

The Resource

Employee Newsletter of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources

February 2003



THE ARTFUL LADIES OF CREATIVE SERVICES

The Office of Communications provides a variety of services to the department, not the least of which is creative design from three very talented artists.

CYNTHIA

From the beginning, the worldwide web fascinated **Cynthia Tinapple**. When she first heard about it, she thought, "Oh, man, this is going to be so much fun!"



Accordingly, she focused on a career in web design, ending up as web master and manager of creative services at ODNR in August, 2000, after several years at the Department of Administrative Services as part of the Ohio Server Project team working on the state Internet site and creating web sites for more than 40 agencies.

One of her first projects at ODNR was to create a unifying top banner on all departmental web pages. She explained that it's important for the site to have a common look. "It helps reduce confusion for the public and helps visitors navigate the site better," she said. "No matter what divisional pages you're reviewing on our web site, you'll know you're still within ODNR."

Cynthia regularly freshens the look of ODNR's front page on the Internet and helps maintain other sites, including Ohio State Parks, Human Resources, CCC, Natural Areas & Preserves, and Forestry. Visits to ODNR's web site have nearly doubled in the past two years, with a record 619,154 visitors this past October. These numbers do not include our own network users.

Cynthia encourages teamwork on her staff as well as between clients. "We all have strengths to tap into. There's too much information for any one person to know so we have to rely on each other's strengths."

She likes working at ODNR and enjoys the diversity of the subject matter. "It's nice to have something to 'sell,'" she explained. "We have products that people want — like camping, boating, and fishing. It makes our job so much more interesting and satisfying!"

Cynthia and husband, Blair Davis, live in Worthington. They like to travel, and have been to Nepal to trek, to Africa to see a solar eclipse, and are planning a camping trip to Turkey. She makes colorful jewelry from polymer clay.

KATHY

Kathy Sochor, electronic design coordinator, joined ODNR in 2000. For 25 years, she had been in business for herself as a freelance designer, with a client list that included Bank One, Nationwide Insurance, and Revco. OSU commissioned a portrait of Woody Hayes from Kathy.



For the James Cancer Center she captured Dr. James in an illustration that hangs in the hospital.

Kathy, who really enjoys the technical aspects of her profession, describes her activity as "electronically manipulating



photographs" on her Macintosh computer to create a variety of visual products. Her large repertoire ranges from a dreamy scenic riverscape to an entirely fabricated city neighborhood.

The neighborhood was created for a 30-second TV public service announcement for the Division of Recycling & Litter Prevention. The ad, entirely created on Kathy's computer, was a part of the "Plant Pride Not Litter" campaign, and showed what could happen to your neighborhood if you didn't pick up your litter. It has won two industry awards.

What she likes about her job is the trust and respect given to the artists by clients and management. "We have great creative freedom here," she said.

Kathy lives in Grandview with husband, Tom, in an old house they extensively remodeled. She once coached gymnastics at the Columbus School for Girls, and ran the Columbus Marathon, finishing "high in my age group!"

SHARI

Over the past 20 years, **Shari Smith** has spent a good bit of time



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pushing words and pictures around, first on paper and then on computer. She came to ODNR in 2001.

She said, “Publications are my specialty, whether it’s a brochure, booklet, magazine, or annual report.”

Shari’s approach to creative design has contributed to her reputation as an effective creative artist. She starts by asking clients pertinent questions, such as, who’s your audience, what’s the message, budget, and timeline?

“To my way of thinking,” she explained, “a marriage of words and graphics results in the most successful form of communication. I’m continually trying to put myself in the place of the reader, thinking, ‘What is it I want to learn from this publication?’ It’s challenging and enjoyable to keep discovering new ways of presenting information.”

In the past year, Shari has worked on several prestigious projects for ODNR divisions and their partners. She designed the Ohio Water Resources Council Report; a brochure on the Miami and Erie Canal; a new book on reptiles and amphibians for Wildlife; the Natural Wanderings brochure for a Bicentennial committee; and the new scenic rivers license plate. “It’s been rewarding to reach out to a larger audience with these publications,” she commented.

Shari’s resume includes technical artist, head of an art department, and art director (for a Fortune 500 company). She ran her own company for 13 years. “After working on my own all that time, I was ready to make a change!” she grinned.

She’s been active in local organizations and volunteers her expertise at the Leatherlips Yacht Club. Her first love is sailing. She’s been involved with lessons, crewing, and skippering for 11 years. She has a scarlet red Lido-14 which she races to great success.

TONGUE-TIED IN FRONT OF GROUPS? AFRAID TO MAKE PRESENTATIONS?

LET ODNR’S “NATURALLY SPEAKING” TOASTMASTERS CLUB HELP YOU OVERCOME YOUR FEAR!

Toastmaster International is an organization that helps people develop effective communication by becoming accustomed to public speaking.



