



Fall-Winter 2018 Newsletter

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► **President's Message,** Geoffrey Westerfield

It has been a pleasure serving as President of the Ohio Chapter the last few years. In everything, I try to move things further today than they were the day before. Those that know me well know that I don't operate in 1st gear and I want things done in 1 minute, not 1 year. Further, I operate under the idea that no matter how far ahead you get, there is always way more that needs done. OCTWS and the wildlife profession definitely fits that. Over the last several years we accomplished:

-Hosting the internationally-attended Wildlife Society Conference

-Consolidating the historical records of the chapter and submitting them to the Ohio Historical Society

-Investing with the Student Wildlife Research Symposium to better focus our efforts on future wildlife professionals

-New OCTWS logo

-Collaborating with OWMA on a multi-day conference with the Chapter hosting a workshop component

-Working to strengthen the relationship with the student chapters through student specific workshops and attendance at their meetings

-Assembling an Operations Manual for future OCTWS officers

-Continuing engagement with the North Central Section and the national TWS office to push for benefits for our members and state chapter

These are only steps up the staircase to success and we really are only up to the second floor of a tall skyscraper. As we climb the stairs our legs will get tired, but by focusing on the top floor we will get there. So I will leave you with one simple question to ask yourself on the first of each month, **“How can I contribute to my profession through involvement with the Ohio Chapter of The Wildlife Society?”** We need to stop thinking about how to get to the next floor and instead get up and start climbing the staircase. You may slip on a stair, or even fall down a few, on the way up. That’s expected. But continuing to take steps will get us to the top.



OCTWS Fall Student Workshop – Update from Grace Dietsch

At the Resumes, Interviews, Networking, and Southern Flying Squirrels workshop, we kept a relaxed atmosphere which led to a lot of interactive and productive discussions amongst the group. We had 13 students attend (2 – OSU, 4 – Hocking, 7 – Rio). Students were really grateful for 1:1 feedback and to have their resumes reviewed with such detail. I was able to get almost everyone's resume critiqued prior to the workshop to speed the process. There is no doubt everyone walked away with improved resume-making skills. All the professionals in attendance agreed to continue to work with the students one-on-one via email until their resumes were solid. Thanks Don Althoff, Dave Swanson, Andy Montoney, and Andrew Hoffman for all your help throughout the day! After a mock quiz bowl, everyone headed out to check nest boxes for flying squirrels. Though only one nest box was occupied, it was a photogenic female and her pups – quite the highlight!





See the attachments delivered with the newsletter to read these recent Ohio wildlife research articles

- Distribution Modeling of *Asclepias* spp. Predicts Potential Conservation Benefits of Marginal Ecosystems as Nature Reserves in Northwest Ohio – Natural Areas Journal by Ashlee Nichter and Andrew Gregory
- Survival Rates and Harvest Patterns of Ohio-Banded Canada Gees – Wildlife Society Bulletin by Brendan Shirkey, Robert Gates, and Mike Ervin
- Automated Telemetry Reveals Staging Behavior in a Declining Migratory Passerine – The Auk by James Wright, Luke Powell, and Chris Tonra



OCTWS Swag!! We are happy to announce the new OCTWS logo will be available as stickers, t-shirts, and hoodies at the upcoming OWMA Conference in Columbus and Midwest F&W in Cleveland! We have upgraded our “store” to accept cash and cards!



► Scott Butterworth, District 2 Manager for Ohio Division of Wildlife sent in an update for Howard Marsh Metropark. Almost 1,000 acres of farmland has been purchased to-date and 762 acres converted to wetlands already. Planning is underway to convert the remaining 250 acres to wetland in the near future. More information can be found in [the following article featured in the national Parks & Recreation Magazine.](#) Thanks Scott!



New OCTWS Officers

Renee Buck, Farm Bill biologist with Pheasants Forever, has been nominated for a 6-year term beginning January as President Elect. Thomas Butler, a Certified Wildlife Biologist with USDA Wildlife Service, is the sole nominee for Treasurer.

