



## Spring - Summer 2019 Newsletter

### In this Issue:

- Incoming President's Message
- Davey Workshop (August 8<sup>th</sup>)
- Midwest & OWMA Recaps
- Student Wildlife Research Symposium
- Recent Ohio Pubs & Other Resources
- Upcoming Conferences



### ► President's Message, Grace Die tsc h

G re e t i n g s F e l l o w W i l d l i f e r s,

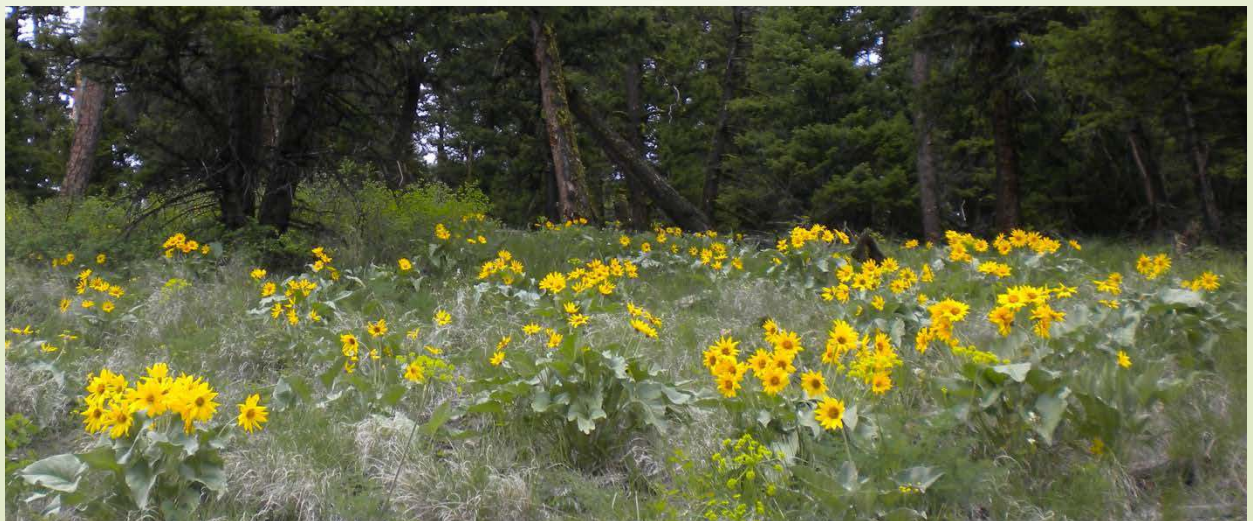
In January 2019, I assumed the role as president of your Ohio Chapter of The Wildlife Society. I would like to extend a huge thank you to Mike Enright, former Chapter president, for not only the nomination but also for helping me become familiar with the Society and remaining committed to being a mentor for me in my career. I'd also like to thank Geoff Westfield, past-president of the Chapter for all he has accomplished to pave the way for future board members as well as his contributions to our members. He has created many opportunities for students and professionals alike to connect and develop new skills. Needless to say, great leaders have been at the helm of this organization and I hope to carry on the tradition of creating opportunities for networking, education, and partnerships.

(continued next page)

There has been challenging times recently in the city of Dayton. Destructive tornadoes ripped through the area on May 28<sup>th</sup>, causing widespread destruction of homes, businesses, and natural areas. Here at Five Rivers Metro Parks, we lost approximately 70 acres of mature and early successional hardwood forests to those 140mph winds and an adjacent park lost about 400 mature trees on 15 acres. We are still grappling with how we can begin to recover and continue to be there for the people and wildlife that depend upon the ecological services that these areas once provided. At the same time, the City of Dayton and the Dayton International Airport are making strides towards destroying 120 acres of a 25-year old prairie adjacent to Englewood and Aullwood Metro Parks. This high-functioning prairie system protects the headwaters to a tributary of the Stillwater River, a state-designated Scenic River.

The reason I share this in my first message to you as president because I want you all to harness the energy of these losses and funnel it into the passion that you brought you into this field, and turn it up a notch. I know Dayton is not alone in these recent and looming losses of Ohio's natural heritage, but at some point we need to dig in our heels and make a change.

