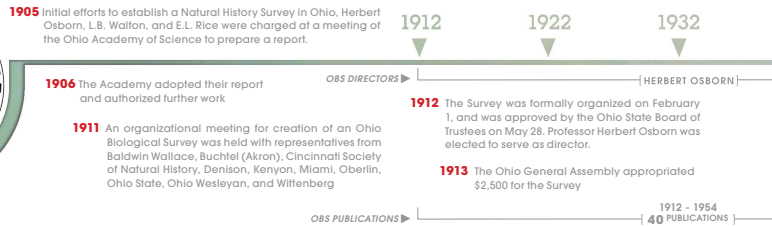
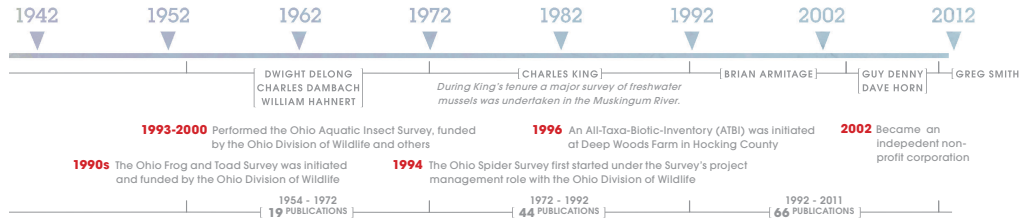


# A CENTURY OF SURVEY



# THE OHIO BIOLOGICAL SURVEY'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

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Nothing lasts for 100 years anymore. Things change so quickly that it is very difficult for any group or organization to maintain their mission, goals, or funding for that long. However, this year the Ohio Biological Survey (OBS) celebrates its centennial, with lots of promise for the next 100 years.

The need for a biological survey in Ohio was first discussed in the early 1900s. Words became action in 1912, when a proposal created by an Ohio Academy of Science committee was accepted by The Ohio State University (OSU) Board of Trustees. The proposal called for inter-institutional cooperation, and 12 other Ohio institutions of higher learning joined the Survey shortly thereafter. Dr. Herbert Osborn was

appointed the first director of the Survey. In 1913, the Survey produced its first publication, and continues doing so a century later. In 1913, the Ohio General Assembly set aside \$2,500 for the Survey in the OSU budget. This small amount by today's standards represented the Survey's budget for many years. In the second half of the 20th century, the Survey became more generously funded through the College of Biological Sciences at OSU. This administrative and funding arrangement continued until 2002 when the Survey became an independent, non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation.

Over the years, the Survey has added numerous new members, including organizations and entities which were non-academic in nature as well as individual citizens. The objectives of the Survey have remained constant: (1) To secure accurate and detailed

information concerning the occurrence, distribution, and ecology of the plants and animals in Ohio. (2) To publish the results of biological surveys and scientific studies on the taxonomy, distribution, and ecology of plants and animals in Ohio or in a wider geographical area of which Ohio is an integral part. (3) To collect, identify, describe, and distribute biological materials that may be of service in education and research.

After countless hours of research, more than 170 publications, and thousands of published pages, the Survey continues to pursue its mission with the help of its large network of partners. As a result, OBS has become known both nationally and internationally for its efforts. The Survey actively pursues opportunities to expand the knowl-

edge of Ohio's plants and animals through a small grants program and has become more involved with citizen science projects. For example, partnering with iNaturalist, the Survey is sponsoring a statewide BioBlitz which gives anyone with a smart phone or a camera with an Internet connection the chance to add to the collective information on the distribution of species in the state. You can learn more at [inaturalist.org/projects/ohio-bioblitz](http://inaturalist.org/projects/ohio-bioblitz).

Regular citizens may also join the survey as members and enjoy a discount on publications and receive the quarterly publication, BioOhio.

The Survey now looks forward to its next century serving the state of Ohio and continuing to record its natural history. Un-

derstanding the basic biology of plants and animals is the beginning of discovery, not the end, and the Ohio Biological Survey and its partners will be there to provide that information for as long as there is a need. As the champion of biodiversity, E.O. Wilson, said in the foreword to a recent book on field biology, "Humanity desperately needs a more extensive and integrated biology - for personal and public health, support of biotechnology, resource management, conservation, and not least, a more complete and wiser understanding of our own species. The wellspring of the new biology is scientific natural history."<sup>1</sup> We could not have said it better ourselves. The Ohio Division of Wildlife is happy to have the Ohio Biological Survey as one of its many partners in wildlife diversity. ♣

## SPONSORED EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS AND PUBLICATIONS

The Division of Wildlife has sponsored a number of publications with the Ohio Biological Survey (OBS), an inter-institutional consortium dedicated to the natural history and conservation of Ohio's flora and fauna. This partnership has produced high-quality publications on a variety of topics and is a foundation of knowledge for biologists, metroparks staff, naturalists, teachers and other educators.

## THE OHIO BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

For more information about the Ohio Biological Survey look online at [www.ohiobiologicalsurvey.org](http://www.ohiobiologicalsurvey.org) or call 614.457.8787.

The Survey is also active on Facebook and Twitter.



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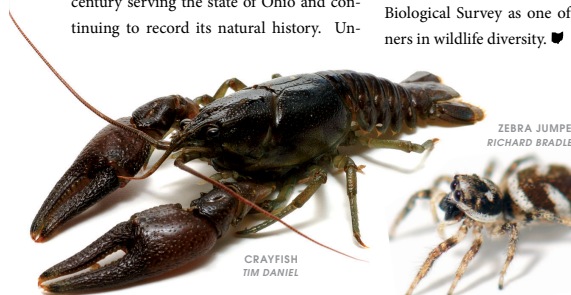
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1 Canfield, M. R. (ed.). 2011. Field notes on science and nature. Harvard University Press, Cambridge, MA.

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