Legislative Update

In lieu of giving a thorough legislative update at a time when the “lame duck” session of Congress is winding down and subject to make even the most recent of newswire pieces obsolete in mere minutes, please make a point to attend the co-hosted (OCTWS & OWMA) Thursday evening business meeting and social at The Knotty Pine, Thursday, January 17th. Registration is \$10.00 for the event and begins at 6 PM. Johanna Dart - Ohio's Hunting R3 Coordinator will speak for a bit, both organizations will conduct their annual business meetings, and most of all – there will be plenty of time and refreshments to socialize around. Ah yes, this started as a legislative update...by then, the legislative scene will have settled a bit and more complete updates will be given. [Click here for the OWMA registration link.](#)



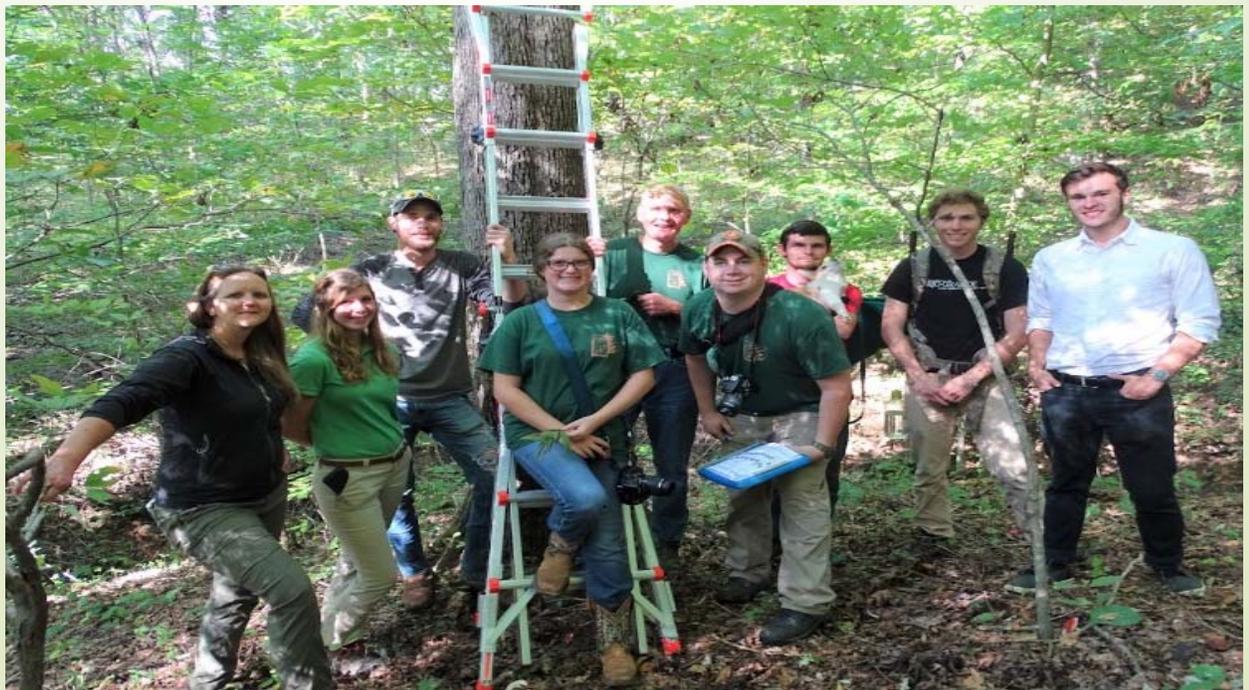
Hocking College – Student Chapter Update

The Hocking College Wildlife Club has been busy this past semester. We put up bluebird boxes that we will be planning to manage in the spring. We went to Rio Grande for a workshop with resumes and interviews and after that we went out to check flying squirrel boxes. We also had several students attend The Wildlife Society Conference in Cleveland in October. The club has been making bat boxes that we will be putting up around the Hocking area. In between all the activities, we had several speakers come in to talk. One guest spoke about bluebirds and how to manage nest boxes. One spring event that we are especially looking forward to is the establishment of several pollinator patches.



Rio Grande – Student Chapter Update

The Rio Student Chapter again had two successful fall fund-raising events. We worked the sorghum syrup booth at the 48th annual Bob Evans Farm Festival. Using the labor-intensive method, sorghum cane was crushed to produce the juice using a mill that was literally driven by horsepower (as in one horse). We then boiled down the juice down—about a 2 hour process--to make the sorghum syrup (7 gallons of juice produce 1 gallon of syrup). Our other fund-raiser was selling wildlife calendars for the 4th year in-a-row. Photos (over 70) submitted by faculty and chapter members were voted on by chapter members for inclusion in the calendar. Funds raised will, in part, be used to pay for registrations and gas stipends for chapter members to attend the upcoming Ohio Wildlife Management Association Conference and Ohio Natural History Conference. Many chapter members participated in a September salamander survey on newly acquired university property. The chapter also hosted the OCTWS Student Workshop that concluded with a check of southern flying squirrel boxes at the Rio site.