(continued next page)



It is us that need to be this change – land managers, biologists, scientists, researchers, and technicians alike. You directly or indirectly make decisions and take actions every day that affects biodiversity and resiliency of our region. Mother Nature and human-kind are changing our landscapes more rapidly than ever and we must adapt to slow it down and reverse these trends. Even the smallest of actions can make exponential impacts – plant trees, landscape your yard with native plants, join a conservation organization, volunteer or donate to a local non-profit, mentor a young professional so they are more effective and successful in their career, partner with another organization on a project to expand reach and gain momentum, or just simply reach out to others and ask for help. To quote the Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative – All You Can, Where You Can!

Yours in Conservation,

Grace Dietrich, President



## OCTWS Professionals Summer Workshop (August 8<sup>th</sup>)

Please register for the August 8<sup>th</sup> workshop at the Davey Institute in Kent, OH. Itinerary runs 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Lunch is provided. [More details below and via link.](#)

The Davey Resource Group provides a wide range of environmental consulting services to organizations covering both public and private lands management throughout Ohio. The workshop will highlight several Davey projects that have been completed throughout Ohio on a variety of habitat types—wetlands and floodplain restoration, turning an old golf course back into natural habitat, pollinator projects, and more. The morning session will be indoors followed by an afternoon of field visits to several of their project sites.

Workshop carries up to 4.25 ISA CEUs, 4 TWS CEUs in Category I of the Certified Wildlife Biologist Renewal/Professional Development Certificate Program, and CEUs are pending for SAF.



Ohio Chapter of The Wildlife Society  
Summer Workshop:  
Using Research to Inform Habitat Manipulation



**OCTWS Registration: \$50**

**Non-member Registration: \$60**

*(includes 1-yr membership)*

**August 8, 2019**

**Davey Institute**

**1500 N. Mantua Rd, Kent, OH**

**8:00am-3:00pm**

**Learn more and register at: [www.wildlife.org/ohio](http://www.wildlife.org/ohio)**

CEU's for TWS or ISA are available

## National TWS Issues Formal Statement on Wildlife Killing Contests

Given the flurry of legislative and regulatory skirmishes playing out on the issue of wildlife killing contests, TWS issued a much-needed statement on the organization's position on those activities. Those responsible for the statement did a good job of defining what a wildlife killing contest is and is not, balanced the statement in relation to TWS' other standing position statements on hunting, the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, and on Conserving Biological Diversity, and uses 7 points to define their policy on the issue. Whether you agree some, all, or none of it, it was a policy statement that our National parent organization needed to issue and they did. [Read it for yourself here or click the attachment.](#)



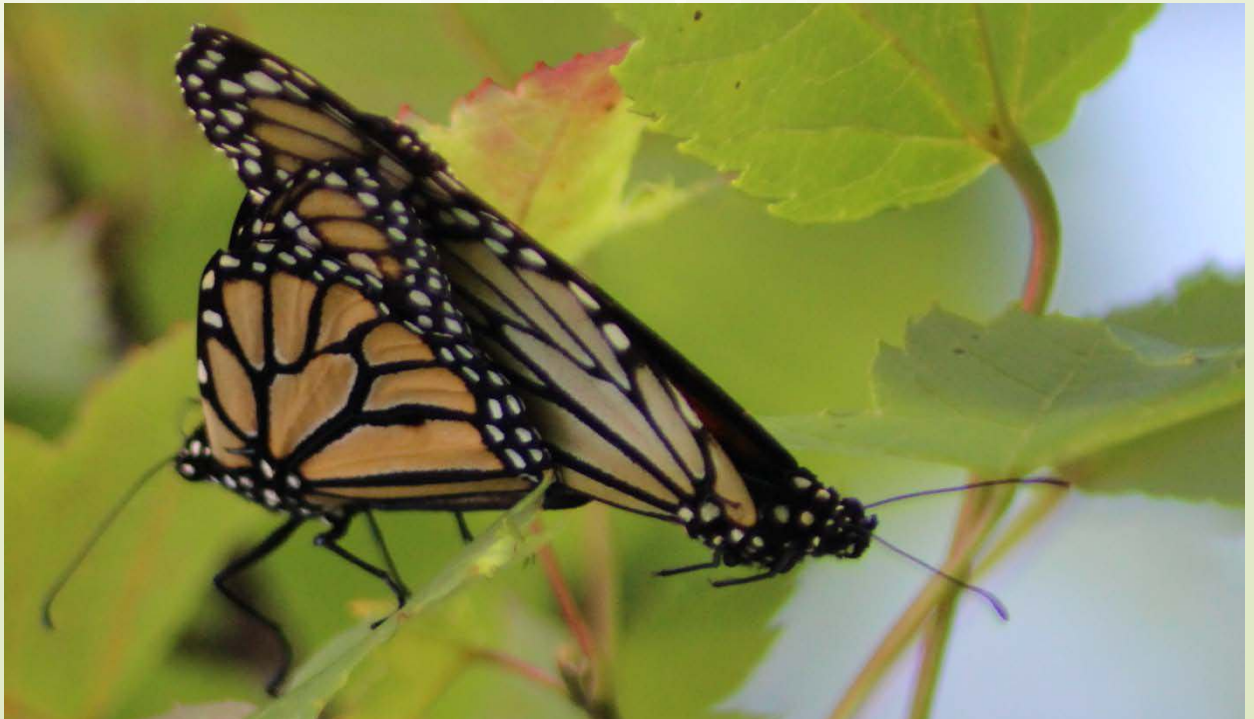
## **Ohio Chapter of TWS Operations Manual Finalized**

