

# THE VILLAGE PIONEER



*Journal of the Sheffield Village Historical Society  
& Cultural Center*



*Bruce DiVaccaro's award winning photograph of a Black-capped Chickadee (*Parus atricapilla*) taken in Sheffield Village. The Ohio Division of Wildlife selected Bruce's entry as the winning photo in its Fourth Annual Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp Contest.*

## Sheffield's Award Winning Decoy Carver and Nature Photographer

Bruce DiVaccaro of Sheffield Village has superbly done it again! Bruce's captivating photograph of a Black-capped Chickadee (see cover of this issue) won the Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp Photo Contest sponsored by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife. The contest, which is open to Ohio residents only, saw 58 Ohioans enter 144 photos. The judging was done at Geneva State Park during the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Wildlife Diversity Partners Conference in August 2012.

In critiquing Bruce's entry, the judges noted, "It all came together well—a beautiful bird, pine cone added an interesting element, the lighting was good, and a nice clean background." Ohio Senator Gayle L. Manning, 13<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District presented Bruce with a certificate for "Outstanding Achievement" from the State of Ohio Senate in honoring him for his award stating,

"You have worked tirelessly to develop your special skills of expression, and you have touched, inspired, and gained the esteem of countless individuals."

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of March the Ohio Division of Wildlife will put the 2013 Wildlife Legacy Stamp on sale for \$15. Scott Zody, Chief of the Division, said that \$14 of every stamp sold will be invested in

the state's Wildlife Diversity Fund to support habitat restoration, wildlife research, restoration of endangered species, and wildlife education. On a personal note, Chief Zody commented that, "Each year I am in awe of the talented wildlife photographers that enter this contest—it is a great way to inform Ohioans about the need for funding wildlife conservation." This is the fourth year of the contest, the first three years were won by entries for: 2010—Baltimore Oriole (Russell Reynolds of Lima), 2011—Easter Amberwing Dragonfly (Sharon Cummings of Graytown), and 2012—Spotted Salamander (Nina Harfmann of Pleasant Plain). Next year the Legacy Stamp competition is scheduled to be for an Ohio turtle.

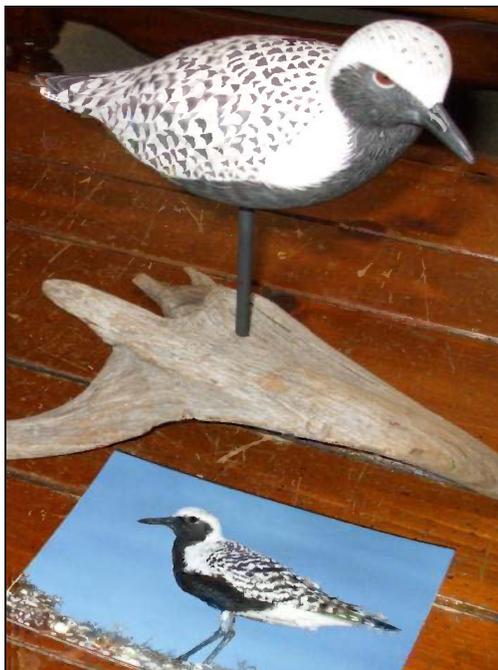
Readers of *The Village Pioneer* may recall an article in the September 2008 issue (Vol. 3, No. 3, pages 13 & 14) that featured the decoy carving abilities of Bruce DiVaccaro. That article contained an illustration of one of Bruce's recent carvings, a Black-bellied Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*), which is a rather rare shorebird in our area. The illustration of the carving also shows a photograph Bruce had taken to use as a model for the carving. Bruce commented that taking photos of the birds he would like to carve is how he got into nature photography.



Well, the “rest of the story” on the Plover carving is fascinating. In 2009 Bruce entered the carving in the Ward World Championship competition at Ocean City, Maryland. His Plover was awarded “Best of Show” for the Shorebird & Wading Bird Division. For the following year, Bruce’s Plover was on display in the Ward Museum of Waterfowl Art in Salisbury, Maryland. This museum has the

most comprehensive collection of wildfowl carvings in the world, ranging from art sculptures to working decoys used by hunters.

Several years ago Bruce was given a gift of a framed print of the U.S. Department of the Interior’s 2002-2003 Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp—a Black Scoter by artist Joseph Hautman of Minnesota. The acrylic painting depicts a drake Black Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*) flanked by three females. This duck, which is a rare migrant and winter visitor to our area, was so admired by Bruce that he made an exquisite carving of this waterfowl. The comparison of the artist’s print and Bruce’s carving is remarkable.