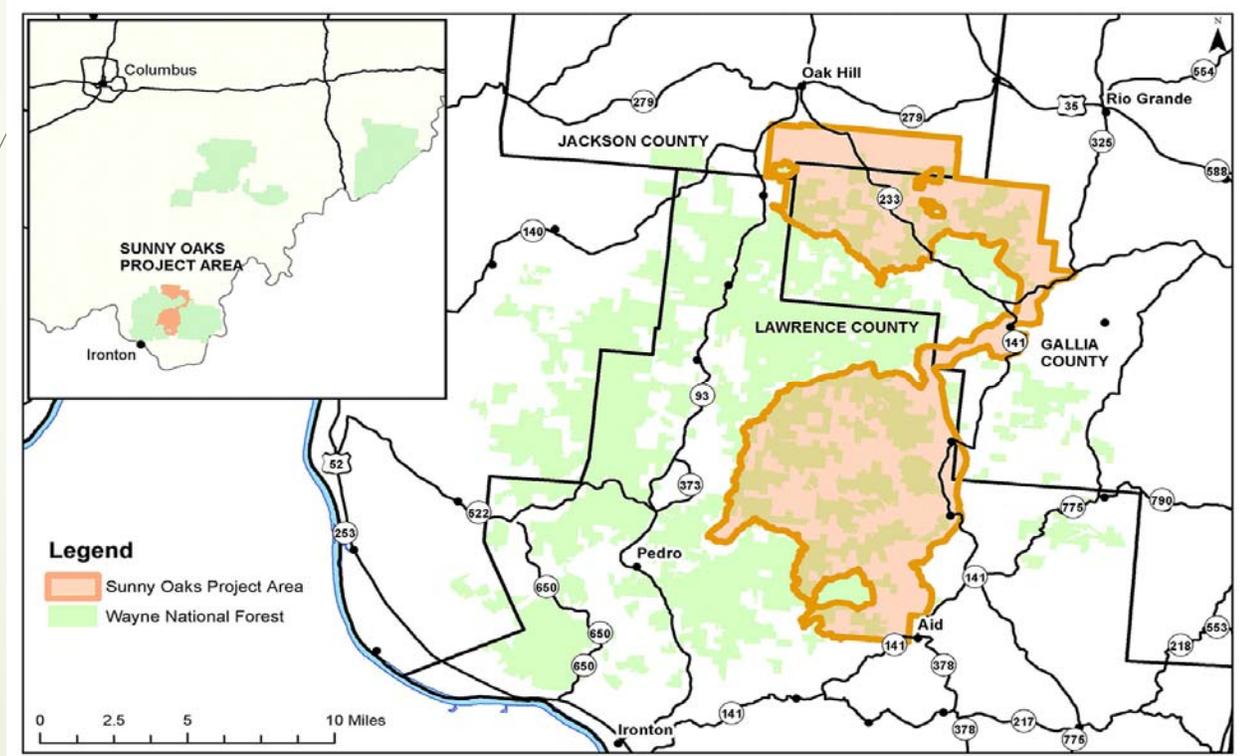
Ohio State – Student Chapter Update

The Ohio State Fish and Wildlife Society focuses on developing member's skills, connections through networking, community, and career goals regarding fish and wildlife. To focus on our career goals and skill building we have guest speakers talk to the group and provide opportunities to attend trainings and workshops. Several members attended The Wildlife Society conference to network with professionals and meet other students with similar interests, a few presented their undergraduate research projects as well. We even entered the Quiz Bowl for the first time in over a decade. Another fall event was a graduate student panel to answer questions regarding grad school and ODNR Division of Wildlife interns to talk about their experience. We went on a weekend camping trip to encourage community amongst our members and had a bake sale to fundraise for future trips. Activities we have planned for the spring include a falconry hunt, first aid training, monthly club social nights, and another camping trip.



