



A non-profit Ohio organization

Ohio Wetlands Association

Newsletter - October 2015

Our Mission

Ohio Wetlands Association is dedicated to the protection, restoration and enjoyment of Ohio's wetlands and associated ecosystems through science-based programs, education and advocacy.

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Wetlands Summit
October 17, 2015
Dawes Arboretum
Newark, OH**

4th Annual Wetlands Summit

Ohio Wetlands Summit 2015 will be held at Dawes Arboretum in Newark Ohio on Saturday October 17th from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The theme of this year's summit is **"Impacting Policy to Protect Wetlands across Ohio"**. We can make a difference for wetlands when we focus our message and work together. We encourage all individuals and conservation groups to join us for this important event. This year's wetland leaders awards will also be presented. There will be an optional field trip at the arboretum immediately following the summit. Visit www.OHwetlands.org for details and registration. Registration deadline is Monday, October 12, 2015.

2015 WETLANDS SUMMIT LINEUP

- "Waters of the US (WOTUS)," Anthony Sasson, Fresh Water Conservation Manager, TNC
- "Affecting Wetland Policy at the Local Level," Jim Amon, Professor Emeritus, WSU
- "Affecting Policy at the Ohio State House," Jack Shaner, Deputy Director, OEC
- "Trends in Wetland Loss and Protection," Ray Stewart, President of OWA
- "Legal Framework for Wetland Protection," Nathan Johnson, Attorney, OEC
- "Rules and Practices at the Ohio EPA," Mick Micacchion, MBI
- "The Zen of Activism," Elaine Marsh, Project Director, Ohio Greenways

2015 Wetland Leader Award Presentations
Protection * Education * Advocacy * Restoration

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Ohio Wetlands Habitat Stamp

By David Sherman, Wetland Habitat Coordinator at Ohio Division of Wildlife



The Ohio Wetlands Habitat Stamp was created in 1982 to fund the restoration, enhancement, protection, and management of wetlands. Originally sold for \$5.75, the stamp's price has increased to \$15, and since its inception, the stamp has raised more than \$10.4 million dollars to help restore and protect 40,000 acres of wetlands in Ohio. The stamp is required for Ohio waterfowl hunters, 40% of the stamp proceeds are sent to Canada to protect breeding ground

wetlands for waterfowl that migrate through Ohio. Around 24,000 stamps are sold each year, thus providing about \$350,000 annually to restore, enhance, and protect both public and private wetlands.

The Ohio Wetlands Habitat Stamp can only be purchased online or through a hunting/fishing license vendor. To purchase online, go to www.oh.wildlifelicense.com and click on the Licenses and Permits link. You will need to provide some personal information on the website, and you will be given a customer ID. Once you place your order, you will receive the stamp in about 5 weeks.

VISIT US AT:

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Winous Point Marsh Conservancy

By Ray Stewart

For over 160 years the caretakers of Winous Point have had an ethic of preservation. In 1999 they took their ethic to new levels.

Since the very earliest days of settlement the marshes in and around Sandusky Bay have been appreciated for their abundant and diverse wildlife. Flocks were so dense that some very hardy market hunters were able to take dozens of ducks in a single shot. They worked year around providing food for a growing population. Others visited, shooting duck for sport, recreation and the comradery of their peers. In 1856, the Winous Point Shooting Club (WPSC) was founded on the north shore of Muddy Creek Bay, a shallow extension of Sandusky Bay. Although not the first such club, it is today the longest continuously operated private shooting club in the United



States.

The sportsmen of Winous Point were also naturalists and included the founders of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History (CMNH), a close association that continues to this day. By the late 19th century settlement in NW Ohio had increased dramatically. Land was cleared, wildlife

was harvested, wetlands were drained, and exotic species were introduced including the common carp. The numbers and variety of ducks visiting Muddy Creek Bay declined significantly. Suitable waterfowl habitat had shrunk in size and remaining marshes declined in quality due to siltation from upstream land clearing and from the destructive behavior of carp pulling up marsh plants and churning up sediments from below. The vast Lake Erie marshes no longer supported wild rice, wild celery, American lotus and the emergent plants that provided breeding and stopover habitat for birds. Fluctuating lake levels contributed to the loss of coastal wetlands and made the future of marsh dependent wildlife populations uncertain.

