



Natural Ohio

Bob Taft, Governor • Sam Speck, Director • Stu Lewis, Chief

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Sharing experience... from preserve manager to CCC intern



As budget restrictions loomed, the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves (DNAP) turned to the Ohio Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) to help fill the gaps left by reduced funding. The resulting partnership benefits both ODNR divisions by providing natural resource education opportunities for young corpsmembers and critical assistance for Ohio's nature preserves, natural areas and scenic rivers.

"The DNAP/CCC partnership is a win-win situation. Corpsmembers benefit from the opportunity to gain experience working on natural areas projects and citizens of Ohio benefit from the work being done," said Sally Prouty, chief of the CCC.

This spirit of cooperation has marked many of the projects being accomplished by staff from both divisions. The work is varied and includes helping with construction, ecological management, trail upgrades, sign making and installation, general maintenance and capital projects. In exchange, DNAP managers are working side

by side with corpsmembers and teaching them a variety of jobs, like learning to identify and remove invasive plant species and proper herbicide use.

"Reductions in our budget are being eased with the help of CCC and the division is grateful for their willingness to support our projects and preservation priorities. They are truly helping us to do more," said DNAP's Chief Stu Lewis.

One particular CCC-DNAP partnership involves placing corpsmembers at specific nature preserve sites. These internships enable preserve managers to share their experience and knowledge with young corpsmembers, in one-on-one settings. Phil Zito, southeastern Ohio district preserve manager, is currently working with a CCC intern and shares his thoughts on the partnership below.

When I hear the word, "internship," I think of two things. The first is, "great, I've got someone to help out at the preserves," and the other is, "great, I've got a chance to teach someone as much as I can about natural history and the operations of state nature preserves."

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The Elm Lady of the Forest

Ranks of American elms once lined streets and walkways in cities across Ohio and the eastern United States. Those avenues of stately elms are now only memories. A tiny fungus devastated the elms in the last half of the 20th century.

Elms are members of the genus *Ulmus* in the *Ulmaceae* or elm family. They are restricted to temperate regions of the Northern Hemisphere. Four species of elms are established in the Ohio flora— three are native and one was introduced from Asia.

The American or white elm, *Ulmus americanus*, is the largest of our native species. It may reach up to 130 feet in height. Mature trees have an elegant vase shape, with crowns spreading more than 100 feet. The Ohio champion tree is in Spring Grove Cemetery in Cincinnati. It's nearly 100 feet tall. The American elm grows rather quickly, but does not fruit before the tree is 35-40 years old.

American elms were significant components of swamp forests, floodplain woods and wetlands throughout Ohio. They were extensively planted for their symmetrical appearance, as well as being valuable lumber trees.

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From the Chief The tightening state budget

Unfortunately, as many of you know, the State of Ohio is facing growing budget challenges in the current biennium. The Division of Natural Areas and Preserves, like many other agencies, is operating under a very tight budget.

Our district preserve managers are already stretched thin, protecting and managing their assigned preserves. Each manager is responsible for six to 12 sites in a multi-county region. Managers perform routine maintenance (trail work, mowing, etc.), law enforcement, programming and ecological management (habitat work including burning, herbicide application, etc.).

The bottom line—our preserve managers must conduct all routine maintenance on our 123 sites without seasonal help. It is impossible to accomplish all those tasks without additional assistance, which is why programming, both on-site and off, will be limited in the future.

Traditional special events, such as the Lakeside Daisy Open House, Cranberry Bog Open House and Conkle's Hollow Fall Foliage Tour, will continue to be held.

As you may guess, further budget restrictions would mean additional reductions in services, but the division remains committed to carrying out its primary mission of protection and preservation.

On behalf of the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves, please accept my apologies for any inconvenience, as well as my appreciation for your patience, understanding and support.

Stu Lewis, Chief

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Internships, like the one I've recently entered into with Angie Sucher, a corpsmember from the Zaleski CCC camp, benefits both of us. For me, it's a relief to have assistance with all the mowing, trail trimming and equipment maintenance, so I can direct my energies towards other aspects of preserve management.

For Angie, not only will she be able to use the training she's receiving from CCC, but now she's adding to it. Having a good working knowledge of mowers, weed trimmers, chain saws and loppers may not be what many people think is needed on a resume when applying for positions at the department, but a good portion of my time is spent with these tools.



