



# Ohio Natural History Conference

## BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH FROM FUTURE CONSERVATION LEADERS

February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
Ohio History Connection  
& Zoom virtual

### Conference Schedule

(Presenters are given in bold)

- 8:15 Registration and Refreshments (Coffee & Pastries)  
Set up posters; OBS Book Sales; Silent Auction
- 9:00 Welcome Address: **Constance Hausman Ph.D.**, OBS Executive Director
- 9:10 **Keynote Presentation**  
“The tiny treasures of the eastern deciduous forest”  
**Dr. Derek Hennen**, Research Associate, Virginia Museum of Natural History
- 10:00 **OBS Awards Presentation**  
**Naturalist Award** – Roger Thoma, Retired, Midwest Biodiversity Institute, Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, and The Ohio State University Museum of Biological Diversity  
**Herbert Osborn Award** – Dr. Robert Deal, Professor Emeritus, Shawnee State University
- 10:15 Break

### Paper Session I:

- 10:30 “How a city shapes its forests: Land use change and forest distribution around Cleveland, Ohio over 220 years” **Zachary Hughes**, [zhughes20@bw.edu](mailto:zhughes20@bw.edu), Kathryn Flinn, Baldwin Wallace University Biology and Geology Department
- 10:50 “Evolutionary Responses of Arthropods to the Novel Selective Pressures of Urbanization” **Aaron R. Yilmaz**, Adrianna Yoder, Grace Bellino, Sarah E. Diamond, Ryan A. Martin, Case Western Reserve University (previously), USDA - Agricultural Research Service Application Technology Research Unit, (currently): [aaronryilmaz@gmail.com](mailto:aaronryilmaz@gmail.com)
- 11:10 “A Comparison of Two Methods to Estimate Deer Density: Trail Camera Capture-Recapture and Distance Sampling of Fecal Pellet Piles” **Elea Cooper**, [cooperek@miamioh.edu](mailto:cooperek@miamioh.edu) Miami University
- 11:30 “Understanding Preferred Habitat with Remote Camera Trapping” **Jonathan Richmond**, [Jonrichmond13@gmail.com](mailto:Jonrichmond13@gmail.com) Nathan Byer and Jon Cepek Kent State University & Cleveland Metroparks.

- 11:50 Lunch Break & Virtual Break: may review pdf of posters – shared with virtual attendees
- 12:30 **Poster Session:** with authors in attendance
- 1:15 **Silent Auction** – Final Call

**Paper Session II:**

- 1:30 Announcements (Jobs, Internships, Workshops, & Grants) – open call
- 1:40 “Increasing Environmental Awareness through Childhood Literacy” **Ashlynn Pfau**, Shawnee State University. [pfaua@mymail.shawnee.edu](mailto:pfaua@mymail.shawnee.edu)
- 2:00 “How to form a lichenologist; a story of self discovery and exploration” **Thomas Curtis**, Ohio Moss and Lichen Association. [tcurti12@kent.edu](mailto:tcurti12@kent.edu)
- 2:20 “Life history differences across the invasive range of *Pholcus manueli* (Araneae: Pholcidae)” **Alex Salazar**, [salazaa@miamioh.edu](mailto:salazaa@miamioh.edu), Ann Rypstra, Miami University.
- 2:40 “Biological Survey of a Newly Constructed Wetland Complex at Oakwoods Nature Preserve (Hancock County, Ohio)”. **Nathan Zima**, [n-zima@onu.edu](mailto:n-zima@onu.edu) Kelli J. Clark, Alex J. Waite, Ashley M. Sallee, Chad M. Carroll, Patricia M. Dennis, Elizabeth P. Tristano, Katherine L. Krynak, Leslie A. Riley, Robert G. Verb, Ohio Northern University.
- 3:00 “Ecology at Fernald Preserve” **Abby Henke**, Fernald Preserve. [Abigail.Henke@lm.doe.gov](mailto:Abigail.Henke@lm.doe.gov)
- 3:20 Closing Remarks
- 5:00pm Ohio History Connection: Attendees may explore the museum and collections until close.