The men of WPSC were determined to apply their considerable scientific acuity, political influence and financial resources to correct the situation. Dikes were constructed to manage water levels. Club rules were imposed to restrict duck hunting to reduce non-breeding season. Policies were established by the state legislature and wildlife management became the law of the land. Their pioneering efforts influenced law and practice across the region. In 1946, and ever since, the manager of WPSC has been a wildlife biologist. The first was Frosty Anderson recommended by Aldo Leopold, author of *A Sand County Almanac*. Since then there have been more than fifty graduate student research projects conducted at or vitally assisted by Winous Point.

For over 160 years the caretakers of Winous Point have had an ethic of preservation. In 1999, they took their ethic to new levels. The non-profit Winous Point Marsh Conservancy (WPMC) was founded as the managing unit for the property and with a mission "... to protect, restore, enhance, and wisely manage coastal wetlands and watersheds in southwest Lake Erie." Most of the marsh is now owned by the WPMC. While WPSC still exists, it is only active to support its members during duck season. The most significant activities at Winous Point are now conservation, research and education.



Chase Anderson

Along with the management changes, there were physical changes made as well. The club house redesign incorporated these same expanded values. The 19th century clubhouse structure had seen many hard times exposed to extreme weather conditions on the marsh as well as the test of time. The current clubhouse was designed with broader

(Continued on page 3)

Membership

We need your support! Membership and donations made to OWA are tax deductible in the same way any other non-profit donation would be. Your membership at any level is valuable. Having the support of many members adds strength to our impact on issues that effect Ohio's wetlands. We are not there yet, but soon I would like to be able to say, "Hello Governor, I am from Ohio Wetlands Association and I represent thousands of citizens and voters in Ohio who are deeply concerned about the welfare of our wetland treasures."

Please help me make that happen. Complete and mail the form on the back of the newsletter or go to our website [www. OHwetlands.org](http://www.OHwetlands.org) and use our PayPal links.



Blue Dasher

(Continued from page 2)

purposes in mind. The new building design expanded the capabilities of the conservancy to do research and education with expanded office space, a historical museum and a classroom in addition to the traditional accommodations for club members. The classroom is used all the time by various groups for lectures, meetings, and symposia. It has proven to be very successful in playing a catalytic role in raising awareness of conservation management. Chace Anderson who chairs the WPMC as well as the board of directors at the CMNH stated that the research is now regional because the marsh ecosystem is regional. The Conservancy partners with the other big interests in the area like Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge and Ducks Unlimited. Mr. Anderson says that it is most gratifying to see growth at WPMC in education and research. At the same time the marsh conservation acreage continues to expand.

A recent acquisition is known as the Metzger Farm which has been restored to marsh. Another property known as horseshoe marsh has undergone a major restoration. Still another project filters water out of the watershed by reconnecting 1500 acres of diked wetlands to drainage ways coming from 2000 acres of farmland, thus improving water quality and flood control in the watershed.

The operations at WPMC are headed by John Simpson and two full time employees. There is usually a compliment of interns, graduate students and researchers. Some of the research includes bird banding. OWA visited Winous in 2013 when Keith Norris was banding and monitoring shore birds. In 2015, we were fortunate to show up just as a King Rail was removed from a trap and fixed with a radio transmitter.

WPMC is at the forefront of invasive species management working with 19 partners focusing mostly on *Phragmites*. John Simpson is a key player in the Lake Erie Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) that included 5200 acres along the US coast of the western basin last year. Beyond invasive species WPMC is active with the Lake Erie Marsh Management Association which is enhancing best management practices regionally. Anderson says that John is "a soft spoken pied piper, able to bring people together, quietly mobilizing people to get things done".

WPMC is at the forefront of invasive species management working with 19 partners focusing mostly on Phragmites.

Types of Ohio Wetlands Part I

By Ray Stewart

Wetlands are found around the world wherever there are bodies of water. Coastlines that have not been altered by human development often have a transition zone between open water and upland that is inundated much of the time or has saturated soils. Ocean shores have a variety of wetlands that are adapted to regular tidal pulses and by salt water. Mangroves in tropical areas fill these niches and provide many benefits where they reduce the impact of storms and provide habitat to fish and birds. Inland, freshwater wetlands have neither of these influences and may appear away from or along with lakes and rivers.

