

The Resource

Employee Newsletter of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources

July 2002



RECYCLING'S OUTSTANDING FIELD STAFF



Recycling district coordinators John Wolary, Nexida Feliciano, Philip Runge, and Sue Grant.

Ohio's communities aren't alone when it comes to litter prevention and recycling. There's a seven-million-dollar pool of money available through the Recycle, Ohio! grant program — and four dedicated district coordinators from the Division of Recycling & Litter Prevention to help them use it wisely.

Ohio's 88 counties, 20 cities with more than 50,000 residents, and 52 solid waste districts can apply for Recycle, Ohio! grants. In 2002, 97 grantees across the state benefited from the program. The grants are funded by a corporate franchise tax levied on any company whose products can end up as litter, such as bottling and fast food companies.

Nexida Feliciano, district coordinator for central Ohio, oversees 17 counties and six big cities. She explained the job this way: "We're the first contact for our grantees. We visit them three or four times a year; help with any problems they may be having; make sure they're in compliance with grant agreements and using their funds appropriately. We also help them with the application process, reviewing to make sure their proposed projects are feasible and well thought out."

District coordinators also share information between communities, spreading the word about what works and what doesn't. Nexida said, "I can tell the program manager in Meigs County what they're doing in Medina County." They also put recycling and litter prevention managers in contact with each other.

For instance, in Philip Runge's 23-county northwest district, Putnam County lost its recycling drop-off service provider. A cooperative venture was arranged, and the Recycle, Ohio! grantee in Van Wert County agreed to collect materials for both counties. In a similar situation, Sandusky and Seneca counties collect and ship recyclable materials to the Green Springs CCC camp, where it's sorted, baled, and stored before being shipped to a marketer in Wood County.

Some of the grant beneficiaries are material recovery facilities. **Sue Grant** has two of these operations in her eastern Ohio district. Sue, who oversees 22 counties, said, "These facilities collect recyclables, and get them ready for use, such as crushing cans and glass. The materials are baled and shipped to companies for further processing. The facilities can

apply for a grant every year to buy equipment, make site improvements, or even pay some employees, depending on current need."

On the other end of the scale, grants have been used to purchase recycled-content products, thus helping strengthen markets for these products. In **John Wolary's** 22-county district in southwestern Ohio, Montgomery County has joined forces with the City of Dayton to become the largest grantee in the state. John explained that part of the \$226,000 grant "is for purchasing recycled-material products. For example, they're buying glass block windows made from recycled glass, and bleacher seats made from recycled plastic to use in schools."

The work the grantees and district coordinators do helps keep the recycling wheels turning. As Nexida said, "We want great programs out there, and we want them to succeed. I take their success personally, because it means I've done my job well!"

Nexida Feliciano lives in Columbus, and has been with ODNR since 1985. She loves dancing and music.

Philip Runge, in Findlay, has been with ODNR for 20 years. He plays a role in re-enactments of the French and Indian War.

John Wolary joined ODNR in 1973. He lives in Milford, and likes to fish and hunt.

Sue Grant lives in Uhrichsville, and has been with ODNR seven years. She's an avid walker and likes to read.



WHAT'S HOLDING YOU BACK?



The largest comprehensive seat belt campaign in Ohio's history is taking

place this summer as law enforcement officials educate the public about vehicle safety. "What's Holding You Back?" is the theme for this year's heightened roadway safety awareness program. The year-long educational and media campaign is coupled with high-visibility enforcement efforts designed to increase seat belt usage.

Kickoff for this public safety campaign was held in Columbus in May. Participants from Ohio State Parks and the Division of Forestry included **Bob Dorinsky, Stacey McKarus, Tuffy Turtle, Mark Maxwell, Smokey Bear, Lonnie Snow, and Nate Kirk.** They want to know, "If you're not wearing your seat belt — what's holding you back?"

The ODNR-OCSEA Health & Safety Committee reminds you to steer clear of highway danger!

- Make sure everyone in your vehicle buckles up. More than 9,000 lives could be saved each year across the nation if we all used our seatbelts.
- Slow down — speeding is one of the leading causes of fatal accidents.
- Take extra care when fatigued or stressed.
- When driving, wait until you come to a stop to change the music, take a bite or a sip, or talk on the cell phone.



OLD MAN'S TRAIL OPENED

In May, a ribbon cutting celebrated the newly rebuilt six-mile trail through the gorge at Old Man's Cave at Hocking Hills State Park. The four-year, \$4.1 million redevelopment was the response to the devastating flash flood on January 7, 1998, that washed out most of the historic trail, undermining three stone bridges, and destroying seven wooden bridges.

Improvements include new trail surfaces, improved drainage, new concrete and stone retaining walls, boardwalk wood stair replacements, and major bridge renovations.

