



## President's Message

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If you would have told someone in the early 1900's that abundant populations of deer, turkeys, and waterfowl would exist today, they would have said that you were crazy. If you would have told someone in 1960 that we would have deer in every urban area of Ohio, they would have said that you were crazy. If you would have told someone in 1980 that coyotes would inhabit every major city in Ohio, they would look at you in disbelief. What is the take away lesson? The restoration of wildlife species are great success stories but the challenges of the future are hard to foresee.

Two great challenges on the horizon are the disconnect of the public from the natural world and the exodus of the Baby Boomer generation from the work force. As society become less and less connected to the natural world and more dependent on the digital world, wildlife management is often as foreign as a computer would have been in 1950. As a result, managing wildlife becomes more and more difficult, especially with user groups with opposing views, and science-based wildlife management suffers. As the Baby Boomers retire, huge amounts of experience and knowledge are leaving agencies and institutions. Without ways to transfer their knowledge, there is a real danger in reinventing the wheel when it comes to managing wildlife, sometimes with painful results.

The Ohio Chapter of the Wildlife has a critical role to play in meeting these challenges. The wildlife professional of today is no longer simply a scientist but also part accountant, politician, psychologist, teacher, lawyer, and professor. How do young professionals or students learn the skills to balance some many different roles? Learn from those who are already balancing them and a great place to start is at Ohio Chapter events. We will be specifically reaching out to student chapters and providing opportunities for interactions with practicing wildlife professionals. The Ohio Chapter is committed to events which connect members and encourage sharing information to meet with the wildlife challenges of today and tomorrow. Hopefully, in 20 years, the future of wildlife in Ohio will be even brighter than it is today.

Michael Enright, OCTWS President



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## *The Wildlife Society Annual Conference in Winnipeg*

I was fortunate to attend The Wildlife Society's Annual Conference in Winnipeg this year. Whenever I attend a TWS conference I am always amazed at the amount of energy at the event. Not just from the presentations and posters but also because of the workshops, working group and member meetings, socials, field trips and general discussions throughout the week. It's a rare opportunity to be at an event where wildlife professionals from across North America, and from around the world, are in one venue. It's great to be able to find a presenter, the author of a recent publication, or a working group officer and discuss current management challenges and future research needs.

We also have these opportunities in Ohio. The Ohio Chapter's workshops, meetings and the annual Ohio Fish and Wildlife Management Conference provide wildlife students and professionals in Ohio information on: current wildlife issues; research needs and opportunities; and professional job prospects. I encourage you to attend these events and discuss what you are doing, hear what else is going on and join the discussion about wildlife management and research in our great state.

Some highlights of the Winnipeg conference included a full day session on the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, regulated take of wildlife (a major element of the model) and how this has been an important foundation for wildlife conservation programs that operate in America. This session, titled Wildlife Conservation's Dilemma, discussed how many professionals are entering natural resources positions with a lack of experience and training on the regulated take of wildlife and many students start their university education with fewer outdoor experiences than their predecessors. An additional challenge is a society faced with "Nature Deficit Disorder", which was part of the plenary session given by the author Richard Louv. I encourage you to read the TWS article about this session and the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation <http://wildlife.org/tws-symposium-looks-at-regulated-use-of-wildlife/>. With the conference held in Winnipeg there were also relevant sessions on the Conservation of North America's Boreal Forest, Wetlands of the Great Plains, Rangeland Wildlife in the Northern Great Plains and Research and Management of the Polar Bear.

- Jon Cepek, OCTWS Secretary



**56th**  
**OHIO FISH AND WILDLIFE**  
**CONFERENCE**  
*February 5, 2016*

The Ohio State University - Fawcett Center for Tomorrow  
 2400 Olentangy River Road • Columbus, Ohio

*Conference Theme*  
***Conservation for Everyone – Working with  
 Unconventional Partners***

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Abstracts are currently being solicited for 6 paper presentations and 13 posters for the  
 2016 Ohio Fish and Wildlife Conference

Sponsored by:  
 Ohio Fish and Wildlife Management Association, Ohio Chapter of the Wildlife Society, and the Western Reserve Land Conservancy

### ***Hocking College Student Chapter Autumn 2015 Update***

This autumn semester the Hocking College student chapter has participated in several activities. In September, club members traveled to the Red Wolf Sanctuary in Indiana and helped build a pen for gray fox and finish a pen for bobcats. The club built several squirrel boxes and erected them on the Hocking College land lab in pole timber oak-hickory forest. Members also cleaned up trash from their 2-mile Adopt-A-Highway portion of State Route 33 outside of Nelsonville, Ohio.

