



Natural Ohio

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

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Upper Chagrin River Receives State Scenic River Status



"A river seems a magic thing. A magic, moving, living part of the very earth itself."

Laura Gilpin, U.S. photographer (1891-1979)

There is a close connection between the water quality of a river and the headwater streams that feed it. Headwater streams are the small swales, creeks and streams that join together to create the origin of a river.

The value of the upper most drainage areas or headwaters of rivers are often overlooked, yet they play a vital role in protecting water quality and aquatic diversity. Unfortunately due to their small size, the function of these streams can easily be damaged by actions like ditching, channelization, piping, increasing storm water runoff from impervious surfaces – and the list continues.

A commitment to stewardship and local support has led to scenic river designation of the headwaters of the Chagrin

River, also known as the Upper Chagrin. Several years ago, Bill Tomko, a village councilman from Chagrin Falls and a member of the division's Natural Areas Advisory Council, began gathering support for extending the designation of the Chagrin Scenic River to include its headwaters in Geauga County downstream through Chagrin Falls to Bentleyville. Chagrin Falls, Russell Township and Munson Township all signed resolutions supporting the new designation.

"The designation of the Upper Chagrin as a scenic river will bring recognition to the vital role this headwater area plays in protecting the water quality of the entire watershed," said Bob Gable, administrator, Ohio Scenic Rivers Program.

continues on page 6

Invasion of the Asian lady beetles

Our state insect, one of 450 species of native lady beetles – commonly called a ladybug – is in danger of being outmuscled by an Asian cousin (*Harmonia axyridis*), accidentally introduced into this country in the late 1980s.

The interloper is a lighter color, usually yellow or orange, and has more spots than our native species, sometimes as many as 19. They also vary in size. In recent years, these alien ladybugs have become a common sight around the state.

Since 1916, non-native lady beetles have been introduced and released to help protect agricultural plants and trees, but the infestation we are witnessing today probably stems from an accidental introduction of these insects in Louisiana around 1988.

Since they feed on aphids, whiteflies, adelgids and thrips, these lady beetles are quite helpful in protecting against crop and tree destruction.

continues on page 3

In This Issue

From the Chief	2
Fighting the Good Fight	3
Johnson Woods	4
Ohio Citrus Trees	7
And now the rest of the story	8



From the Chief

*Stu Lewis, Chief
Division of Natural
Areas and Preserves*

All good things must come to an end.

I never realized the meaning of those words until, after much heartfelt consideration, I decided to retire after more than 30 years with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR). I have had an absolutely marvelous tenure as the first employee hired by Dick Moseley in the newly-created Natural Areas & Scenic Rivers Section in ODNR's Division of Planning – so many years ago.

John Kopec, Steve Goodwin – both now retired – and I surveyed natural areas and canoed proposed scenic rivers from sun up to sun down, literally, in those early days.

We would leave on Monday and come back to the office on payday Fridays to fill out paperwork and pick up our checks. We put more than 4,000 miles per month on our cars. We camped out instead of staying in hotel rooms, but that got old pretty fast. By practicing a lot of frugality, we finally managed to use our \$16 per day diem for motel rooms and restaurant meals. (Even in the '70s, \$16 didn't buy much in the way of quality rooms and meals).

Yes, those were long days, but we knew we were making strides to protect Ohio's natural areas and scenic rivers. Those were good times!

Our new section continued to struggle with funding, but we always seemed to do more with less – long before the term became fashionable – and we accomplished what we set out to do. Later the section became the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves, through legislation sponsored by current ODNR Director Sam Speck, then a state senator. His commitment to our program then, as now, can never be questioned. It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve as Director Speck's Chief of Natural Areas and Preserves.

The division's mission has always been to identify and protect the remaining high quality natural areas and rivers in Ohio. Some times we felt as if there would never be enough hours in the day to accomplish what was needed. But as I look back over the past 30 years, I am exceedingly proud of our accomplishments. The Division of Natural Areas and Preserves has a legacy that the people of Ohio can be proud of.

I have worked for three chiefs and was fortunate to serve as the division's fourth chief. Each of us approached the job with a different perspective, but our major goal has always been preservation.

When I became chief in 1999, I realized that invasive plants had become a critical issue facing our preserves. While there had been attempts to control the growth of aggressive non-native species, as a whole the problem had escalated. Several preserves were facing 50 percent habitat loss because of acres lost to invasives. To counter, I chose to reduce interpretive programs at individual preserves so the division could allocate more staff time to controlling invasive species.

