



THE TRUMPETER

NEWS FROM THE **FRIENDS OF OTTAWA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**

Monarch Tagging

Fox Unit Grant

Project Updates

Life on the
Refuge

Tractor
Fundraiser



Trumpeter Club \$250

Allie Saker
Jim and Diane Krieger
Suzan & Jim George
Margy and Scott Trumbull



Snowy Owl \$500

TJ Held
Eunice Koebel



Eagle Club \$1,000

Daniel & Ruth Ann Fraser



Osprey Club \$2,500+

The Joan Kimple Family
Anonymous Donor (x2)

Butterfly Kisses!

The Monarch Life Cycle display in the Visitor Center was a huge hit again this year. People enjoyed learning more about these incredible insects and their migration to Mexico.

Our goal this year was to tag 100 monarchs—and we've accomplished that in less than a month from August 10 - August 30! As you may know, a monarch tag is a sticker that is a little smaller than a dime that contains a series of letters and numbers unique to each individual. All data from Ottawa's tagged butterflies will be uploaded into the Monarch Watch

database so that we can see if any of Ottawa's butterflies are recovered in Mexico. Citizen science is fascinating.



Left: Intern Elyse Bowling learns how to tag a monarch butterfly.

Right: Volunteer Kendra Foust gets up close and personal with a newly tagged monarch.



Want to draw bees and butterflies into your yard?

Don't spray your yards—those dandelions are a great nectar source. Plant native species like asters, goldenrod, cup plant, milkweed, bee balm, iron weed, and purple coneflower. Skip raking leaves this year too—they provide great habitat for over-wintering insects.



Ottawa License Plate

Have you upgraded your license plates yet? Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge plates are now available through the Ohio BMV. \$20 of each plate sold directly supports your national wildlife refuge.

ABOUT US

Friends of Ottawa NWR is a 501(c)3 non-profit established in 1997 to promote the preservation of the natural and historical resources of Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, located near Oak Harbor, Ohio.

Friends of Ottawa NWR supports the only National Wildlife Refuge Complex in Ohio in its mission to conserve, protect, and enhance natural resources for the benefit of wildlife and people.

Join us for a members only tour or event throughout the year— you won't be disappointed!

WWW.FRIENDSOFOTTAWANWR.ORG

Friends seek Fish!

It's starting to feel fishy in the Refuge Visitor Center as Friends donate fish specimens to be displayed. We are seeking donations of mounted fish species including those found in Lake Erie (walleye, pike, trout, etc.) and those found in local ponds (large mouth bass, bluegill, pumpkinseed, catfish, etc.). Perhaps you caught a Fish Ohio qualifier, or you've inherited pieces and don't know what to do with them. Or maybe you know a taxidermist who would like to promote their business. Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge would be a great place to display your favorite catch while teaching the next generation of anglers about different fish species. If you have a piece you'd like to donate, please get in touch with us today!

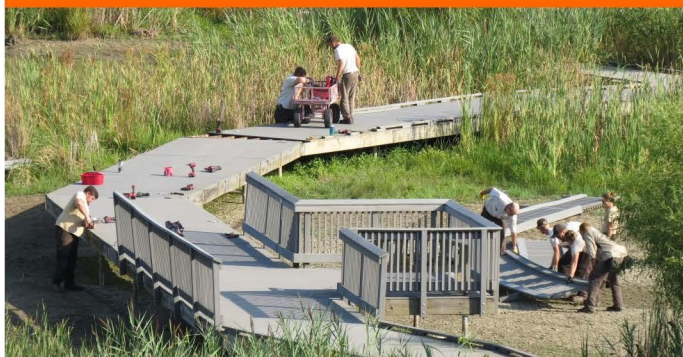
Photo: Gary Ohm of Port Clinton donated this whopper of a small mouth bass that he caught near North Bass Island in 1983. The fish measures 21 inches - 5 lbs, 9 oz.



