



OUTDOOR LORE

Newsletter of the Outdoor Writers of Ohio

March 2010

Prez Message

Wow ... what a wild winter! Snowpack 2' deep plus across Ohio. Frigid temps. Gale force winds. Now the thaw. Spring couldn't be more welcome unless you are a polar bear.

First on the agenda is for every OWO'er to put the conference on their "confirmed agenda." Make your reservation with Geneva Lodge directly and get your conference reservation to Vicki. Don't dilly-dally.

Now on to some business. Most all of the winter outdoors, boat and sportsman shows across the Midwest have happened along with home & garden and auto shows. And you know what? Things are looking good for the economy. Setting aside politics, consumers of these "luxury goods and services" (found at all of these 1st quarter shows) are markedly improved over the last two years.

From first hand knowledge, we are seeing boats sold, fishing and hunting trips booked, fishing equipment being purchased, car and truck purchases being seriously considered, and home improvement bids and appointments being scheduled at a pace nearly twice that of last winter. A great deal of this is cash based. This could mean some brisk growth or at least a heavy bandage on the bleeding. I predict a solid turnaround based on what I have just experienced.

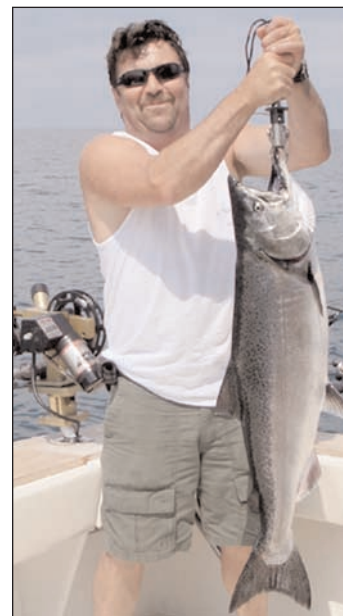
This is great news because, as spending increases and businesses begin seeing some profitability or least stability, we will see more ad dollars stream into the marketplace. We all know that it is essential to the publications you write for or the media you represent. As people begin moving this coming travel season, my hope is that they do so in numbers greater than last and they too will spend more while on that vacation.

On that note, it is interesting to observe that only in the last few years has tourism in Ohio embraced the angler and hunter as part

of that tourism equation. Previously, tourism was married to the idea that it was all about bus groups and families that didn't consume resources (i.e. fishing, hunting and boating). Unless you were Port Clinton or Sandusky or Lake County of course. That has all changed because the angler, hunter and boater continued to spend during economic hard times, albeit to a lesser degree. All good stuff in the end.

For those of you communicating to readers and listeners, we should have some great outdoors and travel business stories to pursue this year ... and it's about damn time! See you at the conference with big bells on.

by Chip Hart – OWO President



Fishing at the Conference

We received word from Jeff Frischkorn that there are still some openings for fishing at the conference on Friday, May 14, and he would like to hear from our writers.

He can be contacted at jfrischkorn@news-herald.com or (H) 440-257-2483, (W) 440-954-7194, (C) 440-567-5036 for more information.

ALERT

ARE YOU ONE OF THEM?

ALERT

Checking the listing of names of members in last year's directory against the 2010 renewal forms received to date, there are 24 members who have not renewed their dues to date. The majority of those missing are members who receive their *LORE* by email and perhaps did not print out a copy of the membership renewal form.

If you did not renew by January 31, you owe a late fee, and,

if you want to be included in the forthcoming directory that will be handed out at the conference in May (or mailed to those who do not attend), you better hurry as it will go to the printer shortly after this issue of *LORE*.

Send your check to Guy Denny for member dues or to Vicki Hart if a sponsor.

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.

PRESIDENT
Chip Hart

VICE PRESIDENT
Tim Snyder

SECRETARY-TREASURER
Guy Denny

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Robert Loewendick (2010)
Judy Wells (2010)
Beth Ruth (2010)
Vicki Hart (2011)
Vicki Ervin (2011)
Jamie Kochensparger (2011)

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EDITOR OF THE LORE
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Reminder

There is still time to apply for the Dorothy Wodrich Memorial Scholarship for anyone who may still be looking for some help to further their education and qualify for this scholarship. It will be a minimum of \$500 but may be more.

The purpose of this scholarship is to encourage excellence in communicating the outdoor experience to others. Applicant must be a junior or senior in college or in graduate school.

Email Sally Andreoni at sallyandreoni@hughes.net for an application. The deadline is April 1, 2010.

Welcome to new members ...

Welcome to our newest members.

