



OUTDOOR LORE

Newsletter of the Outdoor Writers of Ohio

January 2011

President's Message

I usually start writing this column just about the time the prior newsletter is received in your mail or email box. Over the next month and a half until this newsletter is to go out, I re-visit the column to see if I have had a change of opinion or thought as to what I want to communicate to you, the members. The *very first* email I got regarding my last Prez Message was from W.H. "Chip" Gross stating that I sounded like I needed to take a chill pill. I think Chip thought I was ranting and raving like a lunatic.

I had a few (which will go unnamed) who said it was good to hear someone say what normally goes "unsaid." You can't get fired from a job you don't get paid for, I always say. Ottie appreciated the thoughts for him and Debbie but wondered why I wrote so much when I am not a writer. I *will* relay that he fully intends to figure out how to catch walleye with regularity on Cumberland and then write about it.

The New Year is here! But I don't think things will ever be the same. My observation is that the recession, depression or whatever you want to call it has changed the face of business and the face of the consumer forever. How business does business, how business is structured, how consumers buy, how consumers live and how the entire economic machine has been re-built for the future is and will be very different.

Everyone was and likely still is affected in one way or another. In the big picture, I am just another Joe off the street observing

The OWO Conference is coming with a host of activities

The 2011 OWO Conference itinerary is coming together nicely. We would like to thank Bob Yun from the Loudonville/ Mohican Area CVB, Amy Daubenspeck from the Ashland Area CVB and Lee Tasseff from the Mansfield/Richland County CVB. They have been working with us on the Conference to ensure the OWO Members have a wonderful time with many activity options in and around the area of Mohican State Park. They are also sponsoring

events based on the business and industries I have contact with on a regular, daily basis. Things are beginning to break however, and I feel cautiously optimistic. Where does that leave us in the media business, whether full time or part time? It leaves us needing to be as creative as we can be with the new tools we have involving e-commerce, e-communications and social networks along with keeping and maintaining our full and part time jobs.

A few last notes ... I look forward to meeting David Mustine, the new Director of ODNR, and hearing his plans for the Department and its Divisions. His background is very different than that of his predecessors, particularly the business side. I did extend a formal invitation on behalf of OWO for Governor John Kasich to appear at our conference. Mr. Mustine will be invited as well. I hope they both accept.

Finally, have a happy and very prosperous new year and do make sure to renew your membership in OWO!



by Chip Hart – OWO President

the Friday evening dinner where members will be able to pick their brain about the area.

For those of you who have not been there, Mohican is one of the most beautiful parks in Ohio. This 72nd Annual Conference is not one to miss. Please watch your mail for itinerary materials to arrive in early February. See you there!

—Vicki Hart

AWARDS CONTEST DEADLINE IS APPROACHING

For those considering entering the Awards competition, the deadline is midnight on January 30, and entries must be received along with their \$15 check by that date. The forms were in the October and December issues of *LORE* along with all of the categories.

There is no fee for those entering the Best Conference Photo or the Ben Doepel Memorial Contest categories. Questions? Contact Tim Snyder at 937-964-8205 or 937-408-6843 or timothysnyder@prodigy.net.



www.outdoorwritersofohio.org

JANUARY 2011

OUTDOOR LORE
7018 PILOT KNOB AVE NE
LOUISVILLE OH 44641

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Calendar

January 19-23, 2011
Cincinnati Travel, Sports & Boat Show

MARCH 1, 2011 –
DEADLINE FOR NEXT LORE

January 19-23, 2011
Cincinnati Hunting & Fishing Show

February 10-13, 2011
Columbus Sports, Vacation & Boat Show

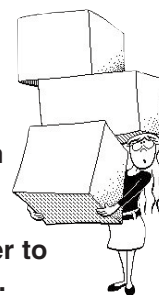
March 19, 2011
Ohio Muskie Club Inc.
50th Anniversary Awards Banquet

March 25, 26, 27, 2011
Ohio Taxidermy Association Show
and Competition
Mansfield

May 12-15, 2011
OWO Conference
Mohican State Park

MOVING?