ODNR’s Naturally Speaking Toastmasters Club was established a year ago, and recently was named a charter club.

This group is inviting you to attend a “demonstration” meeting on **February 13**, in the Assembly Center, from **noon to 1 p.m.**, BYOBBL (bring your own brown bag lunch). This special meeting is designed to demonstrate how the club works and recruit new members.

Dan Kush, a Toastmaster from Soil & Water, said, “Public speaking is one of the biggest fears a person can have — let us show you how to reduce your anxiety and have fun at the same time!”

Arley Owens, president of Naturally Speaking, said he’s become more confident through the training. Many practical lessons are to be learned. He joked, “The only time you should say ‘ahhhh,’ is when a doctor tells you to!”

Lori Houpe, deputy director and Toastmaster, agrees that the club provides “an excellent development opportunity.”

Start the new year out right by learning to make effective and stress-free speeches. Come to the Toastmasters demonstration meeting in February — stay for all or part of it — and consider becoming a Toastmaster yourself. What have you got to lose?

You can also visit *Toastmasters International on the web at www.toastmasters.org.*



Naturally Speaking Toastmasters Club, charter members, seated, left to right: Sondra Yates, Kim Dobbins, Kathy Westrick, Phil Miller, and Sheryl Clinger. Standing, left to right: Wendy Graef, Toastmasters area governor; Brad Ross, Arley Owens, Bernadette Favor, Lori Houpe, Tina Ray, Sybil Bell, Paula Pickett, Rita Cecil-Goodwine, and Charles Rowan.

Not pictured: Dan Kush, Jeanne Russell, Cindi Solomon, Derek Collins, Olan Hylton, Andrea Gintert, Janet Bush, Michele Ward, Jessica August, Jeaneen Hooks, and Khi Jennings.

THE PRETTIEST GARDENS

From Laura Roth,
Horticulturist



**This month --
Birdsfoot Violet**
(*Viola pedata*, say *vee-OL-ah
pe-DAT-a*), a native and
threatened species

Laura Roth said, "I've chosen something a little different this month: the birdsfoot violet. I planted 32 of them this past fall by Fountain Square's retention basin, so we all can enjoy watching them bloom this year."

Birdsfoot violet, also called crowfoot and pansy violet, is one of the most attractive violets. Its multi-segmented leaves resemble a bird's foot. The flowers are lavender, lilac, or purple with orange stamens at the center of the flower. The lower petal often has white at the base with darker violet veining. It blooms from June to July and often again in August. The plants grow three-to-four feet both high and wide.

Like the shrinking violet, this plant actually prefers the hot baking sun. Plant it in groups in rock gardens, as a ground cover for slopes, or along paths.

Laura said, "It's considered a xeriscape plant — one that grows in hot, dry gravelly areas. At the retention basin, I've it planted with prairie smoke (*Geum triflorum*), purple prairie clover (*Dalea purpurea*), dotted mint (*Monarda punctata*), wild petunia (*Ruellia humilis*), and hoary vervain (*Verbena*



stricta). These plants all take hot, dry conditions. The area will have what I term a groomed wild look!"

Most of these plants attract butterflies. The caterpillar of the regal fritillary, an orange and black prairie butterfly, eats only violets, particularly the birdsfoot violet. The caterpillars are black and yellow with short, spiny hairs.

Laura stresses that, if you want butterflies and other nectar-loving critters (hummingbirds, bumblebees, sphinx moths, honeybees, wasps, etc.) in your garden, you must have food for the caterpillars as well as nectar sources for the adults all season long.

As with most native plants, the birdsfoot violet had medicinal uses for Native Americans. The Cherokee used it variously for headaches, diarrhea, colds, boils, catarrh, and even as an insecticide for their corn.

The little violet has no serious insect or disease problems, although crown rot may develop in poorly drained soils. Its foliage may die back in summer. It's the only species of violet in North America that doesn't self-pollinate, and therefore doesn't produce seeds very well.

However, it is very easy to grow from seeds, and they're readily available on the Internet and through catalogs from native plant nurseries (Laura uses Prairie Nursery). You can also divide it.



DID YOU JUST DIAL 9-1-1 – BY MISTAKE?

As soon as 9-1-1 is dialed on ODNR phones at Fountain Square, the connection is made to the emergency services operator. **If you inadvertently dial 9-1-1, do not hang up!** Stay on the line and explain that it is not an emergency call.

If you hang up, all kinds of things happen:

- The operator sees ODNR's main number displayed on the 9-1-1 screen, which is the location of main telephone system in Building I-2.
- The operator calls Fountain Square's main switchboard to report the hang-up and inquire if emergency services are needed. The person taking the call has no way of knowing if it's a legitimate emergency or not.
- This operator calls building security to report the hang-up.
- Security then has to track down where the call originated and check to see if someone there needs help or not. Usually not.