Bruce’s prize-winning carving of a Black-bellied Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) with his photograph used as a model.



Best in Shorebirds & Wading Birds Certificate for 2009 Ward World Championship competition awarded to Bruce for his Black-bellied Plover.



Bruce proudly displays his carving of a Black Scoter.



Print of Federal Duck Stamp for 2002-2003—Black Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*) by artist Joseph Hautman.

Many of Bruce's hundreds of wildlife photographs were taken in the backyard of his home on Linda Lane, where he lives with his wife Sue and daughter Stephany. Bruce says, "To get good images of birds one has to be very patient, often hours waiting in a blind for just the right shot." He uses a number of different ways to attract birds, but food is the best. "As they come in to feed, sometimes they will land on a branch, pine cone, or other natural object before they feed—that is when I snap their picture," he noted.

That's how he captured the winning Chickadee photo in his backyard last winter with his Cannon 7D camera and camouflaged 600 mm lens. He was hidden in his blind in the afternoon as the Chickadee landed on the pine branch where Bruce had placed it above a cup of seeds. When the sun is low in the sky, the lighting is perfect. Photographers call this the "golden time" because of the brilliant yellow tones on their subjects. Everything was just right and Bruce snapped the three images he submitted, including the winning one.

Bruce and his family have traveled widely throughout the United States taking nature photographs. He particularly enjoyed a family vacation in Yellowstone National Park where he had an opportunity to photograph birds as well as elk, bears, and mountain sheep. The big mammals were exciting, but here in Sheffield he is just as pleased with a photo he took of a black squirrel on a tree in his backyard. Bruce doesn't think he will venture into the realm of human portraits, however. He tried to take the senior picture for his daughter Stephany, but it just wasn't the same. He admitted, "It's so different and very frustrating. If she was a bird I'd know exactly what to do!"

Bruce, a long-time family member of the Sheffield Village Historical Society, was kind enough to not only allow the Society to print his winning photograph on the cover of this issue, but he has shared 28 other bird images, all taken in Sheffield Village or near by areas, that we are pleased to present on the following pages. The Society extends congratulations to Bruce DiVaccaro for his accomplishments and our thanks for his generosity.



Bruce's Cannon 7D camera and camouflaged 600 mm lens.



Bruce demonstrates the camera set-up for his backyard photographs.



Black Squirrel, a melanistic phase of the Gray Squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*), photographed by Bruce DiVaccaro in his backyard.



Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*) photographed in Wyoming by Bruce DiVaccaro.

*Selections from Bruce DiVaccaro's  
Portfolio of Sheffield & Environs Birdlife*



Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*) male.



Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*).



Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*) female.



Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*) male.



Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*) breeding colors.



Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) male.



Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*) female.



Downy Woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*) female.



Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*) female, rare.



Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*).



Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*).



Tufted Titmouse (*Baeolophus bicolor*).



Black-capped Chickadee (*Poecile atricapilla*).



©2007 Bruce DiVaccaro

Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*).



© Bruce DiVaccaro 2011

Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*) male.



© Bruce DiVaccaro 2009

White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*).



© Bruce DiVaccaro 2011

Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) male, summer.



© Bruce DiVaccaro 2008

Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) male.



© Bruce DiVaccaro 2012

Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*) male.



© Bruce DiVaccaro 2011

Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*) rare.



© Bruce DiVaccaro 2008

Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*) summer colors.



Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*) female.



Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*) male.



Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*).



Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) male.



Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) male.



American Goldfinch (*Carduelis tristis*) summer colors.



American Goldfinch (*Carduelis tristis*) winter colors.

## Village Trapper—Mike Conrad

A recent feature in *The Wall Street Journal* highlighted the amazing comeback of wildlife in America. The November 3, 2012 story, titled *America Gone Wild*, pointed out the paradox of this event, “The good news: Wildlife populations in the U.S. have experienced an astonishing resurgence. The bad news: All of those animals are now our neighbors.” If you think back, we now routinely encounter wild birds, mammals, and reptiles that our parents and grandparents rarely saw. As wildlife numbers have expanded, these creatures have spread beyond their historic range into new habitats, including ours. In the eastern United States, biologists estimate that today more people live in closer proximity to more wildlife than anywhere on earth at anytime in history.