Do not forget us if for one reason or another you have a change of address, telephone number, etc., and we will run it in the newsletter to let your compatriots also know ...



Captain Ron Johnson loses his battle with lung cancer

Captain Ron Johnson, a 73-year-old friend to many members of OWO and a fabled fishing guide, docking his steelhead and walleye catching boat, The Thumper, at the Grand River Marina, died following a hard-fought battle with lung cancer. Johnson was well known by literally hundreds of Lake Erie anglers for his renown ability to locate big walleyes and steelhead, providing these friends with memories of catching their largest steelhead trout or walleye from the back deck of his flawlessly maintained boat. Many members of OWO, especially Jeff Frischkorn, Steve Pollick and Ed Moody, had come to know Johnson for his legendary wit and dry humor.

Johnson was regarded as an innovative Charter Captain, designing new methods to catch Lake Erie's fish and the attention of charter captains all along the southern shores of that inland sea.

D'arcy Egan, a legend himself, recalled the time, more than a decade ago, when walleye tournament professionals invaded Central Lake Erie for a North American Walleye Anglers event. They headed straight to the Grand River Marina for big-water walleye conversations and tips from Johnson. He "thumped"



them with his walleye catching techniques by winning two straight tournaments with the Thumper underneath his footing.

His landside sport was rabbit hunting with his pack of beagles.

It'll be many years before a legend such as Captain Ron Johnson comes along.

Johnson is survived by one daughter, Meaghan Johnson, a marine biologist; one son, Steven, of Greensboro, North Carolina; and a special friend, Carol Hall.

Trials and tribulations of a more mature pursuer of deer ...

For an outdoors writer with as many columns as the venerable Steve Pollick has behind him, it is awe-inspiring to realize that he is still pursuing Ohio's whitetail deer in the rugged hills of south-central Ohio.

During the recent muzzleloader deer season, the crack of

Here it is!!!!!!

In the last LORE I stated no one had sent any photos of their deer harvest, but then Steve Pollick came through and sent a photo of him with his deer and these additional comments.

He took this eight-point Wednesday mid-day of slug gun week in Hocking County. This was after he had passed up a 10-point buster first thing opening morning at Lake Katharine State Nature Preserve's draw hunt in Jackson County because of a doe first rule, which he supports. As fate would have it, he saw one with a rocking chair on its head, 12 points and long tines, Friday morning and had to pass because his buck tag was filled.

He added he feels like Ed, stating, "Horns make thin soup, and he already has lots of them collecting dust, cobwebs and spiders in the basement."

Thanks, Steve, and hope the hunt was a fun time – do you need some new deer cooking recipes?



dawn revealed Pollick already on a ridge-top trail of a worthy buck.

A quote from Pollick goes something like, "If I had a thermometer, it would probably have been as frozen as my little finger," – but he was out there when snow crunched loudly as his shoe-pacs compressed it earthward. He reported rays from the rising sun glowed ever-so beautifully on blades of frosted grass. "The rising sunrays captured the prismatic snow crystals, turning them into a seemingly endless carpet of diamonds."

Quietly working his methodical way through tall timbers, it took him over an hour before spotting a deer trail fresh enough to encourage him to follow up one rather tall hill, down another and along the snow-crueted side of a hill that only sheep appreciate.

For 120 minutes, the mature pursuer of deer stalked perhaps 500 yards, one careful small step at a time, less he cause a twig to snap, alerting his quarry to the presence of a predator. Thoughts about how was he to get the deer back to the vehicle kept speeding through his thoughts. But that was to be a concern only if he was successful at dropping the browsing, well-bodied prey.

Perhaps it's fortunate for Pollick's heart in that when the deer needed to make a decision as to whether to continue circling a steep bluff or make a 90-degree turn and head straight down a 25-foot-deep ravine, it chose the ravine and stream meandering between the hill and the neighboring natural elevation.

Pollick, the veteran outdoors writer, knew it was high time to fess up to the notion that this mature doe bested him. In no way was he "going down that ravine, chance the frozen creek, or negotiate climbing the opposite side. Predators know the feeling; mostly they go hungry, mostly they miss."

