

The Resource

Employee Newsletter of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources

November 2002



INTERNAL AUDIT TEAM OFFERS FRIENDLY ASSISTANCE

On the second floor of Building D at Fountain Square is a team of quietly industrious workers. Most folks hardly know they're there, but they fill a very important role in state government. It's the Office of Internal Audits, with (left to right) chief **Kevin O'Connor**, and auditors **Kathy Westrick**, **Bob Shaw**, **Randy Patton**, and **Jim Whaley**.

These pros are experts in operational and financial processes and controls. They audit all accounts at Ohio State Parks — including those of various concessionaires. They audit many of the local entities that receive ODNR grants — such as funding for recycling programs and boating facilities — and all the 88 soil and water conservation districts, which receive funds from the state.

ODNR divisions and offices also get their share of inspection. Programs are examined for effectiveness; processes are scrutinized for logic and clarity.

Through financial and operational audits, as well as management training, the audit team helps ensure efficient and economical use of resources, as well as compliance with policies, plans, procedures, laws, and regulations.

Kevin explained the office philosophy: "Our approach is to be pro-active. Many times, auditors are reactive, that is, they discover a need for stronger controls once a problem has been identified, but do nothing to help resolve it. We pride ourselves in working with people to arrive at feasible solutions that protect our employees with the proper procedures and sufficient segregation of



duties. We roll up our sleeves and help find solutions around a problem."

Randy added, "Most people are afraid when they hear the *auditor is coming!* We think that's the wrong approach, and we're changing that image. We want our auditees to know we're here to help. We want to be a friend, someone they can call on when they have questions or concerns."

According to Jim, "When we encounter a situation that requires some new ideas, we'll have roundtable discussions to arrive at a workable solution. We owe it to our clients, because we're all part of ODNR."

Every week is different for the audit team. Kathy explained, "We take a novel approach when setting our calendar — each of us selects the sites to audit that best fit our schedules. We travel in pairs to make the most efficient use of our time, and split the sections to be audited — such as accounts receivable or payroll. We rotate these duties so we can keep a fresh perspective."

The staff also works on special projects, such as researching new

audit techniques. Bob said, "We're all learning about information technology auditing, which involves getting right into the computer to ensure applications are correct. It's the future of auditing."

Auditing sites around the state keeps the team busy; they spend a lot of time on the road. But they have a close-knit relationship that's "like family," a shared focus on making things better for everyone, and a positive outlook that makes their jobs rewarding, as well as fun.

MEET THE TEAM

Kevin O'Connor, chief, came to ODNR from the State Auditor's Office in 1995 and became chief in 1996. He graduated from Ohio State University, has a CPA license, and is also a Certified Fraud Examiner, and Certified Government Financial Manager. He lives in Columbus with wife Billie, and kids Rory, Kelly and Ryan. His after-hours activities include coaching youth sports and playing golf.

Randy Patton, internal auditor, has been with ODNR for five years, and was with the State Auditor for 19 years. He received an accounting degree from Ohio State University. He lives with wife, Lynn, in Westerville; they have four kids, Molly, Erin, Kelly, and Bryan. Randy likes to play golf, hang out with his family, and coach youth sports.

Bob Shaw, internal auditor, came to ODNR three years ago, after 12 years with the State Auditor. A CPA, he

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graduated from Rio Grande University. He lives in Grove City with wife, Emily, and boys Taylor and Zach. Bob likes history, is very busy with little league baseball, and plays golf.

Kathy Westrick, internal auditor, has been on the job for 13 years, and used to be in the fiscal section of the Division of Mines & Reclamation. She's active in the Naturally Speaking Toastmasters Club, Dublin Music Boosters, Scioto Concession Stand, Statewide Health & Safety Committee, and Riverside Hospital. Kathy lives in Dublin with her daughter, Anna, and their three cats.

Jim Whaley, internal audit supervisor, has been here three years, after 18 years with the State Auditor. He's a CPA and Certified Government Financial Manager who graduated from Ohio State University. He and wife, Susan, and kids Brent, Nick, and Jaimie, live in Gahanna. Jim likes to play golf, soccer, and basketball.

NEW OHIO LICENSE PLATE OPTION

In September, a new conservation license plate was introduced by ODNR director **Sam Speck**, state representative **Robert Latta** (R-Wood Co.), and lieutenant governor **Maureen O'Connor**, director of the Ohio Department of Public Safety.



The redesigned plate adds an American flag behind a proud eagle's head. Division of Wildlife employee **Dan Klein** configured the new design, using the eagle first created by wildlife artist Harold Roe.

The special plate can be purchased for an additional \$25 per year. A portion of each sale (\$15) supports bald eagle management programs, habitat restoration and acquisition.

Director Speck said, "Ohio's eagle population has reached record numbers, thanks in part to those who contribute to our wildlife diversity programs through the purchase of conservation license plates."