Boardwalk Upgrade

This summer, refuge staff teamed up to rehab the boardwalk behind the Refuge Visitor Center. The base of the boardwalk had started to rot due to use of improperly treated wood when it was installed in 2007. The boardwalk was closed for three days while staff replaced the wood under warranty. Thank you to this fine team of workers for helping to keep us all safe when we visit Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge!

L-R: Chuck Shier, Eddy Pausch, Ramsay Houze, Greg Sanderson, Scott Bryant, Jeff Finn, Ron Huffman



Volunteer Spotlight

Greg Sanderson (above, black shirt) has been volunteering with the maintenance crew for the last four years. He is a great asset to the team and helps with electrical and mechanical projects, heavy equipment operations, mowing, construction projects, and most recently is updating the Visitor Center to all LED lighting! He is the fellow that helps the Wildlife Drive remain open but fixing any new muskrat holes that visitors come across. Working three days a week at Ottawa, Greg is a very dependable part of the team. Help us say thank you to Greg Sanderson for being so dedicated! If you are interested in volunteer opportunities at the refuge, please visit www.friendsofottawanwr.org/volunteer

Fall Events

Saturday, September 14 - October 18, 2019: 20th Annual Photo Contest Exhibit in Visitor Center

Sunday, September 22, 2019: Cars for Critters Benefit Car Show at the Refuge

Friday, October 11, 2019: Evening in Tuscany Benefit at Sunrise Banquet Hall in Millbury, Ohio
Fall in Love with your Refuge! Italian food, music, and love in the air for your national wildlife refuge. Frank and Dean will be performing! Silent and Live Auctions. Proceeds to benefit the Internship Program.

Saturday, October 12, 2019: See us in the Oak Harbor Apple Festival Parade

Saturday, October 26, 2019: Howl-o-ween at the Refuge

Sunday, December 8, 2019: Holiday Open House at the Refuge

Tickets are \$45 and
available online
or by calling:
419-898-0014 x13!

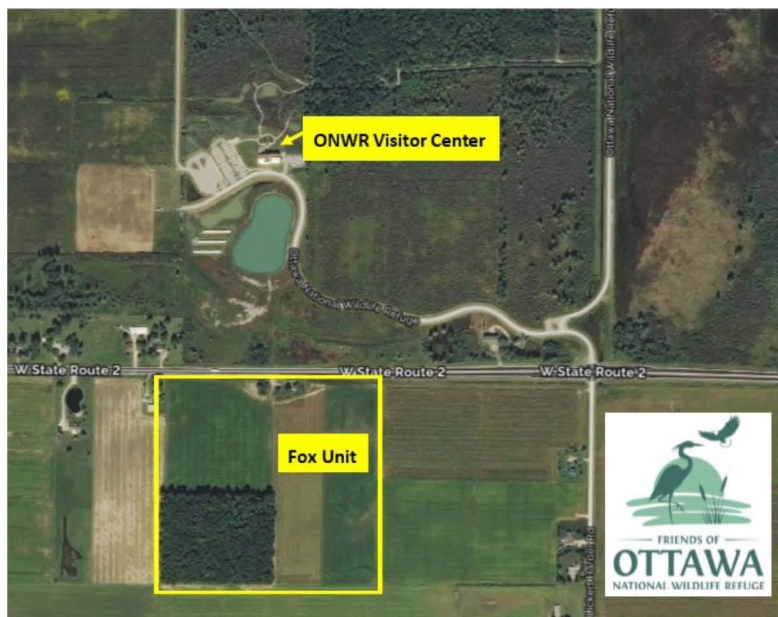


GLRI Funding for Fox Unit Restoration

Friends of Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge is proud to announce that we have been awarded a \$43,840 grant to complete restoration work on the Fox Unit.

The 40-acre parcel was purchased by the Friends in April 2019 and is located directly across SR 2 from the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center.

The restoration work will be financed in part by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency under provisions of the US EPA Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. The Fox Unit is a priority project for wildlife habitat restoration because of its location in the Maumee Area of Concern. Restoration work is expected to be completed by December 2021.



The Friends will be looking for future support to help the Refuge open the Fox Unit and create public access including a parking lot and hiking trail.



