



Fall-Winter '20-21 Newsletter

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► President's Message

Hello friends and colleagues. I hope this newsletter finds you and your families in good physical and mental health as we round the corner into a new year with new hope. We certainly had no shortage of difficulties in 2020, but we have navigated those waters together as a community of passionate wildlife conservationists. We have banded together to submit comments on legislation, adopted online meeting and conference platforms, and cheered on state and federal funding opportunities – all so we can continue to move that needle of conserving our finite resources, promoting science-based conservation practices, and protecting land for the betterment of *all* species.

Despite the obstacles, the Ohio Chapter of The Wildlife Society board collaborated with the Ohio Forestry Association to host a chainsaw safety awareness training this past fall.

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President's Message (continued)

This student workshop was a highlight for all of us on the board as well as the attendees – and they all safely felled a tree that day! Despite the odds and under additional precautions, we were delighted to provide this certification opportunity to the students.

Membership dues make these opportunities possible, so please take some time to renew your membership today. These funds are spent on workshops, training opportunities, grants, and other relevant and important causes that need support. These opportunities are especially important to the students of wildlife science and conservation – supporting the OCTWS is a great way to give back. You can sign up for a membership with an automatic annual renewal on our Facebook page or by [going to the following link on Nationals website.](#) Thank you for being a part of something greater than ourselves.

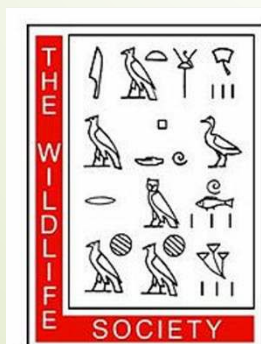
Be well,

Grace Dietsch
President, OCTWS



STUDENT C-SAW Workshop Recap

When we sent out the March 21, 2020, "Save the Date" announcement early last year (see below), little did we know the roller coaster ride we would all be experiencing over the coming months. But...through a lot of careful planning, determination, caution, and will, we are so proud that representatives from Rio Grande and Wittenberg universities were ultimately and eventually able to benefit from a wonderful chainsaw safety and operation workshop. The Ohio Forestry Association put on a wonderful event, and the students in attendance gave rave reviews. Did the workshop look a lot different? Sure. Social distancing, masks, and more PPE than normal (that's saying something at a chainsaw safety workshop!) were all involved, but everyone adapted and overcame. We are excited to offer this student training workshop opportunity again sometime in the future.



SAVE THE DATE
March 21, 2020







OCTWS Officer Elections

We are pleased to introduce 3 *President-Elect* candidates. Please review their bios below and [visit the link to cast your vote](#) by Wednesday, January 27th.

Becky Crow has focused her 15-year conservation career and personal life around a focus on advocating and developing the skills and ethics of Ohio's wildlife rehabilitators. Her dedication to this field has been highlighted through her 15-year career at Brukner Nature Center where is currently the Curator of Wildlife. Her primary accountability is overseeing the day-to-day care of native Ohio wildlife that are orphaned, injured, or sick. On average, BNC's wildlife rehabilitation facility accepts more than 1,700 patients annually. Becky's investment in literally hundreds of staff, interns, and volunteers has had long-lasting impact in the state and beyond. For more than 10 years, Becky has served on the Ohio Wildlife Rehabilitators Association (OWRA) Board of Trustees and served in roles of Secretary, President, and Vice-President at varying times. In 2018, Becky developed and implemented an Introduction to Wildlife Rehabilitation course for high schoolers attending vocational schools in SW Ohio as part of her Master's degree from Miami University. She has also served on Ohio's Bat Working Group's Education and Outreach Committee. Becky's true passion is education and professionalism in order to build a more informed community, and she is looking forward to sharing her expertise with OCTWS if elected.



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Erin Hazelton joined the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife in 2017 as a wildlife administrator where she contributes to a variety of projects including reviewing effects of wind energy development on wildlife and coordinating endangered species research. She pursued her love of the natural sciences at Wittenberg University and Miami University, both in Ohio. Her career as a public servant has been diverse and rewarding, from cave researcher for the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves to overseeing environmental remediation loans at the Ohio Development Services Agency. In her free time, Erin enjoys spending time outdoors and raising livestock on her hobby farm.