As was expected, some criticized the division for its recent reorganization, which was spurred by the state's serious budget crunch and changing ecological priorities. For me personally, reorganization was the most difficult moment of my career. Cutting staff and programs is never easy. There are really no words to express my anxiety and sadness during those difficult times. The division was not alone during this difficult time – many other state agencies and private firms were in the same situation.

Despite the loss of veteran staff, science is alive and well at the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves. Furthermore, the division's scientists continue to play an instrumental role in controlling invasives in critical areas. They also support important division surveying and inventorying needs.

At my request, staff have created the division's first comprehensive invasive database on the success or failure of invasive species control activities throughout the preserve system. Also, our staff are using geographical information systems and global positioning technology to ensure we

know exact locations of rare species and invasives before conducting eco-management activities. This information has enabled preserve managers to develop precise management plans.

As other states are learning, if we are to protect Ohio's preserves in perpetuity, then invasive species control must remain the highest priority or these precious natural areas will be lost.

I'm proud of other strides made by the division, including those made on behalf of our nationally-recognized scenic rivers program. Land use and development issues continue to be the major concerns facing Ohio's scenic rivers. Staff have done a marvelous job preparing themselves to effectively deal with these complex issues – including their work to ensure governmental agencies make every effort to protect and mitigate projects along designated waterways. This has not been easy, but we continue to meet the difficult challenges head-on.

I could continue with a laundry list of the division's accomplishments, but it is important that I give thanks for the support of our staff. The people standing behind the chief are responsible for the accomplishments of a division.

Today's Division of Natural Areas and Preserves may be leaner than in recent years, but our scientific and support staff remain committed to fulfilling our mission. They truly believe in scenic river and nature preserve protection. Over the years, we have had little turnover and I attribute that to the staff's belief in the importance of their work.

Ohioans are fortunate to have such professional, caring public employees – it has been an honor to work with the current and previous staff of the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves.

In closing, I have also appreciated the support of department staff and many other professionals I have been associated with over the years.

It couldn't have been a better career.

God speed and a following sea to all my good friends and acquaintances. ✓

*Stu Lewis
Chief*

Fighting the good fight at Irwin Prairie

Irwin Prairie State Nature Preserve contains one of the largest remaining wet prairie sedge meadows in Ohio. Located in the Oak Openings Region west of Toledo, the preserve is home to at least 20 rare plant species.

Some of the more attractive rare species include fringed gentian (*Gentianopsis crinita*), Kalm's St. John's-wort (*Nycticornis kalmianum*), prairie rattlesnake-root (*Prenanthes racemosa*) and Great Lake's goldenrod (*Euthamia remota*).

The preserve also provides important habitat for the rare spotted turtle and several rare breeding birds, including the common snipe, the Virginia rail and the least bittern.



Great Lake's goldenrod

During the last few decades, Irwin Prairie has become overrun by glossy buckthorn (*Rhamnus frangula*). This non-native invasive shrub has been invading wetlands throughout northern Ohio, including bogs, fens and wet prairies.

Glossy buckthorn forms dense colonies that eliminate native vegetation. As much as 30 percent of the prairie sedge meadows at the preserve have been severely impacted by this invasion and the aggressive shrub continues to spread.

The wet prairie plant community in the region has been severely impacted by the draining of wetlands. Even though the prairie grows in a state nature preserve, its future remains uncertain.



fringed gentian

Beginning in 2001, the division began using new techniques to address this problem. A large monoculture of glossy buckthorn was sprayed with a broad-leaf herbicide. This type of herbicide does not affect the grasses and sedges that comprise the dominant native species of the plant community. The treatment was very successful in eradicating these clumps of glossy buckthorn and the area is already beginning to show signs of recovery by native prairie vegetation.

This year, the division continued its efforts to restore Irwin Prairie on a much larger scale. The buckthorn populations were mapped using geographical information and global positioning technologies. After mapping was finished, all of the larger buckthorn clumps in the sedge meadows were sprayed with the broad-leaf herbicide.

Initial results have been remarkable. The vast majority of the glossy buckthorn that was sprayed appears to have died. More importantly, very little damage was done to the preserve's native plants.

To finalize the division's battle against the glossy buckthorn, the treated areas will be cleared to remove the standing wood. Division staff will carefully survey the area to assess recovery by native vegetation. Follow-up will be required to remove any re-sprouting or new seedlings, as well as address untreated areas.

