

continues from page 10

when he was hired in 1976, "the concept of state nature preserves was so new that only a few had even heard of them."

According to Skalski, preserves were often confused with parks or game reserves—a problem that still occurs today, although to a much lesser degree.

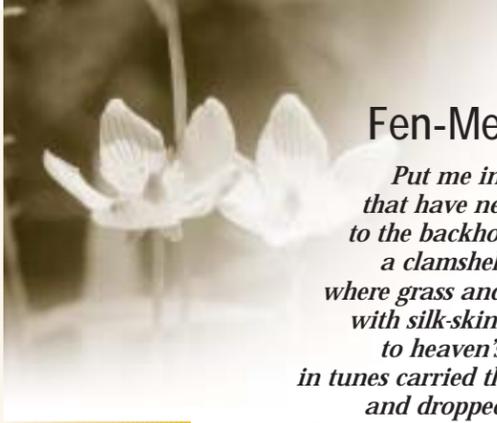
In the beginning, two philosophies of management contended for dominance. One camp believed that natural processes should be allowed to take their course with no manipulation of the resource permitted. The other camp saw preserves as being more like parks, complete with recreational facilities, campgrounds and educational opportunities.

Skalski remembers "serious and sometimes heated discussions" as staff hammered out a guiding philosophy for the division. Early on, there were discussions about using mechanical equipment, such as chain saws and other power tools in nature preserves; hand tools were thought to be

sufficient. Management techniques were very different than those used today. Invasive alien plants were not controlled, and anyone "...setting fire to a preserve would have been...out of a job."

During my own 19 years with the division, I too have noticed many changes, but there are some things that never change. The same dedication to the protection of Ohio's natural heritage that inspired the pioneers of the preservation movement a quarter of a century ago still motivates the men and women of the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves. Their accumulated knowledge and experience ensures that the next 25 years will be even more rewarding. 🌿

Tim Snyder, West Central District preserve manager



Fen-Meadow

*Put me in places
that have never fallen
to the backhoe, nor seen
a clamshell shovel,
where grass and sedge dance
with silk-skinned orchid
to heaven's delight
in tunes carried through the eons
and dropped to earth
from the pure, moistened hands of angels...
Beyond the sweep of tree line,
below the hill,
nestled where sweet springs
pour out their sacred jewels
as silver braids
across shining marl flats
amongst verdant cushions
of cool, deep sphagnum;
and there, in naked beauty,
to blush in praise
of summer's pliant kisses;
huckleberried and sundewed,
bubbling with boundless joy as they
toss their clear, cold waters
through unseen gardens
and across the still secret landscapes...*

*Emliss Ricks,
Northeast Region
preserve manager*



DIVISION OF NATURAL AREAS AND PRESERVES

Natural Ohio

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

Vol. 23, No. 3

Summer 2001

25 YEARS OF PRESERVING OHIO'S NATURAL HERITAGE

The Division of Natural Areas and Preserves is celebrating its 25th anniversary. Although the division may have been "officially" born on June 2, 1976 with the passage of Amended Substitute House Bill 972, its roots go farther back.

Ohio's preservation movement didn't begin when legislators in Columbus passed the nation's first scenic rivers law in 1968, nor did it begin with the Natural Areas Act of 1970. But, the latter bill enabled the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) to begin administering a system of state nature preserves and to acquire, dedicate and accept the dedication of public and private lands for state nature preserves. It authorized the department to manage and protect those preserves for educational and scientific reasons, as well as allow visitors to experience the richness of Ohio's natural heritage.

Ohio's Natural Areas Act of 1970 set the stage for creating the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves. As soon as the act became law, ODNR began acquiring state nature preserves. Early acquisitions included Mentor Marsh in Lake County and Fowler Woods in Richland County.

ODNR staff, led by Richard E. Moseley, Jr. and working under the Office of Program and Planning, spent the first year's budget of \$400,000 acquiring 14 properties totaling 632 acres. The Natural Areas Act of 1970 also created the Ohio Natural Areas Council, a citizen advisory board, which reviews and makes recommendations on acquisition and dedication of state nature



preserves. Four members represent natural history museums, metropolitan park districts, colleges and universities, and outdoor education programs. The council meets quarterly and continues to play an instrumental role.

With each administration that followed over the next five years, the section

continues on page 2



**Message
from Director
Samuel W. Speck**
*Ohio Department
of Natural
Resources*

Twenty-five years ago this spring, as a state representative from eastern Ohio, I was honored to be House Sponsor of Am. Sub. House Bill 972, the Natural Areas Act of 1976. I doubt that any of us who gathered to watch Governor Jim Rhodes sign that bill— even the farsighted governor himself— had any inkling of all that would be accomplished over the following quarter-century.

We knew we were strengthening Ohio's commitment to protecting its natural areas and scenic rivers at a time when those resources were increasingly threatened. And we took pride in building upon a foundation established by earlier natural areas legislation in the 1960s, with its roots in the Ohio Park District Law of 1917.

The structure and strategies put in place by the Natural Areas Act created a strong framework on which 25 years of accomplishment have been based. Far more important, however, are the stewardship and commitment of those who have brought that framework to life.

I am pleased to join with the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves in looking back to 1976 as but one milestone on a long, sometimes difficult road, and to thank all those—within the Department of Natural Resources and among our many partners—who have been along for this remarkable and continuing journey.

Samuel W. Speck, Director

This newsletter is a free public service made possible through your contributions to the Natural Areas Income Tax Checkoff Program. If you are receiving duplicate newsletters, please contact (614) 265-6453.

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.