Wetlands are sometimes thought to be a mere transition zone between water and land. Wetland habitats, however, have characters of their own that are quite distinct from uplands, lakes and other habitats that are found adjacent to the wetlands. There are many definitions for wetlands but certain characters are universal. Wetlands experience frequent and high water levels with soils that have developed in the presence of water, and are distinct from those soils that are well aerated. As a result, wetlands support plant communities that tolerate or even require the moisture and low oxygen conditions that exist in them.

Ohio has a diverse landscape that stretches from the Ohio River to the south up to Lake Erie in the north. We have the Allegheny plateau in the east and the vast flat remnants of the Great Black Swamp in the northwest. The Appalachian foothills of the Hocking Hills region in Ohio's southwest provide high relief and drainage. The Southeast has the long Miami Valley that cuts through a geologic bedrock called the Cincinnati arch. All of this is profoundly

affected by the glaciation that gouged out the great lakes, changed the course of the Maumee River and established the Ohio River valley as the new route for waters leaving Pennsylvania on their way to the Gulf of Mexico. These glaciers draped across the northern and western counties of Ohio smoothing the topography and leaving deposits that contribute to the diversity of wetlands throughout the state.

These descriptions of wetland types in Ohio will look at the variations of hydrology (water characteristics), landscape and plant communities that distinguish the various forms of wetlands supported in Ohio. The first of this series will describe a specific kind of wetland known as a marsh. In common or regional usage, these areas may go by many different names which according Merriam-Webster Dictionary include; bog, fen, marsh, marshland, mire, moor, morass, muskeg, slough (also slow or slue), swampland and wash.

Marsh

A marsh is possibly the most beloved of all wetlands. They have a broad vista, often extending out to open waters. They are busy and vibrant places populated by an intriguing variety of birds that are marsh dependent. Herons and egrets wade in the shallow waters, while ducks seasonally descend in epic numbers. Plants grow from spongy bottoms, some remain submerged, while others like the white water lily float at the surface. Others, including pickerel weed and cattail are emergent, rise above the surface, providing seclusion for secretive birds and insects. Possibly one of the most productive ecosystems on the planet, marshes convert the essential elements of water, mineral and sunlight into living tissue at a higher rate than a

mature forest or prairie. Fish often use the submerged complexity as nurseries where the many layers of vegetation provide refuge and nutrition.

Great Lakes Coastal Marsh

Along Lake Erie marshes were once extensive. Before settlement most river mouths were hosts to marshes and estuaries, waters that were sometimes river influence and sometimes lake influences. These embayments were sometimes cut off from the lake by drifting beach sand. Especially in the western basin, from about Sandusky westward the coastline is so shallow that wind-related seiches once flooded far inland. Extensive marshes merged gradually into vast slowly drained swamp forests. As cities and industry became established in the 19th century, successful and wealthy sportsmen established many shooting clubs in this area for recreation based on the super-abundance of waterfowl. The extensive protected habitat we find today both public and private in this region is a legacy of that era and interest. Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge and Magee Marsh are examples of now public assets. Winous Point on Muddy Creek Bay in Sandusky Bay is the premier private marsh in this region.

These wetland habitats are largely managed for waterfowl in the interest of duck hunters. Without the sportsman, it is unlikely that so much wetland habitat would have survived. These same areas are home to many of our endangered and threatened species. Birding, a passive leisure activity, contributes millions of dollars to the local economy. The spectacle of bird diversity brings people from all of the world to witness bird migration where western Lake Erie marsh land provides superior stopover habitat.



Swans in Ohio's Wetlands

By Ray Stewart

According to Jordan K. Linnell, Wildlife Specialist, "The mute swan (*Cygnus olor*)... first turned up in Ohio just over 100 years ago. We wanted Mute Swans to adorn ponds, but when we looked harder, we found an 'ugly duckling' that destroys wetlands with feeding habits that increase water turbidity and reduce submerged aquatic vegetation."

Mute Swans are originally from Western Europe. Their bright white plumage and graceful glide across ponds and marshes make them attractive additions to the waterscape. Unfortunately, their behavior is aggressive. They exclude all other waterfowl from their area. They are also aggressive against humans. When feeding, they uproot and kill much of the vegetation that would be used sustainably by fish and other waterfowl.

