

The Alumni Resource

<http://snr.osu.edu/alumni/>
SPRING 2004

SNR RENDEZVOUS & FISH FRY

Saturday, May 22, 2004 at the Gwynne Conservation Area

ATTENTION SNR ALUMNI!

The OSU School of Natural School and its Alumni Society are together planning the SNR Rendezvous & Fish Fry to be held at the Gwynne Conservation Area on the Molly Caren Ag Center near London, Ohio on Saturday, May 22, 2004, 10:00A.M. to 8:00 P.M. This will be a new event combining the SNRAS Spring Social with the School's Faculty & Staff Fish Fry. Expectations are that this will be a large scale, family oriented, social function with SNR alumni, stakeholders, faculty, staff, graduate and undergraduate students invited. Those attending are encouraged to bring their families to this event, too. Participation by the SNR Eco-Explorers and other prospective students interested in natural resources at Ohio State is also welcome. Feel free to bring a guest!

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife will also be co-hosting a number

of on-site outdoor activities as part of the event that folks of all ages will be able to participate. Some activities being planned include fishing, outdoor skills and hunter education activities, and a scavenger hunt for the toddlers. Prizes will be raffled and there will be an abundance of good food on hand.

There is no cost for those invited, but pre-registration will be required. More information about this event is at the School of Natural Resources website, <http://snr.osu.edu/news/event.html>.

If you are planning to attend the (FREE!) SNR Rendezvous & Fish Fry, please RSVP by May 1st, 2004 to Pat Patterson via E-mail at patterson.4@osu.edu or by phone at 614-292-6689. There is a bookmark on page 2 of this newsletter that you can cut out and insert in your calendar as a reminder.

We hope to see you and family at the SNR Rendezvous & Fish Fry on Saturday, May 22, 2004!

Order Your Official SNRAS Apparel!

SNR and SNRAS have teamed to provide a new line of quality merchandise featuring our logos. You can find a complete catalog and order form online at:

<http://snr.osu.edu/snrstore/buckeyepride.html>

Simply select the item(s) and the logo you prefer, send in your order with payment, and Kingston will do the rest. Please take advantage of this opportunity to show your pride in SNRAS!

Five percent of every purchase price goes to support SNR student organizations.

Sharing Our Stories

Starting with the next edition of our newsletter, SNRAS would like to create a new column – *Sharing Our Stories* – real life stories about our alumni, for our alumni. And who better to write these stories? Why you, of course. We're looking for exciting, humorous and sincere stories that help old and new SNR alumni get a fresh perspective of what's out there in our natural resource related fields.

We all have a story or two that's worth retelling. And us folks that work on the newsletter are guessing there's a lot of great stuff out there that we could never tap into alone. So help make our newsletter exciting! Share your story with your fellow SNRAS friends! Just jot down that memorable story and mail it our President Mark Dille (1084 E. College Avenue; Westerville, OH 43081) or email it to one of our co-editors (see roster on page 5 for e-mail addresses). Be sure to include your name, class year, major and the best way to contact you. If your story is chosen for the newsletter, we'll send you our newly designed SNRAS logo decal to display proudly in your car, office, home, heck – wherever!

Thanks for sharing your story! To kick things off, Mark Dille has contributed the first "Sharing Our Stories" article (a press release) on Page 3.



The Ohio State University
School of Natural Resources
Alumni Society

Our new logo is now available as a removable (electrostatic) decal. This handsome, four-color decal will be mailed to you for any donation of \$20 or more to the SNRAS General Fund. Simply complete the form at the bottom of the insert and send it along with your check (payable to SNRAS) to our Treasurer, Dave Heffner.

Conrad's Purchase Program

Conrad's Gift Store has announced a new purchase program to provide support to alumni groups. For those of you who want to purchase Buckeye paraphernalia, here's how the program works: Simply stop by Conrad's or order online (www.conrads.com) or through the mail, and use the SNRAS participation code 535. Enter this code in Special Instructions or Comments field on their website, or write it on your mailed-in order. Conrad's will track purchases made by our members and will periodically cut SNRAS a check for a generous 15% of the total purchases. This will be deposited in our general account.