Unfortunately the fight against invasive species will continue at Irwin Prairie State Nature Preserve indefinitely. It is impossible to eliminate every buckthorn plant and the species'

extensive seedbank, but because of recent activities, the division has taken a big step forward. ✓

Greg Schneider
Botanist

Asian lady beetles
continued from page 1



The problem arises in the autumn when millions of these insects begin checking into their winter living quarters – our homes. Any warm place will do, so we begin seeing them in the windows, walking along our walls and ceilings, or crawling in light fixtures.

People have experienced invasions of tens of thousands of these beetles in their homes. One person actually inspected his attic to find thousands of ladybugs covering the attic floor. In some places the insects were several inches deep. They do not feed during the winter months, but become quite active on warm days, especially on the south side of homes, wandering around the windows and walls.

Asian lady beetles are not structure-damaging insects like termites. They do not chew or bore holes into walls or furniture and they do not lay their eggs in homes. These invading ladybugs remain indoors throughout the winter months, becoming a homeowner's irritation. Squish one and you'll find out why. When threatened these ladybugs emit a yellowish substance that is less than pleasant. And they are known to occasionally bite – another harmless but annoying characteristic.

Homeowners are urged to seal all cracks, crevices and joints along their homes to prevent their entry. Sweeping and vacuuming may also help remove them from living areas. At our house, we catch them in jars and then transport them to the barn every couple of days.

While we complain about their presence in our homes, we should be somewhat pleased with their

continues on page 7

Johnson Woods

If only they could talk... what wonderful history teachers they would make. They were here when our nation's first settlement, Jamestown, was founded in 1607. They were here in 1776 when the Declaration of Independence was signed. They witnessed the American Revolution, the War of 1812 and the Civil War.

They were here when the glow of the first light bulb chased away the night. They were here when the horse and buggy gave way to the horsepower of the engine and the first automobile rumbled past, and when man took to the skies in flight.



They have stood majestically through every peaceful change of power – from our first president of the United States to our current president. Who are they? *The big trees of Johnson Woods State Nature Preserve.*

When the first pioneers encountered the Ohio territory, an impressive hardwood forest, a forest that seemed endless and forbidding, greeted them. The settlers saw the forest as a land that needed conquering.

Hickories, oaks and walnuts, some of which stretched 150 feet up into the air, felt the blow of the ax and the teeth of the saw. The forest succumbed at a rapid pace as the settlers cleared land for agriculture and other purposes. Fortunately, in what is now Baughman Township in Wayne County, a piece of this magnificent forest stands untouched.

In 1823, Jacob Conrad bought a piece of land in Baughman Township. Little did he know that a part of what he purchased would one day become a state nature preserve.

Located on the south side of Fox Lake Road, 155 acres of Johnson Woods, formerly known as Graber Woods, was given to the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves by Mrs. Clela Johnson and her family in 1994. The donation was in memory of her husband, Andrew C. Johnson, who was the great-grandson of Jacob Conrad. In addition to this tract, Mrs. Johnson sold 51 acres of old growth forest on the north side of Fox Lake Road to the division – thus protecting 206 acres of old growth forest.

The topography of the preserve, with its low wet areas and its slightly higher elevations, creates a variety of plant communities. On the higher ground, white oaks (*Quercus alba*), some of which are more than 400 years old, and red oaks (*Quercus rubra*) dominate the canopy. As evidenced by some of their fallen companions, these trees are starting to reach the end of their lives and will in turn give way to the sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*) and American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) that dominate the preserve's understory.

The low, wet areas of the woods harbor tree species that are accustomed

to having their feet wet. Red maple (*Acer rubrum*), pin oak (*Quercus palustris*) and swamp white oak (*Quercus bicolor*) are all found growing in saturated soils.

In the lowest areas of the woods, buttonbush shrub swamps occur. A number of other tree species including black cherry, green ash, shagbark hickory and ironwood contribute to the diversity of the preserve's tree community.

Although it may be hard to see the forest for the trees at Johnson Woods, there are other treasures to be found. More than 60 species of wildflowers bloom throughout the growing season. Large-flowered trillium (*Trillium grandiflorum*), windflower (*Anemone quinquefolia*) and wild geranium (*Geranium maculatum*) are just a few of the upland flowers you can see.

In the wetter areas of the woods, flowers such as swamp saxifrage (*Saxifraga pensylvanica*) and golden ragwort (*Senecio aureus*) bloom in the spring. Later, as summer heats up, a vivid red wildflower appears. Don't miss the cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*), which can be seen from the boardwalk.