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Joe joined the Ohio Division of Wildlife (ODOW) in 2015 as a Wildlife Area Technician at Berlin Wildlife Area. Prior to the ODOW, he worked as a Prairie Manager at Ohio Prairie Nursery, and at Davey Resource Group, where he focused on environmental restoration and mitigation. Joe is a graduate of West Virginia University, where he achieved a Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Resources. Currently, Joe is the chairman of the habitat committee for the Martin L. Davey chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America and previously sat on the Board of Directors from 2013-2019. He is most passionate about public land management and engaging youth in outdoor recreation. Joe has a wife, who also dedicated her career to outdoor recreation, and a daughter. Most people say, “never take your work home”. Joe is proud to say most days he does take his work home (as does his wife), and their dinner conversations consist of the accomplishments, the trials, and tribulations from the day. The May’s never really “get away” from their careers as they align so closely with their family’s interest. They spend most of their free time in nature; hunting, fishing, kayaking, hiking, camping or participating in outdoor youth activities. For the May family, being in the outdoors isn’t just a walk in the park, it’s a way of life!

OCTWS Officer Elections

We are pleased to introduce 2 *Treasurer* candidates. Please review their bios below and [visit the link to cast your vote](#) by Wednesday, January 27th.



Katie Dennison grew up in New England with a love for the outdoors where she hiked, camped, canoed, and explored with family and friends. Katie received a bachelor's degree in Animal Science from Rutgers University, and worked for several years with domestic animals. However, while working in Utah, she had the opportunity to volunteer with the Wildlife Program staff at Zion National Park and discovered her passion for wildlife research. That sparked her on to earn an M.S. in Range and Wildlife Management from Sul Ross University where she used camera trapping to evaluate mountain lion density and prey availability in the Davis Mountains of west Texas. Post-M.S., she continued as a carnivore researcher before taking a furbearer research technician position with the Wisconsin DNR. Katie has now been with the Ohio Division of Wildlife for 2 ½ years as the furbearer biologist and enjoys the variety of projects that span her responsibilities. Katie lives in central Ohio still finds enough free time to hike, kayak, and craft.

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Rob Ligas graduated from Wright State University with B.S. in Biological Sciences. He has worked in the natural resources field for the past 14 years at the state, local, and federal levels. His current position with ODNR's Division of Wildlife is focused on coordinating and conducting wildlife surveys, mitigating nuisance wildlife issues, and coordinating wildlife disease sampling for southwest Ohio.

► 2021 Ohio Wildlife Management Association Conference VIRTUAL

This year's OWMA Conference will be VIRTUAL and hosts a good line-up of recorded presentations as well as a quality selection of research posters. Registration for OWMA 2021 is FREE and will follow this schedule.

- Friday, January 22nd @ 9 AM
All Presentations [Uploaded to Youtube](#)
- Thursday, January 28th @ 5:30-6:30 PM
[OCTWS/OWMA Joint Business Meeting via Zoom](#)
- Friday, January 29th @ 10 AM-Noon
[Live Q&A with Presenters Panel](#)

Take advantage of the week leading up to the Live Q&A session to watch each presentation and we look forward to "seeing" everyone on Zoom morning of Friday, 1/29.

Joint Business Meeting



1/28, 5:30-6:30 PM

[Zoom Link](#)

► Ohio Wildlife & Conservation in the News

Just in case you missed it, the US Fish and Wildlife Service announced that listing the Monarch butterfly as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act is warranted but precluded. There lots more to it, and you can [visit their website for more information](#).

This year's [Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference](#) is scheduled for Monday, February 1 - Thursday, February 4. The theme for this year's conference is "Fostering Diversity." It's frustrating to have one after another meeting be canceled, but it also makes attendance a bit easier when events go virtual...not necessarily better, but easier. This year's virtual conference is sponsored by Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