Try it today and help out your Society!

THANK YOU!

We would like to thank

<i>Robert Pfähler</i>	<i>Ralph Ramey</i>
<i>Karen Wise</i>	<i>Sherman Frost</i>
<i>Ed Brooker</i>	<i>John Disinger</i>
<i>Stephen Goodwin</i>	<i>Frank Jokinen</i>
<i>Anthony Breslin</i>	<i>Rod Prodonovich</i>
<i>Robert Teater</i>	<i>David Kelley</i>
<i>Robert Fankhauser</i>	<i>Russell Fish</i>
<i>Patricia Barron</i>	

for making their generous donation to the Alumni Society.

Please join these generous alumni in supporting the SNRAS General Fund (form provided in insert) and the SNRAS Endowment Fund (form provided below).

** Note: these are donors who made contributions since our last newsletter.*

School of Natural Resources

RENDEZVOUS and FISH FRY at the Gwynne



May 22, 2004

10:00 a.m to 8:00 p.m.

food served 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Activities and map can be found at <http://snr.osu.edu/news/events.html>

School of Natural Resources

The Natural Resources Rendezvous and Fish Fry will be held at the Gwynne Conservation Area on the Molly Caren Ag Center near London, OH.

There will be activities for all ages. The fish fry with all the trimmings will be served from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

May 22, 2004
10:00 a.m to 8:00 p.m.



This event is being co-sponsored by The School of Natural Resources, and the SNR Alumni Society.

Please RSVP by May 1st, 2004 to Pat Patterson at patterson.4@osu.edu or 614/292-6689

Activities and map can be found at <http://snr.osu.edu/news/events.html>

IN MEMORIAM

Aspen Roselyne Schneider

Aspen Roselyn Schneider, age 10, passed away January 2, 2003. Aspen is the daughter of Executive Council member and newsletter co-editor Stephen Schneider and his wife, Christina. Aspen died of complications from cerebral palsy, and leaves behind her loving parents and three sisters. Please keep Stephen, Christina, and their family in your thoughts. Memorials may be given to Children's Hospital, Earth Angel Foundation, or the Pickaway Co. or Franklin Co. MRDD, should you care to send a donation in Aspen's honor.

SNRAS Endowment Fund Donation

Name (first, m.i., last)

Address (Home)

City

State

Zip

Home Phone

Work Phone

E-mail

Please send your donation to:
Stephanie Schumaker, Office Associate
University and Merit Scholarship
The Ohio State University
121 Fawcett Center
2400 Olentangy River Road
Columbus, Ohio 43210

Please make your check payable to:
SNRAS
Endowment Fund

Note: There is currently about \$3,000 in principal in this fund, but we must reach \$25,000 to begin to grant scholarships.

Sharing Our Stories

Endangered Plant Found in Wetland Restored by Westerville Parks and Recreation

A surprise greeted Professional Wetland Scientist Mark Dilley during a mid-summer trip to photograph the College Knolls wetland in Westerville, Ohio. A State-Endangered plant, the pale umbrella sedge (*Cyperus acuminatus*), was discovered growing in a recently excavated area of the wetland. This small, easily overlooked sedge had also been found by Dilley at a wetland site in Chillicothe in 2002 and he was pleased to find that it had somehow become established at this local wetland. The site, located south of County Line Road between Juniper Avenue and Michael Avenue, was restored by the Westerville Parks and Recreation Department in 1995 with financial assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Under the direction of Park Superintendent Greg Outcalt, this department has been monitoring and managing the site since its restoration. "This particular area of the wetland was excavated in 2000 to expand and enhance the wetland, and this disturbance may have uncovered seeds of this species which had been lying dormant under the soil," said Dilley, an inde-



pendent environmental consultant and Westerville resident doing business as M.A.D., scientist. It is also possible that seed found its way in on the feet of waterfowl or from an upstream source. However it became established, the presence of this rare sedge is a good example of the value of wetland restoration in the protection of biodiversity.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Mr. Durand L. Darbyshire
(614) 889-5891 (h/w)
pinecone440@aol.com