As we continually hear of ecological disasters and species extinctions, this should be good news—unless you happen to be one of the more than 4,000 motorists to hit a deer today or your golf course or your kid’s soccer fields are carpeted with goose droppings! The total cost of wildlife damage to U.S. crops, landscaping, and infrastructure now exceeds \$28 billion a year, including \$1.5 billion from deer-vehicle crashes alone.

Here in Sheffield, in just a few decades wildlife has made a miraculous come back. How did this happen? The simple answer is that by the late 1800s the Village had been completely cleared of forests and converted to farmland. As the farms were abandoned in the mid-1900s and woods grew back, so did wildlife habitat. At the same time, subdivisions have sprawled across the wooded landscape of our Village. Thus, wildlife and people are attempting to live in the same area. Conflict has naturally ensued.

A solution is also simple to say—*keep the wildlife populations in check*—but not so simple to achieve. Wildlife numbers out of balance with their natural habitat have led to unwanted interaction with humans and their property. The number of deer, raccoons, groundhogs, geese, ducks, and turkeys have grown to the point where healthy populations cannot be sustained on the available habitat, resulting in many sickly and malformed individuals. The reason for this—many of the natural predators that once held these populations in balance and cropped off the unhealthy animals have been eliminated from our woods.

Distemper in northeastern Ohio’s raccoon population is now a common occurrence—several times over the past 15 years this infliction has led to thin hides with little fur. Affected raccoons cannot maintain their body heat and usually die from exposure. Distemper becomes more prevalent during hot, dry summers when raccoons concentrate on the limited food and water resources. This was the case in 2012 when many raccoons died from this disease. While humans do not contract raccoon distemper, cats and dogs are particularly susceptible to this disease if they have not been properly inoculated.

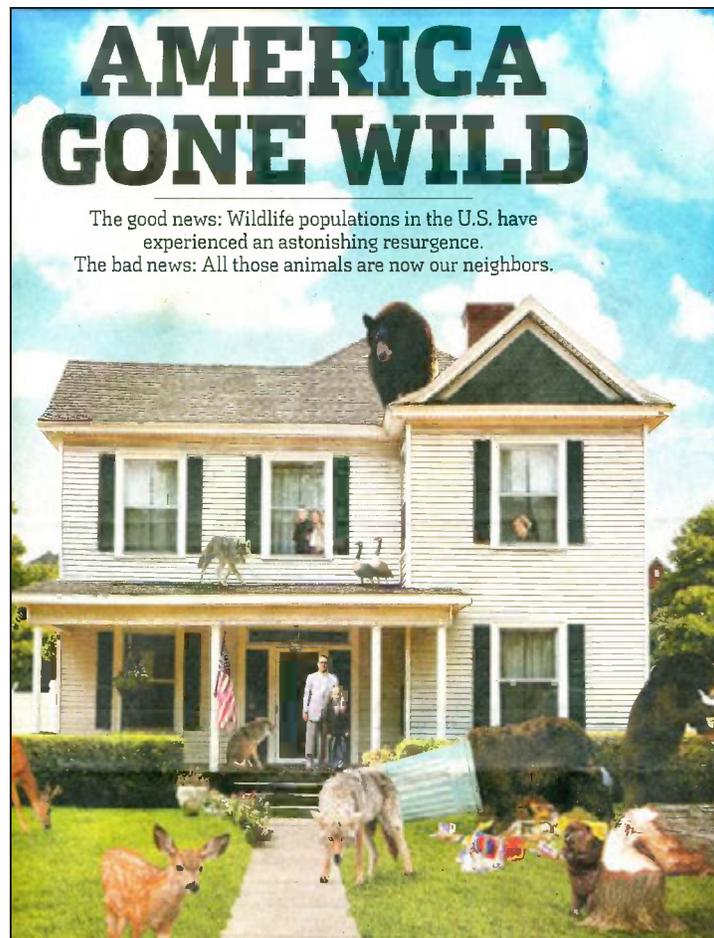
What can be done? The Village is fortunate to have Trapper Mike Conrad to help keep wild creatures in check. Mike started trapping wildlife in the Village at the age of 14 back in the early 1970s and is still an avid avocational trapper today. He has always lived on Abbe Road where he started trapping along the local watercourses:

Fish Creek, Sugar Creek, and Walker Ditch.