In October, club members built several bat boxes with Rural Action personnel after being treated to a presentation on bat ecology. The following weekend, the club erected the bat boxes on several areas in the Trimble, Ohio area.

In November the club partnered with the Hocking College Forestry Club and worked on two 1-acre patch cuts on an EQIP project on private land adjacent to Hocking College. The objective of the harvest was to promote oak and hickory regeneration. A lot of non-mast producing trees were cut into firewood and several large brush piles were constructed.

Plans for December include checking southern flying squirrel boxes with the University of Rio Grande Student Chapter and assisting the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources with controlled deer hunts. Next semester, the club will be involved in the Blennerhasset deer drive and a wetland restoration project with the Monday Creek Watershed Organization.

Submitted by Clay Wilson, President

Hocking College TWS Student Chapter

### ***OSU Chapter of the Fish and Wildlife Society Autumn 2015 Update***

This year the Fish and Wildlife Society has been involved in a variety of activities. First of all, we have tried to make our meetings more interactive than just having speakers so that we could have a healthy balance of having professional speakers coming in and gaining professional experience. For starters, at the annual college's "Back 2 School Bash," we had a falconer from the Ohio School of Falconry come and talk to students in the college about falconry as well as spreading the word about the society. We have also had many professional speakers come in to talk, including speakers from the fisheries collection and sampling aspect of the campus' Museum of Biological Diversity, Trap History Museum in Galloway, OH, a wildlife vet from South Africa as a part of Ecolife Expeditions to discuss wildlife conservation, and the ODNR Division of Wildlife to discuss intern opportunities. Speakers will also be coming in from the USDA APHIS-Wildlife Service and the Ohio EPA. We also held a fisheries professional cookout recently, which will be followed up with a wildlife professional cookout in the spring. When it comes to activities, we have held a net seining demonstration, taken a trip to the Trap History Museum, and gone out on a falconry hunt and demonstration with a falconer from the Ohio School of Falconry. The society also plans to take a group of students to the upcoming Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Grand Rapids, MI. We also plan on taking a private tour at The Wilds and bring in professionals from The Wildlife Society. Lastly, we are currently planning with the Wildlife Society's Forestry and Wildlife Working Group to attend a workshop in Michigan that may focus on the management of Kirtland's Warbler in respect to forestry.

Submitted by Jack Rabe, President

The Ohio State University TWS Student Chapter



## *Ohio Chapter of TWS Fall 2015 Wildlife Workshop*

The 2015 OCTWS Fall Workshop was held at Vinton Furnace State Experimental Forest on September 16, 2015. The workshop was attended by 42 wildlife professionals and focused on forest management of invasive species. This included presentations and in-the-field experience on managing feral swine and tree of heaven. Vinton Furnace State Experimental Forest staff did a fantastic job hosting the event and providing management and research updates about the many projects going on at this facility. We were also very fortunate to have The Wildlife Society's Wildlife Programs Coordinator, Mariah Simmons participate in the workshop. Mariah offered updates and TWS perspectives during the OCTWS Fall Business meeting.

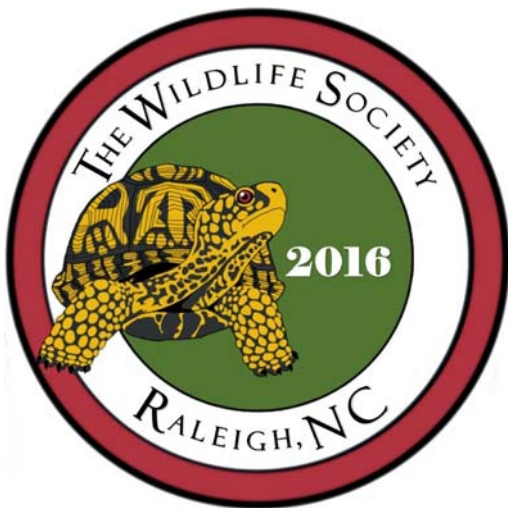


Learn, Network and Engage

## *The Wildlife Society 23rd Annual Conference*

October 15-19, 2016

Raleigh, North Carolina



The Wildlife Society's [Annual Conference](#) is one of the largest gatherings of wildlife professionals, students and supporters in North America. More than 1,500 attendees gathered to learn, network and engage at our 2015 Annual Conference in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

North Carolina will be hosting The Wildlife Society's 23rd Annual Conference at the Raleigh Convention Center next fall. We hope you will join us there for more than 500 educational sessions, 3 plenary sessions, over 40 networking opportunities, and much more!

Full registration and conference program details will be available May 15, 2016.