

Ohio Division of Wildlife

Summer 2021 Updates – District 3

Statewide Updates: Turkey Season

- Ohio hunters harvested 14,442 wild turkeys through Sunday, May 23, during the spring wild turkey hunting season. Spring wild turkey hunting concluded Sunday in Ohio's south zone, which includes 83 counties. Hunting in the northeast zone (Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, and Trumbull counties) is open until Sunday, May 30.

For a more detailed turkey harvest summary including county breakdowns, see the Turkey Hunting Conclusion news release.



Statewide Updates: Event Funding

- If your organization received a 2020-21 grant for an event scheduled to take place between 7/1/20 - 6/30/21 and the event did not take place on the originally scheduled date, please contact Sean Landon (sean.landon@dnr.state.oh.us) if you have not already.
- The goal of the Division of Wildlife is for your organization not to issue a refund, and to utilize the full funding provided even if the event is not able to take place or be completed by 6/30/21. Please contact Sean for more details on how to do this!
- Thank you for your patience as we work towards resuming events and activities!



Statewide Updates: Hunter Education

- **Beginning June 2, in-person hunter education courses can resume unrestricted in compliance with Governor DeWine's orders.** Discretion as far as masking and social distancing will be left up to the private organization or individual.
- The online option will still be available on our website here for Ohio residents 12 years of age or older. Click [here](#) to access the online version.
- Questions? Contact Matt Ortman at matt.ortman@dnr.ohio.gov.



Statewide Updates: Controlled Hunt Opportunities

Mark your calendars!

Controlled hunting opportunities will run from July 1 - July 31.

- Opportunities include deer, waterfowl, dove, and more. Locations range across the state.
- The application fee for each hunt is \$3. To apply, visit www.ohiogamecheck.com during July. Log in using your customer account and navigate to the controlled hunts using the tabs.
- Lotteries will be held the first week of August. You will receive an email with your results or can check the status of your application by visiting www.ohiogamecheck.com. Select “Manage your customer account,” sign in, then select “View Your Lottery Applications and Results.”
- For additional information, visit our website [here](#) or search “Controlled Hunting Access Lotteries” at wildohio.gov.



Statewide Updates: Reduced Perch Limit

The daily yellow perch limit has been reduced to **10 per day** in the Lake Erie Central Zone from **May 1, 2021, to Feb. 28, 2022.**

- Central Zone boundaries:
 - Western boundary: W 82° 30.000'
 - Eastern boundary: W 81° 20.000'
- This regulation has been put in place due to declining perch populations in the Central Zone.



For more information, visit the [Fishing Lake Erie Page](#) on our website or check out the [Chat with Our Experts: Lake Erie Perch Fishing](#) webinar on YouTube.