Mike comes from a long line of Conrad trappers, His great grandfather, Andrew Conrad (1863-1927), grandfather, Albert (1891-1972), and father, Leroy (1918-2003) were all Sheffield trappers. Andrew Conrad, serving as resident farmer of the James Day homestead around the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, raised his family along French Creek—where the Metro Parks’ Nature & Arts Center now stands. Andrew was considered a real backwoodsman—thus establishing a family tradition of hunting and trapping. Albert Conrad was also a keen hunter and trapper. He would come home with woodchucks, raccoons and possums for the pot, but he had to cook them outside as Mike’s grandmother would not allow “those animals” in her kitchen. Likewise, Mike’s father, Leroy (known to his friends as “Coony”) would hunt for rabbits, clean them,

and then hang them on a line on the back porch. When he noticed the supply of rabbits dwindling, he would go hunting again. He told Mike about carrying his shotgun to school, securing it in his locker, and going hunting for rabbits on the way home—leaving his books for his sister to carry home. Can you imagine that happening today?

This year marks Mike’s 40<sup>th</sup> season of trapping. He points out how important trapping was to the early settlers of Sheffield and



Cover illustration for a feature in the November 3, 2012 issue of *The Wall Street Journal*.

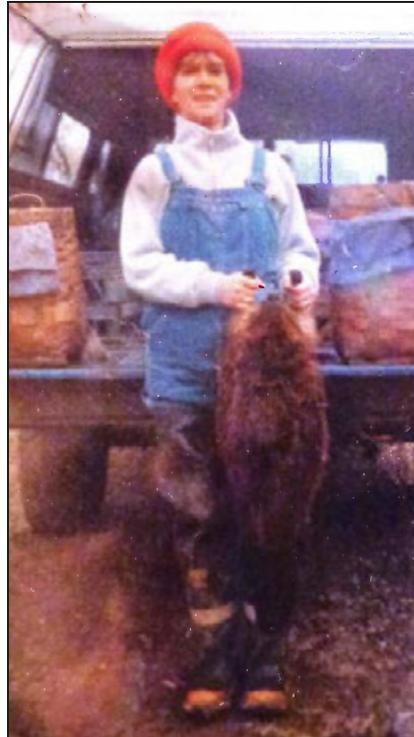
to many Village families during the Great Depression of the 1930s. These animals not only provided meat and fur for the pioneers, but they could yield cash—a rare commodity in the days of bartering. In 1816, the first year of a permanent settlement in Sheffield, it snowed every month and has come to be known as “*the year without a summer*.” If it weren’t for the wildlife hunted and trapped by the pioneers, the fledgling settlement would have perished.

In 1973, Mike trapped his first red fox, a feat of which he is still extremely proud. With the money he made from selling the pelt, his father allowed him to purchase a 22-caliber rifle. Over the years Mike estimates that he has trapped thousands of animals, here in northeastern Lorain County and in Arkansas. In 1987 he married Patricia Prokupek of Avon Lake. Pat is his perfect mate in that she enjoys hunting and trapping with Mike.

With her own hands, and with the help of Adam, her then 10-year-old grandson, Pat trapped enough muskrats for a handsome fur coat and hood, trimmed with red fox fur. They trapped the muskrats on a farm in North Ridgeville and the fox on their property in Sheffield. The coat was made for her by USA Foxx & Fur in Minnesota. Mike does like to kid her about her catches. Once he attached a note to a red fox she had trapped: “*You mean I was caught by a Woman? Go ahead shoot me and get it over with—life isn’t worth living any more.*”



Fourteen-year-old Mike Conrad of Sheffield Village proudly exhibits the first red fox that he trapped near his home on Abbe Road in 1973.



Pat Conrad holds a beaver she trapped in Coshocton County, Ohio in the mid-1990s.



Mike Conrad holds his first coyote, shot in 1997.



Pat Conrad's fur coat made from muskrat and red fox she trapped.