Mr. Herbert M. "Pete" Lane
(937) 224-9654 (w)
lane.2@osu.edu

Mr. Mark Dilley, President
(614) 818-9156 (w)
madilley@earthlink.net

Mr. Bruce McCoy
(614) 728-5345 (w)
bruce.mccoy@epa.state.oh.us

Ms. Kelly A. Dufour,
Alumni Outreach Coordinator,
Newsletter Co-Editor
(614) 526-0447 (w)
ka_du4@hotmail.com

Stephen M. Schneider,
Newsletter Co-Editor
(614) 877-9279 (h)
schneider.113@osu.edu

Mr. Russ Fish
(614) 934-4018 (w)
russell.j.fish@acxp.com

Ms. Cynthia Smith
(614) 783-3052
smith.2409@osu.edu

Mr. Jack Frost (Member Emeritus)

Mr. Josh Stephens
merrymound@juno.com

Mr. Steve Goodwin
swgoodwin@core.com

Your Name Here?
The SNRAS Executive Council has several vacancies. If you can serve, please call Mark Dilley or submit the Affirmation Form at the top of this page with the appropriate box checked. Thank you!

Mr. Geoffrey D. Guthrie, Webmaster
(614) 486-7482 (w)
gguthrie@enterprise-logistics.com

Mr. David Heffner, Treasurer
(937) 440-2238 (w)
dave.heffner@goodrich.com

School Liaisons:

Mr. Mark Giese, School Secretary
School of Natural Resources
210 Kottman Hall
2021 Coffey Road
Columbus, Ohio 43210-1085
(614) 292-9757 (w)
(614) 292-2265 (SNR main office)
(614) 292-7432 (fax)
giesc.1@osu.edu

Ms. Trish Raridan Preston,
Career Counselor
School of Natural Resources
210 Kottman Hall
2021 Coffey Road
Columbus, Ohio 43210-1085
(614) 688-5665 (w)
(614) 292-7432 (fax)
raridan-preston.1@osu.edu

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

On Our Continued Evolution



Hopefully, it has been apparent to you (our valued alumni) that the SNRAS has changed over the past few years. The most notable change has been the quality and reliability of our newsletter (thanks to our co-editors Stephen Schneider and Kelly Dufour). I trust that you have found these changes to be favorable (if not, let me hear about it!). In addition to the improved

newsletter, we have also added a website (<http://snr.osu.edu/alumni/>) which continues to be updated, developed a networking database (PEARLs), and resurrected an annual reunion event for alumni, faculty, and staff. Don't miss this year's Fish Fry (see page 2 for details). Although there is room for improvement in all of these endeavors, I am pleased with our programs and owe a debt of gratitude to our Executive Board and the SNR for their continued involvement and support. I would also like to extend my thanks to those of you who have continued to support SNRAS through your donations following our risky shift to a dues-free (donations only) membership structure. I hope that the ranks of our membership will follow the lead of these generous donors and support SNRAS financially by making a voluntary contribution each year. Contributions of time and talent are also very welcome. Both forms of support will influence and benefit the continued evolution of our Society. If you have any questions or comments on how we are performing as a Society, please feel free to call me at (614) 818-9156. Thank you!

Best Regards,
Mark A. Dilley, President, SNRAS



Alumnus Profile: *Steve Gray*

Although he would certainly present himself in a more modest fashion, Steve Gray is an SNR success story.

A 1975 graduate of Wildlife Management, Steve has risen through the ranks of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), Division of Wildlife (DOW) and now serves as its Chief. He says "luck and persistence" have benefited him in his ascent to DOW leadership, but also credits his SNR mentors Gene Good, Ted Bookhout, and Tom Stockdale, who served as Steve's advisor. Steve said he has fond memories of this influential group, particularly through his experiences with them at the Barnaby Center in Lancaster, Ohio learning outdoor skills. The knowledge Steve gleaned from these experiences propelled his career in wildlife.