The significant size of the preserve and the age of the woods are a winning combination for the preserve's plant communities, as well as a boon for woodland birds, mammals and amphibians.

Walk quietly through the preserve and you may hear the sharp sound of an acadian flycatcher or the loud hammering of the pileated woodpecker. The work of the largest of Ohio's woodpeckers can be seen along the boardwalk. Look for the tree with several oblong holes that have been excavated – a sure sign of the pileated. A sharp eye might also catch a barred owl resting on a limb or the face of a screech owl peering from a hole in one of the trees.

Amphibians use several vernal pools or wet areas in the preserve to complete their lifecycle. In the spring, these creatures are very active as mating season begins. The woods come alive with the deafening chorus of the spring



Find Johnson Woods State Nature Preserve *located in east central Wayne County. From Orrville, travel 4 miles north on S.R. 57, 1 mile east on Fox Lake Road.*

peeper, and adding to the concert are the western chorus and wood frogs.

Of course the woods also provide habitat for many mammals including one of the preserve's most seen inhabitants – chipmunks. The 1.5 mile boardwalk provides excellent habitat for these little creatures – a veritable chipmunk condominium!

In autumn, one of Ohio's best tree planters, the fox squirrel, can be seen busy at work on the forest floor and high above, feeding on the fruits of the big trees. Raccoons and opossum will also use the big hollow trees for homes.

Johnson Woods is one of the best remaining examples of old growth forest left in Ohio. For me, the towering trees of Johnson Woods are the preserve's most impressive feature. They transport me to an era long gone.

Can you imagine a tree that reaches 100 feet and more into the air, with its first limb 40 feet above the ground, or a tree that could produce a single massive barn beam or ship mast? I don't need to imagine what it would be like to see Ohio as the first settlers did, at Johnson Woods, I only have to open my eyes.

As a living museum, Johnson Woods State Nature Preserve offers something for everyone. The preserve is located in east central Wayne County. From Orrville, travel 4 miles north on S.R. 57, 1 mile east on Fox Lake Road. The parking lot is on the north side of the road. ✓

*John McFadden
North District Preserve Manager*

Upper Chagrin River continued from page 1

Covering an area of 264 square miles, the Chagrin watershed is located in the northeastern Ohio counties of Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake and Portage. Thirty-nine townships and municipalities lie within the watershed.

The original designation study of the Chagrin River resulted in 49 miles being designated "scenic river area" in 1979. After surveying the upper watershed in 2001, the division recommended designating an additional 22 miles of the Chagrin River. The new designation runs from the Woodiebrook Road bridge crossing downstream to the confluence with the Aurora Branch of the Chagrin River in Bentleyville.

The Chagrin River's glacial past is evident throughout the watershed. Over the last 12,000 years, the river has progressed from the upland headwater areas to create deep ravines further downstream. There are many areas on the Chagrin River and its numerous tributaries where thick glacial till has eroded, exposing sandstone and Chagrin Shale bedrock.

As the Chagrin flows through the Bass Lake area, the river presents a diverse landscape that ranges from fields and meadows to broad floodplains with adjacent wetlands. Much of the area along this portion of the river also benefits from a healthy riparian forest buffer consisting of beech, maple, sycamore, oak, cherry, walnut, locust, hickory, willow, hemlock and white pine.

Bass Lake, located in Munson Township, is considered to be one of Geauga County's natural treasures. It is an intact kettle hole lake formed by ancient glaciers. Bass Lake still possesses a lot of the natural beauty that existed more than 2,000 years ago – when Native Americans had their village near the southwest corner of the lake.

In the late 19th century, Bass Lake's beauty drew visitors from nearby counties. From the late 1800s until the early 1900s, Bass Lake was stop #39 on the old Cleveland and Eastern Interurban railway route, which connected Cleveland to this scenic area.

Bass Lake's most notable tributary is Spring Brook – the only known stream in Ohio which has continually held a



Celebrating the Chagrin-- When Director Sam Speck (center) officially designated the Upper Chagrin as a State Scenic River on October 10, 2002, he was joined by Rich Cochran, executive director, Chagrin River Land Conservancy; Russell Township Trustee Greg Studen, who also serves as president of the Chagrin River Watershed Partners; DNAP Chief Stu Lewis; and Northeast Regional Scenic River Coordinator Steve Roloson. Afterward, Director Speck presented Chief Lewis with the ceremonial pen he used to designate the Chagrin, in honor of Lewis' 30 years with Ohio's Scenic Rivers Program.

population of the Ohio brook trout since the last ice age. Spring Brook provides the brook trout with a near optimal combination of habitat. Constant cool spring-fed water flows from Sharon sandstone offers a combination of riffles, small waterfalls and deep pools.