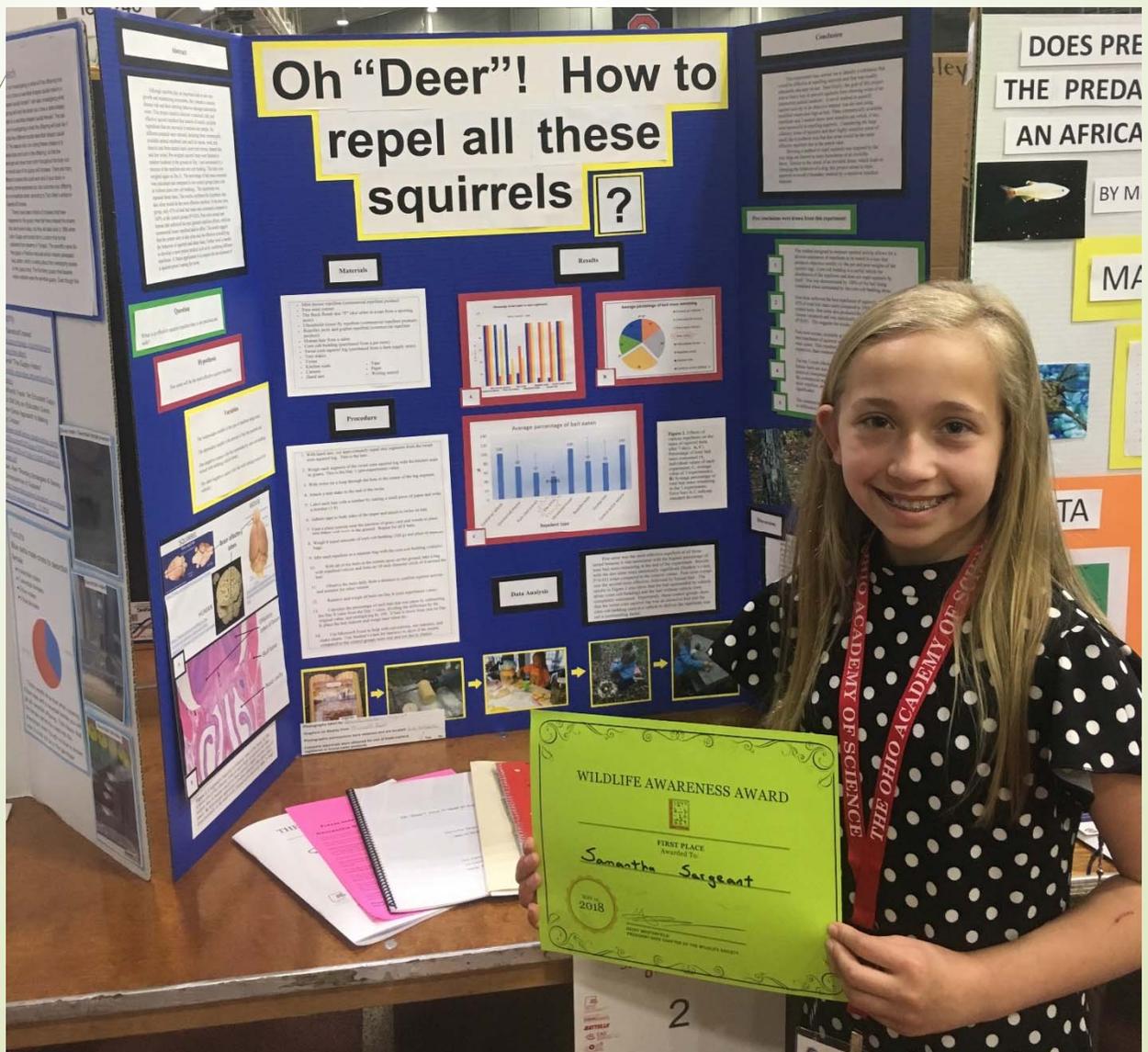
Sunny Oaks Project Proposal – Wayne National Forest (30 day comment period OPEN)

I'd encourage everyone to debrief themselves at the [US-Forest Service website for the Sunny Oaks Project](#). A 30-day comment period is open right now as the Wayne National Forest seeks to gather input on their revised project proposal. They have gone to great lengths to produce videos describing the project's plan to create young, brushy forests that are largely composed of oaks and hickories, respond to insect and disease threats, and contribute to local economies through timber harvests.



2018 Wildlife Awareness Award Winner, Science Fair

Eight students submitted wildlife-related projects to the 2018 State Science Fair. Topics included squirrel deterrents, mouse memory, bird feed preference, frogs and water quality preference, microplastics and mussels, using aquaponics for algae control, fish surveys for a watershed, and comparing a .22 rifle and air rifle for accuracy as it pertained to hunting. In the end, I (Geoff) selected Samantha Sargeant, a 6th grader from Sidney, OH who did the squirrel deterrents project. Samantha delivered the best presentation with solid findings which could be applied on a larger scale.