Visit our website at: www.dnr.state.oh.us



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Division of Natural Areas and Preserves

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**Message from
Chief Stu Lewis
Division of
Natural Areas & Preserves**

I am proud to be celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves. I share pride in the progress of the division with all who have contributed their foresight, knowledge, time, understanding, labor and love for preserving Ohio's land and water heritage for future generations.

Few visitors to Ohio's 123 state nature preserves know the names and faces of those Ohioans who helped protect the special places they visit. Many are gone now, such as J.P. Kirtland, James Henshall, Lou Campbell, Edward S. Thomas, Milton B. Troutman, Walter Tucker, Glen Thompson, Ed Schekelhoff, Glen Johnson, Ernie Vorwer, Lucille Braun and Professor Richard Durrel. And many more are still with us including Dr. J. Arthur Herrick, Ruth Melvin, Dr. Charles King, Richard Moseley, Guy Denny, Jane Forsyth and many other individuals, too numerous to mention, who dedicated themselves, professionally and/or personally to the protection of Ohio's natural heritage.

The Division of Natural Areas and Preserves has had many partners, devoted supporters and loyal friends with whom our exceptionally dedicated staff have and continue to reach out and work with to protect Ohio's unique land and waterways. Whether you support us through the tax checkoff program or by displaying a scenic river plate on your vehicle, you have also been part of the division's successes. Join us as we move through the next 25 years, protecting the best of Ohio's natural areas and scenic rivers.

Stu Lewis

Stu Lewis, Chief

continued from front page

moved closer to becoming a permanent division. Between 1970 and 1975, the department acquired 19 preserves containing 3,398 acres at a cost of \$1,480,618. Additionally, several public and privately-owned areas were dedicated as state nature preserves. Twenty-five years later, Ohio has 123 state nature preserves that vary in size from less than an acre to thousands of acres.

By 1976 the Scenic Rivers Program had grown from two rivers to eight, including the Sandusky, Little Miami, Olentangy, Little Beaver Creek, Grand River, Upper Cuyahoga, Maumee and Stillwater rivers. Designated areas were classified as either scenic, wild and/or recreational. Today the division manages 20 designated stream segments on 11 Ohio rivers, having also designated the Kokosing, Big and Little Darby and Chagrin rivers as well. Several of the state's scenic rivers also bear national designation. A Scenic River Council, comprised of local representatives, serves an advisory role for each scenic river.

As the Natural Areas and Scenic Rivers programs grew, so did the need to adequately maintain and protect the state's new areas of significance. On February 7, 1975, ODNR Director Robert Teater created the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves by Executive Order. To provide the division with the statutory permanence necessary to carry out its long-range goals, legislation was introduced in July 1975.

After lengthy hearings, Amended Substitute House Bill 972 was



Fowler Woods

passed on April 29, 1976 and signed into law by Governor Jim Rhodes on June 2, 1976. This bill created the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves; created the position and duties of the chief of the division; allowed rules to be adopted to protect Ohio's natural areas, preserves and scenic rivers; named the division chief as an ex-officio member of the Ohio Natural Areas Council; and created the position of preserve officer.

There have been many noteworthy acquisitions and projects undertaken by the division over the last 25 years. An article cannot adequately represent all of its successes, but here are a few important highlights.

In January 1977, with funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the division acquired the 562-acre Old Woman Creek site in Erie County, by

far the most expensive preservation project in the division's first decade. In 1980 the preserve became a component of the National Estuarine Research Reserve System and is the only freshwater estuary in the national system. Old Woman Creek continues to draw national recognition for the quality of its programming and scientific research.

The passage of Ohio's Endangered Plant Law added a new area of administration. Effective in August 1978, this law gave the division authority to establish a list of endangered and threatened species, as well as rules governing the protection and taking of listed species for commercial and scientific purposes. The first list was formally adopted in July 1980 and listed 207 endangered and 210 threatened species. Today that list contains 230 endangered and 154 threatened species.

Wisely managing limited general revenue dollars while continuing to identify, acquire and protect unique areas throughout the state has been an ongoing challenge for the division. In 1983, the division was provided with an additional funding source for conservation activities—Ohio's Income Tax Refund Checkoff Program.

The Checkoff Program allows Ohioans to contribute all or a portion of their state income tax refund to the division's nature preserves, scenic rivers and endangered species programs. Due to its success, the tax checkoff program became permanent in July 1987. Last year the division received \$556,803 in checkoff contributions. Funding supports land acquisition for critical habitat protection, facility improvement, interpre-

tive materials for visitors and special projects.

To provide additional funding for the growing scenic rivers program, the division designed a scenic rivers conservation license plate which can be purchased by Ohio drivers. The additional funds help the division protect stream corridors, coordinate stream quality monitoring projects and provide additional natural habitat for plant and animal species.

The division has seen many changes in organization, administration, staffing, funding and facility improvements over 25 years. But the division's mission to acquire and protect Ohio's special places hasn't changed much from 1976. The division and its staff continue to

provide habitat protection for rare plant and animal communities, improve biodiversity along our streams and assist in saving remnants of our natural past.

The Division of Natural Areas and Preserves' greatest legacy may be the number of visitors who have been forever changed by walking in the stillness of an autumn woods, glimpsing a rare prairie flower in bloom, touching stones and rocks marked by time or floating in a canoe on a scenic river.

(Editor's Note – Much of the history of the division's early beginning can be found in A Legacy of Stewardship, published by ODNR in 1991.)



MEMORIES

*Every Field Day was
a Day of Discovery
Allison Cusick, chief botanist, 23 years*

Two words which best describe the division's newly-formed Natural Heritage Section in 1978—excitement and informality.