## Ohio Natural History Conference

### Poster Schedule

1. “Comparing richness and abundance of beneficial insect taxa across two sites and trapping methods in Allen County, Ohio.” **Kerianne Bowyer**, MaLisa Spring, Karen Goodell. The Ohio State University, Department of Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Biology, 318 West 12<sup>th</sup> Ave, Columbus, OH 43210, [bowyer.30@osu.edu](mailto:bowyer.30@osu.edu)
2. “Native and non-native thistles (*Cirsium* spp.) support many generalists, but fewer specialist bees.” **Matthew Semler\***, MaLisa Spring, Amber Fredenburg, and Karen Goodell, The Ohio State University, Department of Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Biology, 318 West 12<sup>th</sup> Ave, Columbus, OH 43210, [semler.21@buckeyemail.osu.edu](mailto:semler.21@buckeyemail.osu.edu)
3. “Occurrence of Frogs and Toads in Relation to Habitat Quality at Capital University’s Primmer Outdoor Learning Center in Hocking County, Ohio” **Crystal I. Pontious** and Christine S. Anderson Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences, Capital University, 1 College and Main, Columbus, OH 43209, [beanminer02@gmail.com](mailto:beanminer02@gmail.com)
4. “Biological Survey of a Newly Constructed Wetland Complex at Oakwoods Nature Preserve (Hancock County, Ohio)” **Ashley M. Sallee<sup>1</sup>**, Nathan T. Zima<sup>1</sup>, Kelli J. Clark<sup>1</sup>, Alex J. Waite<sup>1</sup>, Chad M. Carroll<sup>2</sup>, Elizabeth P. Tristano<sup>1</sup>, Katherine L. Krynak<sup>1</sup>, Leslie A. Riley<sup>1</sup>, Robert G. Verb<sup>1\*1</sup> Biology Program, School of Science, Technology, and Mathematics, Ohio Northern University, Ada, OH 45810 USA; <sup>2</sup>Hancock County Park District, 1424 E Main Cross St, Findlay, OH 45840. USA [a-sallee@onu.edu](mailto:a-sallee@onu.edu), [r-verb@onu.edu](mailto:r-verb@onu.edu)
5. “The Combined Effects of Road Salt and Predation on Gray Treefrogs (*Hyla versicolor*).” **Adilia Schmidt** and Dr. Sarah Bouchard. Otterbein University. [schmidt3@otterbein.edu](mailto:schmidt3@otterbein.edu)
6. “Assessing another potential threat to the snakes of Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area: *Cryptosporidium serpentis*” **Grant M. Beck<sup>1</sup>**, **Joseph R. Szoke<sup>1</sup>**, **Riley L. Yunker<sup>1</sup>**, Pam Dennis<sup>2</sup>, Amy Aulthouse<sup>1</sup>, Dennis De Luca<sup>1</sup>, Eileen Wyza<sup>3</sup>, Katherine Krynak<sup>1</sup> Ohio Northern University, Ada, Ohio 45810, Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, Cleveland, Ohio 44109, Ohio Division of Wildlife, Columbus, Ohio, 43229. [g-beck.1@onu.edu](mailto:g-beck.1@onu.edu), [j-szoke@onu.edu](mailto:j-szoke@onu.edu), [r-yunker.1@onu.edu](mailto:r-yunker.1@onu.edu)
7. “Characterization of Aerenchyma in Aquatic Legumes.” **Caitlin Cooler**, L. Ellie Becklund, John J. Schenk. Ohio University. [cc791720@ohio.edu](mailto:cc791720@ohio.edu)
8. “Surface activity of burrowing crayfishes in northern Ohio.” **Angela Roles**, Ember Carrera, Isabel Gonzalez, Julie Liu, Hunter Milles, Audrey Neighmond, Cortny Robinson, Aster Shen, Emily Waldo. Oberlin College Biology Department. [aroles@oberlin.edu](mailto:aroles@oberlin.edu)
9. “Speciation and Niche Evolution in the Amphibious Plant Genus *Neptunia* (Fabaceae).” **L. Ellie Becklund**, John J. Schenk. Ohio University. [lb325620@ohio.edu](mailto:lb325620@ohio.edu)
10. “Camera traps and eDNA metabarcoding to monitor weasel populations in Ohio.” **Abigail Buzdon<sup>1</sup>**, Madison Meadows<sup>1</sup>, Masyn Ohler<sup>1</sup>, Dennis De Luca<sup>1</sup>, Catherine Dennison<sup>2</sup>, Timothy Koneval<sup>1</sup>, and Kat Krynak<sup>1</sup>. Ohio Northern University Ada, Ohio, 45810<sup>2</sup> Ohio Division of Wildlife Columbus, Ohio. [a-buzdon@onu.edu](mailto:a-buzdon@onu.edu)
11. “Surveying for Snake Fungal Pathogen *Ophidiomyces ophiodiicola* at Ohio Northern University Tidd-Oakes Farm.” Abigail Buzdon, Margaret Kurtz, Violet Williams, Dennis De Luca, and Katherine Krynak. [m-kurtz@onu.edu](mailto:m-kurtz@onu.edu) [v-williams.4@onu.edu](mailto:v-williams.4@onu.edu)

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