Ohio Save-the-Date Announcements

Our hope is that the OCTWS newsletter will continue to be a sounding board for members to showcase upcoming events and attract participation from other OCTWS members to webinars, workshops, seminars, and conferences. As appended pages to the PDF, please find the following announcements for:

-2019 OWMA Conference Agenda and Thursday Evening Business Meeting/Social – January 17th and 18th

-Livestock Predator Management Workshop with a Coyote/Black Vulture Focus

-Climate Change Adaptation for Wildlife Managers, a pre-Midwest F&W Conference Workshop



Geoffrey Westerfield, outgoing President
Grace Dietsch, incoming President
Michael Enright, outgoing Past President
Gabriel Karns, Secretary

Sponsors



**Ohio Wildlife
Management Association**



**Ohio Chapter
of the Wildlife Society**

ODNR, Division of Wildlife

**OSU, School of Environment
and Natural Resources**



OWMA Program Chair

Marci Lininger

OWMA Program Co-Chairs

Nick Schell, Jon Cepek, Viorel Popescu,
Stephen Spear

Registration and Dues

Business Dinner Registration Fees:

Regular \$10.00

Conference Only Registration Fees:

(Lunch included with conference pre-registration)

Regular Registration

Professional \$40.00

University/Grad Student \$20.00

High School Student/Chaperone \$10.00

OWMA Membership Dues: Included in Registration

Schedule of Events

Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019

OWMA & OCTWS Business Meetings
Knotty Pine Brewery

6:00 PM	Welcome
6:30 PM	Johanna Dart – Ohio's Hunting R3 Coordinator, will share new developments in how the state is tackling the issues of recruitment, retention and reactivation.
7:15 PM	OWMA & OCTWS Business Meetings
8:30 PM	Student and Professional Networking

OWMA Conference

Friday, Jan. 18, 2019

OSU 4-H Center

8:00 – 9:00 Registration

8:00 – 4:00 Poster Session and Student Job Fair
(4-H Center Lobby)

Friday Morning Session

9:00 **KEYNOTE: A Dung Beetle Walks into a Bar – Using humor and storytelling to do the serious work of connecting people to nature and science.**

Harvey B. Webster-Chief Wildlife Officer & Museum Ambassador, Cleveland Museum of Natural History

10:00 **Bobcats in Ohio: road ecology and distribution patterns** - Viorel Popescu, Ohio University

10:30 **Break / Poster Session**
Coffee and Hot Tea Served

11:00 **Recreational Access and Habitat Conservation** - Kristina Slagle, Ohio State University

11:20 **Full life-cycle ecology & urban landscapes: challenges of identifying & addressing critical conservation needs for migratory birds** - Matt Shumar, Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative

Wildlife Achievement Award

11:50

Lunch & Poster Review

12:00

Friday Afternoon Session

1:00 **Monitoring bird and bat migration activity with radar** – Beth Rigby, USFWS R3

1:30 **Odonata Atlas** – MaLisa Spring, Ohio University

1:40 **Status of Monarch Butterfly** – Kate Parsons, ODNR-DOW

1:50 **Status of Kirtland snake** – Megan Seymour, USFWS Ohio

2:00 **Hellbender – Monitoring released head-started Eastern Hellbenders** - Matt Kaurert, Ohio University

2:10 **Ohio Furbearer update** – Katie Dennison, ODNR-DOW

2:20 **Eastern Red Bat Habitat Selection in Areas with Different Land Use Histories in Southeast Ohio** – Maria Monarchino Ohio University

2:40 **Break / Poster Session**
Coffee and Hot Tea Served

3:00 **USDA Wildlife Services efforts to conserve threatened species and habitat in Ohio's Lake Erie watershed** – Caleb Wellman, USDA WS

3:20 **Ohio Rabies Update: A Breach in the Barrier** - Jeffery Raines, USDA WS

3:30 **Status of bumble bees in Ohio: A 2-year statewide survey in search of declining species** – Paige Reeher, University of Akron

3:40 **Intra-seasonal movements and breeding phenology of sora and Virginia rails in a managed marsh complex in NW Ohio** – James Hansen Ohio State University

