

Your Pond Update

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Classic Publications on Managing Ohio Ponds: One Returns and Others Temporarily Lost.

A Plea Regarding Those Lost

This quarter's pond update largely amounts to a plea. Ohioline is Ohio State University Extension's vehicle to distribute useful science-based information to the general public (ohioline.osu.edu/). To cite the site itself:

Ohioline is an information resource produced by Ohio State University Extension. Through Ohioline, you have access to hundreds of OSU Extension fact sheets covering a wide array of subjects such as agriculture and natural resources, family and consumer sciences, community development, and 4-H youth development.

The fact sheets on Ohioline provide cutting-edge, scientifically-based information generated via research conducted by Extension and other faculty and staff at the Ohio State main campus and the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, often in collaboration with other land-grant university colleagues.

The newly redesigned and updated site went live in late January 2016. Historically, Ohioline featured several pond-management titles under the heading "natural resources" (now to be under the tab ohioline.osu.edu/topic/environment). Unfortunately, it was decided that no fact sheets greater than five years old would be migrated to the new site: unfortunate in that every title related to pond management is greater than five years old and is thus no longer available via Ohioline.

Fear not, gentle pond owners and professionals to serve them! There were 19 titles specifically or peripherally related to pond management. In anticipation, I have downloaded all those fact sheets to my office hard drive (I will list those pond-related titles at the end of this article). In addition, I have saved another two engineering titles related to water storage, the 21 titles associated with watershed issues, and 67 titles that catalog water resources by county. I am happy to share any of these fact sheets electronically upon request; simply drop me an e-mail to ask.

...And here's that promised plea. I will be working to rewrite many of those old titles in the coming years and would like your assistance to prioritize. If there was (were) any title(s) that you found to be especially useful and informative, I want to update those first. With five new herbicides approved for application to Ohio waters (Flumioxazin, Carfentrazone-ethyl, Topramezone, Penoxsulam, and Bispyribac—but more on those in a later newsletter article), "Chemical Control of Aquatic Plants" (Lynch 2009) currently tops my list for needed updates.

Please feel free to write and let me know what other titles you liked and used.

A Triumphant Return

I very often refer extension clients to the “Ohio Pond Management Handbook: a Guide to Managing Ponds for Fishing and Attracting Wildlife” (Austin et al. 1996). This Ohio Department of Natural Resources publication was one of the best general references available, touching on almost every imaginable topic related to pond management: from construction considerations to water quality to monitoring and fine tuning a fishery... Yes, if you needed detail on any one topic, you’d likely need to seek more detailed sources, but this handbook served as an excellent starting point to many pond-owners’ quests for relevant scientific information.

The handbook’s previous edition featured several copyrighted images, the use of which had been contracted on a temporary license that has since expired; expiration ended distribution. A few hardcopies were still available following a limited print run in 2011, but those were quickly snatched up. Alas, the handbook has been generally unavailable for a few years now (unless you happened to know somebody hoarding a secret stash).

I am overjoyed to announce that the newest, all-public-domain edition was released in autumn 2015. It can be downloaded in its entirety from a link on this page: <http://wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/species-and-habitats/pond-management>. You can also request hardcopy from your Division of Wildlife district office ([Figure 1](#)).

Ohio State University Extension’s historic pond-management fact sheets

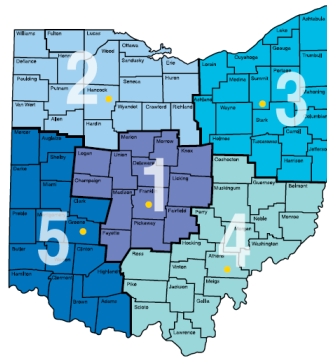
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Figure 1. Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Division of Wildlife district offices (as presented in Austin et al. 1996).

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