Preserve manager Phil Zito with CCC intern Angie Sucher.

But, there's a lot more to my position than power equipment. I want Angie to gain as much knowledge and experience as possible during her time with the division. So, she's also learning to track the budget, pay bills, respond to public inquiries and perform office-related jobs.

Angie has also become a trained technician who is able to handle pesticides under my direction, and she plays an integral role in conducting ecological management at preserves like Lake Katharine and Compass Plant.

When we're out in the field, I'm always pointing out plants of interest to her, and to my delight, I've found she's much better at bird calls than I. So, now I'm learning those from her.

That's the spirit of internship. Sharing. She's making my job easier by assisting or taking over some aspects of preserve management, while I take the role of mentor, extending my experience to an eager young mind.

**Phil Zito, Southeast District
Preserve Manager**

Turning a love of nature into a career

Angie Sucher is a typical 20-year-old, balancing a job and college while deciding on her professional future. Unlike her classmates, who may be earning tuition fees by working in a retail or foodservice job, Sucher is a full-time corpsmember with the Ohio Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC).

For Sucher, joining the Ohio CCC was a way to get her foot into the door of the Department of Natural Resources, as well as help her pay for her last year of college.

"I've had a love of nature all my life and I wanted to learn as much as possible in the natural resources field," said Sucher. "I knew working at the preserve with Phil (Zito, southeast district preserve manager) would be a good opportunity, so I jumped on it."

Sucher, who is from the Cincinnati area and now lives in Albany and attends Hocking College, spends each day differently. Her duties range from trimming branches and clearing trails at Lake Katharine State Nature Preserve to offering her clerical skills in the preserve's office.

Sucher will be adding eco-management to her list of experiences, because she is now learning how to apply herbicides to manage invasive plant species.

"I've mainly done trail maintenance, which is wonderful because the preserve is a beautiful place to be," said Sucher. "We've also visited other preserves which is great because Phil is sharing all he knows about trees, habitats, wildlife, wildflowers and more."

Described as "very talented," by Zito, Sucher will continue her internship at Lake Katharine until the end of the year. Her plans after that include finishing both college and her last year as a CCC corpsmember.

Permanent protection along Little Beaver Creek State Wild and Scenic River

Little Beaver Creek's clear waters, heavily-wooded river banks and abundance of animal and plant species remind visitors of a time long gone in Ohio.

Since 1974, Scenic Rivers staff with the division have been striving to protect the qualities of this wild and scenic waterway. More than a quarter of a century later, the division joined with local partners to celebrate the conservation of one of the state's most pristine rivers.

Much has been accomplished through the years, but not without the cooperation of local partners—the Little Beaver Creek Wild and Scenic River Advisory Council, the Vodrey Family, Columbiana Soil and Water Conservation District, Little Beaver Creek Land Foundation and the ODNR divisions of Forestry, Parks and Recreation, Soil and Water and Natural Areas and Preserves.

At the heart of this local preservation project is Beaverkettle Farms and the Vodrey family which owns much of the land surrounding the dedicated segments of Little Beaver Creek. Because of the conservation efforts and willingness to permanently protect their land, the Vodrey family has been key to the success of this 27-year-long project.

The 10-member Little Beaver Creek Wild and Scenic River Advisory Council are dedicated volunteers who give their time and effort to help the division preserve and protect scenic river miles. Advisory council members provide important advice for environmental reviews of projects that may impact Little Beaver Creek. They lead a river watch "stream team" to keep a watchful eye on potential threats, and council members regularly assist with river cleanups and public awareness programs.

Initially, plans were developed to identify the highest quality areas along Little Beaver Creek that needed permanent protection through either purchase or conservation easements. Contributions to the Natural Areas Tax

Checkoff Program and sales of Scenic Rivers license plates generated badly-needed funds for priority land acquisition projects. Having willing sellers was the last vital piece needed to start protection efforts.

In 1986 the division purchased its first significant piece of property along the 51-mile Little Beaver Creek—the 457-acre Sheepskin Hollow State Nature Preserve, formerly known as Little Beaver Creek State Nature Preserve.

Sheepskin Hollow is located along the North Fork tributary and is an outstanding example of an eastern hemlock and mixed mesophytic forest, or trees requiring medium moisture conditions, such as beech, sugar maple, wild black cherry and red and white oaks. There are no developed preserve trails, but those hardy enough to walk up the ravine will enjoy two scenic waterfalls as a small tributary cascades over outcroppings of Pennsylvanian sandstone and shale on its way down to the North Fork.