3:50 **10 min Buffer/Questions**

4:00 **Adjourn**

Information on both Thursday and Friday events can be found at www.ohiowildlife.org

Poster Session - 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

- Salamander microclimate comparison of mined vs unmined forest
- Effects of Beaver Impoundments on Acid Mine Drainage within The Wilds
- How to train your hellbender: mammalian predator conditioning in eastern hellbenders (*Cryptobranchus alleganiensis*)
- Water Chemistry in Relation to Occurrence of Woodland Amphibians at the Primmer Outdoor Learning Center
- Evaluating Carnivore Populations at The Wilds
- Optimizing DNA Barcoding Methods for Amphibians in Ohio using Cytochrome *b* and 16S rDNA Genes
- Timber Rattlesnake Home Range Estimates and Habitat Use on Forestry Lands in Ohio - Optimization of Cytochrome Oxidase I for DNA Barcoding of the *Lithobates* Genus
- Testing for *Borrelia burgdorferi*, the bacterium that causes Lyme Disease, in *Peromyscus leucopus* in Ohio
- Assessing Eastern Hellbender (*Cryptobranchus alleganiensis*) distribution within the Muskingum River watershed through environmental DNA sampling
- Foraging behavior of breeding songbirds in urban forests
- Assessing the impact of prairie management techniques on arthropod populations
- Population Dynamics of White-Footed Mice (*Peromyscus leucopus*) from 2012-2018 in a Fragmented Landscape
- Sunfish Biodiversity at The Primmer Outdoor Learning Center in Logan Ohio
- Strip Mines & Salamanders: Investigating the Genetic Impact of Extreme Habitat Disturbance on Populations
- Risk Assessment to Wildlife from Ohio Wind Farm Development: - A Landscape Model Approach
- Effects of surrounding land-use on urban bumble bees in the industrial Midwest
- Evaluating Allelic Diversity from Eastern Hellbender (*Cryptobranchus alleganiensis*) eDNA samples
- Only Slightly Wet and Wild: Miller Valley Wetland Seven Years After Restoration (Alternative, more serious title: Evaluating Miller Valley Wetland Seven Years After Restoration)
- The Terrestrial Wildlife Ecology Laboratory: Conducting Conservation Research in the Interest of People, Landscape, and Wildlife
- Like Father, like Son: Quantitative genetics in the endangered American Burying Beetle, *N. americanus*
- Nest structure and temperature in relationship to parasitism by the Avian Blow Fly (*Protocalliphora* spp.)
- Comparison of Freshwater Mussel eDNA Yield and

Detection with Various Filter Sizes

- Arthropod Diversity in *Miscanthus x giganteus*, *Panicum virgatum*, and Other Habitat Types in Southeastern Ohio

Meet our Keynote Speaker

Harvey Webster

Harvey Webster is the Director, of Wildlife Resources at Cleveland Museum of Natural History and the museum's Ralph Perkins II Wildlife Center & Woods Garden.

He is also a nationally known conservationist, and currently involved in Lights Out Cleveland, an effort to have skyscrapers turn off their lights at night to deter birds from striking the buildings during spring and autumn migrations.

Among his many accomplishments, Webster, of Kirtland, helped jump-start the remarkable recovery of once-endangered bald eagles. The museum was the first institution in the world to successfully breed the eagles by artificial insemination and introduce the resulting eaglets to wild nests.

In an age when technology so effectively isolates us from the natural world, it is incumbent that we, as professionals in wildlife conservation, science and stewardship, use any and all tools to forge connections between people of all ages and the natural world. The stories we tell, the connections we make, the experiences we provide, can create an awareness and appreciation in our audiences for wildlife and nature as well as the science we employ in its study, stewardship and management. Awareness and appreciation are the essential first steps towards building a conservation ethic. And it could all start with a good story or yarn. It might be that our very livelihoods in this profession will depend on it!

Webster will draw on his experiences from his 44 year career at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History to tell some stories and spin some yarns and offer why he is optimistic about the future.

59th Ohio Wildlife Conference



OWMA
OHIO WILDLIFE
MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

January 17-18th, 2019

@ the Nationwide & Ohio Farm
Bureau 4-H Center
2201 Fred Taylor Drive
Columbus, Ohio

Sponsored by
Ohio Wildlife Management Association
Ohio Chapter of The Wildlife Society
ODNR Division of Wildlife

January 19, 2019
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.



Livestock Predator Management Workshop

Learn management strategies to reduce black vulture & coyote predation.