All of us were excited by the challenge and the new tasks ahead of us. The excitement escalated when someone came back from the field with records of new species and habitats. Every day was a day of discovery. For the first time in Ohio history, botanists were able to search for plants as a primary duty, not as an afterthought. State records rolled in. Unrecorded populations were commonplace. Every new day brought novelty and enjoyment.

Informality was another watchword. Since the program was new, no one understood exactly how it would or should work. We made up the rules as we went along. Employees floated in and out of the office as the weather and the season dictated. No clock watching. No weekly reports. Just commitment. Schedule planning was so casual that a field trip to a distant site could be arranged at a moment's notice.

It's difficult to single out highlights, but I'll try. I must mention my discovery of an unknown sedge at Lynx Prairie in Adams County. This proved to be the first collection anywhere of an undescribed species, juniper sedge (*Carex juniperorum*). This species grows only in Ohio, Kentucky and Ontario and was first collected here in Ohio.

I still miss the excitement and camaraderie of those days on Riverside Drive.

Timeline

1968

February – Ohio pioneers the river preservation movement in 1968 by passing the nation's first Scenic Rivers Act. It creates a state program dedicated to protecting Ohio's remaining high quality streams.

1970

January – Sixty-five miles of the Sandusky River become part of the state's scenic river system.

June – The Natural Areas Act authorizes the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to acquire, dedicate and accept donations of public and privately-owned lands as nature preserves.



Interpretive programming

1971

October – A third segment of the Little Miami River is designated as a state scenic river bringing the total designated miles to 105.

1972

ODNR creates the new Natural Areas and Scenic Rivers Planning Section within the Office of Planning.

January – Adams Lake Prairie (22 ac. in Adams Co.) is transferred from the Division of Parks & Recreation, and is later dedicated as a state nature preserve in May 1973.



Big Darby Creek

1973

May – Fowler Woods (138 ac. in Richland Co.) is dedicated as one of the earliest state nature preserves.

June – Shallenberger (88 ac. in Fairfield Co.) State Nature Preserve becomes Ohio's 6th preserve.

August – Twenty-two miles along the Olentangy River in Delaware County is designated as scenic.

November – First designated as a National Natural Landmark in May 1967, Clifton Gorge State Nature Preserve (255 ac. in Greene Co.) is dedicated.



Clifton Gorge

1974

January – Little Beaver Creek becomes the first river in Ohio designated as both wild and scenic. Twenty miles are designated as wild and 16 miles as scenic. The Grand River also becomes a state wild and scenic river. Later in 1974, the Upper Cuyahoga and Maumee rivers join the scenic rivers system.



Fowler Woods

March – Goll Woods State Nature Preserve in Fulton County is dedicated. First designated as a National Natural Landmark in 1975, it is the largest remnant (320 ac.) of Black Swamp in Northwest Ohio.



Sphagnum Bog

April – Franklin County's newest state nature preserve is Gahanna Woods (50 ac.).

May – Eagle Creek in Portage County becomes a designated state nature preserve. The preserve is now 441 acres.

Database is DNAP's collection of natural heritage memories

Twenty-five years later, more than 13,000 records comprise a database which provides important biological and ecological information about Ohio's rare plants and animals, high-quality plant communities and other significant natural features. Ohio's Natural Heritage Database provides critical answers for developers, landowners, public agencies, scientists and other land users.

Ohio's database was the third of its kind to be established. Today there are programs in all 50 states, many of the Canadian provinces, and in countries in Central and South America. Designed as an identification tool so

sites can be targeted for protection by the division, the database lists locations for high-quality habitats and rare species.

Originally supported by The Nature Conservancy and a Gund Foundation

grant, the project was incorporated into the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves in 1978. Pat Jones, database manager since 1978, has seen many changes in both the amount and quality of information supplied over the years.

Record locations from existing collection sources were marked on topographic maps, entered into a computer database and then filed by species or element, U.S. Geological Survey topographic map and by managed area. Field botanists, zoologists and ecologists continually provide additional information for new record locations and update existing records.

produce a list of Ohio native plants legally designated as endangered or threatened. Since 1980, the division has produced a biennial status list of rare native Ohio plants.

"I am always amazed when a new species is discovered for Ohio, or when a plant long thought gone from the state is found,"

In 1992, the division formed a committee of prominent botanists and plant taxonomists to help advise the division on revisions to the rare plant list. Over the years, more than 150 plants have been removed from the Ohio rare plant list when database records showed they were far more common than originally known. On the other hand, rare lichens and mosses not included on the original inventory have been added along with other vascular plant species which were new discoveries for Ohio.

"I am always amazed when a new species is discovered for Ohio, or when a plant long thought gone from the state is found," says Jones. "I believe the database has been an important catalyst for new field surveys and an effective mechanism of informing agencies and organizations about the significance of the species and features on their properties."

Today information from the Natural Heritage database is used by the division for protection planning and to

"It soon became obvious that while many of Ohio's unique areas had been lost to development, there were a surprising number of sites which still retained their natural characteristics, and many of those were unprotected," says Jones. "The significance of many of today's 123 state nature preserves was first recognized as a result of the Natural Heritage inventory."

An important year for Natural Heritage Database, 1978 also brought passage of Ohio's endangered plant law which gave the chief of the relatively-young Division of Natural Areas and Preserves authority to

help determine land acquisition priorities. Database information is incorporated into a variety of environmental reviews, and the division provides data to consultants, government agencies, researchers and conservation organizations. Last year, the data services staff responded to more than 1,700 requests

for information and completed over 700 environmental reviews.

"My hope is that our database will continue to provide information which will help protect Ohio's rich natural heritage well into the next century," says Jones. 🌿

MEMORIES

No, that's not a Christmas Tree, that's my intern

Stu Lewis, Chief, 29 years

In May 1972, after graduating from Indiana University, I was hired to work in ODNR's new Scenic Rivers Program. I travelled the state and experienced Ohio's vast river systems. I was disappointed by the pollution that had taken its toll on many streams, but equally excited to see wonderful examples of natural stream systems that still retained a significant portion of the original flora and fauna.