In 1986 the division also purchased two conservation easements totaling 1,065 acres. One of these easements is on the North Fork and the other is on the main stem. These easements protect Little Beaver Creek as it flows through heavily-forested buffers bounded by steep slopes with the only disturbance being an occasional trail.

By 1993 additional land protection efforts along the designated miles were underway to help with the protection of Little Beaver Creek. The Little Beaver Creek Land Foundation, a local, private non-profit land trust, has been successful in protecting several properties with permanent conservation easements.

In 1998 ODNR's Division of Forestry purchased 1,122 acres on the southern portion of the river, creating the Beaver Creek State Forest. A management plan, presently being developed, will determine the types of uses permitted in this area. One of the major management challenges is controlling the use of illegal all-terrain vehicles.

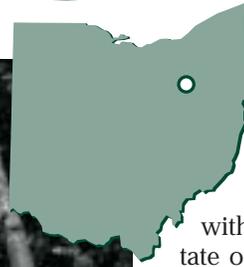
The division, working with the Little Beaver Creek Land Foundation and the Columbiana Soil and Water Conservation District, also received a NatureWorks Streambanking grant. Most recently these efforts resulted in the purchase of an additional 1,347 acres of conservation easement along the wild designated river miles of Little Beaver Creek.

Collectively, the ownership of these properties and conservation easements will help preserve 19.4 miles along the river. Continued hard work and creative land management in the years to come will ensure that Little Beaver Creek and its pristine watershed will continue to receive the protection it richly deserves. 🌿

*Steve Roloson,
Northeast Scenic River
Regional Manager*

Jackson Bog

State Nature Preserve



(winding or narrow ridges of sand or gravel) or outwash terraces. Nevertheless, the till in this location is rich in calcium and magnesium deposits, and the springs bring these materials to the surface where an unusual assemblage of plants is found.

Jackson Bog, which is actually a fen or alkaline bog, is characterized by open meadows, some with seeps of marl. Marl is a precipitate of calcium or magnesium bicarbonate that gives the meadow an alkaline chemistry with a pH of 7.5 or higher. In these mineral-rich, poorly oxygenated conditions, a community of unusual and rare species is found.

In some meadows, insect-eating pitcher-plants dominate while in others, twig-rushes and shrubby cinquefoil thrive. Queen-of-the-prairie can also be found in one of the meadows.

Pitcher-plants, as well as the round-leaved sundew, grow in and around the seep areas. They are able to obtain nitrogen and trace minerals by attracting and trapping insects. Normally found in acid bogs, Jackson Bog is one of only two fens in Ohio where pitcher-plant grows.



Have you ever wondered what the landscape looked like 5,000 to 10,000 years ago? The fens of Jackson Bog State Nature Preserve and their environs are really a window to a time when Ohio was just emerging from the Ice Age, when the plants and animals were much different than those we see today.

Because of the conditions in and around the fens, the plant communities that colonized this area as the climate warmed are still alive and well (in a manner of speaking). The open meadows and marl seeps probably look much the same as when mastodons and saber-toothed cats roamed the countryside. Some of the rare plants have been here for thousands of years, thriving much as they did at the close of the Pleistocene Epoch.

Jackson Bog, a 57-acre preserve in northern Stark County, represents one of the finest remaining fens in Ohio. Owned by the Jackson Township Local Board of Education, Township Trustees and DNAP, the area became a dedicated state nature preserve in 1980. Jackson Bog is a unique relict of Ohio's Ice Age.

Beginning more than a million years ago, at least four major continental ice sheets advanced into Ohio. The most recent glacier, named the Wisconsinan, bulldozed its way south from eastern Canada and lumbered across much of North America about 25,000 years ago. The glacier carried millions of tons of rocks and other debris, completely altering the local landscape. For thousands of years, Jackson Township lay under a blanket of ice, hundreds to thousands of feet thick.

Jackson Bog is a natural community characterized by a series of robust springs issuing from the toes of several low, glacial hills. The glacial geology of the area is complex and geologists disagree on whether the hills are kames (hills or short, steep ridges of stratified sand or gravel), eskers

In the areas below the seep zones, the dominant plant is the shrubby cinquefoil, a woody shrub. Its pale yellow flowers with five petals can be seen throughout the summer. Shrubby cinquefoil is the most abundant plant of the fen community.