Mute Swans are rapid breeders, living as long as 30 years with the potential to produce 450 offspring over 10 years. Their populations in the region have been increasing dramatically. The current management goal of the Division of Wildlife is to significantly reduce their presence in Ohio, minimize their impact on native wildlife, habitats and conflicts with humans. In Ohio, the Mute Swan is protected as non-game waterfowl. A special permit is required to remove them on private property.

In contrast, the Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinators*) Ohio's only native breeding swan, has been adopted as a symbol for Ohio Wetlands Association. Like the highly impacted marsh habitat that supports this species, our native swans are at risk. Trumpeter Swans are native to Ohio and listed as a threatened species. It has been controversial to label the Trumpeter as a native Ohio species. Even before Ohio became a state, there were settlers and explorers that hunted their way through the area. Breeding pairs are documented in the marshes of Detroit, just a few miles from the Ohio border. Considering that the



Trumpeter Swan

coastal marsh habitat at that time extended from Detroit to Sandusky, odds are they existed in northern Ohio as well. Very likely, they were harvested without documentation and extirpated before any formal surveys took place.

Considering the current breeding population in Northwest Ohio, there is growing acceptance of the notion that the Trumpeter Swan is indeed an Ohio species.



Mute Swan

The Trumpeter Swan Reintroduction Program called for

150 trumpeter swans to be introduced with hopes of establishing 15 breeding pairs by 2006. Trumpeter swans prefer large marshes, lakes, and swamps ranging in size from 30 to 150 acres. They prefer shallow wetlands 1-3 feet deep with a diverse mix of emergent and/or submergent vegetation and open water. Dave Sherman, Wetland Habitat Coordinator at Ohio Division of Wildlife has observed that Mute and Trumpeter Swans compete for territory. Mutes establish nesting areas about 3 weeks in advance of Trumpeters then aggressively defend their 3 to 15 acre territory. When Mute Swans are present, the Trumpeter shies away.

Division of Wildlife management goals for the mute swan are to have zero mute swans on public lands and zero population growth on all other lands by 2020. The Division's trumpeter swan management goals are to increase its range within Ohio from 13 counties in 2013 to 15 counties and to increase the number of breeding pairs from 28 pairs in 2013 to 40 pairs within the state by 2020.

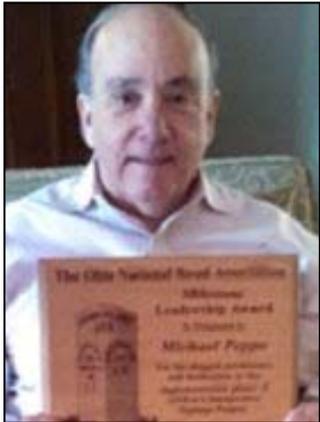
This Summer OWA Elected 3 New Board Members

As an all-volunteer non-profit we have an engaged 'working' board. These Directors shoulder the bulk of the work that we do. Please welcome them.



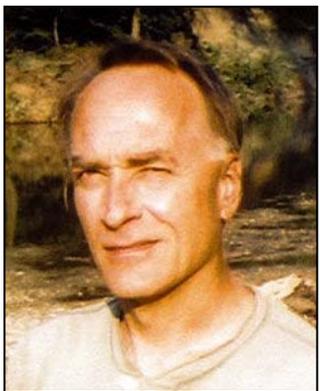
Mark Dilley, Director & Chair of the Education Committee

Mark earned a B.S. in Natural Resources (Fisheries Management) in 1991 and a M.S. in Environmental Science (specializing in wetlands) in 2003, both from The Ohio State University. He and his wife Chris are co-owners of the environmental consulting firm MAD Scientist Associates, which specializes in ecological and wetland consulting. Mark has over 20 years' experience as a field biologist, ecologist, and wetland scientist. His academic research has focused on biological monitoring of streams and rivers and atrazine (agricultural herbicide) fate and transport processes in constructed wetlands. As consultants, Mark and his staff are responsible for wetland delineation, permitting, assessment, and wetland restoration design and monitoring, as well as ecological surveys and ecological risk assessment. Mark is a Certified Senior Ecologist with the Ecological Society of America and is a Professional Wetland Scientist certified by the Society of Wetland Scientists. He has also been teaching the Wetland Ecology and Restoration course at The Ohio State University since 2012.



