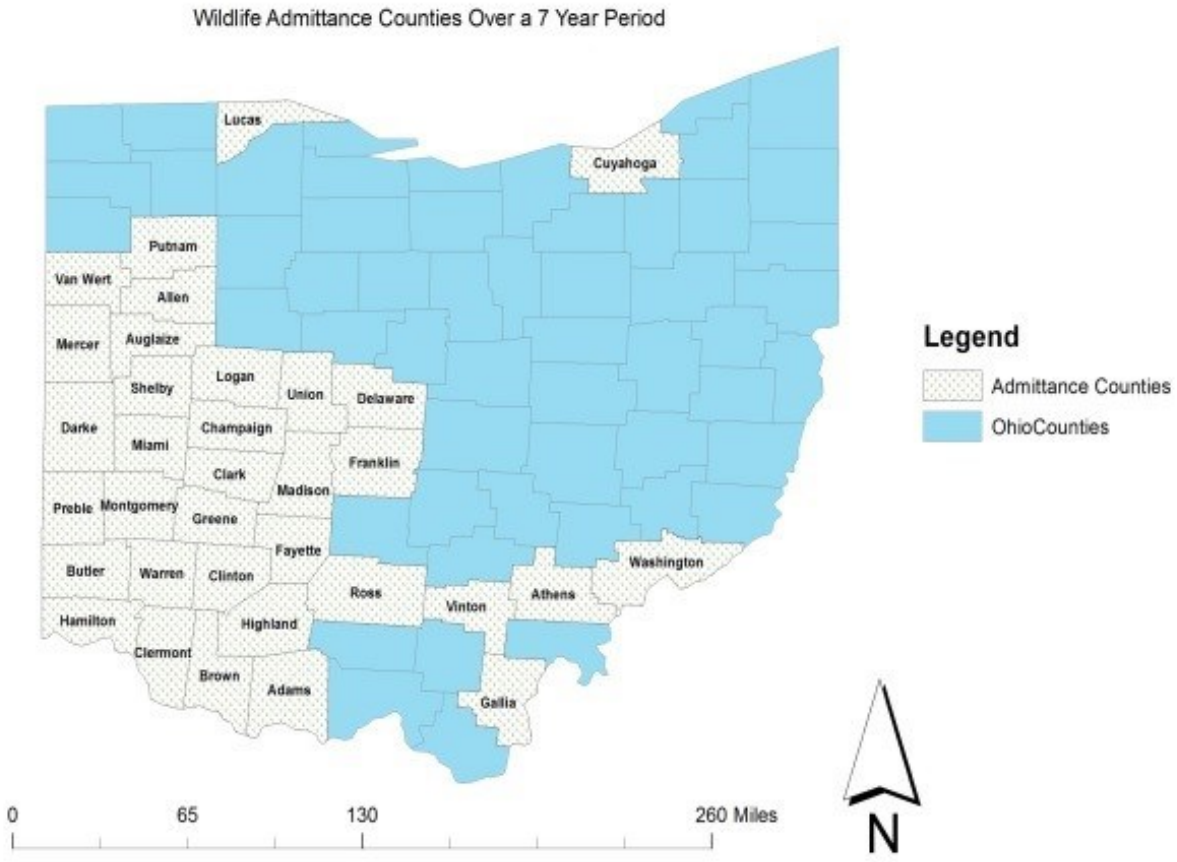
Course name: **GEO 2210**: Advanced Spatial Analysis
Division: Liberal Arts, Communication & Social Sciences (**LCS**)
Project: Wildlife Rehabilitation Mapping
Community Partner: Bruckner Nature Center

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

This Service Learning profile features the insights of Molly Simonis, a GIS certificate enrollee. In this project, Molly completed a mapping project for the Bruckner Nature Center. The goal of the project was to identify the origin of patients and map their location in relation to urban areas.

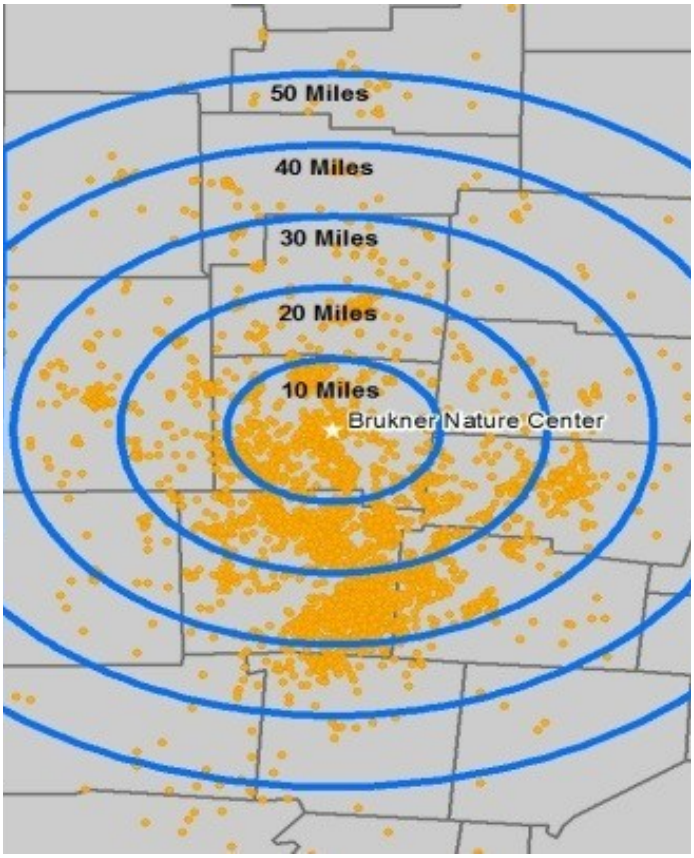
PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The objective of this project was to assist the Bruckner Nature Center in identify where patients originated over an eight year timeframe. Molly produced maps to give a visual representation of where patient were located on a county level and in relation to urban areas in Ohio. This project involved collecting and cleaning data, geocoding addresses, she used a variety of sources for her maps, including the US Census, satellite images, and Google Earth. Most time-consuming was collecting and standardizing the data. Molly logged over 50 + hours on this project.



RESULTS

Molly presented her project at the Honors and Service Learning Symposium and during project presentations for community partners. Molly's article on this project was accepted in the Journal of Rehabitation Wildlife and will be published Summer 2015.



Profiles can be viewed online at **ctl.sinclair.edu**

OUTCOMES

What did you learn about working in the community, about collecting data and/or mapping? What did you learn about yourself? I learned a lot through this project. Much of the learning was the importance of data standardization. Looking through 8 years of data and realizing that it is not entered the same year to year can be really frustrating. Especially when you try to geocode it in ArcMap. Although weeks were spent cleaning up data, it eventually led to standardization across all of our data entry process. The problems I ran into with the data led to new and updated animal donor forms; new and updated reason for admittance, injury, and disposition codes and descriptions; new necropsy forms; and a completely new set up and list of standards operating procedures for entering data. All and all, I learned that if things are not specific, there will be mistakes. And that it is important to clearly state procedures if you want everyone who is a part of them to go about it in the exact same way.

What surprised you about this experience? I think the biggest thing that surprised me when going through the intake numbers of each county is that Montgomery County brings us the largest number of wildlife patients. I knew there were a lot from Montgomery, but I did not know they were the leader.

How might you have approached this project differently? If I were to do it all over again, I would have started small with the research and then spanned out a bit. I started with all patient intake, all patient release, and all patient numbers by type of animal and where they were coming from. This was way too much information for one project. So, we kept cutting until we came to our final analysis of just patient intake.

SUBMITTED BY:

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