



Natural Ohio

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

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Summer 2002

Preserves are Special Places



If you're looking for a place to commune with nature, see unique habitats or just need to getaway for a few hours—Ohio's state nature preserves are the place to go. But don't look for restrooms, drinking fountains, camp sites, beaches or even trash receptacles along the trail.

Many types of publicly-owned areas are called "preserves." But, dedicated state nature preserves are very different than other state lands—state parks, forests and wildlife areas— managed by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR).

What makes state nature preserves so special?

"State nature preserves protect rare plant species, sensitive animal habitats and scenic and geologic wonders within their borders," said Stu Lewis, chief of the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves. "Preservation is our core mission."

A state nature preserve is a legally-dedicated area that has been recognized as possessing significant remnants of

Ohio's natural heritage. Ohio's state nature preserves, encompassing 27,000 acres, could be called natural resource museums, each with its own unique displays of nature.

State parks are designed for recreation

Many state parks retain characteristics of Ohio's natural past, but the mission statement of ODNR's Division of Parks and Recreation symbolizes the important differences between a park and a preserve. Their mission is to provide high-quality outdoor recreational experiences for park visitors.

Ohio has 74 state parks in 60 counties with a combined total of 204,557 acres of land and water resources. Facilities at state parks include resort lodges, golf

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Even parasites have a place in our natural world

Very few things in our world can be neatly divided into categories, yet we still try.

In the plant world, there are various ways plants acquire nutrients. Autotrophic species, by far the largest group, produce their own food. This is usually accomplished through photosynthesis—plants using the sun to produce chlorophyll. Easily identified by their green foliage, these plants also obtain nutrients from soil.

Saprophytic plants derive nutrition from decomposing organic material and symbiotic plants are two plants which cooperate to the mutual benefit of both.

Another group of plants are actually carnivorous in nature. Plants, such as pitcher-plant, bladderwort and sundew, supplement their diets by trapping insects.

One of the strangest group of plants are parasites. The word itself conjures up unpleasant thoughts of ticks, leeches, tapeworms and their unsavory

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From the Chief

Summer is a busy time for the field staff of the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves. Whether it's eco-management, trail improvements or sharing their knowledge with visitors, our preserve managers are never idle. Equally busy are the scenic rivers staff – coordinating cleanups, working with landowners and local governments and presenting stream quality monitoring workshops.

But we're never too busy to share our appreciation—for our volunteers, for our readers and for the thousands of Ohioans who donated a portion of their income tax refunds to the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves—all supporting the mission and activities of the division. Your support is a great benefit to us all.

A special thanks to the readers of *Natural Ohio*. More than 560 readers, nearly 6 percent, completed our recent survey. Many of you also shared a variety of suggestions with us, which will help us to better serve our readers.

According to the surveys, our average reader is a self-described nature enthusiast, who has a college education and is over the age of 50. Many of our readers have visited at least two preserves in the past two years.

The division was pleased to learn that most of you are happy with the newsletter's current format. The top favorite feature is the preserve spotlight, closely followed by articles on trees, birds, plants and geologic/natural history.

In closing, I'd like to express my appreciation for the commitment of the staff of the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves—both past and present. The road ahead remains challenging as budgets continue to tighten, but I am confident that the division's staff will continue to demonstrate their talent and dedication to the important mission of this division.

Sincerely,

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

Preserves are Special Places continued from page 1

courses, campsites, nature centers, beaches, pools, boat ramps and docks and many picnic areas and trails.

Preserve visitors are often surprised that the outdoor recreational pursuits enjoyed at local and state parks are not allowed at a state nature preserve.

"If ODNR permitted high-impact activities, such as picnicking, swimming, boating, camping and horseback riding, in state preserves, the very significant natural features protected would be vulnerable," said Chief Lewis.

Visits to state parks can be complemented by nearby state nature preserves. In Greene County, Clifton Gorge State Nature Preserve (SNP) shares a border with John Bryan State Park. Park visitors often cross into the preserve to use the 4 miles of trails at Clifton Gorge. After a few hours on the trail, visitors are able to return to their campsites or picnics.

Other preserves located near state parks include Hueston Woods SNP located in Hueston Woods State Park and North Pond SNP and North Shore Alvar SNP located at Kelleys Island State Park.

State forests offer variety of outdoor opportunities

ODNR's Division of Forestry manages 20 state forests, which encompasses 183,000 acres. Primarily managed for forest products, Ohio's state forests also provide a variety of public benefits including recreational opportunities, quality streams and diverse wildlife habitats.