*Beaver trapped by Mike and Pat Conrad in an Ohio stream.*



*Mike Conrad combing the fur of a raccoon in preparation for removing the pelt.*



*Stack of beaver pelts prepared by Mike Conrad for auction.*



*Coyote caught in a foot trap.*



*Mike Conrad holds a bobcat that has been prepared for auction.*

Mike and Pat have hunted and trapped together since they started dating. They have bow hunted for deer in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia and shot black bear in Maine. For two years after retiring, Mike, served as a registered Maine hunting guide, and Pat helped a friend run a bear camp for two months each fall. Mike and Pat's

oldest grandchildren, Adam 24, Nathan 22, and Sarah 20, all trapped and hunted with their father, Dave, and their grandparents. Sarah, about 5 at the time, insisted on going squirrel hunting with grandpa one day. After fidgeting for over an hour, she announced that squirrel hunting is boring, since you never see anything. She has since

become quite a hunter in her own right, taking deer and turkeys in recent years. Her middle brother Nathan, now a Sergeant in the Marine Corps, has also taken several deer and turkeys. Adam has done some hunting and trapping, but is the fisherman in the family. All in all the Conrads enjoy the outdoors.

Now, Mike and Pat are introducing their younger grandchildren (Delaney, Dominic, and Jereme) to the rewarding experiences of the woods, and especially trapping. The Editor had the pleasure of accompanying the Conrads and their grandchildren on a trapping expedition in the 10-acre Conrad woods this past Thanksgiving eve. It was a treat to see the enthusiasm of the kids and the respectfulness they had for nature and for safety in the woods. Mike and Pat have taught them well. We set traps for raccoon, coyote, fox, and mink. Each trap was set with a specific strategy in mind and baited appropriately. "Little Grizz," a special type of dog-proof trap was set for raccoons and baited with a peanut butter syrup and miniature marshmallows or a corn/nut mix.

Coyotes and foxes are very wary of traps, so particular care was taken to disguise the trap site. A small pit was dug

to hold a foot trap, then earth was packed around the perimeter so that it would not feel different to the approaching animal. A small depression was maintained above the trap pan as a stepping place, then a light covering of dirt was sifted over the trap. Next a boulder or small log was placed adjacent to the trap and fox urine or another lure was applied to the surface. Mike, knowing that fox and coyote mark their territory with urine, hoped this would attract these animals to the traps.

For mink, traps were set below the water surface in Schumaker Ditch and along the water's edge where these animals prefer to traverse. A thin covering of dry leaves was then placed over the traps. With some 21 traps set, we headed back to Mike's house to begin the 24-hour wait before checking the traps. Late on Thanksgiving morning we got aboard Mike's ATV Ranger and headed back to the woods to monitor the

traps. The night had been unseasonably warm and still. Mike wondered if the animals would have been out and about on such a warm evening. He also wondered if the distemper he has seen on the rest of his trapline this year was also taking a toll on raccoon numbers on his own property. So far, the disease had reduced his overall catch this year by one third. His prediction was right on—no coyote, fox, or mink, but we did get one raccoon. Delaney, Dominic, and Jereme were thrilled that they at least caught something. Another trap in the woods did capture a fox squirrel. Mike released the bushy-tailed creature and we watched it scamper off into the woods unharmed. Over the Thanksgiving Day weekend three raccoons were caught, less than half of the usual number, one by each grandchild, protecting their fragile egos and ensuring their bragging rights for yet another year.



*Mike Conrad's granddaughter, Delaney (age 8), sets a raccoon trap while her cousin Dominic (age 6) and brother Jereme (age 10) look on.*



Mike Conrad helps his grandson, Dominic (age 6), set a raccoon trap in the Conrad woods off Abbe Road.



Mike Conrad's grandchildren watch as he sets traps for mink in Schumaker Ditch.



Mike Conrad sets a coyote trap while his grandchildren and wife Pat observe.



Mike Conrad and his grandchildren carefully observe a trapped raccoon.

Mike and Pat also enjoy trapping in Arkansas, where they get about half of their annual harvest, particularly beaver and bobcat. Mike and Pat belong to the Ohio State Trappers Association, an organization that fosters responsible trapping and stewardship of the outdoors. Mike was a Director and Officer for 14 years, serving two of those years as President, while Pat served as Executive Director and editor of *The Buckeye Trapper*. To help young trappers develop proper skills, Mike offers his expertise in seminars and workshops for fellow members. Occasionally, residents of northeastern Lorain County call upon Mike to trap nuisance animals on their property. He is licensed by the State of Ohio to trap furbearing animals out of season when they are causing damage. Mike performs this service for \$50 to \$75. State law prohibits the release of such animals to the "wild." Thus, he

follows state approved procedure to euthanize captured nuisance animals.