A big thanks to Geoff Westfield for taking the lead on assembling an Operations Manual for OCTWS. The document is true to chapter bylaws and provides a great roadmap for everything from administrative support guidelines to an annual calendar of events, deadlines, and activities. For transitions between board leadership and officer turnover, the Operations Manual will smooth out a lot of bumps in the road. Thanks Geoff!

[The Operations Manual is posted on the Ohio Chapter website here.](#)

## **Monarch Butterfly ESA Listing Decision Postponed**

Unless your head is in the sand, you've probably already heard that the Monarch Butterfly ESA listing decision by the US Fish and Wildlife Service has been [pushed back to December 2020.](#)



## 2019 Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative Symposium

Registration is limited to the first 300 for this year's OPHI Symposium. The 2019 Symposium will be Thursday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Nationwide and Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center (2201 Fred Taylor Drive, Columbus OH 43210). The OPHI Symposium has a jam-packed agenda that begins at 8:30 AM and runs until 4:00 PM. [Visit the following link to register now.](#)





## **SUMMER 2019 Wetlands and Water Quality Symposium, Saturday - August 3, 2019**

A one-day workshop/symposium on the role that large-scale wetland restoration and creation could have on mitigating harmful algal blooms on Lake Erie. The event is cosponsored by the Everglades Wetland Research Park, the Stream and Wetland Foundation, Ohio Wetland Association, and the Jerry B. Pausch Foundation. The workshop will be at Sawmill Creek Resort in Huron, OH. [Registration available at The Ohio Wetland Association website.](#)

## **Wetland Delineation Training, Lake Pymatuning**

For students, this course is designed to provide a fundamental understanding of wetland delineation and the proper demarcation of wetland boundaries. The course will be taught consistent with United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Wetlands Delineation Manual and in accordance with the applicable USACE Regional Supplement for wetland delineations. The course will be equal parts class and field time including basic vegetation identification, detailed review and discussion of wetland hydrology and hydric soil indicators, and more. Tuition is \$950 and housing is available on-site. 4-day course with 2 classroom days & 2 field days. [Visit the following link for more information and registration.](#)



## Student Chapter Update – Rio Grande

The Rio Chapter had a very busy and productive spring semester. One member attended and co-authored a poster at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Cleveland in January. Nine members attended the Ohio Natural History Conference in Columbus in January—7 members were part of 6 poster presentations; registration fees and travel stipends to this conference were provided by the chapter. In April, the chapter raised funds by selling raffle tickets on campus to win one of 4 custom, barn-side framed photographs taken by members. In early April, Ohio Division of Wildlife deer management specialist Dr. Mike Tonkovich came to Rio to share about his career, the past and current management of deer in Ohio, and insights about how important recognizing wildlife management is often largely people management.