HEIDI HETZEL-EVANS works for the ODNR Department of Natural Areas and Preserves and has been in communication work for 20 years. Add the following information to your current directory. Her home address is 636 E. Stanton, Columbus, Ohio 43214; (W) ODNR-DNAP/Communications; spouse is Dennis; cell phone 614-306-8450; work phone 614-265-6520; email heidi.evans@dnr.state.oh.us and hevans7@columbus.rr.com.

BRENDA LAYMAN is a freelance writer and writes hunting and fishing features for several online sites. She is sponsored by Larry Claypool. For your directory, her home address is 8801 Terrace Ridge Lane, Pickerington, Ohio 43147. Her home phone is 614-866-4385 and work phone is 614-738-8264; email blayman@insite.rr.com.

A Note of Sympathy

Perhaps some of our members knew of the loss by Patty McNutt when her husband Don died on November 11, but I am sure there are many more of us who did not know. We learned when she sent her dues renewal, and others will learn as they read this.

For that reason, we now extend our condolences to Patty and her family.

Would it be a sign that as a WWII veteran the Lord called Don home to rest on November 11, Veterans Day.

A quick reminder: Patty's address is 6120 Cutler Lake Rd., Blue Rock, Ohio 43720.

From the Editor ...

OK, writers, can I have your undivided attention for a few minutes, especially those of you who have a spouse and get this by email? Did you invite your better half to come along for the conference? It seems so many of our members who get *LORE* by email are not sharing information with their better half, and really and truly we would like to have them come along to our conferences.

Due to lack of response for cooking with the Lodge Chef, that has been cancelled. Vicki has made arrangements for a room to be used on Saturday, so "spice" bring along your knitting, a craft item or your mending and share some time.

In past years, the wives usually gathered at least once just for the purpose of getting to know each other, sharing some conversation and snacks, and that is where our auction got its start. We started bringing items to auction off, and that is how the title of "Spice Auction" got its name, for we decided Spice is the plural of Spouse.

At this writing a suggestion of bringing along some craft you enjoy and can do while also talking may seem like a good idea. Maybe we can make use of the hospitality room during the daytime. I could bring my scrapbooking material and perhaps catch up on a project started about three years ago, but I never seem to have time to bring it up to date.

But the main purpose of this note is to please make a copy of *LORE* and give it to your mate and invite him/her to join us at Geneva On The Lake May 13-16.

Til next time,

J.

The conference is quickly approaching, and this newsletter needed some updates, so I called Tim Snyder, who is chairman of the awards this year and asked how things had gone without revealing any specific winners. He stated the print edition entries went well, and the photo entries went well, but some of the other categories needed more encouragement for entries. He also has some suggestions to present at the membership or board meeting.

While we were conversing about the conference, he stated how anxious he is to get back to an area where his career started out, as a Ranger at Geneva State Park. I asked him if he could put some of it into words and the following is what materialized.

J.

Memories of Geneva

—Tim Snyder

They say you can never go home again, but come May, I'll be giving it a shot, for the OWO convention will be bringing me back to where it all began. In 1980, a freshly-minted ODNR ranger, I began my career at Geneva State Park. Having just returned home after six years wandering the awesome scenery of Colorado, I wondered if I would find anything of comparable interest in Ohio. The two years I spent watching over these 700 acres on the south shore of Lake Erie forty miles northeast of Cleveland proved that I had nothing to worry about.

Lake Erie defines this park, and I quickly fell under its spell. Standing on the beach, I looked north over 50 miles of open water toward Canada—far enough that the Earth fell out of sight and the horizon became a line between sky and lake broken only by the occasional silhouette of a massive ore boat. Far from boring, the view held endless fascination as ever-changing cloud armies marched across the vast dome of the sky. The lake itself was never still. Even on the calmest day, its water tapped a gentle rhythm against the shore. More impressive were the rolling breakers that thundered against the ever-retreating bluffs of shale and clay. My favorite place to watch this battle was at a series of experimental breakwaters designed to blunt the force of the lake. Here, the highest waves would strike and angrily explode high overhead with enough force to shoot rocks the size of a man's fist higher than my head.

And there was the beach itself—not sand like so many others, but shingled with cobbles. Although unfriendly to bare feet, the stones held unending interest. Rounded and smoothed by their ancient travels in glacial ice, they came in all shades of red and green, black, white, blue, purple, solid, striped and speckled. Bits of flotsam scattered about—driftwood and lures and worn bits of metal—spoke of life along the shore. Most interesting was the “lake glass”—broken pieces of bottles that had been tumbled and frosted by the waves. Clear, green and aqua were the most common; brown and white less so. Most treasured of all were the rare bits of cobalt that sparkled in the hand like an exotic blue gem.