Downstream from Bass Lake, the valley walls begin to appear as they skirt the edge of the floodplain, sometimes hundreds of feet back from the present course of the river, while in other areas, the steep slopes tower over the edge of the Chagrin River. Through Chagrin Falls, the river cascades over several natural rock outcroppings and small dams creating scenic overlooks that are a popular local attraction.

Through the efforts of the Geauga Park District, Chagrin River Land Conservancy and the Trust for Public Land, both Spring Brook and Bass Lake are being protected from the threat of development. These 574 acres of land, wetland and woodland provide habitat for a diversity of plants and animals, including a nesting pair of bald eagles.

"The extension of the original Chagrin Scenic River designation will open up new opportunities for the scenic river program to work with landowners, local governments, agencies and others, such as the Chagrin River Watershed Partners," said Steve

Roloson, northeastern Ohio regional scenic rivers manager.

The Chagrin River Watershed Partners (CRWP) is a non-profit organization supported by Chagrin Valley communities. It provides assistance from a watershed perspective on a variety of issues, including flood and erosion control. CRWP also conducts research on watershed issues to support local decision making.

On October 10, 2002 a special ceremony was held to celebrate the new scenic river designation. An audience comprised of members from the Chagrin River Watershed Partners, Chagrin River Land Conservancy, local township officials, mayors, and committed landowners, witnessed ODNR Director Sam Speck officially designate the Upper Chagrin as the newest addition to Ohio's scenic rivers system.

Following the designation ceremony, lunch was generously provided by the Chagrin River Land Conservancy. Afterward, there were presentations about Ohio's Scenic Rivers Program by Bob Gable and on native brook trout by Rob Sylak, an instructor from the Chagrin River Watershed Institute. ✓

*Steve Roloson
Northeast Ohio Regional
Scenic Rivers Manager*

Ohio's Citrus Trees

A walk through an Ohio woodlot can reveal an amazing variety of trees – maple, oak, hickory, beech, orange... well, not orange trees really, but Ohio does have two native trees from the citrus family. Interestingly, both are common in our tempestuous temperate zone – not what you would expect from a family that limits most of its members to the tropics.

The Wafer-ash or Hoptree is scattered across the state, although apparently less common in the eastern counties. Both names refer to the shape of its fruit – thin-winged, nearly circular and almost an inch wide with two small, dark red-brown seeds at the center. Early settlers thought the clusters of these seeds looked like those of the hop vine, and since they were bitter, used them in place of true hops in brewing beer.

The Wafer-ash is not a big tree, rarely growing more than 20 feet tall. Although the wood is hard, dense and quite heavy, there is rarely enough of it to be useful for anything other than being a tree. Its small, clustered, ill-smelling greenish-white flowers attract flies, which are responsible for pollination. The leaves are alternate, glossy dark-green and dotted with translucent glands that can be easily seen when the leaf is held against a bright light.

While this may not seem to be a tree designed to attract much attention beyond its questionable medical benefits, it has been popular in England for more than two centuries as a landscape plant – a use that has been totally ignored on this side of the Atlantic.

Ohio's other citrus cousin is the Prickly-ash, also named for the resemblance of its compound leaves to those of ash trees. This, too, is a small tree, but one with an attitude. Every node bears two stout prickles. This trait, combined with its habit of growing in thickets, gave rise to another of its names, "wait-a-bit," since getting through such a stand will take a good bit of time.

It is also called the Toothache tree because of its pungent aromatic bark, which was chewed to soothe tooth

pain. Its scientific name, *Xanthoxylum*, means yellow wood, which is characteristic of the European variety. Our version, *americanum*, has white wood.

