



Fall 2005 Newsletter

Greetings! I trust that all of you have had a safe and, hopefully, restful summer. The oppressive heat has finally broken for the time being as I write this newsletter, and I have some family updates to share. Jim, my husband, retired in June, so I now have a new full time volunteer. I hope that many of you will have an opportunity to meet this "saint" I call Mr. "Mrs. Van." In addition, Fallon, our youngest daughter, graduated from high school this past June, so no more school supplies list for me!

We've had another busy summer with library, camp and fair programs, and we have some new animals and program topics that we'd like to share with you as we embark upon yet another school year. We here at ONE are looking forward to another busy season, and I, personally, am looking forward to my favorite season – autumn. I hope it lasts longer than one week.

— Mrs. Van

New Programs & Animals

We have created some new programs and revamped others. Our newest program, **Damsels & Dragons**, features the amazing lives of Damselflies & Dragonflies. I'm delighted to share an evaluation we received from an adult who attended this program at a Girl Scout event at Camp Kenjockey. She told us, "I wasn't really looking forward to attending this program. However, now I can't believe how much there is to know about dragonflies and damselflies and how many differences there are between the two." **Damsels & Dragons** features three costumes, dragonfly specimens and live predators.

We revamped our **Nature Detectives** program, formerly an outdoors only program, for use in an indoor setting. **Nature Detectives** starts out with nine wildlife "clues." Children and adults view these clues and write their observations about each. The remainder of the program is spent reviewing what each of these signs tells us about nature. Live animals and study skins are included as well as mammal tracks, owl pellets, scat, and other learning tools.

We have also updated our **Birds in Native American Life and Folklore**. This program begins with a discussion of how Native Americans used bird feathers in everyday life and how colors were representations of different attributes. For example, we'll discuss the significance of coup feathers, rewarded for acts of bravery, and what each of these symbols represented. Audience members will view various study skins and play a "matching game" to teach them the folklore involved with each of these species. Live birds are included in this program.

...And let me introduce you to our New animals... We welcome Kiki, a female American kestrel, Athena, a female Great horned owl, and Rose, a Chilean Rose haired tarantula.

For a complete list of program topics for both adults and families, and to "meet" all of our animals, visit our web site at:

www.ohionature.org

Remember that we *can* create a custom program designed specifically for you, from a multi-station all day program to a half-day or one hour program. We'll tailor our programs to your needs.
Book early to get the day you want!

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Photographers Duane Wise and Don Stephenson

Program Fees

Recently, we conducted a survey of environmental educators in the area to see what they offered and what they charged their customers. We looked closely at the number of program topics they offered, program duration, the number of attendees, and the fees these educators charged, including mileage charges. In an effort to keep our prices competitive, while continuing to support ONE, we have adopted the following fee schedule. As you review this, please keep in mind that ONE receives no state or federal funding and that we support our animals and programs **entirely** on program fees and donations. Note also that we have instituted a mileage fee due to rising fuel prices.

Fee Schedule

- One hour program for groups of 75 or fewer: \$125 plus 50¢ *per mile one way*. Each additional hour is \$100.
- One hour program for groups over 75: \$175 plus 50¢ *per mile one way*. Each additional hour is \$150.

Note: All fees include two species of live animals. Each additional species is \$25 with the exception of the foxes, which are \$100.

Scout troops are exempt from the number of attendees per group.

Fundraisers

We have been very fortunate over the last several years to have had various classrooms, groups and individuals hold fundraisers for us and donate funds to us for our various building projects. Some of the projects that we've been able to complete include a new flight cage for our bats, a larger cage for our flying squirrels, and expansion of our opossum cages. In most cases, if the donor has earmarked the funds for a specific project, we provide signage on that cage acknowledging the donation. In addition, when classrooms organize fundraisers for us, we visit the class with photos of the completed project that their efforts have helped to fund. These donations are very important to ONE, and they help us to provide a better quality of life for our animals, our education "ambassadors." We'd like to take a moment to thank the following special people for their hard work and dedication to ONE, and we hope that they inspire **you** to do the same!



Susan Jones' second grade class at Greensview Elementary
Third grade classes at Summit Elementary
First Grade class at Darby Creek Elementary
Fourth Grade Class at Summit Elementary
Northridge Middle School Student Council, Staff and Students
Mr. Richard Hetzel and CEO Class, Mason High School
Andrea Anes, Bill Ackenbom, and Susan Boggs

Science Content Standards

We've spent a considerable amount of time this summer reviewing and fine tuning our programs so that each ties into the Science Academic Content Standards. One of our programs, "Wildlife 200 Years Ago," meets some of the Social Studies Standards as well. If you are interested in specifics on how each of our programs meets the Science Academic Content Standards, contact us either by phone at (740) 967-8320, or email us at mvs@ohionature.org, and we'll forward the information to you.



Education Advisor Needed

ONE strives to keep current on all of the latest trends in education. As we continue to get busier, we find that keeping ourselves informed can become a bit of a challenge. For this reason, we're looking for teachers to help us out by acting as advisors to us and keeping us informed of academic changes. We are also looking for suggestions on how we can better serve our current customers while generating new ones and for guidance on what we should include in teacher packets for each of our program topics. If you are interested in helping us out, please call Mrs. Van at (740) 967-8320 or via email at mvs@ohionature.org.



Here's What We're Working On

Keep checking our website and watching for future mailings! We're always working on something new, and here are a few of the activities "in the works:"

- Assembly programs – bigger, better and more exciting!
- Puppet shows for preschoolers and first graders – lose that critter phobia!
- Teacher workshops

Ohio Nature Education Open House



Our annual **Members Only Open House** will be held on Sunday, October 30th from 1:00 pm until 4:00 pm and has been expanded to include anyone who has supported us during the past year, including groups and classrooms that have held fundraisers for us. This open house will give you an opportunity to visit our education animals "at home." We'll have a fire going near the pond and offer some light refreshments. Bring your cameras! If you haven't yet made a donation to ONE, and you're interested in attending our open house, feel free to make any size monetary donation at or before the event, and consider yourself invited! You might spend the day in Johnstown, and combine your ONE visit with a trip to Lynd's Fruit farm, Legend Hills Orchard, and Velvet Ice Cream.



Many of our programs encourage audience participation. Two girl scouts, left, were turned into a dragonfly and a damselfly at Camp Kenjockety, and another audience participant, right, got dressed up like an owl at a recent event at Sharon Woods Metro Park.