There was history here, too. In Prohibition days, the gentle rise of land between Cowles Creek and the present marina was a wild shoreline ridge isolated between the lake and a wide marsh, providing a haven on dark nights for moonshine runs from Canada and so earning its name of “Whiskey Island.” Another empty stretch of lakefront was known as Skin Beach for reasons that I will leave you to imagine.

Much has changed in the three decades that have passed since I left Geneva for other adventures. A new lodge now sits where Chestnut Grove once welcomed picnickers. Many of the large trees that gave the area its name have long since vanished into the lake, as have those experimental breakwaters—victims of the eternal struggle of water against land. No one smuggles anything to Whiskey Island any more, and not much skin can be seen at Skin Beach. But clouds still march their serried ranks across the sky, the lake still beats its never-ending tattoo against the shore, sunsets still paint the western sky with glowing tones of scarlet and gold. Our conventions are crammed full of interesting and educational activities, but try to make time while at the park to sample some of these simple pleasures. Who knows—you may even go home with a treasured blue gem in your hand.

Fred Snyder recognized



We jazz Fred if he ever worked or was just employed, but the recognition he recently received shows he really must have been working. Of course now that he is retired, he probably wonders how he ever had time to actually go to work. At least that seems to be what happens to “retirees.”

Fred was honored with the Ohio Lake Erie Commission 2009 Lake Erie Award. The award is presented annually to the most outstanding citizen devoting his or her life's work to the environmental stewardship of Lake Erie. Snyder was Ohio Sea Grant's first Extension Agent. He was hired in October 1978 and served in that position until he retired last August.

In those 31 years he helped Ohio Sea Grant to become one of the top ranked programs in the United States with initiatives that included establishment of the Ohio Charter Captain's Conference. His work with charter fishing captains helped to foster extensive growth in the industry from 34 licensed captains in 1975 to approximately 800 in 2009. Snyder's work helped to establish Sea Grant as a trusted source of resources in the North Coast community.

Congratulations, Fred, for a job well done.

*Laugh at Yourself
when you wake up looking
like your driver's license
picture!*

Legislative report

—Ed Moody, OWO Legislative Coordinator

STRIVING FOR CONSENSUS GOVERNING DEER MANAGEMENT

State Representative Mark Okey and State Representative Todd Snitchler recently held a meeting with representatives of the Stark County Federation of Conservation Clubs, the Ohio Federation of Conservation Clubs and the editor of the *LORE*, newsletter of the Outdoor Writers of Ohio to discuss mutual concerns for enacting a law covering the management of whitetail deer in Ohio.

Okey indicated that his legislative proposal, House Bill 410, was crafted to resolve concerns presented to him by deer farmers and deer hunting preserves over whether the Ohio Revised Code designates either the Ohio Department of Agriculture or the Division of Wildlife with the legal authority to manage whitetail deer populations in Ohio. This includes free ranging deer, captive deer and deer hunting facilities.

Representative Okey indicated that during an in-depth research on the subject he discovered that the Ohio Revised Code is ambiguous as to which government agency has the responsibility for which segment of managing the welfare of Ohio's deer. He indicated that his original legislative proposal received objections from various elements of citizens involved with deer, whether they are deer hunters, deer propagators, owners of deer hunting preserves, or private citizens with pet deer.

Okey indicated that by the end of this month, he'll introduce a substitute bill that should resolve issues that citizens revealed to him after the original draft of HB 410 was introduced into the legislative hopper.

He revealed that, all too often, a representative of either agency simply either failed or, by their silence, refused to reply

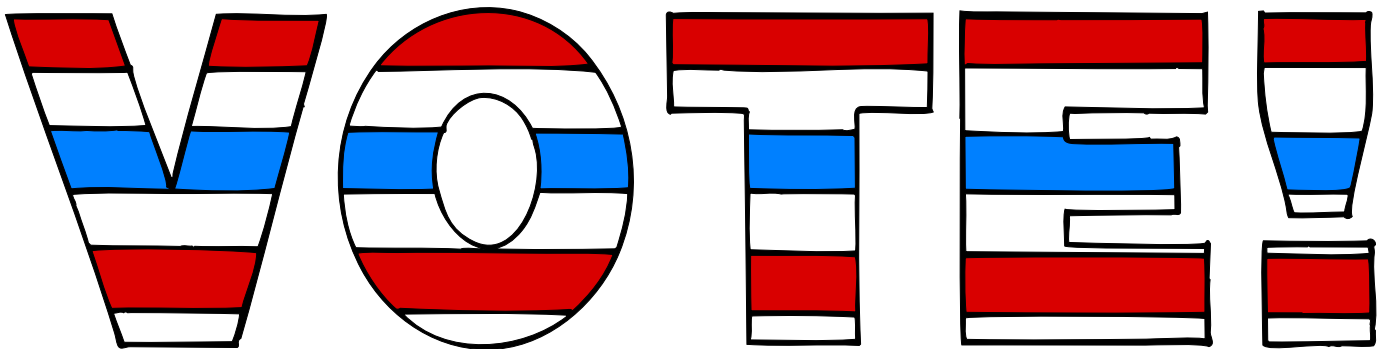
to his inquiries during the eight months that were spent on the original draft.