EAGLE STATS

- ◆ This year's record-breaking nesting count showed 78 eagle pairs nesting in a record 28 counties.
- ◆ Twins were found in 29 nests; nine nests held triplets.
- ◆ Five new nests were confirmed.
- ◆ This year, 105 young eaglets hatched, one short of last year's record number.
- ◆ More than 700 young eagles have fledged from Ohio nests over the past 10 years.

TIDBITS

ODNR ERI TO END November 15!

Contact **Michelle Dreibelbis** at 614-265-6943 or **Linda Sutherland** at 614-265-6980.

GOT EYEGLASSES? **Tina Lombardi**, project engineer with the Division of Water, is involved in a free medical clinic for low income and homeless people in the Short North community of Columbus. She said, "One of the services we offer is optometry. One man's junk is another man's vision. If you have any spectacles that are no longer of any use to you (it doesn't matter if they're broken), we could use them to give others less fortunate the gift of sight." Please send your old specs to her at Division of Water,

Building E3, 1939 Fountain Square Court, Columbus, OH 43224.

GOT BLOOD? The Bloodmobile will be making a stop at Fountain Square on Thursday, December 5, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The van will be parked by Building E; sign up in the Assembly Center.

LAWRENCE PARK: **Larry Vance**, former chief of the Division of Soil & Water Conservation, was inducted into the Farm Science Review Hall of Fame in September. Larry was recognized for his efforts in elevating the visibility of soil, water, and related natural resources conservation at the Farm Science Review exhibit area and the Gwynne Conservation Area. ODNR director Sam Speck rededicated Federation Park in the main exhibit area as "Lawrence G. Vance Soil and Water Conservation Park."

GOLF FEVER: In September, more than a hundred golfers (29 teams) with skills from beginner to scratch level participated in an outing at Deer Creek State Park. ODNR teams traveled from all parts of the state to compete in this scramble. People from ODOT, OEPA, ODNR retirees, and others enjoyed a day of fellowship and fun. The winning team (low score) was from Salt Fork State Park Golf Course -- **Hal Harper, Dick Gibson, Mitch Giesey, and John Minerchek**. This event has a long history dating from 1985. A special thanks goes to **Larry Cooper**, program coordinator with the Division of Recycling & Litter Prevention, who for the past 17 years has kept the golf tourney tradition going.

NEW BUG IN TOWN

A new species of moth has been discovered in Ohio that is currently known to exist in only two locations in the world — Resthaven State Wildlife Area in Erie County and Huffman Prairie in Greene County.

The new moth, named *Spinipogon resthavenensis* (pronounced *spee-nee-PO-gahn rest-haven-EN-sis*), was discovered by **Eric Metzler**, former assistant chief of the Division of Watercraft, who now spends his time studying moths and butterflies. In his survey of night flying insects in tall grass prairies, he inventoried more than 1,000 species of moths along with the new species.

As the discoverer, he was entitled to name the new species. He chose “resthavenensis” in honor of the 2,300-acre state wildlife area. According to Eric, the insect can be referred to by the common name Resthaven’s moth.



The moth measures one-eighth of an inch around — about one-half the size of a pencil. It’s one of only eight species belonging to the genus *Spinipogon* in the world. All seven others exist in Central and South America, with one in Florida.

The research was funded by the Division of Wildlife’s Endangered Species and Wildlife Diversity Program. Contributions to the state income tax checkoff program and the sale of conservation license plates helps fund this and other special projects.

THE PRETTIEST GARDENS



Fall is a good time to sit back and think about next year’s garden. You’ve got plenty of time to research plants, make choices, and find a place to buy them.



To help you think “outside the flower box,” The Resource will be running a monthly garden column, focusing on a different plant each issue. ODNR horticulturist **Laura Roth** has agreed to share some of her expertise with us. She’ll offer advice and anecdotes to help us grow the prettiest gardens on the planet!

Laura, who has been with ODNR since 1990, helps look after 21 acres at Fountain Square and eight acres at the state fair’s Natural Resources Park. In the past few years, many people have commented on the rare beauty of her flower containers and flower beds at these sites. She said, “I like for people to notice the containers and grounds. I don’t use just the usual plants, but create a striking show of new and unusual species.”

Laura assures us we can do the same. She looks for plants that can take hot and humid weather. One of her favorite resource books is “Hot Plants for Cool Climates,” geared toward “Yankee growers,” telling how to grow and winter-over tropical plants in Ohio.

She said, “Most of my plants are easy to get on the Internet. You can also check with your local growers. If they don’t carry a particular kind, they may be willing to order or grow it — especially if enough people are looking for the same plant!”

For her container plants, she uses recycled yard waste. Commercial waste-management companies collect and compost leaves, grass clippings, branches and other biomass, keeping it out of landfills.

Laura gets a lot of gardening questions, and welcomes yours. She prefers for you to e-mail her at laura.roth@dnr.state.oh.us. We may answer some of your questions in upcoming issues of the newsletter.

NOVEMBER’S FEATURE

ANGEL’S TRUMPET (*Brugmansia*; say *brugh-MAN-zee-uh*)



Laura said, “I must have been asked a hundred times a day about this plant!”