John Kopec (now retired) and Steve Goodwin were both hired as scenic rivers staff. Steve was an OSU intern who eventually became a full-time employee. The program didn't have any state vehicles so we all drove our own cars, and the three of us travelled about 4,000 miles a month.

When we began canoeing the headwaters of Big Darby, we soon learned that local farmers strung electric fences across the stream to keep their cattle from wandering downstream. At our first fence, Steve got out to hold up the fence so we could slide the canoe under and he lit up like a Christmas tree.

At the next fence, having learned a valuable lesson, Steve noted that there were insulators on the fence, so this time he held the fence up using his wood canoe paddle. Unfortunately, the fence slid down the paddle, and he lit up like a Christmas tree again.

Having learned to be extra careful, Steve knew the third time would be the charm. As he carefully lifted the fence out of the water with his canoe paddle, Steve stumbled and fell backward toward the fence, and yup, he lit up like a Christmas tree!

That's one day I'll always remember, even if Steve erased it from his mind. Never shocked again, Steve has gone on to make a major contribution to the protection of Ohio's natural areas and scenic rivers.

I've been very fortunate to work with a dedicated group of great people. We've stayed together through the best and worst times. Success cannot be attributed to any one person, but rather the combined efforts and hard work of the enthusiastic and devoted people that make up this wonderful division.



Eddie and Katharine Jones

MEMORIES

Twenty-one Years of Special Days
Phil Zito, Southeastern Ohio preserve manager, 21 years

I began working for the division in March 1980, and have spent my entire career at Lake Katharine State Nature Preserve. My first recollection as a division employee is hiking with Dick Moseley, Guy Denny and a friend of theirs at Lake Katharine. I had applied for and gotten the position of manager at Lake Katharine without having visited the area, 215 miles from my home outside of Cleveland.

It was my first visit to this marvelous area. It was mid-March, with a heavy layer of snow and icicles hanging beautifully from the rock outcrops. At the time I thought all winters would be like that, but have since realized that was an unusual day.

We stopped to eat lunch under an overhang along the Salt Creek trail. As we ate, the warming sun of late winter was working on the icicles causing them to fall from their perches, producing eerie and disconcerting thuds.

I was totally amazed by the incredible beauty of the Lake Katharine area. Over the past 21 years there have been many special days at Lake Katharine, but that first day will always be extra special for me.

After working at Lake Katharine for a month or so, I received a phone call one day. The voice on the other end told me it was Eddie Jones calling from Florida. Mr. Jones and Jim McKitterick were the two who spent 10 years buying 1,467 acres, damming Rock Run Creek and creating Lake Katharine, which is named after Eddie's wife.

Eddie had heard there was a new manager and wanted to call and say hello. It was his beautiful home that my family and I were living in. I was in awe! After their return from Florida, he and Katharine stopped by to visit, and we soon developed a wonderful friendship that lasted the rest of their lives. Their gift of Lake Katharine was truly a gift of conservation.

1975

April – Marie J. Desonier State Nature Preserve and its 301 acres in Athens County is dedicated. An additional 189 acres were dedicated in May 1980.

September – Blackhand Gorge State Nature Preserve (732 ac. in Licking Co.) is dedicated, and is now 980 acres.



Headlands Dunes

1976

May – Lake Erie's Headlands Dunes in Lake County becomes a state nature preserve. Originally 16 acres were dedicated; the area is now 25 acres.

June – The Natural Areas Preservation Act is amended and creates the Division of Natural Areas & Preserves within the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.



Blackhand Gorge

1977

May – Under a unique partnership between the divisions of Parks & Recreation, Forestry and Natural Areas & Preserves, Conkle's Hollow (87 ac. in Hocking Co.) becomes a designated state nature preserve.



Desonier

August – Lake Katharine becomes one of Ohio's largest state nature preserves. Currently the division manages 1,850 acres in Jackson County.



Lake Katharine

1978

June – The division establishes the Ohio Natural Landmark Program which recognizes privately and publically-owned lands that are of ecological significance.

July – Siegenthaler Esker (36 ac. in Champaign Co.) becomes a new state nature preserve.

1979

July – The Chagrin River becomes Ohio's 9th state scenic river. Forty-nine miles are designated



Old Woman Creek—Dr. Dave Klarer

DISCOVER OHIO'S FIRST WILD & SCENIC RIVER LITTLE BEAVER CREEK

Little Beaver Creek offers a rare opportunity to escape from the hustle of everyday life—to taste the flavor of a remoteness that was once common 200 years ago. Nestled in the hills of Columbiana County in north-eastern Ohio, Little Beaver Creek is a treasure that offers more than just a glimpse into Ohio's past.

Visit Little Beaver Creek and you will experience one of the wildest and most scenic areas in Ohio. It is a river of steep valleys, dramatic vistas, deeply forested river banks and occasional sheer rock outcroppings. Each meander of the river channel reveals alternating quiet pools or swift rapids and riffles strewn with boulders from its glacial past. Clear flowing streams cascade from the steep hollows providing exceptional water quality and habitat supporting a diverse array of plants and wildlife.

It is rare to find a river of such high quality in this state. Because it is one of Ohio's finest examples of a natural river, 20 miles of Little Beaver Creek became Ohio's first "wild" river on January 15, 1974. To date, only one other river segment, 23 miles of the Grand River in Lake and Ashtabula counties, has received the wild designation. Little Beaver Creek also holds the distinction of being only one of three National Scenic Rivers in Ohio. The other two are the Little Miami River and the Big & Little Darby Creeks. An additional 16 miles of Little Beaver Creek were designated as "scenic" in 1974. Scenic designation means that a river is primarily natural in character, but does show evidence of development.

