

Ohio State Wildlife Grant Success Stories

In the five years since its inception, the State Wildlife Grants Program has played an important role in the conservation of Ohio's wildlife. The following are some of the projects funded through State Wildlife Grants:



Electrofishing, Photo Courtesy of Ohio Division of Wildlife

Restoration: Working with Partners to Bring Back Wildlife and Natural Areas **Woodiebrook Stream Restoration**

Thanks to State Wildlife Grants, a strain of wild brook trout native to Ohio is reproducing naturally again in the cold, clear waters of Woodiebrook, a small stream in northeast Ohio. Unusual geology and a mature wooded river corridor combined to make Woodiebrook one of the few streams in Ohio that could naturally support trout. However, in the late 1980's, developers dammed the stream to create a pond, with the intention of building a housing development at the site. Instead, the Chagrin River Land Conservancy purchased the land and set about to restore the stream and reintroduce the brook trout. This highly successful project has helped us fulfill our responsibility to conserve the brook trout and Woodiebrook stream for future generations.



Yellow-throated Warbler, Photo Courtesy of Ohio Division of Wildlife

Conservation: Protecting Imperiled Land, Water, and Wildlife **Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative**

Various agencies and conservation organizations have written bird conservation plans in the past several years but no single approach to bird conservation has been undertaken—until now. The Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative has brought together groups such as the Ohio Division of Wildlife, Audubon Ohio, and Black Swamp Bird Observatory. These organizations have adopted a single list of bird conservation goals and are coordinating their efforts for cost-effective results. State Wildlife Grant funds have allowed the Division of Wildlife to support this initiative's development and will be instrumental in providing future support for the plan's implementation.



Freshwater Mussels, Photo Courtesy of USFWS

Research: Gathering Information to Take Action **Freshwater Mussel Conservation & Research Center Opens**

Freshwater mussel health is an indicator of disease and pollution that affect us all. With the help of State Wildlife Grants, a research and educational facility dedicated to freshwater mussels and other freshwater organisms opened in November 2002 at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium. This facility will improve our understanding of the basic biology of imperiled mussels, with the ultimate goal of restoration to bolster of existing mussel populations. This is a cost-effective way to conserve and learn about mussels, which will help us monitor clean water, safeguarding the health of both wildlife and people.

Congress has appropriated \$11 million in State Wildlife Grants to Ohio since 2001. This has been matched with at least \$2.9 million state and partner dollars.