This subtropical shrub or tree, which grows 8 to 15 feet tall, has huge, trumpet-shaped blossoms that hang from the branches. Plant varieties produce flowers that are white, gold, salmon pink, shell pink, or creamy yellow. Keep this large plant in a container in full sun, in rich, well-drained soil; keep it well watered but not soggy. Blossoms form on new growth; the flowers wilt after a few days, but are replaced with new ones. “Hot Plants for Cool Climates” recommends using slow-release fertilizer and compost when you plant it, and applying liquid fertilizer every two weeks. It’s best to overwinter angel’s trumpet in a greenhouse, but you can force it into dormancy by storing it at 35-40 degrees F.

NOTE: All parts of this plant are poisonous — don’t eat it!

Laura added, “*Brugmansia* is a relative of the petunia, and like it, is fragrant at night. You want to put it on a patio by your seating area so you can enjoy its sweet perfume.”



MILESTONES



Retirements

Stu Lewis, Chief, DNAP, 30 years
Eddie Reed, District Preserve Manager, DNAP/Northern Ohio, 23 years
Eldon Mace, Auto Technician, Parks/Statewide Dredge Crew, 23+ years
Terry Tolliver, Conservation Aide, Parks/Lake Logan, 24+ years
William Wiseman, Park Officer, Parks/Burr Oak, 24 years
Thomas Bowersox, Education Officer, Wildlife #5, 26+ years
Barbara Meyer, Business Services Officer, Wildlife #4, 21+ years
Chester Shroyer, Investigator, Wildlife #2, 32+ years

Promotions

John Deiters, Dredge Operator 2, Parks/Lake Loramie
Scott Doty, Park Manager 6, Parks/Lake Erie Islands
Michael Emmons, Treatment Plant Coordinator, Parks/Deer Creek
Teresa Estle, NRW, Parks/Pike Lake
John Gillespie, Assistant Manager, Parks/Stonelick
Lois Heinlen, AA4, Parks/Business Group
Gregory Miller, Assistant Manager, Parks/Hocking Hills
Shauna See, NRW, Parks/Salt Fork
Sandra Shouse-Mofford, Account Clerk 2, Parks/East Fork
Lucinda Sippola, NRW, Parks/Pymatuning
Lonnie Snow, Park Manager 6, Parks/Hueston Woods
Nathan Steiner, Golf Course Worker 1, Parks/Deer Creek
Jerry Vanzile, Park Manager 5, Parks/Harrison Lake
Aaron Wolaver, Dredge Operator 2, Parks/Lake Loramie
Randall Zeisler, Assistant Manager 4, Parks/Burr Oak
Timothy Archer, Park Manager 6, Parks/Hocking Hills



Ronald Bahn, Conservation Coordinator, Parks/Findley
Jeff Boester, Park Manager 5, Parks/Pike Lake
Damon Greer, Assistant Management Supervisor, Wildlife #3
Allen Lea, Assistant Management Supervisor, Wildlife #3
C. Brett Beatty, Area Supervisor, Wildlife #3/Berlin
Louis Orosz, Area Supervisor, Wildlife #3/Grand River
Michael Renner, Area Supervisor, Wildlife #3/Mosquito Creek

Transfers

Sonia Wolfe, Office Assistant 3, from Parks to Wildlife/Outdoor Skills

New Hires

Callie Kihlken, Account Clerk, Parks/Lake Erie Islands
Vicki Reiman, NRW, Parks/East Harbor
Cynthia Wilson, NRW, Parks/Grand Lake St. Marys
John Cooper, NRW, REALM

Deaths

Mary Ann Cvitanovich, Radio Operator, Administration, 9/27

ANNIVERSARIES



5 Years

Louis "Butch" Grieszmer, Ecological Analyst, DNAP
Shannon Hoffer, Preserve Manager, DNAP
Tina Plant, Custodial Worker, Parks/Mohican

10 Years

Bob Gable, Group Manager, DNAP
Greg Schneider, Acting Group Manager, DNAP
Patricia Raynak, Technical Administrator, Recycling
John Morton III, Area Technician, Wildlife #4
Donna Daniel, Research Technician, Wildlife #1
John Davis, Investigator, Wildlife #1

15 Years

Jim Ankrom, Data Manager, Recycling
Sharon Reiheld, Conservation Aide, Parks/Mohican

20 Years

Greg Smith, Forest Manager, Forestry/Chillicothe
Dee Hammel, Group Manager, DNAP
Greg Seymour, District Preserve Manager, DNAP
Michael McConnell, Officer, Wildlife #4
William Runnels, Officer, Wildlife #1
Daniel McMillen, Management Consultant, Wildlife #3

25 Years

Christine Hodgson, Forester, Forestry/Lebanon
Phil Zito, District Preserve Manager, DNAP
Gene Wright, Group Manager, DNAP
Jeff Adkins, Dredge Operator, Parks/Statewide Unit
Steve Saunier, Grants Administrator, Recycling
Michael Moutoux, Education Officer, Wildlife #3
Frank Kay, Architect Supervisor, Engineering
Stu Lewis, Chief, DNAP



THE RESOURCE

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