State forests offer hiking, hunting and fishing. In some areas, camping by permit, backpacking, rock climbing, target shooting, APV riding and snowmobiling is allowed.

Several state nature preserves can be found near or within the borders of a state forest. Clear Fork Gorge State Nature Preserve, located within Mohican Memorial Forest, protects an old growth white pine Eastern hemlock forest. In addition to rare nesting warblers, the area is home to the large round-leaved orchid.

In the Hocking Hills area, Conkle's Hollow State Nature Preserve is one of

six preserves in or near Hocking State Forest. Most of the Hocking Hills preserves protect unique geologic features, such as the scenic gorge and cliffs of Conkle's Hollow.

Horseback riders using Hocking State Forest trails can tie up their horses along the bridle trail and hike down to see the view from the top of the gorge at an observation deck along Conkle's Hollow's popular rim trail.

Hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing top the list at Ohio's wildlife areas

Ohioans are blessed with an abundance of public hunting and fishing areas throughout the state. ODNR's Division of Wildlife manages about 100 wildlife areas totaling more than 165,000 acres. Visitors to these areas are free to hunt, fish, trap and watch wildlife year-round.

While hunting is banned in all state nature preserves, controlled hunting is an important wildlife management tool in some areas. Working with the Division of Wildlife, individual hunts are held semi-annually at several preserves.

Although fishing is not allowed in state nature preserves, there is an exception. Fishing is allowed, by permit only, at Lake Katharine State Nature Preserve in Jackson County.

If you're interested in viewing wildlife and visiting a preserve, try Acadia Cliffs in Athens County. Surrounded by public hunting grounds, Acadia Cliffs State Nature Preserve protects sandstone cliff communities. A variety of ferns grow there, and the preserve is the only protected site of the rare Bradley's spleenwort.

Enjoy the differences found at a state nature preserve

It's important that visitors understand what can and can not be done in a state nature preserve. Most preserves offer visitors bulletin boards and signs to guide them along the way.

Spend some time this summer at a state nature preserve—you'll soon learn what an oasis of quiet and solitude they can be. And if you plan ahead, you won't even notice the lack of picnic tables, trash cans or restrooms. ✓

*Heidi Hetzel-Evans
Public Information*

Narrow-leaved and hybrid cattail

(*Typha angustifolia*, *T. Xglauca*)

Description: Narrow-leaved cattail is a non-native, invasive plant that hybridizes with the native broad-leaved cattail to produce the invasive hybrid cattail. All three aquatic perennials may grow to a height of 10 feet and produce velvety brown spikes of flowers.

The flower head of the hybrid and the narrow-leaved cattail have a gap of 1-4 inches between the male and female flowers, while the native species has both flower types next to each other.

The leaves of cattail originate from the base and spread outward. The narrow-leaved and hybrid cattails have leaves that are one-quarter to three-quarters of an inch across; the native cattail's leaves are wider at a half to an inch. A starchy rhizome forms beneath each plant.



This prolific plant can grow in disturbed areas, as well as brackish and polluted waters of depths nearing 3 feet.

Distribution: Narrow-leaved cattails are believed to have been introduced to the Atlantic seaboard from the dry ballast of European ships. This plant has since spread westward and occurs throughout much of the United States. The hybrid cattail is concentrated in the northeast, but may occur wherever both the native and the narrow-leaved species are present. All three are found throughout Ohio.

Habitat: Stands of cattails can be found in a wide variety of wetland habitats including marshes, lakeshores, river backwaters and roadside ditches.

Problem: Narrow-leaved and hybrid cattail can out-compete native plants in wetland systems. These plants often establish dense monocultures which crowd out native vegetation. They are also thought to be alleopathic, producing chemicals which discourage the growth of other plant species. Cattails reproduce vegetatively by rhizomes and sexually through massive amounts of seed.

Management: A difficult plant to control—manipulating water levels can kill cattails by inhibiting airflow from the cattail shoots to the roots. Removing the dead leaves and submerging the shoots in early spring can “suffocate” the plant. Other mechanical methods, such as pulling, cutting and bulldozing have been used with some success. Combining cutting and chemical spraying can also be successful, but re-treatment is usually necessary due to the plant's extensive root system.

Alternative Native Plants: Native broad-leaved cattail, bur-reed, iris, bulrushes, sedges

Even Parasites Have a Place continued from page 1

relatives. Like their insect counterparts, parasitic plants require living organisms to sustain life.