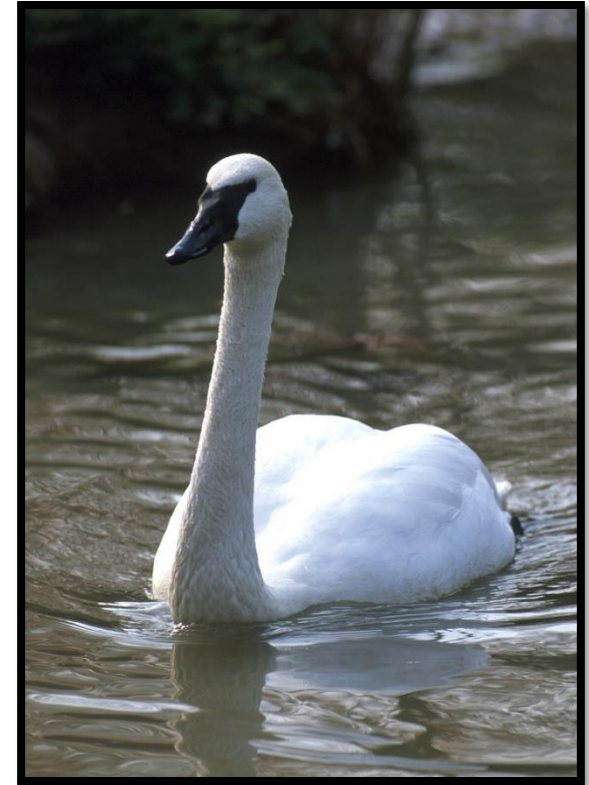
Statewide Updates: 17-Year Cicada

- After 17 years under ground, Brood X cicadas are emerging by the billions!
- They will live for about 4-6 weeks above ground, which means they will start dying off in late June and July. Before they die, they mate. The female will lay eggs in the ground which will emerge in 2038!
- Cicadas do not bite and are harmless to humans, other than their impressive noise. You can even fry some up for dinner!
- Cicadas are a feast for animals, including turkey poults. Historically, turkey seasons following a cicada emergence experience an uptick in harvest.



Statewide Updates: Tracking Swans

- In 2019, the University of Minnesota equipped trumpeter swans in Minnesota, Michigan, Ohio, Iowa, Wisconsin, & Manitoba with GPS-GSM transmitters affixed to neck collars with 2-character alpha-numeric codes. Researchers are hoping to use this study to evaluate migration patterns, local movements, habitat use, genetics, & survival of trumpeter swans in the re-established Interior Population.
- **You can help by reporting marked swans throughout the breeding season!** Marked swans have been seen at Magee Marsh, Killdeer, and Big Island wildlife areas. When observing swans, do not disturb them. To view the recent locations of the marked swans, click [here](#).
- Researchers are interested in the following information:
 - Identifying information (collar code)
 - Date, time, & location of observation
 - Nesting status, behavior, & presence of other swans (mate, cygnets)
- Observations can be submitted via a Google Forms document [here](#). For more information about this project, visit <https://trumpeterswan.netlify.app/index.html>.



Statewide Updates: Report Wildlife Sightings

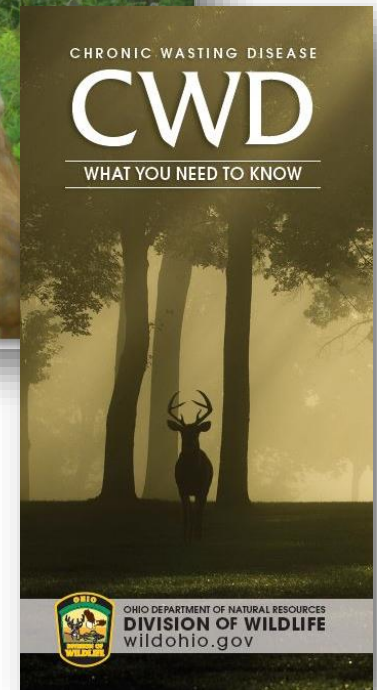
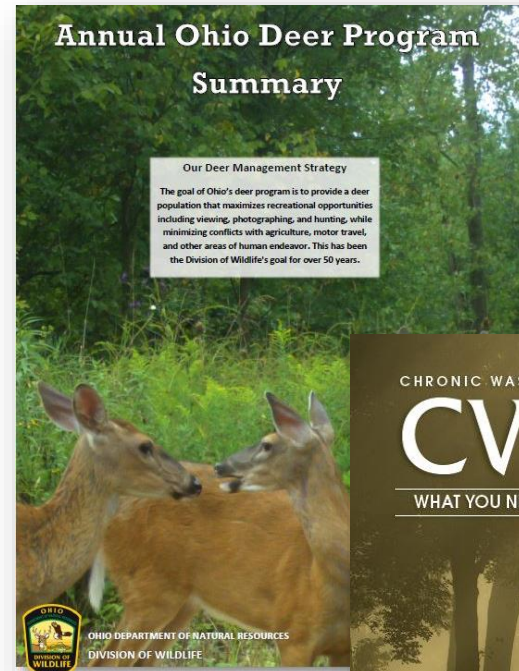
- Don't forget to report wildlife sightings this spring, especially turkey poults and ruffed grouse chicks.
- Wildlife sighting reports are important in population monitoring and setting hunting regulations and bag limits.



