**Division of Wildlife (DOW)**

**Spring Valley Wildlife Area**

Located in two counties, Spring Valley Wildlife Area sits in Greene and Warren co. consists of the following sections:

- **Wildlife Area** – birding, pollinator gardens, trails, and controlled hunts
- **Shooting range** – Rifle, shotgun, pistol
- **Education Center** – Indoor archery, Wet lab, & outdoor skills classes

District 4 covers SW Ohio and has its HQ in Xenia, OH. I spent most of my summer in Spring Valley, but I did get to jump around and see lots of places within district 4.

Over the summer I spent time with multiple sections of the DOW. From our wildlife technicians, district 4 HQ, wildlife officers, shooting range, and my main location being at the education center. I spent a lot of time teaching kids to fish and shoot archery out of our trailers, while prepping for fair season and my own class!

**Day in the Life of:**

**Wildlife Technician**

The daily life of a wildlife technician knows no fear of weather or creature. I spent time with our technicians and learned / participated in a lot of hands on (and dirty) tasks.

- Goose banding / sexing
- Setting Dove & Wood Duck traps
- Cleaning out dogged drains at the marsh
- Removing and spraying invasive plants

**Education Center:**

**Classes**

Our education center and shooting range were recently remodeled and provide a new safer space for shooting sports and educational classes. We hosted several different courses and workshops during my time at Spring Valley, ranging from beginners’ archery to European Skull Mounts.

**Events & Fair**

As fair season approached, we were stretched thin, flying by with event after event. We set up a fur table at the Miami Co. Fair for Kids Day, I spent a day at the fishing pond at The Ohio State Fair, and we had many, many fishing events throughout the summer hosted by different organizations. We got to spend the day with the Dayton Police Academy and host BB guns and Archery for their summer program and witness different presentations from police dogs to bomb squads.

During our 2023 goose banding survey we banded 200 individuals from 3 different locations.

**Range Safety**

Spring Valley Shooting Range & Ed. Center are located next to each other, giving me a chance to spend days on the range, learning range safety and getting to have some fun.

** Goose Banding**

Jordan Skates hosting a European Mount class where we provided different levels of deer skulls for processing

Steven Elgowsky participating in a Dove hunting class

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I want to say thank you to Jordan and Jon, while both only a year into their positions and never having an intern before, they opened their office to me and let me learn right alongside them. They helped me get involved in so much and taught me everything they knew about shooting sports, fishing, and the maintenance of the such. They really made my internship a great experience.

**Unexpected Tasks**

A talent I didn’t think would come in handy during this internship was my digital art skills. I created a “Classes” logo for our upcoming event board at Spring Valley Range and the below “Guns N’ Clovers” banner for the local 4H club that using our indoor archery range.

**Identifying Species**

I spent a lot of time outside learning about Ohio wildlife and plant species. While not all are shown, these are a few some being the first time seeing in the wild or at all!

- Ghost Pipe
- Lunar Moth
- Red Admiral
- Mix of Pollinator Flowers
- Giant Leopard Moth
- Bumble Bee

The Division of Wildlife’s mission is to conserve and improve fish and wildlife resources and their habitats for sustainable use and appreciation by all.