Refuge Project Updates

Because of your support, Friends of Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge is pleased to share progress updates on three public use projects: the Visitor Center Fishing Access, West Harbor Landing, and the Ottawa Wildlife Drive.



VC Fishing Access



West Harbor Landing



Wildlife Drive

The above photo is what you can expect to see if you visit today. A gravel trail has been constructed by our maintenance team to allow access to the fishing pond. Funds were received from the Sandusky County Communities Foundation, Ottawa County Community Foundation, Toledo Community Foundation—Anderson's Fund, and private donors for this project. Throughout the fall, we will work with partners to build 3 fishing platforms and construct the permanent trail.

The parking lot, signs, pollinator habitat, kiosk, and kayak launch are all installed. The next step will be building the observation deck/fishing platform. The fishing platform is staked out and awaiting contractor availability to install.

10,000 people drive past this site each day on their way to the Miller Ferry and restaurants on Catawba Island. We are so thrilled to see the site in use by so many families whenever we visit.

Refuge staff have cut viewing windows in the habitat and staked out locations for parking areas. The portable restroom is installed at the mid-way point. We are working with a contractor to complete the installation of gravel pull-offs as his schedule allows and without disrupting the fall hunt. You can expect to enjoy an improved Wildlife Drive experience by Spring 2020. The changes will aid traffic flow and allow for an enhanced nature experience for all ages and abilities.

Shop the Rookery

Have you visited the Rookery lately? We have a brand new selection of Great Lakes Proud merchandise including Fresh Life car decals, shirts, and camp mugs. If you love the Great Lakes as much as we do, stop by and shop today.

Hard to believe it but Christmas is right around the corner. The Rookery Nature Store is ready with a variety of nature-themed ornaments, and new this year—snow globes!

Open 9AM-4PM daily –
Closed federal holidays.



Friends Fundraise for Tractor

The Friends of Ottawa NWR will be working to raise funds for a very special purpose. Over the last three years, your refuge has been focused on opening new parcels of land for public use. It would ease the minds of the maintenance crew to have a mower

that volunteers can use to help maintain these new areas. With only a handful of full-time staff members, volunteers are increasingly more important to the refuge and filling more maintenance roles than ever. **Will you consider helping us to reach our goal of \$15,000 for a John Deere 2025 Compact Utility Tractor?** Mark #GivingTuesday, December 3 on your calendar. Donations made on this date may be eligible for a matching gift!



JOIN NOW.

Membership Perks!

www.friendsofottawanwr.org
14000 W State Route 2
Oak Harbor, OH 43449
419-898-0014 x13



Life on the Refuge

We've said it before and we'll say it again: RV volunteers have the most interesting lives!

In addition to roaming the country and volunteering at different parks and refuges for free rent, they also tend to have the best stories about up-close and personal encounters with wildlife.

Volunteer Doug Brockway has to check under his hood before he goes anywhere in his RV as this gorgeous eastern fox snake has made it's home here this fall. Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge is home to lots of kinds of non-venomous snakes that always seem to turn up in the most unexpected places. Eastern fox snakes are pretty docile, so whenever Doug needs to leave he just gently moves this one to the brush nearby. It's also surprisingly photogenic...

To learn more about volunteer opportunities, visit www.friendsofottawanwr.org/volunteer

More ways to support your wildlife refuge...



Link your Kroger Plus Card to Friends of Ottawa NWR's Kroger Community Rewards Account,

Visit smile.amazon.com, and set Friends of Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge as your charity. Amazon will donate .5% of the price of eligible purchases to us.



You shop. Amazon gives.

Your FONWR Board of Directors

You might see some new faces around the refuge as we have added three new board members this year. Please welcome Kris Johnston, Mary Willoughby, and Jim Krieger to our team!

L-R: Kris Johnston, Pete Schwager, Mary Willoughby, Bill Baker, Aimee Arent, Jim Krieger, Nancy Dunlap, Ron Overmyer, Carol Fingerhut, Jenni Biegala, Jake Worthington, Ginger Haar, Melanie Bowen-Greenwald.