On hand for the opening were (left to right) **ODNR director Sam Speck, Don Zeigler, Ohio State Parks chief Dan West, Ryan Miller, Daryll Bacus, Greg Galieti, and park manager Steve Bennett.**

NEW COASTAL OFFICE

In May, ODNR created the new Office of Coastal Management, to be based in Sandusky.

Director Sam Speck said, "Our new office will give coastal residents and local governments a single unified office to deal with state regulatory and coastal grants programs. We have placed the state's decision making authority for dealing with local coastal issues where that authority belongs — on the coast."

The reorganization consolidates an eight-member staff from the divisions of Water and REALM, and transfers four positions from Columbus to Sandusky. Other programs administered by the divisions of Wildlife, Watercraft, and Geological Survey in Sandusky remain separate, but will more closely coordinate their efforts with the new office.



TIDBITS

DISTINGUISHED GEOLOGIST:

Tom Berg, chief of Geological Survey, received the John T. Galey, Sr. Memorial Public Service Award from the American Institute of Professional Geologists. This national award is given in recognition of members who "have distinguished

themselves and the Institute by giving expert testimony to governmental units, by serving on governmental commissions and committees, and by providing geological expertise where it was needed by the public at large." Chief Berg has served a combined 37 years with Pennsylvania's and Ohio's Geological Surveys.

PRAISE FOR THE SCENIC

RIVERS PROGRAM: The Nature Conservancy honored the Division of Natural Areas & Preserves' Scenic Rivers Program in April. The program received the Ohio Chapter's Public Service Award, given to representatives from the public sector who, in the course of their professional work, lend vital support to the preservation of natural lands and waters. The program was acknowledged for its outstanding efforts to protect Ohio's high quality streams. Members of the Scenic River Services group include **Bob Gable, Tim Peterkoski, Steve Roloson, Bob Vargo, and Jerry Ballard.**

MOUNTZ STEPS UP: In May, **Vicki Mountz** was named executive administrator of the Division of Wildlife's information and education programs. She will coordinate all aspects of wildlife's education and communication efforts, including the hunter education program, "Wild

Ohio" magazine and TV program, media relations efforts, and special outreach initiatives such as the popular *Becoming an Outdoors Woman* program. Vicki joined ODNR in 1986 as a state watercraft officer, served as communications officer for the Office of Recycling & Litter Prevention, and joined the Division of Wildlife in 1992 as a public information officer.

SHARING BARGAINING

SUCCESS: The Parks Subcontracting Team hosted a May workshop at the 2002 National Labor-Management Conference in Chicago. The team was formed to address a collective bargaining issue concerning subcontracting practices at Ohio State Parks. Team members included **Shelly Ward** and **Sue Johnson** from the Office of Human Resources; **Don Starr, Ron Kus, and Sybil Bell** from Ohio State Parks; **Chet Chaney** from the Division of Recycling & Litter Prevention; **Dave Domenick** from Cleveland Lakefront, **John Williamson** from Alum Creek, and **Ina Brolis** from East Harbor.



ODNR GRANTS HELP NEW COLUMBUS ZOO EXHIBIT

Habitat Hollow, the newest exhibit at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, is a family-friendly, interactive exhibit financed in part by ODNR grants. The Division of Recycling & Litter Prevention provided \$55,000 to "My House," built almost entirely of recycled materials to emphasize Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. The Division of Wildlife granted \$100,000 in funding for "My Backyard," which focuses on wetlands, forests, and prairies, and how people's actions affect these habitats.

RETIRED!

On May 31, 76 ODNR employees retired, the largest number ever to retire at the same time from the department. The oldest retiree was 80, the youngest 45.

A total of 226 staff members retired under the department's two Early Retirement Incentive Plans. The combined number of years of public service for our retirees totaled 5,969.

The number from each division/office is: Administration 1, CCC 4, Engineering 11, Forestry 26, Geological Survey 5, Human Resources 4, Information Technology 5, Mineral Resources 11, Natural Areas 4, Parks 75, REALM 16, Recycling 6, Soil & Water 8, Water 6, Watercraft 5, and Wildlife 39.



VOLUNTEER FOR THE 2002 OHIO STATE FAIR

Friday, August 2 through Sunday, August 18

There's still plenty of time to sign up to work at the Fair.

Fill out the form below — make sure your supervisor approves your volunteer activities — and send it to the volunteer coordinator of your choice.

Information Booth: Contact Karen Kentosh, Office of Communications, phone 614-265-6834.

Costumed Critters: Contact Bryan Patton, Office of Communications, 614-265-6812.

Gift Shop: Contact Diana Cordi, Ohio State Parks, 614-265-6513.

Smokey Bear: Contact Division of Forestry, 614-265-6702.

As usual, passes for parking and entry to the Fair are supplied.