Little Beaver Creek provides excellent habitats for a wide variety of fish and wildlife. A significant population of smallmouth and largemouth bass, catfish, crappie and bluegills call the river home. At least 63 species of fish and 49 species of mammals have been documented in the creek and its tributaries. The area is also home to 140 species of birds that either nest or migrate there each year. Forty-six species of reptiles and amphibians live there, too.

One of its most notable residents is the state endangered eastern hellbender (*Cryptobranchus alleganiensis alleganiensis*). Ohio's largest known population can be found in the West Fork of Little Beaver.

Its diversity can be explained by the variety of habitats found in the 510 square-mile Little Beaver Creek watershed; 80 percent of the watershed is in Ohio and the remainder lies in Pennsylvania. Influenced by Ice Age glaciers, three distinct land forms can be observed.

Glaciers covered the northern portion of the watershed, burying the valleys with glacial till, which sometimes exceeds 100 feet in depth. Just to the south of these flat plains, glacial moraines can be observed, indicating the edge of glaciation. The tops of these hills have gentle slopes, while the lower portions become moderately steep as narrow valleys begin to form.

The southern portion of the watershed is unglaciated. Thousands of years of erosion have left this area hilly and rugged with valley walls reaching 300 to 400 feet in height above the channel of Little Beaver Creek. The steep topography explains why this area of the river has remained natural in character, with limited development. It is this southern region that comprises most of the designated miles of Little Beaver Creek.

Much of Ohio's colorful past is associated with Little Beaver Creek and the surrounding area. The first inhabitants along the creek date back 10,000 years to the Fluted Point Indian, or Paleoindian, culture. At a site below Fredericktown, in Columbiana County, many relics including prehistoric pottery, flint and fluted arrowheads have been found.

In 1785 Thomas Hutchins began the U.S. Public Land Survey at a point near the mouth of the creek. This was the first time public land in the U.S. was surveyed prior to being sold.

One of the best ways to experience the character of Little Beaver Creek is by canoe. It is best to canoe this river in late spring or early summer when water levels are average. Caution

should be used when canoeing the creek. Substantial canoeing skills are required to safely navigate it in higher water.

Another way to experience the grandeur of Little Beaver Creek is to visit the seven scenic vistas which overlook the river valley. One of the



Remnant of the Sandy and Beaver canal locks.

most accessible is Sprucevale Lookout, located just south of the Sprucevale area in Beaver Creek State Park. Another, Bill's Lookout, is a vista near Fredericktown along Old Fredericktown Road. A spectacular view of the main stem of Little Beaver Creek can be enjoyed from Cynthia's Lookout, located just east of Fredericktown.

If hiking is one of your passions, the North Country Trail may interest you. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Interior, this cross-country trail was constructed by volunteers. The trail enters Ohio near Negley and begins its 1,050 mile long trek through the state by following an abandoned railroad bed along the North Fork to nearby Sheepskin Hollow State Nature

Preserve. The trail then takes hikers towards Beaver Creek State Park, which offers an additional 16 miles of hiking trails for exploring spirits.

ODNR's Division of Parks and Recreation operates the 3,038-acre Beaver Creek State Park along portions of the Middle Fork, West Fork and

main stem of Little Beaver Creek. The park offers a restored log village, including Gaston's Mill built in 1837. Other activities at the park include a new nature center, camping, canoeing, hunting, fishing, picnicking, hiking and bridle trails.

At the park, you'll also have a chance to see remnants of the 73-mile Sandy and Beaver Canal. Built in the mid-1800s, it was comprised of 90 canal locks and 30 feeder dams. The stones from some of the canal locks were used by founda-

tion builders and others have been restored, but the most remarkable is Lusk's Lock. Located along the Middle Fork, Lusk's Lock is in remarkable condition due to the exquisite craftsmanship of the stone masons, and because its remote location made pilfering its stones difficult.

To learn more about Little Beaver Creek Wild and Scenic River, contact Steve Roloson, regional scenic river manager at (330) 527-4184 or email: sroloson@apk.net

Steve Roloson,
Northeast Scenic River Manager



Morris Woods

1980

January – A 67-acre Oak Openings remnant in Lucas County becomes the Louis W. Campbell State Nature Preserve.

February – Licking County's Morris Woods State Nature Preserve (104 ac.) is dedicated. Also, Sheldon's Marsh (387 ac. in Erie Co.) becomes a state nature preserve. Today that preserve has grown to 547 acres.



Springville Marsh

October – Old Woman Creek State Nature Preserve (570 ac. in Erie Co.) is dedicated and later becomes a National Estuarine Research Reserve.

1981

August – Springville Marsh (161 ac. in Seneca Co.) becomes a state nature preserve. In April 1998, the division dedicated an additional 40 acres

1982

June – Gott Fen State Nature Preserve is dedicated. Originally 13 acres, this Portage County preserve is now 44 acres.



Smith Cemetery

December – Smith Cemetery becomes one of Ohio's smallest state nature preserves in Madison County. The nearby and even smaller Bigelow Cemetery was dedicated in 1978.

1983

The department introduces the Natural Areas Income Tax Checkoff program. During tax year 1983, the division received \$692,464.40 from 169,240 eligible filers, which was a 6 percent contribution rate.



Eco-management

1984

Division established a Monitoring and Research Program with projects in 10 preserves. This section is now integral to the success of protecting Ohio's dedicated nature preserves. Currently, the section coordinates activities such as rare plant monitoring, controlled burns and invasive plant management.