Mike Peppe, Director

Mike is a Commercial and Industrial Realtor and Developer with Hadler Realty Companies. Mike served 4 years active duty as a Captain in the U.S. Army Military Police before returning to Columbus. He is a graduate of The Ohio State University. Mike has volunteered his talents to several organizations, the Columbus Cancer Clinic where he received their Outstanding Volunteer Award, the Ohio National Road Association, where he received an outstanding achievement award. Mike is a member of the Advisory Board for the Everglades Wetlands Research Center. Mike advocated on behalf of the Olentangy Wetlands Research Park at The Ohio State University and helped to prevent the local gas utility from running a high pressure gas line underneath this internationally recognized wetlands research facility.



Craig W. Limpach, Director

Craig Limpach is President and founder of Genius Loci Inc., a landscape architecture design/build firm that specializes in ecological design and the use of native plants. Craig is trained in river morphology/restoration and wetland delineation. As a Field biologist he has consulted on a wide variety of field projects with a specialization in avian studies including bird banding. Craig has studied at the Ohio State University, University of Alaska-Fairbanks and Lorain County Community College.

IKEA Proposes Wetland Impact

By Ray Stewart

IKEA Property Inc. has filed an application to impact 15.5 acres of forested wetland within the Big Creek watershed located in the City of Brooklyn, Ohio. with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps will have to approve the 404 permit in order for IKEA to build a store that will have a 30-acre footprint. The wetland complex in question is one of the largest local wetland complexes with considerable biological, hydrological and social value. Its value is made greater because of its size and rarity within a highly impacted urban watershed.

IKEA's corporate philosophy expresses the importance of sustainability. This proposal directly contradicts their own statements as issued in their People & Planet Positive Sustainability Strategy for 2020.

"Sustainability at IKEA means ensuring environmental, economic and social well-being for today and tomorrow. It means meeting the needs of people and society, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs – acting in the long-term interests of the many people and not just the few. It is about living within the limits of the planet and protecting the environment."

http://www.ikea.com/ms/en_US/pdf/reports-downloads/sustainability-strategy-people-and-planet-positive.pdf

OWA requests that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers deny the permit for the following reasons:

1. It is not possible for IKEA's proposed underground storm water detention to provide the same level

of environmental benefits as a forested wetland.

2. The proposed development contradicts guidance in State-endorsed watershed plans.
3. Big Creek Connects, the local watershed organization, developed a State-endorsed "Balanced Growth Plan" The report explains why avoiding permanently impacting the forested wetland is essential. The Balanced Growth Plan designated over 1,900 acres for commercial redevelopment, some of which lies within the City of Brooklyn. Surely an acceptable alternative exists.
4. The Great Lakes Water Quality Act established the Great Lakes Areas of Concern. Supporting state and local organizations were given the charge to clean-up and delist these areas. Paving one of the largest remaining wetland complexes in the Big Creek watershed will prevent this sub-basin from ever meeting its delisting goals in the future.

Supporting documents are compiled at <http://www.cuyahogaoc.org/aoc-resources.html>

OWA has requested a public hearing to allow the opportunity to present evidence concerning the irreversible damage to water quality, biodiversity and overall watershed health that will ensue following this proposal. A formal request to deny the permit was made by the Cuyahoga River Area of Concern. OWA is working with Friends of the Crooked River to monitor the situation.



Ohio Wetlands Association

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Wetlands for a Better Ohio

October 2015 Issue

	<p><i>JOIN OR RENEW TODAY!</i> OHIO WETLANDS ASSOCIATION <i>Wetlands for a Better Ohio</i> www.ohwetlands.org</p> <p>We are a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Your membership and donation is fully tax-deductible.</p> <table><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> \$20 - Individual</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> \$30 - Family</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> \$100 - Heron</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> \$10 - Student</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> \$40 - Organization</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> \$250 - Rail</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> \$10 - Senior</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> \$50 - Business</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> \$500 - Swan</td></tr></table> <p>Donation: _____</p> <p>Total Enclosed: _____</p> <p>NAME: _____</p> <p>ADDRESS: _____</p> <p>CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____</p> <p>PHONE: _____</p> <p>EMAIL: _____</p> <p>Email is the default newsletter delivery method. Contact us for US mail delivery at 440 225-1279.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20 - Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30 - Family	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100 - Heron	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10 - Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$40 - Organization	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250 - Rail	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10 - Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 - Business	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500 - Swan
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