Fortunately for his freezer, the award-winning writer had already succeeded in dropping a nice buck during mid-week of the shotgun season. Pollick was out there on that cold morning for the exhilarating experience of hunting – not necessarily for meat.

The Toledo *Blade* recognized OWO members Klewer and Pollick

On Sunday, December 19, 2010, the Toledo *Blade* published a commemorative issue “for covering 175 years of our world.”

This issue recognized the writings, travels and award-winning efforts of two innovative outdoors writers of *The Blade*: OWO members Lou Klewer and Steve Pollick with these abbreviated remarks:

“One of *The Blade*’s most well-traveled writers in modern history is outdoor editor Steve Pollick. He’s been to Australia, Central America, South America, Greenland, Europe, several African countries and several parts of Asia, to name a few parts of the world.”

Mr. Pollick has been to at least 35 countries outside the United States – some, such as Canada, countless times and to several provinces.

Mr. Pollick said the late Paul Block, Jr., appointed him outdoor editor nearly 30 years ago with this simple instruction: “I want you to go all over the world. Just do *The Blade* some good.”

“I tried to do just that, and it’s up to others to judge whether I accomplished that. But, in the process, I was rewarded with priceless life experiences and was able to immerse myself in culture, sometimes primitive ones, from around the world, and quite frankly, live unique life outdoors during my generation.”

Mr. Pollick’s globe-trotting carried on the tradition of his predecessor, longtime *Blade* outdoors writer Lou Klewer, who traveled to countless exotic places for nearly a half century until his retirement in 1982.

Mr. Klewer visited every Canadian province, every U.S. state, South America, Africa, and most countries in Central and South America. He also made 20 trips to Mexico.

The Blade’s commitment to international reporting didn’t just start a few years ago; it was something that began with the age of flight.

Permission to reprint the above was granted to OWO by *The Blade* through the appreciated efforts of Scott Carpenter.

Any recommendations???

Patty McNutt and family are planning a mountain lion hunt in Arizona in the spring. Got any suggestions or recommendations for her? Good luck, Patty and family!

NOTICE NOTICE NOTICE NOTICE

HAVE YOUR DUES BEEN PAID FOR 2011?

If not and you would like to be listed in the new Directory that will be available at the Conference, best to take care of it before January 31, 2011, so a late fee will not be charged.

Please check your Directory to see if any changes need to be made from the 2010-2011 OWO Directory. Changes should be noted on your dues membership renewal form.

The Legislative Report

—Ed Moody

At the present, legislation activities in Columbus are fairly calm as new appointees learn how to handle their new responsibilities and how the Governor wants them to manage their assignments.

According to legislators on both sides of the aisle, House Bill 410, turning management responsibilities for governing captive deer farms, deer propagators and deer hunting preserves over to the Ohio Department of Agriculture is stagnate and shelved.

OWO Member Patty McNutt outspoken for CCW Permit Holders

Patty McNutt, an OWO member for over 30 years, sent information requesting it be printed in *LORE*, indicating that she has become seriously alarmed at businesses posting signs stating that properly licensed carriers of CCW permits are not permitted to carry their weapons into their facilities.

She wrote, “As an OWO member I object to OWO holding meetings, events, etc. with establishments that post the offending notice. Being of Cherokee Indian heritage, it would seem that the white man again is speaking with forked tongue when they patronize these places, thus indicating they do not really believe in our right to bear arms.”



Patty McNutt is the owner-operator of McNutt Farm II Outdoorsman Lodge, and states people bearing arms are welcome at her homestead in beautiful southern Ohio where the Muskingum River flows.

Upcoming Events

The 50th anniversary of the **Ohio Muskie Club** will be celebrated March 19 at Cherry Valley Lodge in Newark, Ohio, and anyone is welcome to attend the event. They are still looking for any old photos of muskie fishing in Ohio. If you have questions or comments, contact Fred Lederer at ohmcprez@sbcglobal.net.