The Ohio Division of Wildlife regulates trapping in Ohio and has set the following rules. Except for river otters, there are no restrictions on bag limits. All traps and snares must be checked and all animals removed every 24 hours. All furbearers shall be killed immediately and taken into the trapper's possession. Except for cage traps, no traps or snares may be set within 150 feet of another person's occupied residence without advising the resident. No person shall disturb a trap or snare or remove a furbearing animal from a trap or snare of another person without permission. Traps with teeth in the jaws are prohibited. Several other rules relating to the size and type of traps have also been established. The 2012-2013 trapping season for fox, raccoon, opossum,

skunk, and weasel is November 10 to January 31; for mink and muskrat November 10 to February 20; and for beaver and river otter December 26-February 28. A Fur Taker Permit is required except for coyote. All first-time trappers must successfully complete a hunter and a trapper education course, offered through the Division of Wildlife, before obtaining a permit to trap furbearers.

Over the last two decades about 20,000 Ohioans register annually as licensed fur takers with the Ohio Division of Wildlife, of which about 15,000 were hunters and 5,000 were trappers, taking some 85,000 pelts each year for an estimated value of over \$500,000. Percentage wise, the following species typically make up the bulk of the harvest: raccoon (48%), muskrat (42%), beaver (3%), mink (2%), opossum (1%), coyote (1%), red & gray fox (1%), river otter (1%), and skunk (1%). Dollar wise, based on a 2006 Division of Wildlife report, river otter and beaver (average \$70 and \$15, respectively per pelt) are the most valuable furs, whereas opossum (average \$1 per pelt) is the least valuable. River otter trapping is mainly permitted in eastern and southeastern Ohio, but not in Lorain County.

Mike Conrad recalls that the late 1970s was the period for the best prices for fur. A red fox pelt would bring \$70 and a raccoon about \$30. Some 18,000 trappers operated in the state at that time. Mike estimates that the current value of pelts taken from his trapping regions (Ohio and Arkansas) are as follows:

Beaver—\$3–\$30	Fox, red—\$3–\$30	Opossum—\$1
Bobcat—\$20–\$30*	Mink—\$20–\$25	Skunk—\$5–\$10
Coyote—\$5–\$50**	Muskrat—\$10–\$12	Squirrel—\$1–\$2
Deer—\$10	Raccoon—\$10–\$30	Weasel—\$5–\$10
Fox, gray—\$2–\$25		

\*Exceptional bobcat pelts from large animals of the West can bring as much as \$1,500

\*\*Exceptional coyote pelts, again from the West can bring as much as \$75-\$100

Each spring Mike assembles the pelts for market that he has prepared throughout the trapping season. In the 1970s when he first started trapping, Mike found an advertisement in the *Elyria Chronicle-Telegram* for a furrier named Meyers in Belden, Ohio to market

his harvest. The second year Mike dealt with furrier John Barson of Oberlin, Ohio. A couple of years later he engaged Richard Thomas of the Wooster, Ohio area who had an arrangement with a New York auction house. For nearly three decades Mike has marketed his harvest in this fashion. Adam accompanied Mike and Pat one year to sell their furs, as he had caught one raccoon to sell. After looking at the pelt, Richard proclaimed it to be the finest, largest raccoon pelt he had seen in two years, and gave Adam \$1 more for that pelt than his grandpa received on any of his.

For the last 10 years Mike has sent his furs to Canada for international sale at the North American Fur Actions held in North Bay and Hudson Bay, Ontario. The way it works, a shipping agent picks up the harvest at designated areas in Ohio (for a charge of \$11/load) and delivers it to the Canadian auction house where most of the pelts are sold to Russian, Greek, Chinese, and Scandinavian markets. Mike only gets a check once a pelt has sold. He guesses he about breaks even with his expenses and what the pelts bring, but he is not in it for the money—more for adventure of keeping up a family tradition, pitting his skills against the prey, enjoying the out-of-doors with his family, and passing along the tradition to younger generations.



A recent annual harvest of pelts Mike Conrad has prepared for shipment to a Canadian auction house. Pelts on the top row (left and right) are raccoon, with coyote, bobcat, and otter in the center. The lower row of pelts are raccoon (far left and right), beaver (left and right), and muskrat and mink in the center.

## Dr. David Klarer Receives Prestigious Award

Dr. David M. Klarer, a long-time member of the Sheffield Village Historical Society, was honored on September 19, 2012 for his 33 years of outstanding service to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources with the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves and the Division of Wildlife. He received the 2012 Ohio Lake Erie Award presented by James Zehringer, Chairman of the Ohio Lake Erie Commission, during the fall meeting of the Commission held at the new Liberty Aviation Museum in Port Clinton, Ohio.