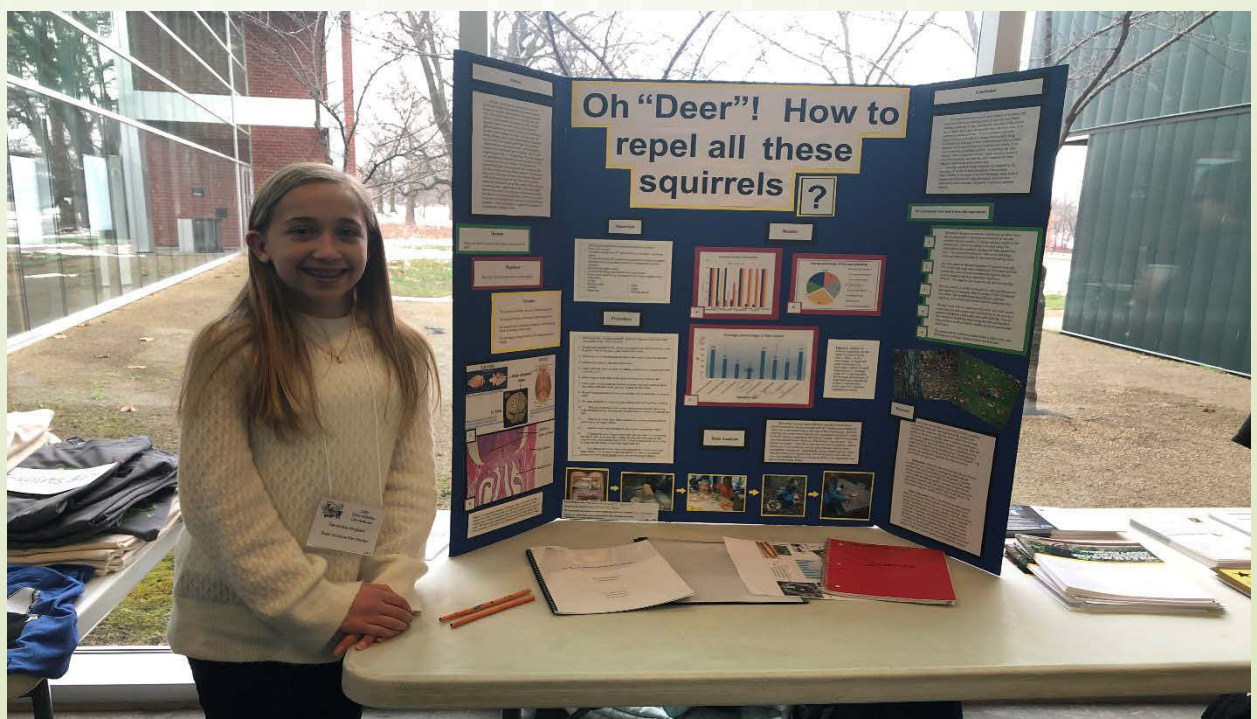
(continued, Rio Grande SP19 update)

Later in April, Mr. Rob Ruth, regional representative for the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation visited Rio to share about the regional and national efforts of their organizations. He emphasized the efforts RMEF has made to secure hunting access to public lands—either through leases, easements, or purchases of private property adjacent to federal and state lands. At the end of April 18 students made the chapter's semi-annual visit to The Wilds—thanks to arrangements made by Steve Spear. The highlights included visiting the rhino and giraffe barns in addition to an extended stop at the carnivore conservation center. Finally, in early May 16 members traveled to the Vinton Furnace Experimental Forest to see timber rattlesnakes. Ohio State Ph.D. student Andrew Hoffman took us into the woods to find 3 radio-marked snakes—and one of our students spotted an unmarked snake along the way. That led to an opportunity for Andrew to demonstrate hands on—with student assistance—the various aspects of handling, marking (i.e., PITtag), measuring, and collecting samples for lab analysis. We also learned a great deal about the research objectives and detailed microhabitat data being collected. In addition to these activities, chapter members have participated in the winter southern flying squirrel box checks, tree frog surveys, blue bird box monitoring, and the kestrel nest box study.

## Ohio Wildlife Management Association 2019 Recap

Hundreds of wildlife professionals and students enjoyed yet another successful OWMA Conference in January at the 4-H Center. The Thursday night business meeting (minutes attached) and social was attended by nearly 50 people. The conversation was lively and the business meeting portion was quick and to the point. Friday's talks ranged from updates on the state bumblebee and dragonfly surveys to statewide Lights Out initiatives to Lake Erie rail research.

Another highlight was seeing Samantha Sargeant attend the Conference and engage with our community. She was the winner of last year's Wildlife Awareness Award from the State Science Fair, and it's exciting to see the cultivation of the next generation of natural resource professionals before our very eyes.



## Ohio Wildlife Management Association 2019 Recap (continued)

Looking back at my own personal notes that I jotted down, I was particularly fascinated by the work that [Viorel Popescu from Ohio University presented on bobcat mortality](#) risk associated with roadways. A few bullets pertaining to that talk:

\*Bobcat mortality due to vehicular collisions peaks in March (reproductive activity of males roaming for females) and October (kittens are old enough to start roaming with mom)

\*Though bobcats did not exhibit road avoidance outright, they did show non-random use (via crossing frequency) of different road types

\*Turns out a bobcat actually has 10 lives, 1 more than the traditionally accepted 9. For every 11 attempted interstate crossings, a bobcat only makes it across alive 10 times. The 11<sup>th</sup>—not so fortunate.

