



## Fall-Winter '21-22 Newsletter

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### ► President's Message

Happy New Year!

Looking forward to the next year, I think we as wildlife professionals should harness our optimism and passion to inspire and cultivate the next generation. They will be needed to tackle all the complex issues that continue to arise due to climate change, loss of biodiversity, and the continuous conflict between humans and nature.

The future professionals have had a different experience with the Pandemic than most of us. For the most part, we have gained additional resources to assist with online meetings, teleworking, and increased ability to quickly and efficiently share information, resources, and knowledge.....it has been an absolute technological miracle to millennials in the work force.

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## **President's Message** (continued)

However, I believe the current students and recent graduates have struggled. They have had internships and seasonal jobs cancelled, hands-on labs and field trips cancelled, networking opportunities cancelled, classes postponed or mutated to online only or some hybrid-type offering. I don't want my message to dwell on the Pandemic, that's all we hear about.

I do want to encourage and inspire you all to reach out and connect with students & young professionals in the wildlife field. Offer them hands-on opportunities & job shadowing, sit down and discuss their career paths, ask what they are passionate about, offer to read over their cover letters and resumes. These types of connections are invaluable!

If you have opportunities available or are interested in getting involved with mentoring young wildlife professionals, please reach out to us. We have a network of Student Chapters and connections at many Universities and would love to help make these connections. Here's to 2022!

Yours in Conservation,  
Renee Buck - President, OCTWS





## Professional Workshop Recap

Finally, finally, COVID gave us just enough wiggle room to pull off the Early Successional Habitat-Integrated Vegetation Management workshop that has been in the hopper for literally years. The workshop was a great success with attendance nearly eclipsing the 50 mark. Many many thanks to the speakers who I am sure grew tired of the “on again, off again” nature of the workshop planning cycle. That’s normal now though, right?

The venue (if you haven’t been there before you should visit) was beautiful and well suited to our style of event. Dawes Arboretum is surrounded by many showcase-worthy landscapes and habitats and was a great setting to not only hear about habitat management but also to see some great practices in action!

Keep your ears open for upcoming workshops as we are excited to get back into a somewhat normal rotation.









## OCTWS Officer Elections

We are pleased to introduce 4 Secretary candidates. Please review their bios below. A link will be emailed on January 11<sup>th</sup> to cast your vote by the Annual Business Meeting on January 20<sup>th</sup>.

Becky Crow is a long-time wildlife enthusiast focusing much of her career on wildlife conservation. She is currently employed by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife as the Customer Care Supervisor, where she oversees the state's call center and warehouse operations. Prior to her employment with DOW, Becky was the Curator of Wildlife at Brukner Nature Center

where she oversaw the day-to-day operations of the organizations wildlife programs and assisted more than 1,800 orphaned, injured and sick wildlife annually. She served for more than a decade on the Ohio Wildlife Rehabilitators Association Board of Trustees, currently participates in the Ohio Bat Working Group as a committee member for their Education & Outreach group and sits on the Natural Resources Advisory Committee at the Miami Valley Career Technology Center. While Becky enjoys all aspects of the outdoors, she especially enjoys birds whether it be bird watching or operating her M.A.P.S. bird banding station each summer.



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I (Lisa Zoromski) would be honored and excited to serve on the OCTWS board as Secretary. I have been an active member of The Wildlife Society (TWS) as long as I have known about the organization.

I am in the TWS Leadership Institute Class of 2020 and 2021. I served several leadership roles with TWS as the student representative for the North Central Section (NCS) and Wisconsin Chapter, and held 3 officer positions (President, Vice President, and Treasurer) as a student chapter member. I have organized several career development events. For example, I led planning for a NCS TWS student conclave for over 100 students, and recently gathered alumni to host a resume workshop for the UW-Stevens Point TWS student chapter.

Ohio has been my home for the past 2 years, post-graduate school from Texas A&M University-Kingsville. Previously, I was a wildlife technician with USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services in Columbus, Ohio. Currently, I am a biologist for Five Rivers MetroParks in Dayton, OH, where I coordinate research and monitoring projects, lead a deer management program, and mitigate human-wildlife conflict. One of my goals is to increase diversity, equity, and inclusion within our bowhunting program. I am pursuing grants for an ADA compliant bowhunting blind and plan to establish a mentorship program geared towards college students and interested new hunters. I became appreciative and interested in hunting through TWS events, and I want to create opportunities for others to connect with wildlife conservation.

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Lisa Zoromski

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As secretary, I would enjoy establishing development events for OCTWS members, and especially students. I am working with the NCS to improve their TWS student conclave program, and I'm excited to provide resources for Ohio students to participate.



