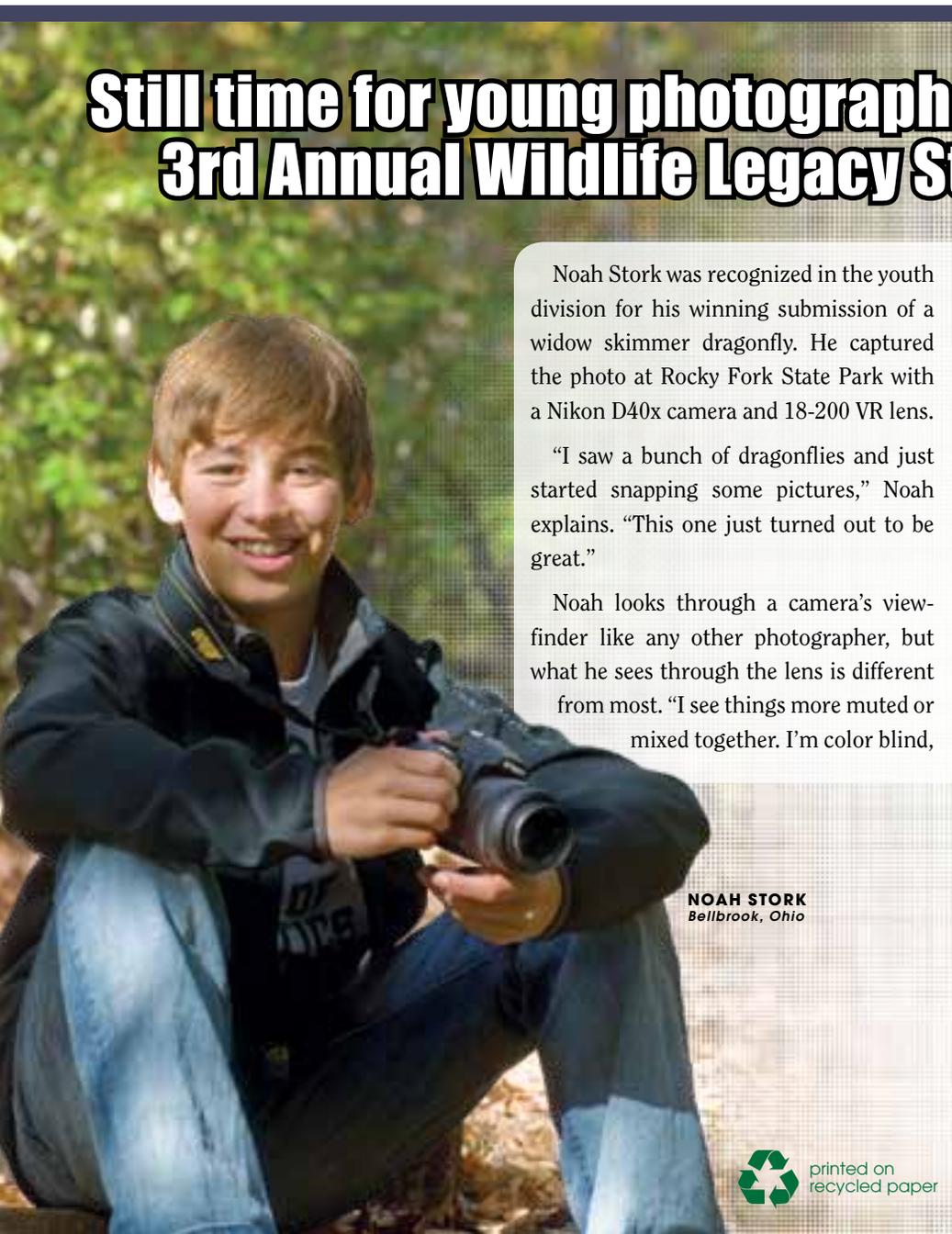
## DIVISION OF WILDLIFE MISSION STATEMENT

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



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

# Still time for young photographers to enter the 3rd Annual Wildlife Legacy Stamp Contest



Noah Stork was recognized in the youth division for his winning submission of a widow skimmer dragonfly. He captured the photo at Rocky Fork State Park with a Nikon D40x camera and 18-200 VR lens.

“I saw a bunch of dragonflies and just started snapping some pictures,” Noah explains. “This one just turned out to be great.”

Noah looks through a camera’s viewfinder like any other photographer, but what he sees through the lens is different from most. “I see things more muted or mixed together. I’m color blind,

so I don’t know how others see it. I just shoot what interests me.”

The Stork family home borders Sugar-creek Metropark. Noah’s dad, a volunteer naturalist with the park, has instilled a love of the outdoors in both of his sons. But Noah cites his mom as the one that got him interested in photography as she is always taking photos at his soccer games.

Noah, now 14, says he sees a future for himself as an engineer or architect. “Or maybe I’ll be a photographer who has a hobby in architecture.”

**NOAH STORK**  
Bellbrook, Ohio



**Learn more about the contest at**  
[wildohiostamp.com](http://wildohiostamp.com)