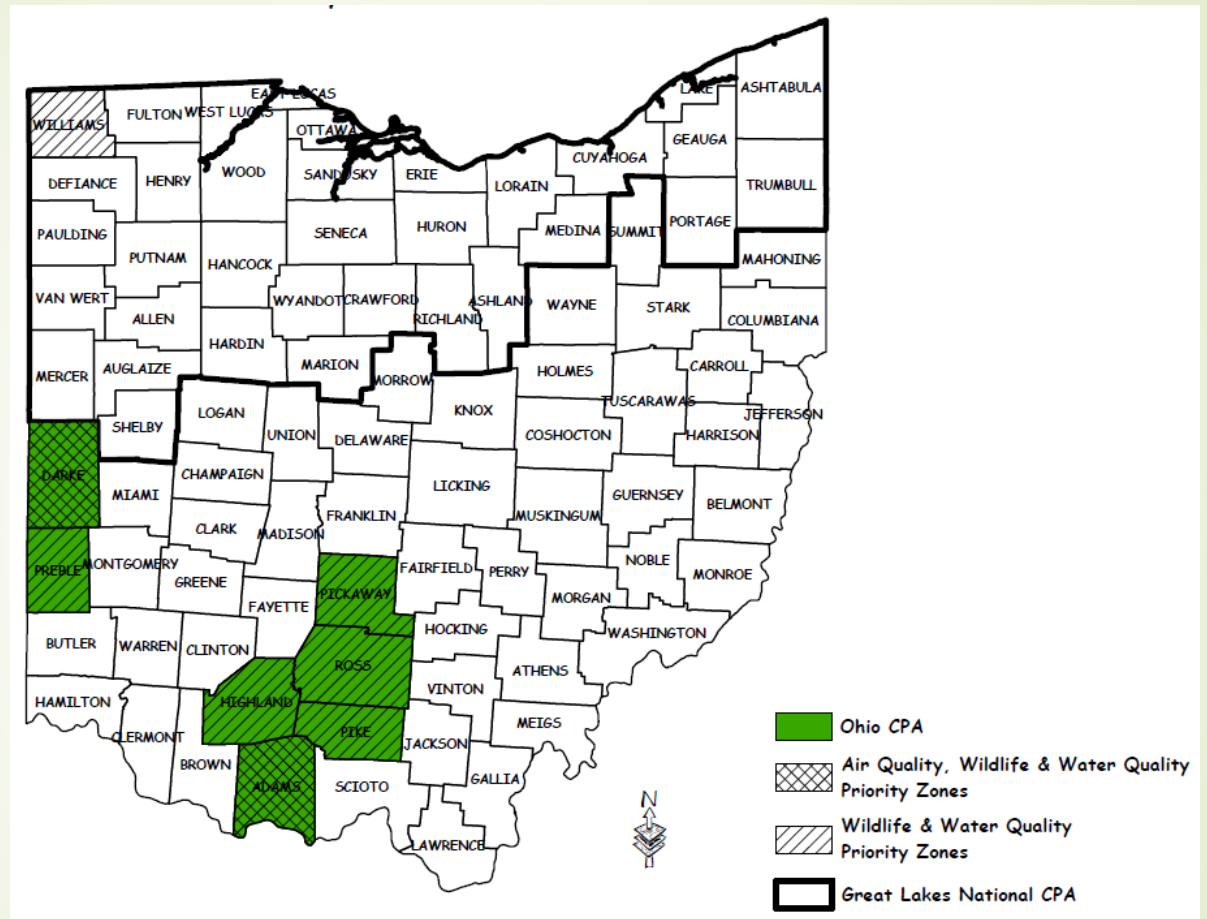
The North Central Section is sponsoring 2 workshops on the final day of the conference, February 4th. The first is FREE and only for members titled "Self Care for Conservationists" 10 AM-noon. The second (9 AM-noon) is for students, also FREE, and highlights next steps for college graduates. Whether the goal is graduate school or one's first job, a panel of professionals is ready to engage with our next generation of wildlifers. [Look for more information here.](#)

Three Lake Erie CREP practices have new informational sheets for landowners and accompany H2Ohio conservation efforts. Check your email attachments for more information!

- 1) **CP22** – Riparian Forest Buffer
- 2) **CP23** – Wetland Restoration
- 3) **CP23A** – Wetland Restoration (Non-Floodplain)

Ohio Wildlife & Conservation in the News

The new Ohio CRP Conservation Priority Areas map assigns priority for certain CRP practices. *The full PDF was included as an email attachment.*



Additionally, our State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) is directed at two primary habitat project areas:

1) Upland Bird SAFE with practices:

-CP38E-4D

-CP38E-42

2) Monarch/Pollinator SAFE pushing practice CP38E-42

A map showing focal areas by county is included in your batch of email attachments.

► Ohio Wildlife & Conservation in the News

During the next EQIP sign-up, there is an opportunity for Ohio cattle producers interested in grazing native warm season grasses. [Go to this article for more information.](#)



“USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service is now accepting applications for the Working Lands for Wildlife program, which can help producers establish native warm season grass pastures into their grazing operations. Ohio cattle producers often find it challenging to maintain forage production during the summer slump (June-September) in cool season grass based grazing systems. Converting some pasture acres to native warm season grasses can produce quality forage during the hot summer months of June, July, and August. In addition, native warm season grasses provide greater environmental benefits like improved soil health, flood retention, carbon sequestration, and wildlife habitat. “

Student Wildlife Research Symposium

The rescheduled, rescheduled spring research symposium is cancelled for April 2021 due to continued COVID19 concerns. We are eager to continue this partnership whenever restrictions are lifted and life returns to normal. In the meantime, keep an eye open for ways to help students get experience in the field. It is harder than ever for future and early professionals to get connected with opportunities, so please keep them in mind when the right circumstance arises. Reach out, engage, and pay it forward!

RENEW Your OCTWS Membership

Grace Dietsch, President
Renee Buck, President Elect
Geoffrey Westerfield, outgoing President
Thomas Butler, Treasurer
Gabriel Karns, Secretary