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I (Valorie Titus) grew up in a small town in Upstate NY and was an outdoors enthusiast at an early age. From the time I could say "zoologist", I knew I wanted to work with wildlife and conservation. I spent much of my time hunting and fishing with my family, who instilled an appreciation for wilderness in me and encouraged my love for wildlife. I completed my undergraduate at Cazenovia College, majoring in Environmental Studies. I then ventured to Murray State University for a Master's in Biology where I studied the impacts of roads on a population of copperheads in Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area. I have been a member of The Wildlife Society since 2002 when I joined the Murray State University Student Chapter. I returned to the Northeast to Binghamton University for my PhD where I studied movement patterns and population structure of the eastern tiger salamander on Long Island. This is when I became very active in the NY Chapter of TWS, holding varying officer positions (including President) over the next 15 or so years, as well as serving as an instructor for the Northeast Section Field Course since its inaugural year. I also worked for 2 years at the Bronx Zoo as a Curatorial Fellow in the Herpetology Department and then spent a year working for the Wildlife Conservation Society studying bison in Montana. I returned to the Northeast where I taught at both Green Mountain College and Keystone College and served as Wildlife Biology Program Director, as well as starting Student Chapters of TWS at both schools. During that time, I also served on a number of committees and was involved in several working groups for TWS, bringing their presence onto social media.

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Valorie Titus

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I served as the Northeast Student Affairs Committee Chair and Chair-Elect for the Hunting and Trapping Conservation Working Group until I was elected as Northeast Section Representative to Council. I am an alum of the TWS Leadership Institute and I am a TWS Fellow. My current research focuses on human influences on wildlife health and I am now the program manager for Wildlife Resource Management at Hocking College in Ohio, which brings me to a new section. I had to leave my position as the Northeast Section Rep because of the move, so I am ready and excited to become an active member in the North Central Region, and Ohio. I currently reside in Athens, OH with my husband, 2 kiddos, and 5 loud dogs.





## OCTWS Officer Elections

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Christina Slover earned her A. S. degree in the Environmental Studies program from Finger Lakes Community College in 2008. Since then, her wildlife education and career have allowed her to travel throughout the Country. Christina completed course work at Montana State University where she worked as a laboratory technician in the laboratories of Dr. Billie Kearns and Dr. Wyatt Cross. She assisted with research on whirling disease in trout and aquatic invertebrate changes in Yellowstone River after wolf reintroduction. She then transferred to SUNY Cobleskill where she completed a B.T. degree in Wildlife Management before traveling to Indiana to work as an avian surveyor for the Department of Defense and Smithsonian Institute.

In 2011, Christina was accepted to West Virginia University's Wildlife and Fisheries graduate program. Her graduate research investigated avian community structure in forest stands being managed by prescribed burning. She also used occupancy modeling to create predictive maps of eastern whippoorwill presence within the Monongahela National Forest. Christina graduated with her M.S. degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Resources from WVU in 2015 and published her research on Eastern whip-poor-wills in the Wilson Journal of Ornithology in 2016.

After completing her degree Christina was able to spend time teaching and designing intro biology labs for WVU undergraduates. She was then hired by Pheasants Forever as a farm bill wildlife biologist in 2016 and moved to Tiffin, OH.

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Christina Slover (continued)

The position with Pheasants Forever allowed for experiences working closely with multiple USDA agencies to bring conservation practices like planting of pollinator and riparian habitats to privately-owned properties. Working with landowners to bring conservation practices to their properties became a passion for Christina because it perfectly aligned her interests in conservation education and land management.

After welcoming her first child in March of 2018, Christina ended up moving to Barnesville, OH to raise her son closer to family. Christina accepted a position working as a naturalist for the Schrader Environmental Education Center in Wheeling, WV, and also volunteered as a wildlife conservation planner through the Earth Team for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in her local area. As a result of her service time, Christina was awarded the 2019 Northeast Regional and 2019 National Earth Team Individual Volunteer Awards.

Christina currently works full-time for the Monroe Soil and Water Conservation District as the natural resource technician and wildlife specialist. She continues her work with landowners to educate and plan conservation on their properties. Christina also frequently writes conservation related articles for local newspapers, and visits local schools to teach various conservation topics.



## ► 2022 Ohio Wildlife Management Association Conference Live & In-Person January 21<sup>st</sup>

This year's OWMA Conference will be back in the 4H Center on Ohio State University campus. As usual, the speaker line-up is full of excellent presentations. The program will begin at 9 AM with registration and a poster session beginning an hour earlier at 8.

