

# The Resource

Employee Newsletter of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources

June 2003



## THAT FABULOUS RADIO SHOW: OHIO OUTDOOR NOTEBOOK

The Ohio Outdoor Notebook, ODNR's popular radio show which originally aired from 1974 to 1996, was revived in 2000 by the Office of Communications. The weekly radio program consists of 60-second public service announcements (PSAs) providing listeners a close-up look at Ohio's natural world, with entertaining features on state parks, nature lore, conservation, wildlife, and natural history. The program is provided to Ohio radio stations at no charge.

"The Ohio Outdoor Notebook is one of the department's best, and most cost-effective marketing tools," said Jim Lynch, assistant chief of Communications. "While many radio stations have scaled back their use of traditional PSAs, more than 200 Ohio radio stations are making the Notebook part of their daily programming schedule." Advances in technology enable them to produce and distribute the program efficiently by uplinking radio segments to satellite for stations to download. For stations without satellite capabilities, a CD is provided several times a year.

Program director Gus Sierra at WFOB-AM in Fostoria/Bowling Green plays the Notebook every week. "We've always enjoyed the program," he said. "It's a helpful tool to keep Ohio residents informed about the unique nature of our state and its natural resources."

**The program is the combined effort of four talented staffers:** Karen Kentosh, information writer in Communications, has written more than 600 scripts since the program was reintroduced. Josiah Wade, the audio/video production specialist

with Communications, has produced them all, conducted more than 140 interviews with ODNR employees, and acted as voice talent for about one-third of the programs. Other "voices" are Linda Goodwin, manager of Information and Education for the Division of Recycling & Litter Prevention, and Skip Trask, audio/video production specialist with the Division of Wildlife.

**Any program of this type begins with a script.** Karen Kentosh has been with ODNR for six years, and since November, 1999, has been writing five radio scripts a week for the Notebook.

"My job is to come up with the topics, research them, and then write the copy to fit a 52-second window," she explained. "That's not a lot of time — but you'd be amazed at how much info can be squeezed in."

She ensures all of ODNR's divisions and interests are represented on the program, and is scrupulous about accurate background information. She uses department sources as well as searches the Internet looking for interesting details about a subject.

A native of Buckeye Lake, Karen graduated with honors from Wright State University with a degree in English. She learned to write for radio while working for an advertising agency in downtown Columbus; she's been making a living as a writer for more than 20 years. She lives in Millersport; her interests include literature, art, and nature.

**Radio technology has changed a lot since the early years of the Ohio Outdoor Notebook.** Today, it's all computerized and so convenient it



Left to right: Karen Kentosh, Linda Goodwin, Josiah Wade, and Skip Trask.

almost seems like magic. Josiah Wade is the show's producer, responsible for taking all the elements and putting them into a finished product.

"It's like a puzzle — all the pieces fit together," he explained. It starts with a microphone. Most of the scripts are read and recorded in the sound booth. Other scripts require an interview with department experts, either in the studio, in the field, or over the phone.

Once the audio is recorded on a digital minidisc, Josiah manipulates the sound quality through computer editing software that converts sound to a visual wave. He can amplify the volume or take the levels down, speed up or slow down the voice, stitch parts of an interview together, change the pitch and tone, and even delete certain sounds. Finishing touches include a "mix down" of the background music and sound effects.

Josiah, who grew up in Fostoria, graduated from Otterbein College with a degree in Broadcasting. He and wife, Cheryl, have a daughter, Caidryn, and a son, Jace; they live in Urbana. His family comes first in his

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life, but he takes time to play some basketball, and to sing in his church and at weddings.

**Linda Goodwin, before coming to ODNR 22 years ago**, worked for a modeling agency where she took acting and voice lessons. The training came in handy at the department where she coordinated video productions for the Division of Oil and Gas. Encouraged by Skip Trask in the late 1980s, Linda became involved in reading for the Ohio Outdoor Notebook. Since then, she has also been the voice for a variety of division and department productions.



Linda said, "It's fun! I get to be a little bit artistic. It's important that the words are expressive."

She has a bachelor's degree in Journalism and Public Relations from OSU. She lives in her home town of Columbus with twin daughters, Kelly and Mackenzie. When she can find the time, Linda enjoys ballroom dancing.

**Skip Trask started his broadcast career** back in his college days when he volunteered to work at a local radio station on the overnight shift. "I loved it," he said, even though at the time his voice wasn't quite as mellifluous as it is today.

The experience was enough to get him a paying job at WRFD radio for five years. The next stop, in 1989, was ODNR as an information writer with the formidable Public Information and Education section. He spent several years writing and voicing scripts for the Ohio Outdoor Notebook before moving on to Wildlife where he now writes, produces, and hosts the "Wild Ohio" TV program. Other department projects have benefited from Skip's on-air talents as well.



Raised in Dublin, he now lives in Mount Vernon with wife, Paula, and their three kids, Aaron, Erika, and Monica. Skip keeps busy with volunteer work at his church, playing the drums, and fishing.