For a list of species of interest and to report wildlife sightings, visit our website [here](#).

Statewide Updates: Deer Resources

- New resources have been published regarding the white-tailed deer population, especially highlight CWD.
- Annual Ohio Deer Program Summary
 - Detailed looking at harvest summaries, hunter feedback, disease updates, and 2021-2022 season preview.
 - Find it on our website here.
- CWD: What You Need to Know
 - Updated information you need regarding CWD in the Ohio deer herd
 - Find it on our website along with news releases and more information [here](#).



Statewide Updates: Magee Marsh Birding

- Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the popular *Biggest Week in American Birding* saw some changes. This year, access to the boardwalk was gained via a reservation system to limit large crowds from April 30 to May 17.
- The Division of Wildlife extends a huge gratitude to the Toledo Zoo for setting up their website for reservations and providing staff members to check in birders. Because of them, we were able to reach a new audience and promote our agency's mission. Thank you, Toledo Zoo!



Statewide Updates: Wild Ohio Harvest Community

- Several videos and modules have been added to the Wild Ohio Harvest Community page on our website. These resources are meant to help new hunters and anglers learn the basics and recruit new hunters and anglers.
- Topics include: Fishing, Deer Hunting, Turkey Hunting, Archery, Firearms, and more.
- Please feel free to refer interested individuals to these resources on our website [here](#) or by searching “Wild Ohio Harvest Community” at wildohio.gov.



Getting Started: Fishing

If you're not sure where to start, we can help! All you need are a few pieces of basic gear and a nearby pond or lake.



Getting Started: Deer Hunting

Learn the basics including deer ecology, rules and regulations, an overview of deer hunting, and places to hunt in Ohio.



Getting Started: Wild Turkey Hunting

Interested in harvesting a wild turkey? We can help you learn to safely and responsibly hunt wild turkey in Ohio.

Statewide Updates: *Wild Ohio*

- The *Wild Ohio Spring Edition* was delivered to mailboxes last week. **This edition highlights fishing in Ohio.**
- Each magazine has a “Conservation Club Spotlight” page that features conservation clubs in the District. If your club is not included and would like to be added to the list, contact Jamey.emmert@ohio.gov.
- Due to a great number of clubs reaching out, we rotate lists of spotlighted clubs. If you don't see your club in in this edition, don't worry! It will be in the next one.

If you do not receive our awarding winning *Wild Ohio* magazine, you can purchase a subscription [here](#)!



Statewide Updates: H2Ohio

- **H2Ohio is expanding statewide!** Currently, over \$50 million has been put into H2Ohio wetland projects.
- Current projects such as the St. Joseph River Sustainable Ag Project (Williams Co., \$1.5 million), North Ridge Hunt Club River Project (Ottawa Co., \$70,000), and Redhorse Bend Floodplain Project (Sandusky Co., \$976,000) are in the Lake Erie Watershed. Future projects will also occur in the Ohio River Watershed.
- 150 additional projects have been approved. 133 will construct wetlands (2,422.5 acres) and 17 will create riparian buffers (113.5 acres).
- For more information about current projects and the future of the program, visit h2.ohio.gov.



Statewide Updates: Landowner Opportunities

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

- ✓ Administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service in your county
- ✓ Pays for many different land management practices including wetland enhancements, tree planting, native grass and wildflower establishment, invasive species removal, timber stand improvement, etc.

A 2022 deadline has not yet been announced, but applications can be submitted at any time.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) & Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

- ✓ Administered by Farm Service Agency in your county
- ✓ Land must have cropping history (corn, soy, wheat, etc.)
- ✓ Yearly payments for life of the contract (10,15, or 30 years)
- ✓ Establishment costs and incentive payments at sign up for many practices
- ✓ Some practices can be signed up at anytime (riparian areas, filter strips, wetlands, etc.)

Sign up has not yet been announced. Contact your county office and they will call you when the application period has been announced.

Questions? Contact
Ryan Jackson at
ryan.jackson@dnr.ohio.gov
or 330-245-3023.

