

METRO NEWS

Akron, Cleveland abortion facilities close

Comment

Updated on July 14, 2017 at 5:35 PM, Posted on July 14, 2017 at 5:05 PM



Carlos Coates, 2, sits on the sidewalk outside of Preterm October 8, 2015. The number of abortion clinics in Ohio has been cut from sixteen to eight in recent years.(Gus Chan, The Plain Dealer)

By [Sabrina Eaton, cleveland.com](#), seaton@cleveland.com

AKRON, Ohio -- The [Akron Women's Medical Group](#) abortion clinic and an affiliated facility in [Cleveland](#) have closed, leaving Ohio with eight abortion clinics -- half the number in 2011.

The physician who owns both facilities, Gerald Grossman, could not be reached.

Anti-abortion volunteers who routinely staked out the Akron clinic had noticed temporary shutdowns before at the East Market Street facility, but this summer's closure was different. For Right to Life of Northeast Ohio executive director Diane Leipold, the permanent shutdown is cause for celebration.

"We are very happy that they've closed, but we're keeping our radar up," Leipold said. "As much as we want this clinic to close, we want people to make better choices and use the other alternatives available."

Northeast Ohio women can still obtain abortions at facilities in Bedford, [Cleveland](#) and Cuyahoga Falls, NARAL Pro-Choice Ohio Executive Director Kellie Copeland said. Columbus also has abortion providers.

There's an issue in Cuyahoga Falls, too. The medical license of the doctor who owns and operates the Northeast Ohio Women's Center there, David Burkons, was suspended by the State Medical Board of Ohio this week. [Ohio Right to Life said](#) the board suspended Burkons' license for six months after an investigation revealed he signed blank prescriptions.

Because Burkons has also performed abortions in other clinics, Ohio Right to Life executive director Devin Scribner predicted "the suspension of this license is sure to rock Ohio's abortion industry for at least the next six months."

In an interview, Burkons confirmed his license has been suspended, but said it was due to a few minor paperwork violations, none of which resulted in his prescriptions being used for "pill mills." Burkons said he was able to get other doctors to cover his abortion clinic work.

He said the Akron and Cleveland clinics closed because the doctor who operated them "had to retire for health reasons, and they don't have a replacement for him."

"Abortion is under attack in Ohio, but my particular situation of being off for six months will not have any effect at all," said Burkons. "I made arrangements to make sure that it doesn't."

Copeland said the Ohio Department of Health [has targeted abortion clinics](#) for shut-down under anti-abortion Gov. John Kasich by subjecting them to requirements that don't apply to other medical facilities.



[Abortion clinics close in Ohio amid flurry of new restrictions](#)

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — The number of abortion providers in Ohio has shrunk by half amid a flurry of restrictive new laws over the past four years, and the number of the procedures also is declining, according to a review of records by The Associated Press. Both sides agree the added limits and hurdles placed on Ohio abortions have played...

For example, the state is currently trying to shutter clinics in Dayton and Toledo that couldn't meet a new requirement that they have transfer agreements with nearby hospitals after Ohio's anti-abortion legislature blocked the hospitals from contracting with them.

"This is ridiculous because in the very rare instance that a patient has an emergency and needs to be transferred, the hospital is required under federal law to treat that patient," said Copeland. "The idea that this is somehow a patient safety issue is absurd. That's the thing that's been upsetting. You have clinics that are providing safe, quality care and they are being shut down over administrative traps that have nothing to do with patient safety."

ADVERTISING

Ohio Right to Life sent its supporters an ecstatic email about the latest closures, attributing the reduced number of clinics to 19 new "pro-life" state laws, and grassroots efforts by its affiliates.

"The last thing Ohio needs right now (or ever) is more abortion clinics," the organization said. "In 2015, 20,976 abortions were reported to the Ohio Department of Health. That's 25 percent lower than 2010. We've made progress, but we still have a long way to go to reach our goal: Zero."

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Dung beetles and their researchers are rare species: CMNH scientist makes discoveries (photos)

Updated on July 15, 2017 at 6:50 AM, Posted on July 15, 2017 at 6:50 AM



5

Gallery: Cleveland Museum of Natural History breakthrough with dung beetles

By [Grant Segall, The Plain Dealer](#), gsegall@plaind.com

CLEVELAND, Ohio -- Researchers from the [Cleveland Museum of Natural History](#) have discovered many impressive species around the world, from dinosaurs to Lucy the early hominid.

Now they've bagged [dung beetles](#).

These barely visible creatures who dine on droppings may lack the glamor of mighty mammals. No one makes movies about them like "Jurassic Park" or "Planet of the Apes."

