



**Jim McGuire**  
Troy Daily News Columnist

## Bugging belligerent bronzebacks

I knew it was time to dig out my fly box of bronzeback bugs the moment I heard the cicada.

July was barely two days old. Yet temperatures had already passed the 90-degree mark, prompting several of my breakfast compatriots down at the country café to begin grumbling about summer's early heat.

That's the beauty of phenology — which is the fancy term for the study of the relationships between plants and animals and the cyclical climatic changes of their environment.

Rain, temperature, sunlight, and other factors constantly influence the daily progression of life.

Time and seasons are ever changing.

One spring will be wet and cold, another warm and dry. Or wet and warm. Or cold and dry.

No two years are identical. Moisture, temperature, and the amount of daily sunlight affects not only wildflowers and trees, but everything from swallows to grasshoppers, bullfrogs to woodchucks, and fish in your favorite lake or stream.

This means you can't simply rely on specific calendar dates to schedule outdoor activities.

A more precise way to keep track of where you are in the annual cycle is to juxtapose one natural event with another.

For example, I know crappie will likely be on their spawning beds if I go fishing when the rebuds are in bloom. Should my quarry be morel mushrooms, I'll look for them when the mayapple is up and just starting unfurl.

By this same phenological reckoning, I've learned that whenever I hear that first shrill treetop ratcheting of the cicada, stream bronzebacks will be looking up and willing to take a floating fly.

Which is why I spent a recent morning plying the rifles and runs along a favorite stretch of the Stillwater.

The river was in good shape in spite of rain the previous afternoon.

Water clarity was decidedly murky. However, this is typically the case for the Stillwater throughout much of the summer — a fact which often worries fishermen but doesn't seem to hamper the fish.

It certainly wasn't keeping them from seeing and taking my floating flies.

On perhaps the third cast of the day, as my pencil-diameter yellow popper drifted along a thread of current below a fast riffle, a bass suddenly nailed it with the aplomb of an exploding firecracker.

I set the hook and the chunky bronzeback began tail-walking all over the pool.

To my way of thinking, top-water smallmouth are the pinnacle experience of a stream basser's game, the most exhilarating way to take this always exciting fish.

From presentation to strike to hookup, all the action occurs in plain sight, a visual drama that reveals the magic and mystery lying at the heart of why we fish.

The smallmouth wasn't huge — perhaps a pound-and-a-half on a friendly scale. But like all of its kind, overtly strong and determined.

We waltzed around the pool for several minutes before I led

■ See MCGUIRE on C8

*"It's great exercise."*  
— Cindy Shockey

*"It's fun. It's easy on the joints."*  
— Deb Denial

*"You learn how to shimmy — or try to anyway."*  
— Amy Huston



STAFF PHOTOS/CHUCK SODER  
Timothy Davis, left, and daughter Whitney, get moving during Adriana Davis' Zumba dance class June 29.

## Zumba explodes in Ohio

### Dance, aerobics hybrid gains popularity in Miami County

BY CHUCK SODER  
Staff Writer  
csoder@tdnpublishing.com

Adriana Davis is one of few people who actually kept her New Year's resolution.

She didn't vow to lose weight as so many do, but her goal did have to do with keeping in shape.

What was it? To dance on a regular basis.

For a while, the Troy woman was content just grooving to the "Dance With Me" movie soundtrack in her living room. In less than two months, however, she'd learn about a new dance craze seemingly made for her.

And she'd get certified to teach it.

Davis is one of a handful of area residents who recently became certified to teach Zumba, a combination of Latin-style dancing and aerobics that's sweeping the nation.

"You can't say it's aerobics. You can't say it's a dance class," Davis said.

In Ohio, the Miami Valley in particular, Zumba is taking over. Its founder, Alberto "Beto" Perez certified 141 instructors in Englewood in February, his biggest class yet. Now many are leading classes throughout the area.

Davis, who started her class at the Earth Center in Tipp City in May, decided to check out a Zumba class in Englewood after hearing about it through her sister-in-law.

She knew little about Zumba, but, being from Mexico, she was excited at the prospect of dancing to Latin music.

She also was excited to see so many Americans lined up, all



Zumba instructor Adriana Davis shows how to put some "salsa" into one of her moves as she leads family members in a Zumba dance June 29.