Water Quality Incentive Program

- ✓ Another WQIP is in the discussion stage for this fall/winter. Details are still being worked out and the program has not yet been confirmed.
- ✓ Additional \$2,000/acre when partnered with a CREP contract and CP23/CP23A wetland practices and/or the CP22 Riparian Buffer.

Program has not been confirmed. For more information or to be put on the waitlist, contact Emilee.

District 3 Updates: Education All Around!



Footpath Foundation, a new DOW partner, shared this photo. They've been making Outdoor Connection Kits to keep urban students engaged during the pandemic. Our field guides have come in very handy!



DOW spent a quick, informal morning afield in Wayne County recently, sharing an active bald eagle nest with property owners Morton Salt, City of Rittman officials, and local educators who incorporated this nest into their classroom curriculums. It was a small group of nine curious minds.



With use of Wildlife Diversity Funds, we are helping support an effort by the City of Kent (Portage County) to enhance wildlife habitat including the placement of a chimney swift tower. The image to the left illustrates their goals. [Read a story about the project](#) by WKSU.

What Does Wildlife Bring to The Buckeye State?

Orphaned and Injured Wildlife: What to Know and What to Do

Good intentions can hurt. Leave wildlife in the wild.



Jamey Emmert, Wildlife Communications Specialist

Wildlife Communications Specialist
Akron



Ohio's Comeback Critters: Bears, Bobcats, Otters, & Fishers

A growing success story



Coyotes in Ohio

Photo by Tim Daniel

Jamey Emmert

Wildlife Communications Specialist, Ohio Division of Wildlife

Wildlife Communications Specialist
Akron



A variety of topics on wildlife education have been offered over the last couple of months!



District 3 Updates: Ramping Up DOW Online Resources



DOW created an Introduction to Ice Fishing Series. The series consisted of several short videos on just about everything someone new to ice fishing would need to know. The series can be found on YouTube at the following link: [DOW Ice Fishing Series](#).

Content for the [WOHC webpage](#) has continued to be created and added. Most recently, online learning modules for the following topics have been added: archery, firearms, fishing, hunting, and wild turkey hunting. DOW has also been busy creating recipes and videos to go along with them. Recipes can be found either on our [website](#) or at the Wild Ohio Harvest Cookbook [YouTube Channel](#).



District 3 Updates: Donations to Local Food Banks



Summit County WLO Dan Shroyer made arrangements with the Haven of Rest Ministries in Akron to receive a donation of wild game and fish. Approximately 200 pounds of venison and 100 pounds total of perch, walleye, and saugeye will satiate hungry bellies.



A total of 142 pounds of venison was donated to Country Neighbor food bank in Orwell, Ashtabula County. Pictured is the county WLO Jason Warren.



Portage County WLO Marino Pellegrini pictured with over 75 pounds of forfeited venison that we donated to the Center of Hope in Ravenna.



They're all smiling behind their masks! 😊

District 3 Updates: New Wildlife Officer Field Supervisor



Congratulations to Scott Denamen on his promotion to field supervisor. Scott oversees five counties in northeast Ohio including: Lorain, Geauga, Lake, Cuyahoga, and Ashtabula. Scott was assigned to Geauga County in 2003.

District 3 Updates: Beach City Wildlife Area



- Room to park at Beach City Wildlife Area in Tuscarawas County was a challenge for visitors on busy days but thanks to the dedicated efforts of Ohio Division of Wildlife staff, this is a problem no more. The Dundee Wilmot Road parking lot has been improved and enhanced for more convenient and accessible parking

District 3 Updates: Prescribed Burns

- Wildlife management staff conducted prescribed burns at Berlin and Highlandtown wildlife areas. – *submitted by Scott Angelo*



District 3 Updates: Habitat Work

October 2020 through March 2021, through cooperative timber agreements, D3 conducted timber harvests on four wildlife areas (Zepernick, Killbuck, Funk Bottoms, Mosquito Creek) totaling 154 acres. A total of 618,712 board foot of timber were harvested. Harvest types included thinning, edge feathering, and regeneration cuts.