But museum researcher Nicole Gunter says the beetles play a big role in the environment: recycling waste.

With Thomas Weir, a fellow researcher in her native Australia, Gunter co-published a peer-approved paper July 7 in the journal "Zootaxa" about 13 species of dung beetles from that country. The scientists:

- Found the only known specimen of a new species
- Identified five other new species for which specimens had already been found
- Identified two new genera (the plural of genus, a group of related species)
- Reclassified six species from previous genera
- Reported new details about a 13th species

The many people who toil in the museum's sprawling basement are a rather rare species themselves. They can be identified mostly by their discoveries, pranks and puns.

So please forgive Gunter's favorite joke: "A dung beetle walks into the bar and asks, 'Is this stool taken?'"

She also likes to explain how she provides bait to trap dung beetles in the wilds. Sorry, but the answer's no joke. She adds with a sigh, "The things we do for science!"

Gunter started her career by researching parasites. "I have three species of parasites named for me, and I'm very proud of them," she says. "But you can't catch my tapeworm. You're not a shark."

Gunter started a "side project" on dung beetles that grew full-time and more. She spent the past six years researching the ones that ended up in the journal. She named the two new genera *Matthewsius* and *Monteithocanthon* after leading researchers in the field.

She joined the museum three years ago as collections manager of invertebrate zoology. But she keeps visiting Australia about once a year and finding specimens in scattered remnants of rain forests.

"Dung beetles are actually very interesting," she says. "Most people just assume that feeding on dung is disgusting. But it's a really unique adaptation."

Mother and father beetles roll up dung into little balls. Crawling backwards, they push or pull the balls back to the burrows for their babies and larvae.

Dung beetles are seldom longer than 5 millimeters, or about 0.2 inches. They live in many parts of the world, including ours.

But Australia's roughly 450 species are quite different from the ones elsewhere, having evolved mostly to feed on the waste of kangaroos and other marsupials, as well as birds, carrion and more. As the ranks of marsupials thins out, the beetles have begun to live mostly on decaying mushrooms.

Gunter analyses them by studying their genetic material and their bodies. She classifies species and genera by subtle differences in sizes, shapes, setae (bristles) and other features.

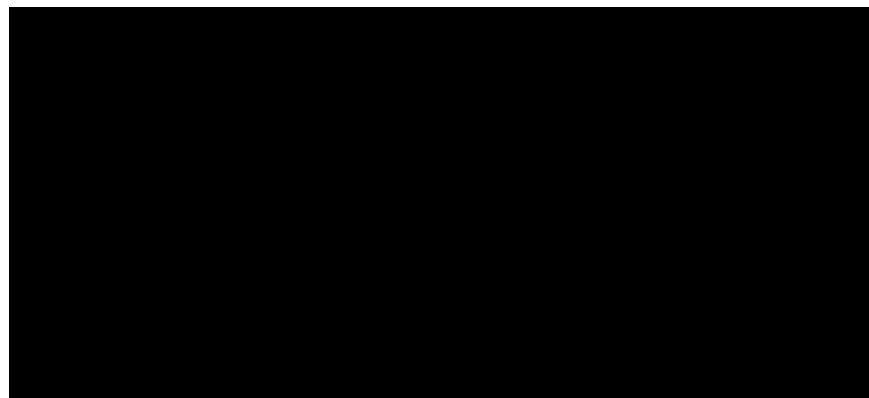
Long before this month's publication, Gunter and Weir began working on newer species. They've already found more than 50. But she says there's far more than a lifetime of work left in the field.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Drinking beer is hard work on the BrewBoat (video)

Updated on July 15, 2017 at 6:03 AM, Posted on July 15, 2017 at 6:00 AM





By [David Petkiewicz, cleveland.com](#)

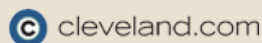
CLEVELAND, Ohio - If you've always wanted to tour the Cuyahoga River on a paddle boat while enjoying your favorite beer or wine, here's your chance. Only, there's a catch, you have to power the boat. Officially it's a "human-powered cycle boat."

[The BrewBoat](#) is a unique way to experience the serenity of cruising the river while doing "some" of the work to keep the boat going. Passengers pedal the boat all while sitting at a "bar" drinking the beverages that you brought on board. The boat holds up to 14 passengers who are allowed to bring 36 ounces of beer or 18 ounces of wine as well as food.

Be careful how much you drink because on the hour and 45 minute tour there are no rest stops and if you REALLY have to go, there's only a bucket.

Although the passengers are powering the boat, there is a captain who navigates the river for you so that you can enjoy the ride. So, the next time you want to drink and ride, this is one of the most fun ways to do it (just make sure you have a designated driver for the ride home).

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