*You can hear the Ohio Outdoor Notebook on line at [ohiodnr.com/notebook](http://ohiodnr.com/notebook).*



## THE 2003 OHIO STATE FAIR: Volunteers Wanted! Friday, August 1 through Sunday, August 17

Natural Resources Park at the Ohio State Fair is one of our biggest promotional efforts of the year. It's also great fun — a chance to meet new people, see old friends, and help visitors learn about Ohio's natural resources.


You are needed! As usual, we have several opportunities for volunteers. **Be sure your supervisor approves your time off for volunteer activities**, then fill out the form below and send it to the volunteer coordinator of your choice. Parking passes, tickets, and official shirts are provided.

**Information Booth:** Greet the public, stock literature racks, and answer questions. Three shifts: 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.; 3 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and all day, 10:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. with an hour for lunch. Contact Karen Kentosh, Communications, Bldg. C1, 614-265-6834.

**Critters:** Wear the Skunk or Cardinal costume to entertain the kids. Critter Companions are also needed. Hours on Saturdays, Sundays, and Mondays. Contact Volunteer Coordinator, Communications, Bldg. C1, 614-265-6812.


**Parks Gift Shop:** Assist customers, ring up sales, or stock shelves. Hours 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., and an extra shift 12:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and Mondays. Contact Diana Cordi, Parks, Bldg. C2, 614-265-6513.

**Smokey Bear:** Be Smokey's voice or a helper who interacts with kids. Two shifts: 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Contact Bill Schultz, Forestry, Bldg. H1, 614-265-6704.

**YES! I want to volunteer to work at the Fair!** 

**Sign me up for (circle all that apply):**

<b>Info Booth</b>	<b>Critters</b>	<b>Smokey</b>	<b>Gift Shop</b>
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**I can work the following day(s):** 

Friday	8/1	8/8	8/15
Saturday	8/2	8/9	8/16
Sunday	8/3	8/10	8/17
Monday	8/4 or 8/11	Tuesday	8/5 or 8/12
Thursday	8/7 or 8/14	Wednesday	8/6 or 8/13

**I can work the following shift(s):**

Morning	Afternoon	All Day	Special Hours
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**T-shirt size:**    S        M        L        XL        2X        3X

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Division/Office \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

## Remembering the Ohio Civilian Conservation Corps, 1977 to 2003



CCC Columbus Camp - June 2001

The Civilian Conservation Corps, an important part of our ODNR family since 1977, passed out of existence this spring. Changing times and shifting budget priorities may have made this passage inevitable, but it has nonetheless been a difficult time for all of us.

An outgrowth of the department's Youth Conservation program in the early 1970s and the much-admired CCC of the Great Depression, the modern-day corps touched the lives of many Ohioans over its 26 years. Most important, it changed those lives in meaningful ways, by giving valuable work experience to thousands of young Ohioans, including many who faced great personal challenges.

They, and the committed staff who guided them, will not be forgotten. Their handiwork will stand for generations as testament to their hard work and newly gained skills — a legacy at virtually every state park and most other department facilities, and in local communities across the state. Thank you all — corpsmembers and staff of CCC past and present — for a job well done and long remembered.

## THE PRETTIEST GARDENS



From Laura Roth, Horticulturist

### BLUE FALSE INDIGO

**Baptisia australis**  
(bap-TEEZ-ee-uh aw-STRAH-lis)



Blue false indigo is a native Ohio endangered wildflower that grows naturally only in Adams and Washington counties. Fortunately, it's available from nurseries so it can be appreciated right in your own backyard.

This is a big plant — an upright perennial three to four feet high and just about as wide. Tall spikes of showy, deep blue flowers sprout from a spectacular mound of clover-like bluish-green leaves. Blooming in May or June, the flowers are reminiscent of lupines or sweet-peas.

Laura Roth said, "The flowers are wonderful for cut arrangements. In fact, if you dead-head or cut off the flowers, you get more blooms."

In the fall, attractive charcoal-black seed pods form. The pods, around two inches long, are used in dried flower arrangements.

Blue false indigo is easily grown by seed or division of the fleshy roots. It does best in well-drained soil and full sun, but tolerates drought and poor soils. It has no serious insect or disease problems, but may need support if grown in partial shade.

According to Laura, "The plant is slow growing and long-lived. It has a very deep taproot and resents being disturbed. It's best to plant it in a spot where it can remain undisturbed for many years. But," she cautioned, "if you must move it, transplant in early spring."

The sap turns purple or slate when exposed to the air. Native Americans and pioneers used it as a substitute for true indigo in making blue dyes. It was also used as an antiseptic for cuts and wounds.

Plant blue false indigo in borders, prairie meadows, and native plant gardens.

Companion plants include sweet black-eyed Susan, ironweed, peonies, poppies, iris, and lilies. Its foliage makes a nice accent to late-summer bloomers such as Russian sage, baby's breath, asters, and purple coneflowers.