Lines of low trees and shrubs in places that are farther away from the springs and which are higher and drier punctuate the meadows. Typical plants of these stands include poison sumac and speckled alder, as well as willow, dogwood and viburnum.

In late summer, the fen comes alive with spectacular color as wildflowers of all description add their hues to the glorious scene. Joe-pye weed, golden-rods, asters, mints and the rare fringed gentian are just a few of the wonderful inhabitants of the fen.

In recent years invasive plants, such as purple loosestrife, European buckthorn and narrow-leaved cattail, have presented a serious threat to the long-term survival of the fen and its unusual plant community. Division staff are attempting to control these harmful exotics by systematically removing them from the highest quality areas of Jackson Bog.



Ecological management or “eco-management” may involve hand removal of plants or treatment with a wetlands-approved herbicide. The objective is to remove the threat of aggressive plant species, while maintaining the character of the fen.

The bog is getting some extra special attention these days; a 4,200 foot recycled plastic boardwalk is being built. The boardwalk trail will bring the spring seeps and meadows into view of visitors to the preserve. The trail is

scheduled to be open in early 2002; it will be accessible from parking lots at either end of the South Park complex of the Jackson Township Park on Fulton Road.

The preserve is open to the public from daylight to dusk. For further information, please contact the preserve manager at (330) 527-5118. 🌿

*Emliss Ricks, Northeast District
Preserve Manager*

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Alas, disease has decimated American elm populations throughout North America.

The Dutch elm fungus, *Ceratocytis ulmi*, first appeared in this country in the 1930s. The fungus grows within the living tissues of the tree, clogging water vessels, wilting and ultimately killing infected branches. Common bark beetles spread the disease from tree to tree; spraying for the beetles is a temporary measure only. There's no permanent treatment. Dutch elm fungus affects all species of native elms, but the American elm is the most susceptible.

Today, the most commonly-found elm, the red or slippery elm, *Ulmus rubra*, is found across Ohio. It is smaller and more irregularly shaped than the American elm and grows in a wide range of woodlands. The common names refer to the orange-red, slimy inner bark. The bark has been widely used in folk medicine. Slippery elm tablets are still sold to promote salivation and relieve coughs.

The rarest Ohio elm is *Ulmus thomasi*, the rock elm. This threatened species grows at a few scattered sites in central and northwest Ohio. Its habitats are diverse. Rock elm is equally at home on limestone outcrops or in floodplain forests. Its name does not refer to its preferred habitat but to the toughness and durability of its wood.

Never a commonly-found species in Ohio, the stress of Dutch elm disease has reduced the rock elm to a rarity. The two largest Ohio populations are on Kelleys Island in Erie County and at Goll Woods State Nature Preserve in Fulton County.

Siberian elm, *Ulmus pumila*, is widely planted as a substitute for American elm. This hardy and adaptable species is resistant to disease and pollution. The wood unfortunately is brittle, so its shape is never as symmetrical as that of the American elm. Siberian elm has spread beyond cultivation in Ohio and is often seen in disturbed habitats.

Foresters are continuing to battle Dutch elm disease in this country. Attempts are being made to develop resistant American elms, as well as to hybridize that species with Siberian elm. Let's wish these researchers well. It would be wonderful to have American elms reclaim their former place of honor in Ohio's landscape. 🌿

Allison Cusick, Chief Botanist

Did you know?

- Because of Dutch elm disease, the elm population dropped from 77 million to 34 million by 1976.
- Fully mature elm trees can live as long as 300 years.
- Elms first appeared in the Miocene period—about 40 million years ago.
- The Iroquois Indians used elm bark to make canoes, rope and utensils.



THINGS THAT SLITHER

FRIEND OR FOE?

The black rat snake is a creature of the forest— an accomplished climber, often sheltering in cavities high up in trees.

Preserve managers get their share of wildlife identification calls from concerned citizens. I remember a recent call one evening— a woman called to say there was a big, black snake in her neighborhood and she was afraid for the pets and kids. According to her, the police weren't any help. They didn't seem to know what it was, but one officer suggested it might be a pet boa constrictor on the loose.

