

Dear Midwest Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation,

My name is Ryan Wagner. I am first year Master's Student at the Ohio State University in the School of Environment and Natural Resources. I am working on a mark/recapture and eDNA study to understand the current status of the Common Mudpuppy (*Necturus maculosus*) in Ohio. I am extremely interested in applying to join the MWPARC board. I believe I am an excellent candidate for this position. My professional experience with the herpetofauna of Ohio and beyond has given me the necessary skills and knowledge to be a beneficial contribution to your organization. Specifically,

- (1) I have four years working on herp-related ecology research projects including box turtle telemetry, amphibian road mortality and mitigation, salamander stress hormones, and snake road mortality modeling. I have been trained in reptile and amphibian surveys in both aquatic and terrestrial environments. I have worked with species of concern and endangered species of reptiles and amphibians. I have an extensive knowledge of biology, natural history, habitat requirements, research techniques, and ethics.
- (2) I am currently the student board member for the Ohio Partners in Amphibian & Reptile Conservation. I have attended every monthly meeting since becoming a board member and actively engage with the discussion. I have presented at our virtual conference and lead a question session and discussion.
- (3) I am extremely passionate about conservation and education regarding reptiles and amphibians. I am actively engaged in science and herp outreach through my personal blog, ryansweeklywildlife.blogspot.com, and several social media accounts. Interacting in a positive way with the public and amateur herpetologists is very important to me.

Through my involvement with MWPARC I hope to grow as a young herpetologist and learn from more experienced members in this field. I also hope to bring the unique viewpoint of a student beginning his career in herpetology. Overall, this is exactly the type of organization I have been seeking to join. I invite you to review my experiences and abilities in the attached resume and I hope that you will consider me for the position.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Sincerely,
Ryan Wagner