Laura concluded, "This plant attracts butterflies, fixes atmospheric nitrogen, and is deer-resistant."

### TIDBITS

**WATER NEWS:** In May, **Jim Morris**, chief of the Division of Water, left ODNR to become the Ohio district chief of the U.S. Geological Survey, Water Resources Division. Jim joined ODNR in 1978 as a dam safety and floodplain management engineer; he has served as chief of both Water and REALM, and was deputy director for four years. We'll all miss his wife's cinnamon rolls.

The new chief of Water is **Dick Bartz**, who served as assistant chief for the past eight years. Dick joined

ODNR in 1974 as a planner in the Lake Erie Coastal Management program.

**PARK WINNERS:** **Jerry Van Zile**, manager of Harrison Lake, Independence Dam, Mary Jane Thurston, and Van Buren received the first-ever Ohio State Parks Leadership Award for outstanding customer service, community relations, and employee development. **Chris Grupenhof**, manager of Scioto Trail and Great Seal received the first-ever Ohio State Parks Service and Stewardship Award for planned improvements and teamwork at his parks this past year.

## TAKE-YOUR-KIDS-TO-WORK DAY AT ODNR



At least 73 children visited Fountain Square to participate in the annual "Take your children to work day." The event was filled with educational and entertaining activities to help our youngsters learn about Ohio's natural resources.

### ANNIVERSARIES

#### 5 Years

Kathy Garza-Behr, Area Technician, Wildlife #5

Jeremy Scherf, Service Forester, Forestry/Barnesville

Mark Hoffhines, Officer, Forestry/Mohican Memorial

#### 10 Years

Shawn Murphy, Project Crew Leader, CCC/Canton

Christopher Goings, Fish Mgmt. Unit Leader, Wildlife/Hebron

Joe Mion, Fish Mgmt. Supervisor, Wildlife/Inland Fisheries

David Honeycutt, Shooting Range Attendant, Wildlife #5

Byron Rice, Officer, Wildlife #5

#### 15 Years

Dave Insley, Hatchery Superintendent, Wildlife/Castalia

Juan Sandusky, Investigator, Wildlife

Sonia Wolfe, Office Asst., Wildlife

Lanny Erdos, Design Specialist, MRM/New Philadelphia

Carlos Toledo, Officer Specialist, Parks/Cleveland Lakefront

#### 20 Years

Jennifer Windus, Program Administrator, Wildlife

Paul Martin, Project Supervisor, CCC/Zaleski

Michael Bolin, Equipment Operator, Forestry/Gifford

Julie Jasiota, Design Specialist, MRM/Salem

Patti Nibert, Admin. Asst., MRM

#### 25 Years

Paul Moser, Fisheries Biologist, Wildlife #3

Ron Savage, Fiscal Officer, CCC

Patricia Mayes, Human Resources Admin., Wildlife

Michael Dillon, Equipment Operator, Wildlife #5

Mark Shieldcastle, Biologist, Wildlife/Crane Creek

Shirley Bethel, Business Services Officer, Forestry/Chillicothe

Eddie Farris, Sawyer, Forestry/Zaleski

Dave Hildebrand, Forest Manager, Forestry/Blue Rock

Gary Vollrath, Service Forester, Forestry/Athens

Elizabeth Hawkins, Office Asst., MRM/Salem

Tom Tugend, NR Admin., MRM

Angel Weimer, Admin. Asst., MRM

#### 30 Years

Dan Hickey, Officer Supervisor, Wildlife #5

Donna Vilvens, Office Asst., Wildlife #5



### THE RESOURCE

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*Karen Kentosh, Editor  
Mike Williams, Photographer*

**Bob Taft, Governor  
Sam Speck, Director**

### MILESTONES

#### New Hires

Cynthia Van Dyke, Inspector, MRM/Cambridge

#### Promotions

Stephen Russell, to Asst. Mgr., Parks/Harrison-Independence Dam

Robert Bowman, to Asst. Mgr., Parks/M.J.Thurston-Van Buren

Todd Haines, District Manager, Wildlife #5

#### Transfers

Dion Stanford, Account Clerk, from CCC to Wildlife/Business Ops.

#### Retirements

James Schuler, Wildlife Investigator, Wildlife #3, 25+ years

### CONSERVATION AWARDS OPEN FOR NOMINATIONS

What do **Jim Rhodes, John Wesley Powell, and Bob Evans** all have in common? They're all members of the exclusive Ohio Natural Resources Hall of Fame.

Created in 1966, the Hall of Fame is the state's top natural resources award and honors a lifetime of commitment to protecting Ohio's great outdoors. The deadline for nominations is June 27.

The secondary, though equally important, Cardinal Award is given to an individual, organization, or company dedicated to helping the department improve Ohio's natural resources. Nominations for the Cardinal Award are only accepted from ODNR employees; the deadline is also June 27.

Nomination forms are available on the ODNR Intranet or by calling the Office of Communications at 614-265-6875.