In presenting the award to Dr. Klarer, Chairman Zehringer, who also serves as Director of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, stated:

“The Ohio Lake Erie Commission is pleased to present the 2012 Ohio Lake Erie Award to Dr. David Klarer in honor of his outstanding contributions to enhance Our Great Lake. Dr. Klarer began his career at the research reserve in 1979. He helped establish the Old Woman Creek National Estuarine Research Reserve laboratory. He focused reserve research towards determining the role of coastal wetlands in the Lake Erie ecosystem. Through the understanding gained from over 250 published papers and reports completed at the reserve, many citizens, resource managers, and agency officials alike have gained a greater appreciation of coastal wetlands and the critical part they play in a healthy Lake Erie.

Dr. Klarer has been a great mentor, teacher, and collaborator for other coastal resource scientists. The examination of many important research topics (non-point source pollution, aquatic invasive species management, nutrient dynamics in wetlands, etc.) has been enriched by partnerships with institutions and agencies from around the Great Lakes. The OWC research reserve is part of a national network of protected sites that promote the stewardship of coastal wetlands through research and education. Dr. Klarer’s work helped show that a better understanding of coastal ecosystems could be applied to improve coastal management. He has had a profound effect on estuarine research nationally.

When Dr. Klarer began his tenure at the reserve in 1979, he became the reserve system’s first on-site research coordinator. He was a strong advocate for long-term baseline monitoring. Today, there are 112 water quality stations and 28 weather stations at 28 reserves across the country and the monitoring program is the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA) longest running continuous dataset of coastal ecosystem observations. The Ohio Lake Erie Commission is very proud to commend Dr. David Klarer for his significant contributions and dedication to the protection and restoration of Lake Erie, and is proud to present to him the 2012 Ohio Lake Erie Award.”

On a personal note, the Editor has had the pleasure of working with Dr. Klarer since he arrived at the Old Woman Creek National Estuarine Research Reserve in Huron, Ohio over three decades ago. Starting a new laboratory is not an easy task, but Dave did an admirable job of creating an outstanding facility, judged one of the best in the entire National Estuarine Research Reserve system. This is particularly impressive considering his laboratory was the only one on a freshwater lake in a system dominated by ocean-side reserves.

Some ten years ago Dave and I and my wife Ricki, embarked on a several-year project to write *The Ecology of Old Woman Creek, Ohio: An Estuarine and Watershed Profile*. Each of the 28 Estuarine Reserves in the system were assigned the task of preparing a Site Profile that synthesized the results of research that had taken place in the respective Reserves since they had been established. For Old Woman Creek this was a period of 20 years involving over 200 research and monitoring projects that had produced over 250 publications. The task seemed daunting, but we wanted to show the ocean boys just what we could do. In 2004 we completed the 448-page, all color book that set the standard for the other Reserves. Dave was especially proud of the fact that his Site Profile was the only one that had a centerfold—albeit a 70-color illustration of the soil types in the Old Woman Creek watershed.

*Congratulations Dave on an Honor well deserved!*



Ohio Department of Natural Resources Director James Zehringer (left) presents the 2012 Ohio Lake Erie Award to Dr. David Klarer (right), September 19, 2012 (courtesy of the Ohio Lake Erie Commission).



Dr. David Klarer (left) and Dr. Eddie Herdendorf (right) at the dedication of the Old Woman Creek Ohio Bicentennial Marker on the shore of Lake Erie, July 24, 2003.

## ***Historical Society to Hold Big Yard Sale***

**Mother's Day Weekend—May 11-12, 2013**

Hoping to build on the success of last year, the Sheffield Village Historical Society will hold a YARD SALE again this year on Mother's Day Weekend. As was last year, the event will be a fundraiser to pay the property taxes for the Sheffield History Center, 4944 Detroit Road in Sheffield Village, just west of Mike Bass Ford. The sale will be open from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm Saturday and Sunday at the Sheffield History Center.

Anyone wishing to donate items for the yard sale is asked to call Ricki Herdendorf (440-934-1514) or Kathy Yancer (216-543-3651) to make arrangements to drop items off or have them picked up. We will be happy to bring a truck to your place for pickups.