The plant is dioecious, which means that male and female flowers grow on separate trees. The seeds – fleshy pods

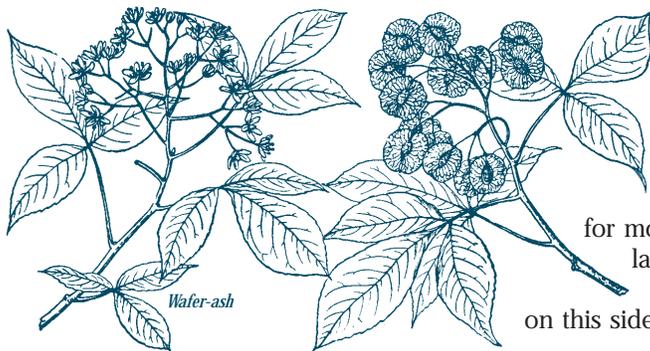


about the size of small peas – are bright red and quite ornamental. They have a strong lemon smell, which might tempt you to sample a few. If you do, you will find them at first very aromatic, then burning. At one time this quality made it valuable as a druggist's remedy. The leaves, like those of the Wafer-ash, are dotted with translucent glands, but are aromatic rather than ill-smelling when crushed.

Although Prickly-ash prefers to grow in moist woodlots and floodplains, there are several colonies of it in the thin, droughty soil along the rim trail at Clifton Gorge State Nature Preserve. It is even more common in Ohio than Wafer-ash, being found in nearly every county.

Watch for these two trees the next time you walk the woods of Ohio. ✓

Tim Snyder
West Central District Preserve Manager



The wafer-like shape of its fruit combined with its three-part compound leaf, which bears some resemblance to those of ash trees (but a greater one to poison ivy) gave rise to the name Wafer-ash and also its scientific name – *Ptelea trifoliata*. *Ptelea* is Greek for elm, some of which have similar looking fruit, and *trifoliata* means three-leaved. Pioneer doctors found the bitter root and bark useful in relieving fevers and so gave it their own names – Quininetree and Aguebark.

Asian lady beetles continued from page 3



voracious appetites in and around the garden. Experts agree that populations of these Asian beetles are still expanding, but feel in time, as predators and other controls

come into play, the numbers should level off.

One of the questions that puzzles and concerns entomologists is whether or not these invaders are displacing our native populations of lady beetles. There is some evidence that this is the case.

An interesting aspect of ladybug behavior is their practice of cannibalism; they

eat their young and the young of other species as well. Because of this, scientists believe the Asian lady beetles are a serious threat to our native beetles. Let's hope not, otherwise we may be left without our beloved state insect and be forced to choose another. ✓

Emliss Ricks, Jr.
Northeast District Preserve Manager

And now the rest of the story...

If you are following the story of parasitic plant species from the last (Summer) issue of the newsletter, you've come to the mystery plant with perhaps the most romantic connotations.

Because this species is not commonly seen in Ohio's natural landscape, it's understandable why people are surprised to learn that this plant grows in Ohio. It can be found in only one state nature preserve – Desonier in Athens County. Even there it only grows on one tree and not along the trail. It is also found less than a quarter of a mile from Lake Katharine State Nature Preserve in Jackson County. Have you guessed it yet?

It's a rare person who can resist a quick kiss under the mistletoe at Christmas! In Ohio, mistletoe

(*Phoradendron leucarpum*) doesn't grow very far north of the Ohio River.

Mistletoe grows on the branches of trees from seeds deposited with bird droppings. Nutrients are acquired from the tree via small roots that penetrate the bark.

As with many other organizational systems, many individuals do not fit neatly into one category or the other – mistletoe is a good example. It is only partially a parasite – it's a hemiparasite. The leaves are green and produce chlorophyll, and the sticky berries are white.

It is impossible to write about mistletoe and not explore the custom of kissing under a sprig of the plant at Christmas.

The Norse tell the story of Frigga and Balder. Frigga was the goddess of love and her son Balder, the god of the summer sun. When Balder dreamed of dying, Frigga became alarmed because his death would mean the end of all



life on earth. Frigga gained promises from the elements of water, fire, air and earth, as well as every plant and animal, to not harm Balder.

Unfortunately, Loki, the god of evil and an enemy of Balder, knew that Frigga had missed one plant because it did not grow on the earth, but rather above it in the trees. Loki poisoned an arrowtip with mistletoe and tricked Hoder, Balder's blind brother, into shooting him with it, causing him to die.

For three days all the elements tried unsuccessfully to resuscitate Balder. It was finally Frigga who brought him back to life. Her tears became the white berries of the mistletoe. After reversing the poisonous effect of the plant, she kissed all who walked under the tree where it grew and said that no harm would come to anyone passing under the mistletoe – but instead, offered them a token of love – a kiss. ✓

Phil Zito
Southeast District Preserve Manager

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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