This event is being held at the Brown Co. Fairgrounds - Administration Building conference room.

It is an all-day workshop with some outside demonstrations - please plan accordingly.

Lunch will be provided at no charge to you!

Space is limited.

Call the Brown County SWCD office to register.

Deadline is Jan. 15th!

937-378-4424 ext. 4





CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION FOR WILDLIFE MANAGERS: A HANDS-ON WORKBOOK PROCESS



PURPOSE:

Wildlife managers face the growing challenge of helping wildlife populations and ecosystems respond to climate change. This active, hands-on workshop will help participants consider climate change and develop custom-built adaptation actions into their own real-world projects. **This is a one-day, pre-conference workshop associated with the 2019 Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference!**

OUTCOMES:

Through this workshop, participants will be able to:

- Describe regional and local effects of climate change on wildlife in the Midwest.
- Understand climate adaptation concepts in the context of terrestrial wildlife management.
- Develop custom-built actions to enhance the ability of wildlife species to adapt to changing conditions.

WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE:

This workshop is for professional wildlife managers, including staff from consulting firms; conservation NGOs; and employees of federal, state, tribal, and county agencies.

We ask participants to bring their own real-world projects to this workshop. Example projects include:

- A habitat management plan for a state Wildlife Management Area
- A population plan for a sensitive or harvested species
- A landscape-scale wildlife management plan among several agencies

We encourage small teams of 2-5 people to work together, but individuals working on their own are also welcome.

WHEN AND WHERE?

Sunday, January 27, 2019
Hilton Cleveland Downtown Hotel
Cleveland, OH

QUESTIONS?

Contact Stephen Handler (sdhandler@fs.fed.us) and Olivia LeDee (oledee@usgs.gov)

REGISTRATION

Workshop cost: \$60
(includes coffee and refreshments, not lunch)

*Members of The Wildlife Society North-Central Section can use the registration code **TWS NCS Member Rate W2** for a \$50 discount!*

Please register by January 17:
www.midwestfw.org/html/registration.shtml
Registration will be capped at 30 participants.



Organized by USGS Northeast Climate Adaptation Science Center, NIACS, Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources, University of Wisconsin-Madison, and the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts. Sponsored by The Wildlife Society North-Central Section.



CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION FOR WILDLIFE MANAGERS: A HANDS-ON WORKBOOK PROCESS

DRAFT AGENDA:

SUNDAY, JANUARY 27

- 9:00 *Welcome & Introduction to the Workbook*
- 9:30 *Workbook Step 1 – Introduce people and projects*
- 10:00 *Workbook Step 2 – Assess climate change impacts*
- 11:30 *Workbook Step 3 – Feasibility of mgmt. objectives*
- 12:00 *LUNCH*
- 12:45 *Workbook Step 3 – continued*
- 1:30 *Workbook Step 4 – Identify adaptation actions*
- 4:00 *Workbook Step 5 – Monitoring effectiveness*
- 4:45 *Next steps and wrap up*
- 5:00 *Adjourn and travel home!*

BRING YOUR OWN PROJECT

Want get the most out of this workshop? We're looking for 8-12 participants to bring real-world projects of your very own to use as examples during this workshop. You'll lead a small group during the day, and when the dust settles you'll have a custom-built adaptation plan that's ready to implement! Contact Stephen Handler before you register for more information (sdhandler@fs.fed.us).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science (NIACS) is expanding on the published adaptation toolkit for forest managers - *Forest Adaptation Resources and the Adaptation Workbook*, to develop a new resource focused on terrestrial wildlife management.

This new effort will produce a "menu" of climate adaptation strategies and approaches for use in a structured decision-making framework. Managers will be able to use the new wildlife adaptation menu to develop customized actions for implementation, to communicate the rationale for their actions, and to define their view of success in the context of climate change adaptation.

Throughout this workshop, participants will actively use the new menu of strategies and approaches. Your feedback will shape the continued development and improvement of the tool. We need your help!

MORE INFORMATION

Find more information on the structured decision-making process - the Forest Adaptation resources and Adaptation Workbook at:

forestadaptation.org/far.

Find the original forest management adaptation menu at: www.adaptationworkbook.org/niacs-strategies

REAL-WORLD EXAMPLES

Find over 250 real-world projects that have used the Adaptation Workbook in climate-informed project planning and implementation, featured at forestadaptation.org/demos.