Yes! I want to volunteer to work at the Fair! Sign me up for:

Information Booth Critters Smokey Gift Shop



The shift I can work: _____ T-shirt size: _____

The day(s) I want to volunteer:

Friday	8/2	8/9	8/16		
Saturday	8/3	8/10	8/17		
Sunday	8/4	8/11	8/18		
Monday	8/5	8/12	Tuesday	8/6	8/13
Wednesday	8/7	8/14	Thursday	8/8	8/15

Name _____

Division/Office _____

Phone Number _____

Supervisor's Signature _____

MILESTONES

Retirements

Mary Hendershot, Business Service Officer, Forestry/Marietta, 35+ years

Jim Sanderson, Design Specialist, Water, 38+ years

Al Luczyk, Environmental Specialist, Water, 24+ years

Lyn Worley, Unit Supervisor, Parks/North Construction Crew, 31 years

Susan Adkinson, NRA 4, Wildlife/Information & Education, 24+ years

Chip Gross, NRA 2, Wildlife/Information & Education, 27 years

John Schalip, NRA 3, Wildlife/Wildlife Mgmt., 35+ years

David Brown, Officer Supervisor, Wildlife #1, 42+ years

Thomas Jones, Investigator, Wildlife #3, 25+ years

Vincent LaConte, Fish Mgmt. Supervisor, Wildlife #3, 28 years

William Carper, Officer Supervisor, Wildlife #4, 35+ years

H. Douglas Elson, Investigator, Wildlife #4, 31+ years

Orion Johnson, Fish Mgmt. Unit Leader, Wildlife #4, 33+ years

James Splete, Investigator, Wildlife #4, 35+ years

Larry Toki, Education Officer, Wildlife #4, 34+ years

Stanley Fischer, Officer District Supervisor, Wildlife/Lake Erie Law Unit, 23 years

Bill Morris, Storekeeper Supervisor, Watercraft, 28+ years

Tammi Lanane, Records Specialist, Watercraft, 28+ years

Janet Bush, Administrative Assistant, Engineering, 28 years

Ralph Roberts, Architect, Engineering, 21 years

Robert Jackson, NRA1, Engineering, 22 years

Dixon Jenkins, NR Engineer 4, Engineering, 31 years

Tom Eller, NRA3, Recycling, 27 years

Carol Simpson, Executive Secretary, Recycling, 16 years

Ivan Pollack, NRA2, Recycling, 28 years

Gary Bloom, Park Manager, Parks/Stonelick, 31 years

Harry "Junior" Fulton, Conservation Aide, Parks/Stonelick, 23+ years

Frank Sedarat, Seasonal Park Officer, Parks/Stonelick, 36+ years

New Hires

Matthew Conner, NRW, Wildlife #2/Fish Management

Promotions

Della Carter, Account Clerk 2, Wildlife #1

Vicki Mountz, NRA 4, Wildlife/Information & Education

Michelle Dawson, Records Specialist 2, Watercraft

Andrew Hollenback, Full-time Officer, Watercraft/Alum Creek

Chad German, Full-time Officer, Watercraft/Sandusky

Jason Latchic, Full-time Officer, Watercraft/Akron

Jason Albanese, Full-time Officer, Watercraft/Maumee Bay

Jeff Nehls, Area Supervisor, Watercraft/Sandusky

Transfers

Kathy Gruber, Administrative Assistant, from Administration to Recycling

Deaths

Jeff Nogawick, former Chief of REALM, June 8



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Karen Kentosh, Editor
Mike Williams, Photographer
Bob Taft, Governor
Sam Speck, Director

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ANNIVERSARIES

5 Years

Troy Newman, Officer, Watercraft/Portsmouth

Carl Vance, Officer, Watercraft/Alum Creek

Matthew Leibengood, Fish Hatchery Coordinator, Wildlife/Castalia

Stacy Xenakis, Fisheries Biologist, Wildlife/Inland Fish

Loyce Foster, Radio Operator, Administration/Comm Center

10 Years

Ann Bonner, Forester, Forestry/Athens

Dona St. Clair, Account Clerk, Watercraft/Cambridge

Dave Ford, Officer Specialist, Watercraft/Akron

Jane Stites, Account Clerk, Watercraft

Steve Thompson, Investigator, Wildlife #2

15 Years

Bob Shaw, Auditor, Internal Audits

Sherrie Husted, Investigator, Watercraft

Ronda Tipton, Secretary, Watercraft

Troy Thompson, Officer Specialist, Watercraft/Cincinnati

Todd Haines, Management Supervisor, Wildlife #5

20 Years

Brenda Sams, Area Supervisor, Watercraft/Portsmouth

Bill McGarity, Human Resources Manager, Watercraft

25 Years

Mark Reed, Area Supervisor, Watercraft/Cambridge

Mark Battles, Investigator, Wildlife #3

Thomas Jones, Investigator, Wildlife #3

Donna Schrappe, Customer Service Assistant, Wildlife

Dale Riddle, Area Technician, Wildlife #5

Jeffrey Carter, Officer, Wildlife #3

Kathy Gruber, Administration Assistant, Recycling

30 Years

Rich Cappell, Service/Urban Coordinator, Forestry/Athens