* * * * *

The **Ohio Taxidermy Association** will hold its Show and Competition March 25, 26 and 27 in Mansfield. The Association is trying to make contacts to spread the word about the group and the forthcoming show. Any questions can be sent to piaskows@aol.com or otapress@aol.com.

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Sports shows sponsored by Hart Productions are listed in the calendar on the last page of *LORE* for anyone interesting in checking out the shows in the Cincinnati area in January and the Columbus area in February.

Vicki Mountz appointed Acting Chief of Division of Wildlife

ODNR Director David Mustine announced the appointments of two new chiefs and the department's legislative liaison, as well as five acting division chiefs.

Vicki Mountz, a member of OWO, was appointed as Acting Chief for the Division of Wildlife. Mountz began her career at ODNR as the department's first commissioned female watercraft officer. As Wildlife's executive administrator for Information and Education, she has a total of 25 years with the department.

Laura Jones was appointed Chief of the Office of Communications. She has more than 25 years of experience in the media and public relations industry, said Mustine. Most recently, Jones was audio-visual production manager and Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp program administrator for the Division of Wildlife. Previously, she served seven years in ODNR Director Sam Speck's communications office, two years with Governor Bob Taft, and nearly 14 years with the Cleveland *Plain Dealer's* Statehouse Bureau.

David Payne will oversee the Division of Parks & Recreation. Payne has experience in state government, which includes working in the offices of the Governor, Auditor of State and Bureau of Motor Vehicles. Payne has a diverse management background and excels at marketing and strategic development. He is a graduate of The Ohio State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science. Payne indicated he is committed to the Governor's plan for getting Ohio back on track, which includes strengthening the Division of Parks & Recreation.

Ben Pendery joins the ODNR administrative staff as its Legislative Liaison. Pendery most recently served with the Ohio Legislative Service Commission.

Other appointments announced by Director Mustine include:

- Bob Boyles as Acting Chief for the Division of Forestry. Boyles has been with the Department for 28 years. For the past 11 years he has served as Southern District Forest Manager out of Chillicothe.
- Ted Lozier as Acting Chief for the Division of Soil & Water Resources. Lozier has been with the Department for more than 24 years, and has served on several core management teams for the Division.
- Carla Camp as Acting Chief for the Office of Budget & Finance. Camp spent her first 21 years of state service in the fiscal section of the Department of Youth Services, and has been the Assistant Chief for ODNR.

Assistant Director Scott Zody will temporarily oversee the Office of Human Resources.

Earlier, Governor-elect John Kasich tapped a former American Electric Power executive and an Indiana bureaucrat to head ODNR with the appointment of David Mustine to head the Department of Natural Resources and Scott Nally for the Environmental Protection Agency.

Mustine, who served as Vice President at AEP, has worked most recently as director of an oil and gas services business in Dubai. During the announcement of the appointment, Kasich suggested he is open to the idea of drilling for oil and gas under state parkland – an idea that has been kicked around but never fully adopted.



Vickie Mountz with her muzzleloading season big buck.



*David Mustine
Director, ODNR*



*Scott Zody
Assistant Director, ODNR*

Dorothy Wodrich Scholarship

Sally Andreoni sent us a note reminding of the plans to present the Dorothy Wodrich Scholarship of \$500 (or perhaps more) at the OWO Conference in May. Now the need is for some applicants to apply for the scholarship.

The purpose of this scholarship is to promote and encourage involvement in our natural world, to assist with expenses of deserving students during their junior or senior years in college or in graduate school, to encourage excellence in communicating the outdoor experience to others.

To qualify for a scholarship, the applicant must be majoring in Natural Resources, Outdoor Communications or a related field.

The applicant should be a sophomore, junior, senior or graduate student who has a GPA of 2.5 or better. A Xeroxed copy of his/her college transcript should accompany the application. The applicant must be a resident of Ohio, and/or a student at an accredited Ohio college or university.

Interested applicants may inquire if their college has a copy of the application, as they have been sent to colleges and universities, or write to Mrs. Sally Andreoni, 09568 County Rd. 66A, New Bremen, OH 45869-9760 or email: sallyandreoni@hughes.net.