Black rat snakes are constrictors, suffocating their prey by coiling themselves around it

I find it's not wise to give a medical diagnosis or snake identification over the phone, but given what I heard, I felt fairly confident in the attempt. "Sounds like you've got a black rat snake," I said, "In which case, you've got a valuable ally."

Rat snakes eat just what their name implies: rats, mice, small mammals, rodents and an occasional small bird or bird eggs. These snakes are not at all interested in dogs, cats or children.

They can grow to an impressive 8 feet in length, although 4-6 feet is more common. It's no doubt the police officer was confused. To people unfamiliar with the great diversity of snakes found in the eastern United States, anything bigger than a garter

snake must be imported. The officer was partially correct in his guess. Black rat snakes are constrictors, suffocating their prey by coiling themselves around it.

The caller also mentioned that the neighborhood snake had a faint pattern. That, too, is a common trait of black rat snakes. Although adults are most often a shiny black, the young are pale gray with darker blotches of color along the back and sides. They darken as they age, and by the time the young snake reaches 3 feet in length, the patterning has become faintly visible.

The black rat snake is a creature of the forest— an accomplished climber, often sheltering in cavities high up in trees. Because of the disappearance of much of Ohio's forest cover, these snakes often move into uninhabited or rarely-used structures.

We often found them draped from the rafters of the old storage building at Clifton Gorge State Nature Preserve when we'd open for the day. We didn't bother them—except for the one that made the mistake of sunning itself across two panels of the big sliding door at the front of the building—and they didn't bother us. Not surprisingly, we didn't have many mice or birds in the building.

Big though they are, these snakes prefer to remain motionless when surprised or approached, hoping to

blend into the background. If threatened, they will often vibrate their tail rapidly and strike repeatedly. They have no rattles, but if their tail happens to hit dry leaves, it might sound as if they do. If picked up, black rat snakes will coil around the offending arm and release a foul-smelling odor. If the captor is patient and gentle, the snake usually calms down, becoming a pliant, albeit an unhappy, captive.

These snakes are not at all interested in dogs, cats or children.

If black rat snakes have one unfortunate trait, it is their willingness to hibernate with other snakes, most notably copperheads and rattlesnakes. This association led to another of their common names, the pilot black snake, given in the erroneous belief that they led their venomous cousins to their hideouts. Unfortunately it also led to the wholesale slaughter of black rat snakes along with their den-mates.

As one of the chief predators of destructive rodents, black rat snakes are one of the most valuable animals in the state. Their contribution to our economy and well-being may be little known and certainly less appreciated, but that does not make them less important. 🌿

*Tim Snyder, West Central District
Preserve Manager*

Invasive Plants of Ohio

Twenty-five years of managing our nature preserves has brought a variety of crucial challenges for the division's preserve management staff. One of the most difficult has been the impact of invasive, non-native plants.

About one-quarter of the plants growing in Ohio originated from other parts of the continent or world. These species, often called non-native, exotic or alien, were not known to occur in Ohio prior to European settlement in the mid 1700s.



teasel

Some of Ohio's invasive plants arrived here by accident, while others were introduced for agricultural use, erosion control, horticulture, forage crops, medicinal use and food for wildlife. Some plants, such as purple loosestrife and teasel, may have been introduced by early settlers to remind themselves of "home."

Multiflora rose was once promoted by local soil and water conservation districts as a "living fence" for soil conservation and wildlife habitat. Like other species we've come to recognize as invasive, landowners soon discovered that it began to invade their fields.

Before we understood the threats of invasive plants, several ODNR divisions promoted the use of bush honeysuckles and autumn-olive for wildlife habitat.

Other invasive, non-native plants are commercially available, primarily as cultivars like glossy buckthorn and Japanese honeysuckle.

What is an invasive plant?

Invasive plants are usually characterized by fast growth rates, high fruit production, rapid vegetative spread and efficient seed dispersal and germination. Since these plants are not native to Ohio, they lack the natural predators and diseases which would naturally control them in their native habitats.

Which plant species are invasive in Ohio's natural areas?

The division has compiled a list of more than 60 plants that are currently impacting nature preserves, wildlife areas, parks and forests throughout the state. Some of the top invasive non-native plants include: bush honeysuckles (Amur, Morrow and Tatarian), buckthorn (glossy and common), garlic mustard, purple loosestrife, common reed grass, reed canary grass, autumn and Russian olive, multiflora rose, Japanese honeysuckle, narrow-leaved cattail, Canada thistle and tree-of-heaven.

