



## Autumn 2006 Newsletter

Hello everyone. It doesn't seem possible that we're off to another school year. But here we are, ready to embark on school year 2006-2007. We trust that everyone has had a safe and, hopefully, restful summer. As usual, it's been a busy season for Ohio Nature Education. There were some weeks during which we conducted 15 programs! This is the first year in quite sometime where my family has not enjoyed our two-week vacation in northern New York State, and it's starting to show! But as soon as we get through the State Fair and one week at the Hartford Fair, we'll take that much needed break in order to be fresh and rested for our September programs. We have new animals for you to meet and new programs for you this year, so read on! Remember ... book early if you want the first pick at dates! We hope to hear from you soon.

— Mrs. Van

### New Programs & Animals

As I mentioned earlier, we'd like to introduce you to some new programs and animals. Our newest program, **"Who are the Critters in your Neighborhood,"** highlights those common backyard mammals such as skunks, squirrels, raccoons, and deer. We feature eleven species in a "matching" game designed to teach the little known facts about these animals. Not to put pressure on anyone, but so far, no one has scored 100% on the quiz! But the bottom line, of course, is that this program helps get everyone better acquainted with these common animals. We've conducted this program for scouts and at libraries this summer and it's been well received. It, of course, includes study skins, pelts, live animals and their predators.

We were really pleased to introduce our new puppet program, **"They're Nothing to be Afraid of,"** this past spring. The puppet program is designed for children aged three-and-half to seven. . Please let us know if you'd like to receive a brochure for this program or if you know of someone else who should receive a brochure. The program features **live animals:** an owl, bat, opossum, snake, and tarantula. We also include information about coyotes and skunks.

As we write this newsletter, we are getting ready to de-scent two young **skunks** that will then join our education ambassador ranks. We haven't named them yet ... maybe you have suggestions? The skunks were orphaned and were picked up by someone who thought they'd make good pets. As you might imagine, it didn't take too long for these folks to figure out that skunks don't make good pets. Unfortunately, these little stinkers are much too friendly for release. But fortunately, they'll be wonderful additions to our **"Animals We Love to Hate"** program as well as **"Nocturnal Animals," "Who are the critters in your neighborhood,"** and even the **"Owls"** programs. They should be ready for their debut by mid-September.



**Velcrow, our crow,** is also now ready to "go on the road," and what an incredible bird he is! Most of you know that crows are one of my favorites, though I admit I tend to say that about many animals, but Velcrow has really been a treat to get to know and work with. Velcrow will be featured in **"Birds- Our Feathered Jewels," "Birds of Prey," "Animals We Love to Hate,"** and may other programs.

We are currently doing the paperwork necessary to add another **Screech owl, Red tailed hawk,** and, possibly, **another crow!** We'll keep you posted.

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**Program and Display Assistants** Kyle Riley, Neetu Riley, Jim Van Schoyck, Fallon Van Schoyck, Fred Lancia, Mary Ellen Lancia, Phyllis Gubanc, Tara Hutson, Chris Baker, Dani Jones

**Photographers** Duane Wise and Don Stephenson

## ONE Fee Structure

The good news is that our prices are not going up! The bad news is that as long as gas prices hover around \$3 per gallon we will have to increase our mileage fee to 75 cents per mile, one way. If and when gas prices go back to at least \$2.50 per gallon, we'll reduce the mileage fee back to 50 cents per mile. Note that our mileage fees are still less than those of our competitors. Note also that your program fees include three to four animals that your fees are helping to support!

Remember that we offer Assembly Programs for groups of 150 or more. The fee for these programs is \$600 and includes six to eight animals, two to three speakers and an LCD projector/camera to provide a close-up view for all. Mileage is included.

We also offer multi-station environmental fairs and field trips! Need a custom program? Just tell us what you need, and we'll create your program!

## How You Can Help!

ONE receives no state or federal funding or tax dollars. We exist entirely on programs fees and donations, and we need your help! In your capacity as a teacher, a librarian, a scout leader, one who works with children and adults, you can help us with our mission to save wild animals, provide them with awesome care and to each good conservation skills to all with whom we come in contact.

Here are some of the ways in which you can help:

- Hold a bake sale
- Sponsor one of our animals through our Adopt An Animal program
- Hold a walk-a-thon or read-a-thon
- Ask families to donate directly to our animals during the holidays with our Animals Wish list
- Buy prepaid Kroger gift cards from ONE and use them for your shopping. You can refill them and continue to earn money for our animals!
- Hold raffles
- Spread the news at meetings about what we do. Any school, classroom, troop, individual or facility that raises more than \$400 will receive a complimentary one-hour program worth more than \$125!



*We need your help and we thank you for all you've already done!!*

## Upcoming Events

We have events at various locations around the Central Ohio area, including many libraries. Be sure to check our calendar of events on our web site to see when we may be in your neighborhood! We will also have a wildlife display set up at the Millersport Sweet Corn Festival daily from 4:00pm until 9:00pm and on Saturday beginning at 2:00pm. The festival runs from Wednesday, August 30th through Saturday, September 2nd. Feel free to stop by and visit us — we'll be happy to answer any questions you may have, and you may even get to say hello to one of our feathered friends! More information about the Sweet Corn Festival, including directions, may be found at [www.sweetcornfest.com](http://www.sweetcornfest.com).



## They're Nothing to be Afraid of!

Have you heard about our newest program yet? Join us as we follow seven year old Sunny through an enchanted night in the woods, where she encounters some "wild" friends who teach her how helpful wild animals can be. We'll dispel some of the myths and provide more information on the "scary facts" we've all heard about skunks, bats, opossums, spiders, snakes, owls, and coyotes.

Following the puppet show, we'll reinforce what we've just learned by allowing children to touch some pelts and study skins and to view some live animals!



This program addresses the requirements of the Ohio Department of Education's Early Learning Content Standards in (1) Earth & Space, (2) Life & Physical Sciences and (3) Scientific Inquiry as well as the Academic Content Standards #'s 1-3 for Kindergarten and #'s 1-5 for First Grade.

**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](http://www.ohionature.org)**