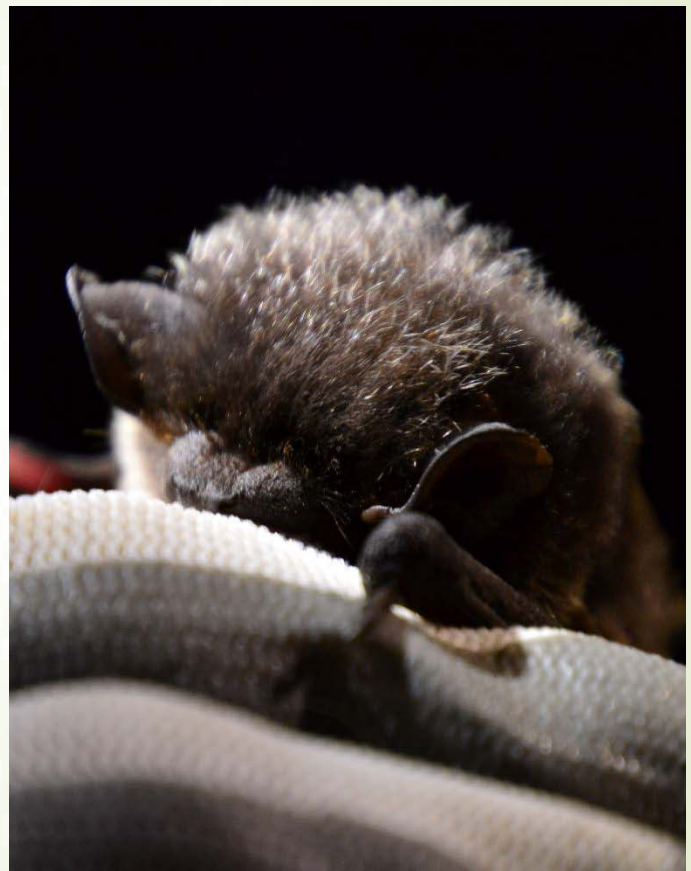
\*Based on modeled mortality parameters from movement data and incorporating real Ohio roads/traffic volume data, approximately 18% of Ohio's bobcat population could be lost to vehicular collisions annually.

**OCTWS Swag!!** We still have a good inventory of OCTWS logo decals, t-shirts, and hoodies (available upon request). If you would like to purchase something, please send us an email and place an order. We'll have items available at upcoming workshops and conferences.



A list of Ohio-related pubs and manuscripts for your reading pleasure!

- [Butterfly declines in Ohio](#)
- [Camera trap triggers, detections, and occupancy modeling](#)
- [Bobcat Season? HDW paper from Ohio](#)
- [Tyzzert's disease in muskrats](#)
- [History of mussel in the Ohio River](#)
- [Songbirds in reclamation habitats](#)
- [Eastern US black vultures](#)



Globally-important report recently released!!

- [IPBES Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services](#)

## Most Downloaded TWS Journal Articles of 2018

In 2018, there were nearly  $\frac{1}{4}$  million downloads of articles from TWS journals—an average of 20,000 downloads per month!!

More than ever before, global wildlife professionals are turning to TWS journals as their source for the latest research findings in wildlife science and management. Here's just a bit of what they're reading:

#3 of Top 10 2018 downloads: [Predicting the evolutionary consequences of trophy hunting on quantitative traits](#)

#5 of Top 10: [CWD influences activity and behavior in white-tailed deer](#)

#9 of Top 10: [Review and synthesis of research investigating golden eagle electrocutions](#)

As a quick reminder, online access to all TWS journal articles is a benefit of TWS membership. To access, login in to your TWS account through Your Membership or directly through the TWS Journal Hub. There are some excellent articles out already in 2019, [here's another to check out on whether or not coyotes' expanded range has curtailed Eastern US deer populations or not.](#)

## Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference 2019 Recap (Cleveland, OH)

OCTWS contributed energy to make the Wild Jobs Café a success at this year's Midwest conference. Students took advantage of resume review services, mock interviews, and meet and greets with hiring professionals. The job board was crowded with all sorts of listings from temp field tech positions to full-time offerings with benefits – something for everyone looking for almost anything.