In addition, police are dispatched to all 9-1-1 hang-up calls that cannot be confirmed by a call back.

So please, if you dial 9-1-1 by mistake, don't be embarrassed. Stay on the line and explain what happened and save a lot of people a lot of extra work.

MILESTONES

Retirements

Patsy Cutler, Administrative Assistant, Water, 21 years
Rodger Danner, Forest Program Administrator, Forestry/Shawnee-Brush Creek, 30+ years
Sandy Newman, Office Assistant, Forestry/Urbana, 29+ years
Sheila Sheets, Administrative Assistant, Forestry, 37 years
Marshall Bronne, Park Officer, Parks/Kiser Lake, 25 years
William Kremer, Park Manager, Parks/Kiser Lake, 26 years
Furman Caldwell, Park Manager, Parks/Strouds Run, 22 years
Judith Holtvogt, Account Clerk, Parks/Lake Loramie, 31 years
Thomas Moots, Park Officer, Parks/Lake Loramie, 30 years
Terrance Ruhenkamp, Equipment Operator, Parks/Lake Loramie, 25 years
Robert Pendleton, NRW, Parks/Delaware, 6 years
Stephen Bennet, Park Manager, Parks/Lake Hope, 26 years
Daniel Dietz, Auto Tech, Parks/Cleveland Lakefront, 24 years
John Gammell, Park Officer, Parks/Buck Creek, 25 years
James Glover, Art Production Mgr., Parks/Public Affairs, 33 years
David Hess, Maintenance Supv., Parks/Kiser Lake, 29 years
Gary Jones, Park Manager, Parks/Mt. Gilead, 19 years
Gerry McClellan, Dredge Operator, Parks/Grand Lake St. Marys, 22 years
Julius Smith, Assistant Manager, Parks/Buck Creek, 25 years
Darrell Stancliff, Auto Tech, Parks/Geneva, 30 years
Patrick Ruble, Executive Administrator, Wildlife, 28+ years

Transfers

Vicki Reiman, NRW, from Parks/East Harbor, to REALM

Daniel Vermilye, Radio Operator, from Parks/Cleveland Lakefront, to Administration

Kristina Weber, Customer Service Assistant, from Forestry to Parks/Public Affairs

Perry Brannan, Storekeeper, from Forestry to REALM

Jeff Hogue, Maintenance Repair Worker, from Forestry to REALM

Darin Abbott, Cadet, from Parks to Wildlife/Academy

Jason Porinchok, Cadet, from Parks to Wildlife/Academy

Matthew Hoehn, Cadet, from Watercraft to Wildlife/Academy

Michele Welsh, Cadet, from Watercraft to Wildlife/Academy

Promotions

Andrew Farrell, Naturalist, Parks/Hueston Woods

Rex Raines, Golf Course Supt., Parks/Deer Creek

Stephen Myosky, Maintenance Repair Worker, Parks/Lake Erie Islands

Richard Ogden, Inventory Control Specialist, Parks/Business

Jared Abele, Cadet, Wildlife/Academy

Daniel Perko, Cadet, Wildlife/Academy

New Hires

Ryan Jackson, NRW, Wildlife #3/Berlin

The following are new cadets at the Wildlife Academy

Jerrod Allison, Leighland Arehart, Brian Bury, Jeremy Carter, Wade Dunlap, Ryan Kennedy, Kirk Kiefer, David Lane, Troy Reimund, Brad St. Clair, Thomas Van Cleve, and Jeffery Wenning

ANNIVERSARIES

5 Years

Fayette Young, NRW, Parks/Lake Milton

Kim Hillman, Campground Attendant, Parks/Tar Hollow

10 Years

Deanna Granger, Executive Secretary, Administration/Legal

Mark Lowe, Equipment Operator, Forestry/Hocking

15 Years

Jack Fuller, Park Officer, Parks/Tar Hollow

Danzil Walker, Forester, Forestry/Athens

20 Years

John Cutrone, Park Conservation Aide, Parks/Cleveland Lakefront

Barbara Neill, Assistant Manager, Parks/Lake Milton

Debra Weller, Account Clerk, Parks/Tar Hollow

Dean Druschel, Equipment Operator, Forestry/Maumee

Shirley Carroll, Secretary, Wildlife/Lake Erie Law

Keith Wood, Wildlife Officer, Wildlife #4

Larry Wickstrom, Geologist Supervisor, Geo Survey

25 Years

Michael Borland, Park Manager, Parks/Tar Hollow

Ronald Cutright, Park Officer, Parks/Tar Hollow

Steven Young, Treatment Plant Operator, Parks/Tar Hollow

Mark Retherford, Conservation Aide, Parks/Tar Hollow

30 Years

Keith Morrow, Wildlife Management Supervisor, Wildlife #4

Don Guy, Geologist, Geo Survey



THE RESOURCE

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