Donations for this year's yard sale have been coming in for several months, but we could use more! We plan to have items for the yard sale in the following categories: antique & modern furniture, mirrors, household goods, china & kitchenware, jewelry & watches, electrical & hand tools, toys, equipment, books, clothing, sports & recreational equipment, exercise gear, cameras, computers, linens, classic record albums, shelving, art work, craft items, and much more.

So, dig through your attics, barns, basements, garages, and storage rooms for those treasures that someone else would love to have. Last year we even had several mothers come by and pick out their Mother's Day present.

—***Please mark your calendar!***

## ***Society Organization***

The Sheffield Village Historical Society is a charitable nonprofit 501(c)(3) and educational organization dedicated to discovering, collecting, preserving, interpreting, and presenting Sheffield's rich heritage. Membership is open to anyone who wishes to support the Society's mission.

For more information contact Eddie Herdendorf, President (440-934-1514 [herdendorf@aol.com](mailto:herdendorf@aol.com)), Andy Minda, Vice President (440-537-0547 [anmin36@aol.com](mailto:anmin36@aol.com)), or Patsy Hoag, Secretary (440-934-4624 [phoag@me.com](mailto:phoag@me.com)).

Society journals can be found on the Village of Sheffield, Ohio official website: [www.sheffieldvillage.com](http://www.sheffieldvillage.com) (click on the Sheffield Village Historical Society decal , then Pioneer newsletters, and then download).

The collections of the Sheffield Village Historical Society are housed in the Sheffield History Center at 4944 Detroit Road. The History Center is open to members and guests most Tuesdays 11:00 am-2:00 pm and Thursdays 6:00 pm-8:00 pm or by appointment—please call Kathy Yancer (216-543-3651). The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is **April 11, 2013, 7:00 pm at the History Center. All members are welcome to attend this meeting.**

Society members are encouraged to submit items for future issues. Please send your stories or ideas to the Editor.

Charles E. Herdendorf, Ph.D., Journal Editor,  
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Garfield Farms, 4921 Detroit Road  
Sheffield Village, Ohio 44054

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## ***In Memoriam***

**Robert Lee Kelling, Sr. (1929-2012)**

Bob Kelling, member of the Sheffield Village Historical Society since 2009, passed away on August 9, 2012 at the age of 83. His grandparents (Nicolas and Margaret Kelling) and his parents (Lee and Helen Kelling) lived in Sheffield on Abbe Road and Colorado Avenue. Bob, born on March 22, 1929, grew up near the intersection of Reid Avenue and 36<sup>th</sup> Street in what was then Black River Township after his parents sold their farm for the construction of Brookside School. Bob attended Clearview School and then took a job as an instrumentation apprentice at U.S. Steel's National Tube plant in Lorain. He was a World War II veteran and served in postwar Japan in 1946 and 1947. After the service he completed his high school education with the American High School and later attended Kent State University. In 1955 he built his own home in Vermilion and throughout his life he restored several other houses. For the past 30 years Bob was a resident of Perry Township in Lake County, Ohio. He spent his working years as an instrument repairman, retiring from SMP in 1991. In his early years Bob enjoyed playing guitar and performing in country bands and in retirement was fascinated with genealogical research. Elaine, his wife of 25 years, passed away in 1995. He is survived by four sons and a daughter, a sister, Shirley Potts of Amherst, and a brother Floyd "Wayne" Kelling of Mayfield Heights, who is also a member of our Historical Society.

**Andrew Georgas (1961-2012)**

Andy Georgas, owner of *The Original Garden Basket* in Sheffield Township, died on September 13, 2012 at the Cleveland Clinic following a brief illness. Andy was a strong supporter of the Sheffield Village Historical Society, holding a business membership for his garden center since 2008. Sadly, Andy passed away at the young age of 51 and he truly will be missed by all those whose lives he touched. He was born on January 31, 1961 in Lorain to George and Koula (née Kiouisis) Georgas. Andy graduated from Admiral King High School and attended Lorain County Community College and the University of Akron. He was an avid football player in high school and college; and in later life he enjoyed coaching youth basketball at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church where he was a life-long member and served on the parish council. He started his working life as a real estate agent and for the past 23 years he operated his garden center just west of Garfield Bridge on North Ridge Road with dedication and passion. Andy is survived by Elaine (née Marusin), his wife of 18 years, his son Peter Georgas, his parents, and his sisters Connie Matlin of Oberlin and Stacy Acord of Wake Forest, North Carolina.