Prairie burn

December – Darke County's only state nature preserve, Drew Woods, is dedicated. It is 14 acres.

1985

February – Kent Bog in Portage County is the first state nature preserve to be purchased using Income Tax Checkoff funding. This 43-acre preserve is officially known as the Tom S. Cooperider-Kent Bog.



Kent Bog

December – Pickerington Ponds becomes a dedicated nature preserve in Franklin County. Its 405 acres are owned and managed by Franklin County Metroparks.



A Conversation with DNAP's First Chief... Richard E. Moseley, Jr.

If the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves had a father, his name would be Richard E. Moseley, Jr. In 1970, he traded his job as supervisor of recreation at the Division of Parks and Recreation for a one-man office. Moseley was charged with making the newly-enacted Natural Areas Act of 1970 a reality. Moseley, who served as the division's first chief until 1991, spent two years as ODNR deputy director for recreation management before retiring in 1993.

Ask Mr. Moseley how it all began in 1970, and you'd better get comfortable, because there are no memory lapses, no searching for names or details and no less passion than there must have been 30 years ago. Moseley sprinkles his reminiscences with names, dates and various division and office titles. It is obvious that his heart was always with the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves, even before it became a division.

"After the Natural Areas Act passed, Director (Fred) Morr called me to his office. Now I had never met or really even talked to a director. I immediately began wondering what I had done," remembers Moseley. He recalls that day in 1970 vividly. By the end of the meeting, Moseley had accepted an opportunity to head up the new Natural Areas program.

What were the early days like, once you began with the Division of Planning?

My original budget was \$17,000, which included my travel and

salary. Other things I needed came from the Division of Parks and Recreation, because there was no money for our new program. For the first six months, I was it. It was a shoestring operation for the first four years.

How did you decide which preserves to purchase?

It was a unique situation.... We had \$400,000 for land acquisition and less than two years to spend it. We used Art (Dr. J. Arthur) Herrick's Inventory of Natural Areas. We depended on his evaluations and those of the Ohio Biological Survey. I also wrote a memo to other ODNR chiefs and asked for their help in locating areas of significance. Quite a few recommendations came from various department staff. The first area purchased, Fowler Woods in 1970, was recommended by a local service forester.

How did the Natural Areas and Scenic Rivers Planning Section evolve into a division?

The first four years were spent acquiring preserves with the initial funding. But we had no money to manage the areas. If we bought an area near a state park, we'd ask Parks to manage it, the same if the area was near a state forest or wildlife area. The trouble with having other divisions manage the areas was that each division had their own philosophy of management. When Bob Teater became the new ODNR director, as directors do, he spent time talking to different divisions and learned about the... department. To his credit, he realized if Natural Areas, Preserves and Scenic Rivers programs were to be carried out, they must be managed uniformly. Planning and implementation needed to be in one shop.

What were the first changes made when the section became a permanent division?

The division started out with six people. In the beginning we did everything. We'd all go out and

build trails, construct parking lots and whatever else needed to be done. The present management system began in March 1975. The following fiscal year we had money for preserve managers. We hired eight original managers, including Emliss Ricks who is still with the division. Several people came from other ODNR divisions, like Bob Sanford who transferred from Forestry. There were 19 preserves and we broke the state up into seven regions.



What kind of challenges faced the division?

Early challenges included having to be "jacks of all trades." I have to say that in those early years, everyone just pitched in and got what needed to be done, done. You never heard,

"that's not my job." There was great teamwork and dedication.

The biggest challenge facing any landowning agency has been having funding to maintain the quality and integrity of the land once acquired. The legislature is always willing to give money for acquisition and development, but regardless of whether it's a state park, forest or preserve, there is rarely any long term maintenance dollars.

Every new budget we were asked to do more with less. I used to say to staff, if we do more and more with less and less, we'll be able to do everything with nothing. Funding must be adequate to protect and maintain our unique natural areas and scenic rivers.

Make no mistake, Moseley, who stays in contact with former coworkers and current staff, is enjoying retirement. Moseley speaks fondly of his home in

Pogosa Springs, located in the southwest corner of Colorado. With the San Juan National Forest in his backyard, according to Moseley, he's living his retirement dream. 🌿

MEMORIES

In the days of carbon paper, ditto machines and parking downtown
Kathy Smith, executive secretary, 24 years

Kathy Smith



Those were the days... Back in 1972 there was no "DNAP" as we know it today. We were the Natural Areas & Scenic Rivers Planning Section in ODNR's Division of Planning. We shared office space on the eighth floor of the Ohio Departments Building at 65 S. Front Street in downtown Columbus. We walked about a half-mile from our parking space to the office because it was only a quarter a day to park across the river.

There were three full-time employees, one college intern and me. Keep in mind, this was back in the days of carbon paper and ditto machines. Staff shared crowded spaces and secretaries shared the outer area, which was more like a hallway.

Just like today, money was tight and we lived on a shoestring budget. Our office furniture was always from the state's salvage warehouse—equipment and furniture that other agencies threw away. For years, the wheel on my chair fell off every time I moved. When they told us to "do more with less," we took it literally.

The work load has been overwhelming and there has rarely been any money in the budget for equipment, additional staff or salary increases; but, most of us stayed because we believe in what we are doing. I've met and worked with a lot of wonderful people. I've seen marriages, divorces, retirements and a few deaths. I've made a lot of friends over these last 28 years, and I value each one of them. They are the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves.

1986
March – Erie Sand Barrens (32 ac. in Erie Co.) becomes the newest state nature preserve with the help of The Nature Conservancy and the U.S. Department of Defense.



1987
January – Chaparral Prairie State Nature Preserve is the third preserve to be purchased with checkoff funds. This 67-acre preserve in Adams County opens to the public in July.



