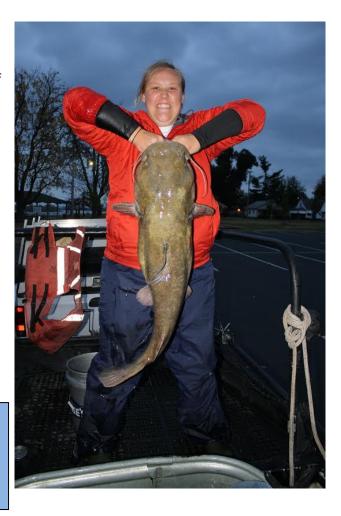# Emily Heppner

Graduated in Spring 2009
Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science

Hailing from Pickerington, OH, Emily Heppner discovered her passion for the environment after attending a summer science camp for high school students. The science camp was held by the University of Toledo (UT) Environmental Sciences Department (DES). She credits the camp as a major influence for choosing UT and perusing a career working with the environment. During Emily's undergraduate career, she primarily contributed to projects working on Geographic Information Systems (GIS) that dealt with invasive species in Colorado and mapping trees west of Toledo sickened with the emerald ash borer. In addition, she provided her assistance to many graduate students with their research projects at the Lake Erie Center involving water quality assessment and to Dr. Jon Bossenbroek and Dr. Hans Gottgens when they needed help sampling in the field. Lastly, she helped her fellow undergraduate and friend Phil Mathias on his mussel field survey of the Ottawa River.

"My UT education and experiences helped me tremendously in my career. It was through my many opportunities to work one on one with professors and graduate students on projects that gave me the skills I now use in my career."

The fieldwork experience she acquired from the various research projects as well as her environmental science courses at UT enabled Emily to land temporary jobs right after college at the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO), the Midwest Biodiversity Institute, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, and at the Sanitation District No. 1 of Northern Kentucky. Currently, Emily is working at Brown County Soil and Water Conservation District in Southern Ohio as a Watershed Coordinator. Her duties are to oversee the restoration of wetlands and stream function and habitat in the White Oak Creek watershed. This includes the removal of dams and reduction of nutrient runoff from nonpoint source pollutants from agricultural operations.