The Ohio Chapter of The Wildlife Society is once again proud to be a sponsoring partner, and we are looking forward to seeing what the 62<sup>nd</sup> meeting of OWMA has to offer.

You can [register for OWMA 2022 at the following link](#). All are welcome and there are registration levels to accommodate our future professionals at the University level (\$20) and high school level (\$10) as well.

### Joint Business Meeting



**Thursday 1/20, 5:00-6:30 PM**  
**D1 Wildlife Headquarters**  
**(1500 Dublin Road, Columbus, OH 43215)**



**Don't Miss It!!!**

**THE OHIO CHAPTER OF THE BHA PRESENT**

# **PINT NIGHT**

**FEATURING:**

**OHIO WILDLIFE  
MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION**

**+**

**OHIO CHAPTER OF  
THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY**

**JANUARY 20TH  
7:00 PM**

**AT LAND GRANT BREWING COMPANY  
424 W TOWN ST COLUMBUS, OH 43125**



**MEET US AT THE BREWERY  
FOR FOOD, FUN, AND BEERS  
AS WE KICKOFF 2022!**

*Thursday - January 20th*



ORIGINAL IMAGE CREDIT  
NOVEMBER 1959 SPORTS AFIELD MAGAZINE COVER ILLUSTRATED BY BILL REUSSWIG

**After the Annual Business Meeting**





## ► OCTWS Policy Engagement

We continue to show support where possible for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA). In recent months, we sent letters to all current Ohio co-sponsors of the Act thanking them for their support. And in parallel fashion, we sent letters to all of Ohio's duly elected encouraging them to get off the fence and declare their support for this once-in-a-generation piece of conservation funding.

In another matter, we weighed in on the new Sherwin-Williams building being constructed in Cleveland, OH. We are hopeful that letters from organizations like ours will encourage bird-/wildlife-friendly design elements to show up in the construction blueprints.

Obviously these 2 issues – RAWA and the Sherwin-Williams building – cover a massive range of scale, but we would encourage membership engagement to put things on our radar so that our collective professional voice can strategically support conservation goals at the local, state, and federal level.

## ► Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference

This year's [Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference](#) is scheduled for February 13 – 16. The theme for this year's conference is "Fish & Wildlife Stewardship in Working Landscapes." This is yet another conference that was sidelined from its normal in-person format in 2021 but returning to form in 2022. We are hopeful to send a couple Board representatives from OCTWS to Des Moines, Iowa, and hope more of you can attend! Early registration ends January 14<sup>th</sup>.



## ► Ohio Wildlife & Conservation in the News

The new [Ohio EQIP provision for Eastern wild turkey](#) is exciting news for Buckeye wildlife lovers. You can read more here in an article from National Wild Turkey Federation. The article contains direct links to Ohio's EQIP webpage where you can dig further. Deadline for this year's application batch is January 14<sup>th</sup>.





## ► Ohio Wildlife & Conservation in the News

H2Ohio is much bigger than just field border vegetation and wetlands, but those two elements play an integral part to the overall strategy of the program. Many of you have worked to guide and implement H2Ohio resources, and many of you could share personal stories of how landscapes have changed for the better as a result. [Linked is a 2021 fiscal year report](#) that covers H2Ohio from a bird's eye view. I found it helpful to better appreciate the whole of the program and how the elements I'm more familiar with fit into the bigger puzzle.

## ► Wildlife Diversity Conference – March 1<sup>st</sup>

In 2 months, it will be time to attend the state's Wildlife Diversity Conference again. [Stay tuned for an agenda and registration details by checking the link.](#)

## ► Woodland, Water, & Wildlife – March 2<sup>nd</sup>

Just a day after the Diversity Conference, Woodland, Water, and Wildlife returns to the Mid Ohio Conference Center outside Mansfield, Ohio. [Check here for more details.](#)



## ► Recent Ohio Wildlife Publications

This is far from a complete list of quality research to come from the state's wildlife community in 2021, but this is a good smattering – something for everyone hopefully. Click anywhere on each of the 4 images below to link directly to each peer-reviewed article.





## Student Wildlife Research Symposium

The rescheduled, rescheduled, pretty sure this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> time now rescheduled spring research symposium is planned for Hueston Woods State Park on March 31<sup>st</sup>. We are eager to continue this partnership and glad to see things back on track. The Wildlife Research Symposium kicks off the 54<sup>th</sup> Annual EECO Conference that begins on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. [Click here for more information.](#)

## RENEW Your OCTWS Membership

Renee Buck, President  
Erin Hazelton, President Elect  
Grace Dietsch, outgoing President  
Catherine Dennison, Treasurer  
Gabriel Karns, Secretary