Chaparral Prairie

1988
September – Emerald Hills, a privately-owned 73-acre area in Belmont County becomes a state nature preserve.
November – Owned and operated by the Metropark District of Toledo, Audubon Islands (170 ac.) becomes a state nature preserve in Lucas County.

1989
March – O. E. Anderson Compass Plant Prairie's 15 acres is given to the division by The Nature Conservancy. This Lawrence County state nature preserve is the only known remaining site in Ohio for the state-endangered compass plant.
May – Nineteen acres of prime habitat for the federal and state-listed endangered Lakeside daisy becomes the Lakeside Daisy State Nature Preserve in Ottawa County.

1990
January – Clear Fork Gorge's 29 acres in Ashland County joins the state nature preserve system. The National Park Service dedicated it as a National Natural Landmark in 1970.
June – Crane Hollow becomes the third largest state nature preserve in Ohio. It is a privately-owned site in Hocking County.

1991
January – A total of 138 acres of Sears Woods and Carmean Woods are dedicated as two new state nature preserves in Crawford County.

1992
December – Baker Woods becomes the first state nature preserve in Mercer County. Its 42 acres were dedicated in June 1993.



Conkle's Hollow

1993
December – Scioto County is home to a new state nature preserve—the 95-acre Raven Rock
December – Home to 16 rare plant species, management of Davis Memorial State Nature Preserve (Adams Co.) is turned over to the division by the Ohio Historical Society.

1994
October – First designated as a state scenic river in 1984, the Big and Little Darby Creeks' designated miles of scenic river total 84 miles. Earlier in 1994, this river system was designated as a component of the National Wild and Scenic River system.
August – Pymatuning Creek Wetlands (107 ac. in Ashtabula Co.) joins the state nature preserve system.

In the Beginning



Compared to the evolution of galaxies, 25 years is an unregistered blink of the eye. For the division however, the past quarter of a century has seen phenomenal growth and improvement. No where has change been more dramatic than on the front lines of preserve management. Several of our most experienced managers have witnessed those changes first-hand.

Mark Howes became preserve manager for the Hocking Hills area in 1977. One of his first assignments was to construct a maintenance facility. He had a Civilian Conservation Corps crew of six, an old barn and very little money. Over the course of a summer, they dismantled the barn and salvaged lumber, hinges, beams and hundreds of nails, which they laboriously straightened for reuse. By combining these "vintage" materials with wood scavenged from a partially-burned

MEMORIES

Career Marked by Fellowship with Outstanding Ohioans

Steve Goodwin, administrator, 29 years

Throughout my career with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, I have had the pleasure of working with many great Ohioans who are the true pioneers of Ohio's Natural Areas and Scenic Rivers programs. They helped lay the foundation to create the division.

I am truly honored to have worked with Jane Forsyth, Bowling Green State University, professor emerita in geology and J. Arthur Herrick, Kent State University professor emeritus and author of the 1965 Natural Areas Report, as well as many others too numerous to mention. Both Herrick and Forsyth, former Ohio Natural Areas Advisory Council members, still actively support the division.

My most memorable days were those spent as the Little Miami Scenic River Coordinator, from 1973 to 1976. I remember the Little Miami Scenic River Advisory Council meetings with long-time members Helen Black and the late Glen Thompson. I also truly valued the guidance of council member Milt Lord.

The individuals and friends, like Milt and Helen and many others, have been our partners in making the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves the great organization it is.



structure at Portage Lake State Park, Howes and his crew built a facility that is still used today.

Emliss Ricks, hired in 1975 as one of the division's first four preserve managers, also remembers having to scramble for materials. He depended heavily on the generosity of nearby state parks, which often donated surplus fence posts, bollards, snow fence and other supplies.

"When Parks personnel saw me coming," he recalls, "they were wondering aloud, what I needed."

His first office was in the state house he rented, and the shop was in a leaky barn with no electricity. His first complement of tools consisted of a chain saw, several rakes and shovels, a circular saw and a small box of hand tools.

During 1976-77, his budget was \$50 and anything purchased over \$10 had to be pre-approved.

Ricks bought gasoline for operating vehicles and equipment at the local Ohio Department of Transportation garage, which charged him \$.25 -.30 per gallon. Wages were comparable—he started at \$3.48 per hour. Three years later, he was up to \$4.80 and by 1980 had advanced to the princely sum of \$6.18 per hour. Ricks says that his son, who is in high school, makes a dollar more than that today working at Dairy Queen.

The first preserve manager to retire from the division, Frank Skalski, who retired last September, remembers that

continues on back page

EVENTS Calendar 2001



State Nature Preserve Areas

The letter code before each program refers to the region of Ohio where the program will be held.

- | | |
|---|--|
| C Central
Mark Howes*
(614) 265-6453 | NW Northwest
Jamie Murphy
(419) 445-1775 |
| EC East Central
Greg Seymour
(740) 763-4411 | S Southern/Southwest
Martin McAllister
(937) 544-9750 |
| N Northern
John McFadden
(419) 433-4919 | SE Southeast
Phil Zito
(740) 286-2487 |
| NC North Central
Eddie Reed
(419) 981-6319 | SC South Central
Jeff Johnson*
(614) 265-6453 |
| NE Northeast
Emliss Ricks,
(330) 527-5118 | SWSR Southwest
Don Rostofer
(614) 265-6453 |
| NEL Northeast
Lakeshore
Charlotte Lowman
(440) 632-3010 | W Western
Herb Leen
(937) 663-4197 |
| NESR Northeast
Scenic Rivers
Steve Roloson
(330) 527-4184 | WC West Central
Tim Snyder*
(614) 265-6453 |

Please call the manager or the division for more information at (614) 265-6453

*New office phone numbers to be assigned.