The picture to the right is from the timber cut at Zepernick Wildlife Area. These are mostly poplar trees that are waiting to be loaded on the truck.



DOW are currently preparing for the next harvest season. Timber harvests are planned for Brush Creek, Mosquito Creek, and Spencer Lake Wildlife Areas. Consulting foresters are presently marking timber on these areas.



Division of Forestry is conducting a timber cut on the section of Yellow Creek State Forest that is adjacent to Highlandtown. The purpose of this cut is to remove trees infected with oak wilt disease. An MOU is in the works to allow DOF to skid the logs and place the landing on Highlandtown Wildlife Area.

Invasive Species Control - DOW currently have 395 acres under contract to be chemically treated before the end of this FY. The major invasive species being treated consist of Glossy Buckthorn, Ailanthus, and Phragmites. This work will take place on 5 Wildlife Areas. Mosquito Creek – 220ac, Brush Creek – 46ac, West Branch – 8ac, Berlin – 90ac, Hambden Orchard – 31ac. The acres being treated on Brush Creek and Mosquito Creek are either follow-up treatments or are in preparation for future timber cuts per their 10year forest management plan.

District 3 Updates: Partnering for Improved Habitat



The National Wild Turkey Federation's Maple Country Chapter recently conducted an oak reforestation planting at the Hambden Orchard Wildlife Area in Geauga County. Our many thanks go out to the 2021 field planting crew of Josh, Adam, John and Jake, along with the rest of the chapter for their continued support and their previous annual planting efforts at all sites over the past several years. To date, the NWTF Maple Country Chapter has purchased and planted over 1000 trees here as well as funded the original mulching project which started this planting effort. Thanks, NWTF!



The American Woodcock Society, Whitetails Unlimited, and the Ashland County Chapter of Pheasants Forever, have partnered with the Killbuck Marsh Wildlife Area to establish early stage of successional habitat. This ongoing project will provide critical habitat for numerous species of wildlife.

Thicket Crabapple
Thicket Plum
Thicket
Serviceberry
Speckled Alder
Highbush Cranberry

Red Osier
Dogwood
Mulberry
American Hazelnut
Persimmon
American Chestnut

District 3 Updates: Wildlife in the Media

LOCAL NEWS

How to keep geese from signing a lease in your yard

"Timing is everything. If you wait until they're nesting, you might as well forget it at that point," said a wildlife research technician from ODNR

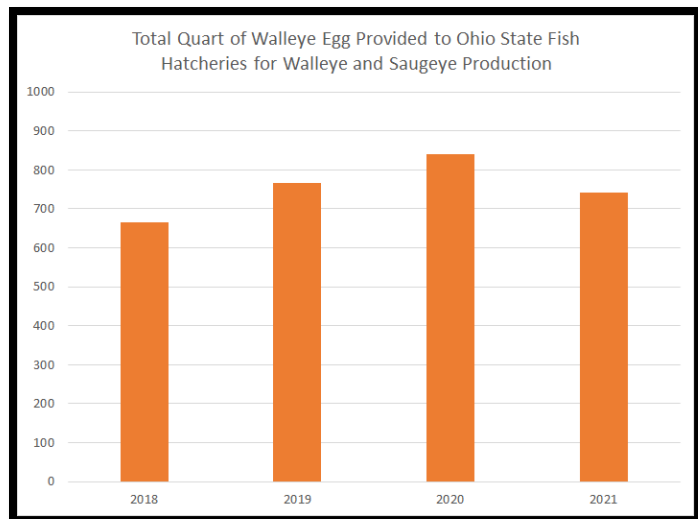


Research Tech Laurie Brown chats with NEO media routinely. Here's one of many inquiries Laurie rocked as usual. [Watch the story](#)

District 3 Updates: Walleye Egg Collection



Fish tech Cameron McCune with double catch flathead catfish, a massive female walleye, and yellow perch and crappie duo!