In 1976, Steve was accepted into the Wildlife Officer Training Academy. After graduation from the academy, Steve went

right to work as a wildlife officer and within a few years moved into an information and education position at the central office of DOW. In this position, he was responsible for many aspects of wildlife education in Ohio. Just two years later, Steve assumed the role of Supervisor of the Education Section and in the mid-1980s became the Executive Assistant for Administration. In 1991, Steve was selected as the Assistant Chief of the Division and last year moved into the Chief's position. The ranks of his staff are filled with SNR alumni (another SNR success story!) including: Dave Graham and Randy Miller, Assistant Chiefs; Dave Risley, Wildlife Program Administrator; Dan Schneider, Law Enforcement Administrator; and Gary Isbell, Fisheries Program Administrator. Another interesting note: Steve attended SNR during the directorship of Bob Teater, and then worked with him for many years while Bob served as director of ODNR.

In his current position, Steve is focused on customer service to Ohio's hunters, anglers,

and other wildlife enthusiasts. He is leading efforts to retain anglers and hunters, improve public awareness of our hunting heritage, and enhance wildlife diversity through reintroductions, conservation, and education. He views OSU as an important partner in these efforts and collaborates with many SNR professors including Bob Gates and Amanda Rodewald on research projects. He also relies on SNR as a training ground for potential DOW employees.

In his free time, Steve enjoys life on his farm in Ross County, with his wife, daughter, and son (and a few horses and chickens). And his son, Jacob, has inherited Steve's wildlife interests - he is currently enrolled at SNR in Wildlife Management! The School of Natural Resources has undoubtedly played a major role in Steve's life, and Steve continues to give back through his interaction with students and staff and his exemplary leadership in the field of wildlife management.



Alumnus Profile: *Howard Eugene Wright*

Just as the Ohio Department of Natural Resources

was putting the finishing touches on its initial land purchases at Old Woman Creek State Nature Preserve and National Estuarine Research Reserve, Howard Eugene Wright was starting his career as Old Woman Creek's first preserve manager for the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves. For the past 25 years, Gene has directed the preserve's day to day operations of the nation's only National Estuarine Research Reserve in the Great Lakes region for ODNR and its federal partner, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). He recently retired as the administrator of the National Estuarine Research Reserve program for the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves.

Through Gene's leadership, the nature preserve's operations grew from a single operations center based in an old two-story house to a multi-million dollar state and federally funded visitor and research facility, which also

houses the Ohio Center for Coastal Wetlands Studies. In addition, Gene has provided guidance to researchers of over 100 scientific and monitoring projects at the preserve and has provided many public tours, workshops, and training programs dealing with wetlands and coastal management issues.

Today, Old Woman Creek Nature Preserve and National Estuarine Research Reserve comprise over 572 acres, and include a system of nature trails and other visitor facilities. Gene not only provided oversight for Old Woman Creek, but for four additional State nature preserves in the region as well.

Gene says his job at Old Woman Creek began as a natural resource management position and evolved to become to a natural resource administration position. Gene credits his successes at Old Woman Creek to his education and the broad spectrum of knowledge he received at The Ohio State University. Gene holds a B.S. in Wildlife Management and an M.S. in Natural Resources. Gene also credits

the late Dr. Gene Good and Professor Tom Stockdale as the most influential persons in his training while at The Ohio State University. Gene said that one of his most memorable experiences was Dr. Good's field study course at the Barnaby Center, where he participated in his first prairie burn experience. Prairie burns later became an integral part of his job as a preserve manager for ODNR.

Gene resides with his wife Sandy in Huron, Ohio. He retired from ODNR in late January 2004. He now plans to relax for a few months and do some traveling later this year. He also hopes to visit Alaska, Colorado, and Florida as well as doing some birding at Cape May in New Jersey. Gene said he hopes to stay active in environmental issues, and may pursue some part-time consulting in coastal management and wetlands related issues.

Contributed by Steve Goodwin
January 7, 2004