Representative Okey indicated that a spokesperson representing an agency involved with managing deer said they draft legislation giving them additional authority, while a spokesperson for another agency indicated that they simply ignore legislation they do not approve. Okey said this has to stop.

Okey admitted to having heated arguments with the Director of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources as well as the Director of the Ohio Department of Agriculture over his concerns about drafting proper legislation to resolve deer related problems.

Frustrated by this lack of response from representatives of either the Department of Agriculture or the Division of Wildlife to questions directly asked of them, he said, "I am attempting to work in a cooperative manner with the Governor's office, the Department of Agriculture, and the Division of Wildlife to draft legislation that will meet with the approval of these segments of our government, and the public, but if one agency does not cooperate in a timely manner, they may not sanction the final legislation."

As a Carroll County farmer with a 350 acre farm, consisting of 130 acres of small grain production and 220 acres of prime wildlife habitat, Okey is personally familiar with deer, turkeys and non-game wildlife, including coyotes. Last year, the Okey family harvested four deer, donating three of them to Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry (FHFH). Okey is a member of the National Wild Turkey Federation, a dedicated sportsman, and a conservationist enjoying hunting since he was a youngster.



IF YOU LIVE IN OHIO, DO NOT FORGET TO VOTE ON MAY 4
BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 6:30 A.M. AND 7:30 P.M.
OR VOTE ABSENTEE PRIOR TO THAT DAY BUT
... IF YOU DO NOT VOTE, DO NOT COMPLAIN
IF YOU DO NOT LIKE THE RESULTS!

**Don't forget pajamas
for the
pajama party!!!**

NOTE: Make your Lodge reservation!

Time is running out if you have not made your reservation to stay at the LODGE and get the \$25 off your reservation cost on Friday and Saturday night.

Vicki must have your reservation by April 13 for the discount.

Call the Lodge at 1-800-801-9982 and be sure to tell them you are with the Outdoor Writers of Ohio.

National Wild Turkey Conference

NWTF had a fair share of interested turkey hunters and friends at the Nashville conference this year ... but I truly wish they would come back to Ohio again. They were scheduled to come back after their one conference, and Columbus decided they did not want any guns at a show, so that not only took care of the NWTF conference, but the NRA said so long to their conference.

Over 40,000 visitors were expected at the NWTF show, and it seemed well attended every time we got down to the vendors area, but how many times can you see Nashville.

It is a little costly to stay the full four days, but sharing the expense can cut the cost. Of course, if you take your spouse, you don't save too much!

Jeff Foxworthy was one of the entertainers, and I truly laughed until I cried. Isn't it amazing that someone can entertain you without foul words or actions and make you laugh so much. There were children there of a wide age span, and none would be offended. He stated people ask him where he gets his writers, and he states he doesn't need writers, his family and friends just provide all the red neck material he needs to entertain people.

Division of Wildlife personnel Vicki Mountz, Susan Vance and Jim Marshall were there in a booth to show off Ohio outdoor hunting and fishing opportunities.



Susie Vance and Vicki Mountz at the National Wildlife Federation Conference in Nashville.

The strongest reason for the people to retain the right to keep and bear arms is, as a last resort, to protect themselves against tyranny in government.
—Thomas Jefferson

Cheapening History

I do not prize the word "cheap." It is not a badge of honor. It is a symbol of despair. Cheap prices make for cheap goods, cheap goods make for cheap men, and cheap men make for a cheap country.

—William McKinley

Leaders are chosen to serve.

There is always trouble when the Leaders forget this.

—Anonymous 1996



www.outdoorwritersofohio.org

MARCH 2010

OUTDOOR LORE
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LOUISVILLE OH 44641

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Calendar

May 13-16, 2010
OWO Conference
Geneva on the Lake, Ohio

May 12-15, 2011
OWO Conference
Mohican State Park

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2010 –
DEADLINE FOR NEXT LORE**

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 ...