Walleye eggs were collected on Mosquito Reservoir in March to produce walleye and saugeye, a female walleye/male sauger hybrid that does well in some of Ohio's lakes. Fish Management crews, with the help of Law Enforcement and Wildlife Management staff, wrapped up another excellent year of egg collection in late March. A total of 741 quarts of walleye eggs were collected for the hatchery this year. In one day alone (March 18) the crews collected a one-day record of 144 quarts for production. With 125,000 eggs per quart, this translates into 92,000,000 eggs collected! These fish will be grown in our hatcheries and stocked out this spring at a lake near you.



Jonathan Richmond, NR Tech based at the Berlin Unit, with a northern pike.

District 3 Updates: Muskie Egg Collection



We were impressed with a 48" spawned-out muskie we netted on Leesville during muskie egg collection efforts. – *submitted by biologist Chris Aman*

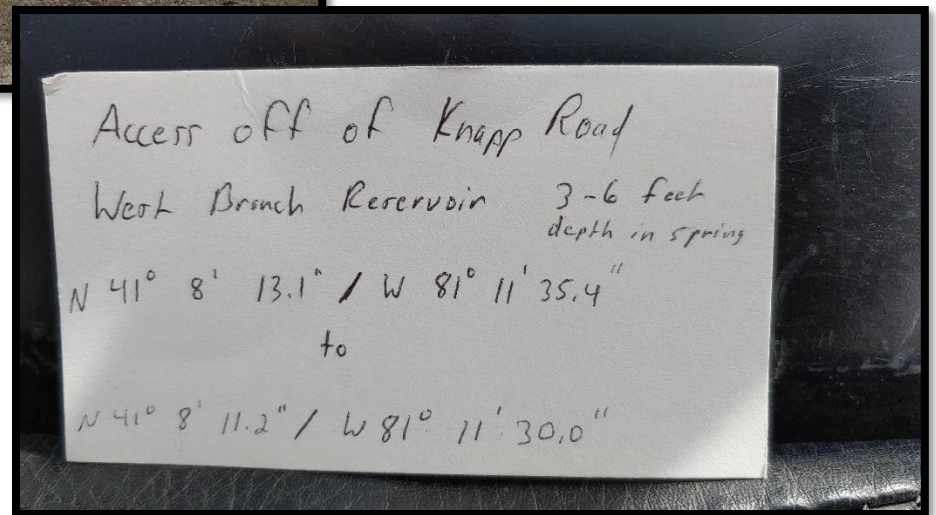


- Fish management crews resumed collecting muskie eggs on Leesville Reservoir in 2021. This year, due to the ongoing pandemic, Ohio was not going to receive its annual allotment of muskie eggs from out of state. But with excellent catches of muskies at Leesville, crews were able to secure the entire state's needs for raising this toothy critter. Close to 20 quarts of fertilized muskie eggs were provided to our hatcheries, who will grow these fish and stock them in the early fall. - *submitted by biologist Matt Wolfe*

District 3 Updates: West Branch Lake Habitat



Upcycling Christmas trees for the annual West Branch habitat project.



District 3 Updates: Ohio River Catfish Survey

District Three Fish Management personnel teamed up with staff from Districts 4 and 5 (bordering the Ohio River) and the Inland Fisheries Research Unit to conduct low-frequency electrofishing on the Ohio River to assess flathead and blue catfish populations. This work is being conducted to develop a standardized sampling approach to assess relative abundance, growth rates, and ages of trophy Ohio River catfish populations.



Thank you for your time!

Stay connected with us!

Check out our website at
wildohio.gov!

Click on the icons below to follow us on social media!



District 1: Central Ohio
1500 Dublin Road
Columbus, Ohio 43215
800-WILDLIFE

District 4: Southeast Ohio
360 E. State Street
Athens, Ohio 45701
800-WILDLIFE

District 2: Northwest Ohio
952 Lima Avenue
Findlay, Ohio 45840
800-WILDLIFE

District 5: Southwest Ohio
1076 Old Springfield Pike
Xenia, Ohio 45385
800-WILDLIFE

District 3: Northeast Ohio
912 Portage Lakes Drive
Akron, Ohio 44319
800-WILDLIFE