Deadline for applications is April 1, 2011. A committee of five will make the final decision.

NOTE: OWO writers, how about making a notation of this scholarship in your newspaper column?

OUTDOOR WRITERS OF OHIO

We foster the highest standards of journalistic skill and integrity among members, promote the wise use of natural resources, defend the environment against abuse, recognize the media as a public trust and dedicate ourselves to truth and conservation without regard for personal gain.

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Fred Snyder (2012)
Vicki Hart (2011)
Vicki Ervin (2011)
Jamie Kochensparger (2011)

PAST PRESIDENT
Celeste Baumgartner

— — — — —

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**DID YOU RETURN
THE ELECTION
BALLOT
YOU RECEIVED
EITHER BY
EMAIL OR
U.S. MAIL TO
GUY DENNY?
IF NOT HE
REALLY WOULD
LIKE TO HAVE
SOME BALLOTS
TO COUNT!!!**

Welcome to a New Member...

Welcome to our newest member, **Scott Keller**, who was sponsored by John Andreoni. Scott is primarily a still photographer. His information to be added to your Directory – residence: 147 North Miami Avenue, Bradford, Ohio 45308; phone: 937-448-2424; email: swk45308@gmail.com.

Supporting Member Showcase

In past issues of *LORE* we have tried to give recognition to our sponsors. Now we will have a special section to Showcase what our Supporting Members have to offer or special announcements they would like to make. We will feature one or two each month. Submissions should be sent to Vicki Hart, Supporting Member Chair, vicki@hartproductions.com.



We at Hofmann's Lures always listen to what the customers ask for, and Hofmann's has been making lures since 1919 when founder Jack Hofmann made his first spoons. Hofmann's Lures Inc., as we know it, has been around since 1952.

We are proud to be bringing back an original version of the famous Frizz's Flyrod spoon. This is the Frizz's Flipper spoon. The rayon tail is replaced by a tiny, wobble blade. As with all of our lures, these are great for a variety of fishing situations and presentations from fly fishing to ice fishing. These have not been available since 1967. They are now available for retail on our website and will be available at the Cincinnati and Columbus shows, made in the normal Hofmann's tradition – made by hand in the U.S.A.



We support our veterans and wounded warriors. Donate to your vets at Healing Waters, www.hofmannsluresinc.com.

From the Editor...

I do not know about the rest of you, but I have just about had enough snow to last me for the year. We went to Georgia for Christmas, and lo and behold they had four inches of snow for Christmas Day, and we got heck from several people for bringing snow with us. Even churches were cancelled the next day. Then we got home, and it caught up with us again. Gave me plenty of time to catch up on some reading, but not enough to satisfy my husband!!!

Several times I have mentioned about checking your credit card statements for hotel/motel charges, but here is a different one. When my Sears card came, I only had four charges on the bill. Guess what, two of them were not mine. One was charged the same day I had returned a shirt, and the second charge was bought the next day. Both were computer type items that I do not even know what they are good for. I called, and Sears has it running through their fraud security department. They issued me a new card, but it makes you wonder. Did an unscrupulous clerk who rang up the water softener cleaner Ed had purchased the day we returned the shirt then use our card number to make purchases. We still had our cards, so it was not that we left them behind or lost them. Time may tell, but keep an eye out for such happenings.

Vicki will be sending out conference material soon, and I hope you all have been saving those quarters so you can join us for a fun weekend. For those who have not attended an OWO conference, mark your new 2011 calendar for May 12-15 and plan to join us at Mohican State Park. The conference is not only fun, it can be a very worthwhile learning experience. For new members, bring your spouse and they will also have a good time. There are "spice" activities, and for those who do not know about "spice" activities, "spice" is plural for "spouse."

January is usually a good time to pick up some good bargains, so keep that in mind if you see a good deal and bring them along for the silent auctions and sometimes live auctions that benefit the scholarship funds.

Well, I have rambled along more than usual, but must add 2010 was good to us and hope the same for 2011 and for all of you also.

'Til next time, J.