OCTWS once again helped to support this year's Fenske Memorial Award. The Award has been granted for 14 years and 25 finalists completed for the fisheries scholarship and wildlife scholarship. The finalists hailed from 16 different universities, and ultimately, Michigan State University's Melissa Starking and Ohio State's own Chelsea Nieman were deemed the winners of the \$750 scholarships.





## TWS Certification Workshop Recap

Special thanks to OSU Graduate Student Jim Hansen for putting together this piece for us!!

Recently I had the opportunity to attend the TWS certification workshop at the 76<sup>th</sup> Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference in Cleveland, Ohio. The workshop was sponsored by the North Central Section (NCS) of TWS as part of their leadership series (the workshop was provided for free to NCS members; to learn more about the many benefits of becoming a member of the NCS and how it will serve your interests as a wildlife professional in the Midwest, [you can click here](#)). The goals of this workshop were to provide an overview of The Wildlife Society's certified biologist program and provide hands-on strategies for successfully applying. In the past I had occasionally heard about the certification program but didn't understand the history and importance of becoming certified.

This workshop did a phenomenal job of outlining the history of the program and explaining the many reasons why it's so important to become certified, some of which include: increasing your credibility as a wildlife biologist by being recognized as having the necessary education and experience to be qualified as a biologist by THE professional organization that represents wildlife professionals in North America; ... (continued)



## TWS Certification Workshop Recap

(continued)

...having an international group of colleagues to support you through the challenges that you may face in your career; and helping provide more rigorous standards to the wildlife profession. After gaining new insight into the program and increasing our interest in becoming certified, we were then provided with a plethora of tips and a step-by-step approach to the overall application process in general, splitting and assigning classes to the different course categories, and how to fill out the application so that it's easier on you and the reviewers. There are far too many tips to go into all of them here, but some of the best tips were to put every bit of the courses and course descriptions from your transcript into the application, make it easy on the review board by specifying how many credits from each class are going into which section, and read the TWS ethics statement multiple times before applying. To reap the full rewards of applying, I suggest becoming a member of the NCS and attending the workshop in the future. As a graduate student and soon-to-be early career professional, this workshop was a huge help in providing the knowledge needed to take that next step to advance my career as a wildlife professional. - Jim Hansen

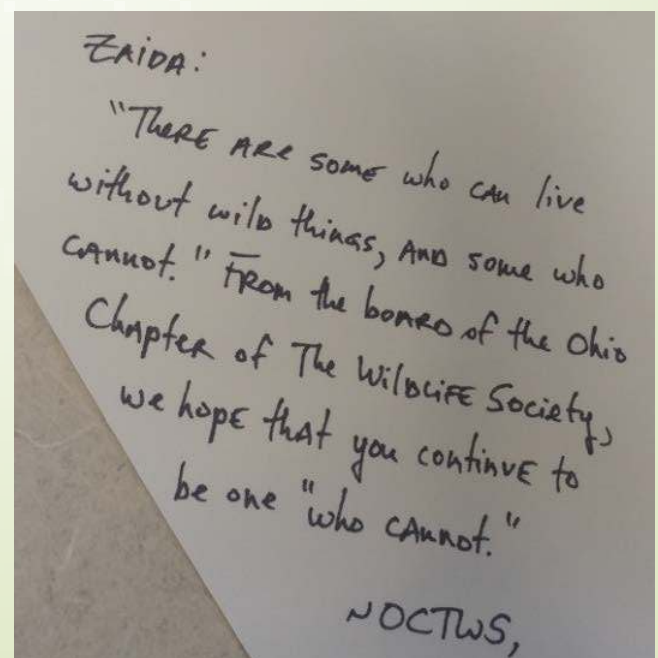
## 2019 TWS & AFS Joint Annual Conference