OCTOBER

NE SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, 11 A.M.
Autumn Fen Foray (Jackson Bog)

Join us as we explore life in a "sweet bog" and discover secrets from the Ice Age.

NE SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 11 A.M.
Fall Color Walk (Eagle Creek)

The trails are ablaze with autumn's bright colors as we walk along Clubmoss Trail.

SC SATURDAY & SUNDAY OCTOBER 20-21, 10 A.M. - 4 P.M.
ODNR Fall Foliage Event (Conkle's Hollow)

An information tent, helpful uniformed staff along trails, a stop at a 1930s forestry cabin for refreshments and hayrides against the backdrop of the

Hocking Hills in full autumn color make this a visit to remember.

SE SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1:30 P.M.
Trees of Lake Katharine (Lake Katharine)

Trees are the oldest and largest of living things at Lake Katharine. You'll discover their majesty when you join this walk to learn about the various species found there.

WC SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2 P.M.
Farewell to Daylight Savings Time (Clifton Gorge)

Take advantage of your extra hour of sleep by enjoying a stimulating hike through the fading splendor of Fall in Ohio's premier glacial canyon.

Families are Welcome at Morris Woods State Nature Preserve
The Division of Natural Areas and Preserves and Ohio Nature Education (ONE) will be coordinating a new program schedule designed for visitors of all ages. Comprised of volunteers, ONE is a non-profit organization committed to creating an awareness and appreciation of Ohio's natural heritage.

Morris Woods, a 104-acre preserve located in Licking County, is an excellent example of farmland which has been effectively managed to create prime habitat for a large variety of birds and animals.

SATURDAY, JULY 28, 7 P.M.
Creatures of the Night
Discover the unique attributes of animals active after dark. Several live nocturnal animals will be available for viewing.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 10 A.M.
The Monarch Butterfly
Learn about one of the most recognized butterflies in Ohio. We'll head out to the field to find this long distance flier as it prepares for its journey.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2 P.M.
Bats—Shadows of Night
Families are invited to explore the fascinating world of bats. We'll dispel the myths and give you a close up view of live bats.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2 P.M.
Birds of Prey—Masters of the Sky
Join us as we delve into the world of hawks and owls. See birds of prey up close and learn about a predator's life.

NOVEMBER

NE SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2 P.M.
Tamaracks Ablaze (Kent Bog)

Join us and see the deciduous conifers disrobing as winter comes a-calling.

NE WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 4 P.M.
Wings Over Water (Tinker's Creek)

Learn to identify native water-fowl as they make their way south to their wintering grounds.

SE SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1:30 P.M.
Thanksgiving Hike (Lake Katharine)

Take a break before Thanksgiving preparations begin. Get into high gear by seeing how nature prepares for the long winter season.

DECEMBER

NE WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 7 P.M.
Solstice Soiree (Eagle Creek)

Enjoy the beauty of the preserve on this the longest night of the year.

SE SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1:30 P.M.
End of the Year Hike (Lake Katharine)

The wintry world of Lake Katharine offers a respite from this busy time of year.



Feathers & Foliage Festival

SEPTEMBER 29, 7 A.M. - 3 P.M.
Featuring Kelleys Island/North Pond State Nature Preserve
Join the Kelleys Island Audubon Club as they host this annual autumn event to celebrate the beauty of fall foliage and migrating birds. Whether you're interested in the 8:15 a.m. guided bird walk, 1 p.m. foliage tour or all day hawk watch, there is something for every outdoor enthusiast. The island on Lake Erie is accessible by two ferry boat lines. For details, contact Pat Hayes at (419) 746-2258.

1995

March - Johnson Woods (206 ac. in Wayne Co.) becomes a state nature preserve. Originally known as Graber Woods and donated by Mrs. Clela Johnson, the preserve is renamed to honor Andrew C. Johnson.



Gahanna Woods

1996

April - Protecting Ohio's largest stand of great rhododendron, Rhododendron Cove (70 ac. in Fairfield Co.) becomes a state nature preserve. It is only accessible by permit.

October - Etawah Woods (47 ac.), part of the privately-owned Highlands Nature Sanctuary in Highlands County, becomes a state nature preserve.

1997

January - Lawrence Woods is purchased from the Augustine Family for \$2.8 million. This acquisition is the largest in the division's history and protects more than 1,000 acres in Hardin County.

May - Boardwalk made from recycled plastic is unveiled at Johnson Woods. The 1-1/2 trail is one of the first NatureWorks projects completed in a state nature preserve.

November - Ohio's newest scenic river, the Kokosing River, has 48 miles designated as scenic in Knox County.



Great rhododendron

1998

June - The Karner Blue butterfly is reintroduced in Ohio at Kitty Todd State Nature Preserve in Lucas County. This butterfly is found in only six other states (NY, NH, MN, MI, WI, IN).



Kokosing River

1999

February - North Pond (36 ac.) and North Shore Alvar (2 ac.) State Nature Preserves become Ohio's newest preserves on Kelleys Island.

July - Perry's Cave on South Bass Island becomes newest Ohio Natural Landmark. It is one of the largest of the 50 known caves on the island.

2000

May - Formerly only open by permit, the newly dedicated Augusta-Anne Olsen State Nature Preserve (130 ac. in Huron Co.) is opened to the public with three new trails.

June - The first comprehensive volunteer cleanup of the Stillwater Scenic River results in 77 volunteers collecting 90 tires and more than 24 cubic yards of trash and debris along 24 miles of the lower half of the river. The Stillwater and Greenville Creek River system have a total of 93 designated recreational and scenic river miles.