Are all exotic plants invasive?

No, most non-native plants are not invasive in natural areas, which includes any area managed for natural habitats. Of the more than 700 non-native plants in Ohio, fewer than 100 are known to truly "invade" their natural settings. Invasive plants, whether they are native or non-native, have the ability to take over native plant communities, forming monocultures and displacing native plants.

Why is plant diversity important?

If your lawn is primarily a monoculture of Kentucky bluegrass, it may be effective in maintaining a manicured look, but it will not sustain a diversity of animal species. Similarly, a wetland dominated by purple loosestrife cannot sustain a diversity of native wetland plants or animals. A woodland dominated by garlic mustard and bush honeysuckle will not enable a variety of wildflowers to grow.

What if I have some of these plants on my property?

If those plants stay within the boundaries of your property and do not impact any adjacent natural areas, then maybe they are not a problem. If they move (by

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Tackling Invasive Plants in Preserves

Managing invasive plants is a critical issue for our state nature preserves, because the very characteristics which help these plants flourish, make them difficult to control. Traditional management tools, such as hand pulling the most aggressive plants, is labor-intensive and unsuccessful at eradicating alien plants long-term.

Encouraged by Stu Lewis, chief of DNAP, preserve staff began to look at new methods of controlling invasive plants, including the wise use of herbicides. The division works with Noxious Vegetative Control Inc. (NOVCO), a Columbus-based company, which recently teamed with the division to develop improved ways of fighting invasive plant species in preserves.

"Invasive plants overtaking native plant communities is a very serious problem in our preserves," said Lewis. "Twenty years ago, I would never have envisioned using herbicides in state nature preserves, but today, it's a different story."

Lewis explained that NOVCO, which has experience with herbicides and works with Dow Agro Sciences to develop new applications, provided training to the division, giving field staff new ways of efficiently applying herbicides. Herbicides have become an effective tool in curbing invasive plant infestation, while protecting native plant species.

"Our main concern is being able to effectively rid our preserves of invasive species, but in a manner that protects, not harms, the native flora in our preserves," said Lewis.

According to Ron Demmy, field operations administrator for the division, preserve managers have successfully controlled more invasive plant species this year, than in the last five years combined.

"This problem is very real," said Demmy. "Effective techniques are only just emerging to meet an ecological challenge that will only increase as more invasive plants gain a foothold in our preserves." 🌱

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seed dispersal or vegetative means), they may invade a natural area and displace native plants. Often, invasive plants do not appear aggressive upon initial introduction, but given the right conditions they will spread quickly over time.

Land managing agencies throughout Ohio and the United States spend immense funds and staff time controlling or eradicating invasive species to maintain natural woodlands, wetlands, prairies, savannas and lakes. Most invasive plants are difficult to control and require the use of manual and chemical techniques. It is best to control invasive species before they dominate an area, when populations are small.

The division offers a brochure, fact sheets, an invasive plant list and a list of alternative plants, all free to the public. To learn more about invasive plants in Ohio, contact the division at (614) 265-6468. 🌿

*Jennifer L. Windus,
Research & Monitoring Section*

Help Protect Ohio's Special Places

Please use Line 25 on your income tax form to donate to the preservation of Ohio's nature preserves and scenic rivers.

It's easy to support the preservation of Ohio's natural heritage through the Natural Areas Checkoff program.

Taxpayers may donate any portion of their Ohio state income tax refund to support natural areas acquisitions, education programs, scientific research and protection of threatened and endangered species.

Please use Line 25 on your income tax form to donate to the preservation of Ohio's nature preserves and scenic rivers. Your generous donation helps protect high-quality scenic rivers, significant native plant communities, such as

bogs, prairies, oak savannas and old growth woodlands, and numerous rare plant and animal species.

Today, only scattered remnants of Ohio's unspoiled natural landscape remain as tributes to the state's proud natural heritage. Join the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves... together we can make a difference!



PRESERVING NATURE TODAY FOR THE NEEDS OF TOMORROW

The Division of Natural Areas and Preserves' Mission Statement
Administer a system of nature preserves and scenic rivers by identifying and protecting Ohio's significant natural features.

Vision Statement
Leading Ohio in the stewardship of its natural heritage.

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