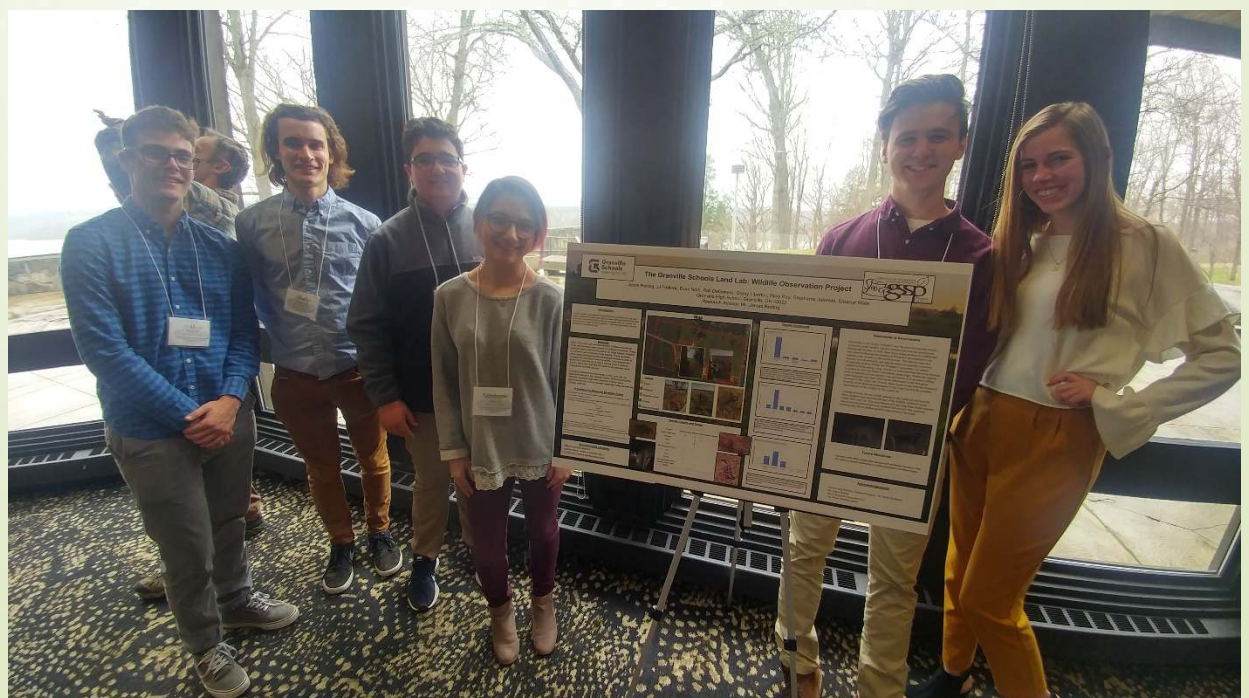
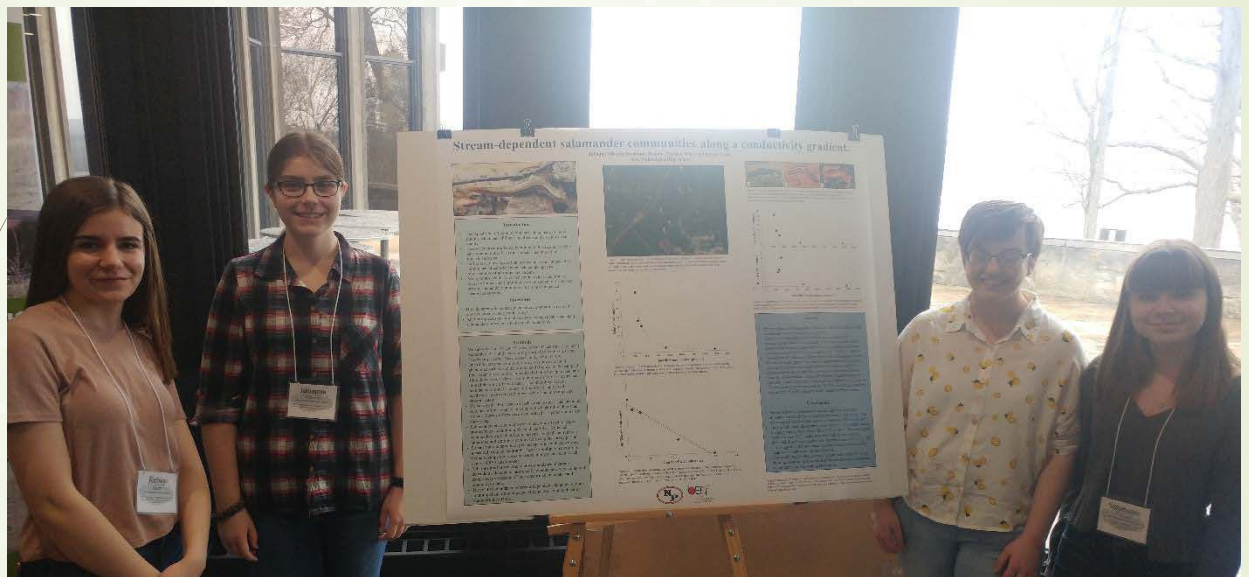
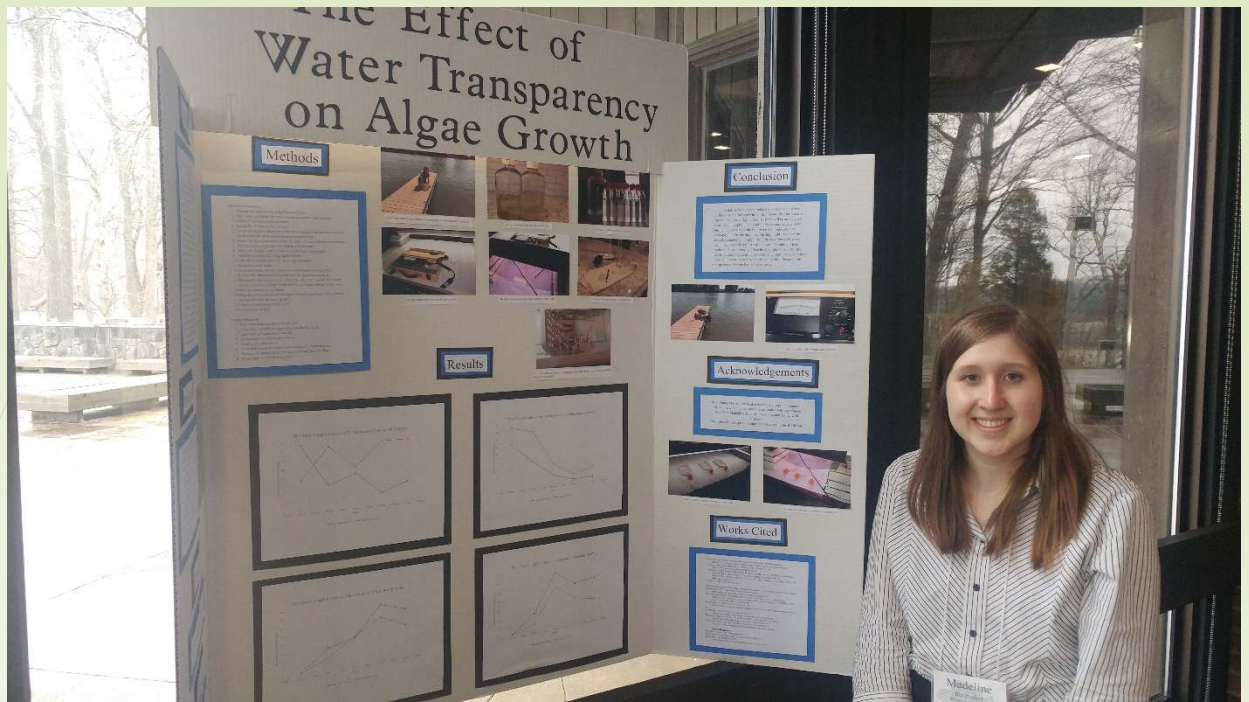
Early registration is down to just 10 days remaining for September 29-October 3 in Reno, Nevada. For the first time ever, the American Fisheries Society and The Wildlife Society will meld their annual conferences. The event promises to be a VERY BIG DEAL! Per the email that just went out from Nationals, the discounted hotel room inventory is nearly sold out and workshop slots are filling up quickly.



