

RUSTY LUCAS
P.O. Box 422
SANDUSKY, OHIO 44871-0422

March 20, 2004

Children's Schoolhouse Nature Park
c/o Jolene Pilarczyk
9045 Baldwin Road
Kirtland Hills, Ohio 44060
ATTN: Toad Campaign

Dear Ms Pilarczyk:

Happy first day of Spring! It seems like just a short while ago that it was the first day of Autumn of 2003, and now all of a sudden it is Spring of 2004. MAN how time flies!

I know that you are busy people and I will get straight to the point. I saw that you were fighting to get the toad declared the state amphibian of Ohio and I want to hop onto your bandwagon. I noticed that the bullfrog was also in contention for this heralded position and I for one have to say that I am sick and tired of all the attention frogs get and the general lack of respect for toads. They all start out as tadpoles, but as they grow into their full adult selves, the frogs get all the glory and the toads get all the guff.

I used to have toads in my back yard when I was a little boy and I always felt a connection to them because my middle name is Thomas and I was always called Tommy the Toad by my friends. (It was actually a self imposed nickname, because I did not fancy being called Rusty the Rat which was their first choice, but Tommy the Toad caught on right quickly).

I was just talking to some dear friends of mine last week about toads and frogs and this is what I said: Hollywood and television are the media roots of all this frog propaganda. You've got Kermit the **Frog**; that opera singing **frog** from the Bugs Bunny cartoon; the Bud... Weis... Errrr **frogs** -- what kind of talent does it take to do that?; **Froggie** from the Little Rascals; Dig 'Em the **frog** mascot for Sugar Smacks cereal; Jeremiah, who was a **Bullfrog**; then they made a popular video game called **Frogger** about a **frog** (although he DOES get squashed by cars, he still has extra lives). It's all about frogs, frogs, frogs, frogs, frogs... And what recognition do toads get from the Hollywood media? Terry the Toad -- the geeky guy from the *American Graffiti* movie... and even HE tried to convince the ladies who didn't know him that his nickname was Terry the Tiger.

The pervasiveness of this pro frog and anti toad racism has got to stop! And naming the toad as the official state amphibian is just the place to start! I didn't know that you even had this campaign going on until I heard about it on national public radio. WHAT A COINCIDENCE that I was just recently expressing my ideas against toad bashing! My friends will verify this story and that I said all those things above. I could even get sworn affidavits if necessary.

I think you should get someone to start a petition (maybe *I* can even do that) to try to get equal rights for toads in Ohio and across the USA! Frogs get all of the recognition and I tell you that it is really the media spin doctoring and frog propaganda that segregates the frogs from the toads. We live in a frog elitist society and that is not right nor is it Christian. I don't know if you are saved people (if not, then you are of course damned to the eternal flames of hell), but I think you should play the religious card in this official Ohio Amphibian campaign. You need a catchy slogan for toads and I came up with the following acronym: TOAD = Tadpoles of Abba Daddy.

See, here's my thinking. The state motto of Ohio is "With God All Things Are Possible". They have that sunk right into the ground at the State House in Columbus. (I know, I have BEEN there and saw it with my own eyes). With that in mind, I think it is only logical for the official state amphibian to have a link to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and my daddy, Abba. See Abba is the name that Jesus Christ gave to his father. Loosely translated that word means "daddy". So now you can piece it all together and see how the slogan Tadpoles of Abba Daddy will probably single handedly push the toad votes over the top and squash those dumb old bullfrogs once and for all.

Please give my idea its due consideration and let me know if you are going to accept it. I would like to be included in the decision making process or at least be informed of your progress more than just the general public is informed. This is very important to me, so please do not shut me out. I do not wish to be involved in the public eye or make any speaking engagements as I am suffering from social anxiety stemming back to my childhood. But I would be willing to submit a drawing for use on any posters or other toad related materials. I took that correspondence art course that you see advertised on television all the time and they gave me a C+ on my art report card.

Sincerely,

Rusty Lucas

Rusty Lucas

p.s. I think it would be a good idea to do some clothing P.R. for this project -- maybe you could get someone to design a TOADS for Ohio baseball cap. I can tell you, friends, that I would wear one everywhere if I had one! If you do decide to make baseball caps, would I be able to get one for free since it was kind of my idea?



Lake Metroparks



NEW STATE AMPHIBIAN PROPOSAL

Dear Mr. Callender, I think Ohio's new state amphibian should be the "American Toad" because...

Toads are tadpoles of Abba daddy. God created all creatures including toads, but the propagandist media has not given toads any credit. They only like frogs. I think that toads should have more rights like being named the new Ohio state amphibian. Toads are fun to play with when they hop. I like to hop like a toad! The
End.

Name Rusty Lucas Age 32

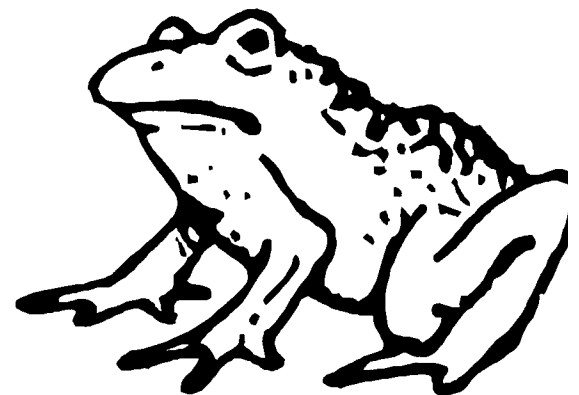
Equal Rights For Todds
Tadpoles of Abba Diddy



by Rusty Lucas

***Please mail this back to:
Children's Schoolhouse Nature Park
c/o Jolene Pilarczyk
9045 Baldwin Road
Kirtland Hills, OH 44060***

***We will be proposing
our nominee to our
State Representative
in 2004!
Thank you so much!***



**Lake County Probate Judge
Ted Klammer**

**Executive Director
David A. Noble**

**Board of Park Commissioners
Richard D. DiCicco
Ellen Foley Kessler
Rick Stenger**

**Deputy Director
Stephen W. Madewell**