#### ON THE NET:

For more information on Zumba, visit the national Web site at [www.zumba.com](http://www.zumba.com) or the state Web site at [www.zumbaohio.com](http://www.zumbaohio.com).

doing their own interpretation of the same Latin dance.

"I said, 'This is an opportunity. If Americans like it, I can teach it to Americans,'" she said.

Beto certified her in February, and five months later she still loves Zumba.

She described why prior to leading a small Zumba session with her husband, Tim, and daughter, Whitney.

When she leads a class, she tells students to add their own

"salsa" — their own spice — to their dances.

"On the first night I told them, 'I don't want you to dance like me,'" she said.

Not having to do every step perfectly is one reason her husband Tim likes it.

"If you can do it, fine. If you can't, just act like you can do it," he said with a smile.

Zumba participants dance to upbeat songs in various musical styles, all of which have a Latin flavor. Zumba burns calories, but participants often forget they're working out, according to several area instructors, including Katie Frigge, who in April started teaching classes with Eliana Colmenares at both Miami

■ See ZUMBA on C8

## Craze blossoms in area

BY CHUCK SODER  
Staff Writer  
csoder@tdnpublishing.com

Pretty much every Zumba class in Ohio — including those in Miami County — can be traced to a dance session Joan Jones hosted in her living room.

She and her husband Doug teach a combined 12 classes per week in the Dayton area and were the first people in Ohio to teach Zumba, a combination of dance and aerobics set to Latin music. Their efforts led dozens more students to become certified instructors. "They kind of call us the godmother and godfather of Zumba," Jones said with a laugh.

The exercise craze took root in Ohio when Jones saw a Zumba infomercial about three and a half years ago.

It sounded interesting so she ordered some videos. Soon she had groups of up to 15 family and friends on her living room floor, dancing along. They met a few times a week for a month or two —

■ See CRAZE on C8

#### IT HAPPENED YEARS AGO

BY PATRICK KENNEDY  
For the Miami Valley Sunday News  
editorial@tdnpublishing.com

##### 25 Years Ago: July 16-22, 1981

■ Kami Mathews wants to prove she has the best backstroke in Ohio. If all goes well, she may even be able to swim in the Olympic Games in 1984. Kami, a Trojan, swims with the Dayton Raiders, a team which consists of the best swimmers in the Miami Valley. Kami is one of the best on a team which many think is one of the best swim organizations in the state. Sacrifice and commitment is the name of the game for Olympic hopefuls, and Kami may be ready to take that step.

■ COVINGTON — Saving the village's historic firehouse will

#### HIGHLIGHT IN HISTORY

##### 75 Years Ago: July 16-22, 1931

■ The city of Troy made a recent addition to its little "East-End Park" in the form of a fountain in the center of the park. The fountain is built of stone and was paid for by the city and the surrounding neighbors. The fountain is the work of Elmer Fish, who resides on the west side of the park on Main Street. Water Lilies, air plants, vines and goldfish add a nice accent to this tiny beauty spot located at the intersection of Franklin and Main streets.

require supporters to petition the board of elections to have the issue put on the November ballot. The petition is the only option now that the council voted the raze the building after a 90-day waiting period. The council vote, which was 3-1, came after a long discussion with about 20 residents in attendance.

Fritz Treon, who has consistently voted to save the building, was the only member to vote against the destruction measure. The petition drive requires signatures of 10 percent of Covington's residents who voted in the last gubernatorial election. The estimated cost of the repairs is about \$50,000.

##### 50 Years Ago: July 16-22, 1956

■ PIQUA — The Bethel Methodist Church on Loy Road was the setting for the wedding of Emma Louise Tobias and Arnold Eugene Clendenen. The new Mrs. Clendenen is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence J. Tobias, R.R. 2, Troy, and Mr. Clendenen is the son of the Rev. and Mrs. Carl B. Clendenen, of Newark, formerly of Troy. Miss Barbara Jean Tobias, sister of the bride, was the maid of honor, and Mr. Thomas Clendenen, brother of the bridegroom, was the best man. After a trip to the Smoky Mountains the couple will be with the bride's parents until Mr. Clendenen re-enlists with the U.S. Air Force. (Editor's note:

■ See YEARS AGO on C2