## 2019 Student Wildlife Research Symposium

We are thrilled to enter into a more formal partnership with the Student Wildlife Research Symposium. Held this year in conjunction with the 52<sup>nd</sup> annual conference for Environmental Education Council of Ohio, the venue was Mohican State Forest. Granville High School's own Jim Redding delivered a keynote and was bookended by supporting remarks by Division of Wildlife's Scott Butterworth and Jen Dennison. Five student teams presented research via oral presentations and more showed posters to the audience in a separate dedicated session. OCTWS hand delivered a signed copy of Sand County Almanac (thanks Jen for the support!!) to each and every participating student, and moving forward, we are exploring mechanisms whereby student presenters can share their research with the OCTWS community through our newsletter and integrate middle and high school students more intentionally into our professional network via the annual OWMA conference.





One last gold nugget to leave you with. This piece from [The Prairie Ecologist](#) entitled “[Diversifying Conservation](#)”. Something we talk quite a bit about but the riddle of solving, if we’re honest with ourselves, is a hard nut to crack!! The true value of this short piece lies in the tangible action points the author leaves his readers with. Give it a read!

Grace Dietrich, President  
Renee Buck, President Elect  
Geoffrey Westfield, outgoing President  
Thomas Butler, Treasurer  
Gabriel Kams, Secretary