Rarely does the parasite cause death to its host, which would ultimately result in the death of the parasite—not a good survival technique. These species are dependent on the presence of the host species for their survival.

Some plants are totally parasitic, others only partially or during a particular period of their life. Like saprophytes, or plants that rely on dead organic matter for nutrients, the parasites are often distinguished by their lack of green color, having no chlorophyll.

Six parasitic species can be encountered along the trails of many Ohio state nature preserves.

The parasitic plant I'm most frequently asked about is **Indian pipe** (*Monotropa uniflora*). It is a fascinating species, both in appearance and biology. White, almost translucent, it emerges from the forest floor, rapidly reaching a height of 3-4 inches. Most



Indian pipe

often found in clusters, the single, nodding flower is the same color as the rest of the plant. As the plant grows older the color changes to black and

the seed capsules straighten.

People often mistake Indian pipe for fungi. At one time, it was thought to be a flowering saprophyte, and some references still classify them as saprophytic.

Indian pipes have a complex, indirect association with trees through underground mycorrhizae (*fungi*). The fungi takes carbohydrates from tree roots while supplying water and nutrients to the tree. In turn, Indian pipes acquire carbohydrates from the fungi. It could be said they are directly parasitic on the fungi and indirectly parasitic on the tree.



Pine Sap

Pinesap (*Monotropa hypopithys*) is closely related to Indian pipe, but differs in a few ways. While it is the same size, there are multiple flowers on each of the reddish plants. It is believed to be a mycoheterotroph, like the Indian pipe. Look for them during the summer in woodlands. Not being photosynthetic, they do not require sunlight.

Little Miami State & National Scenic R



Squawroot

Squawroot (*Conopholis americana*) is a yellowish scaly plant growing in large clusters. An obvious sight, it pushes through the rich humus found in oak woodlands during spring. It is a parasite of oak trees, attached to the tree's root system. While it can be found statewide, it is more common in the east.

As its common and Latin names imply, **beechnuts** (*Epifagus virginiana*) are parasitic to beech trees. The yellowish orange stems reach a height of a foot or so, and can be found blooming in late summer or early fall throughout the state.

A common parasitic plant found near Lake Katharine State Nature Preserve is **common dodder** (*Cuscuta gronovii*). Rather than growing from the ground, this thin vine grows on a variety of other species in open or semi-open areas. Small suckers draw sap from host plants. Tiny white flowers bloom during the summer months.

Also known as lover's vine, dodder plants were used by girls to determine the sincerity of their lovers. A girl would throw dodder over her shoulder and return later to see if the vine had become attached to the plant it was thrown onto. If it was entwined to the new plant, the suitor was to be trusted. It's also known as lover's knot and lovevine.

Although few have seen Ohio's sixth parasitic plant in its natural habitat, most of us are very familiar with it. And like the dodder, it too has romantic connotations. Can you guess which plant? If not, check out the next issue of the newsletter. ✓

Phil Zito
Southeast District Preserve Manager

Rising in the fields of Clark County, near South Charleston, the Little Miami River winds southward 105 miles to join the Ohio River at Cincinnati. Descending 689 feet from source to mouth, the river flows through five southwest Ohio counties. Its floodplain varies in width from a few hundred feet to nearly 2 miles. Along with its major tributaries—East Fork, Todd Fork and Caesar Creek—the Little Miami watershed encompasses 1,757 square miles.



Its river corridor offers something for everyone, including trails, historical sites and boating access. More than 100,000 canoeists navigate the waters of the Little Miami annually.

First in Ohio

The Little Miami became Ohio's first state scenic river in 1969 and remains the state's longest river in the scenic rivers system. In 1980, the river earned

the title, "National Wild and Scenic River," one of only three in Ohio.

Most extraordinary is the fact that this state and national scenic river runs through the boundaries of a major metropolitan area. Despite urbanization, the Little Miami ranks in the top 10 percent of Ohio's river ecosystems and has been designated an exceptional warm water habitat by the Ohio

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Environmental
Protection Agency.

This south-western river is Ohio's longest stretch of river categorized as "exceptional" and boasts biologically diverse streams. The river and its watershed are home to 87 fish species, including three state endangered fish, and more than 200 bird species. A variety of mammals can be found along its rich riparian corridor.

Discover Little Miami's cultural history

The area surrounding the Little Miami boasts a range of historical sightseeing opportunities. The largest earthworks in the state—Fort Ancient State Memorial—is located at State Route 350. A museum, operated by the Ohio Historical Society, offers exhibits about the massive earthworks and mounds built by the prehistoric Hopewell Indians who

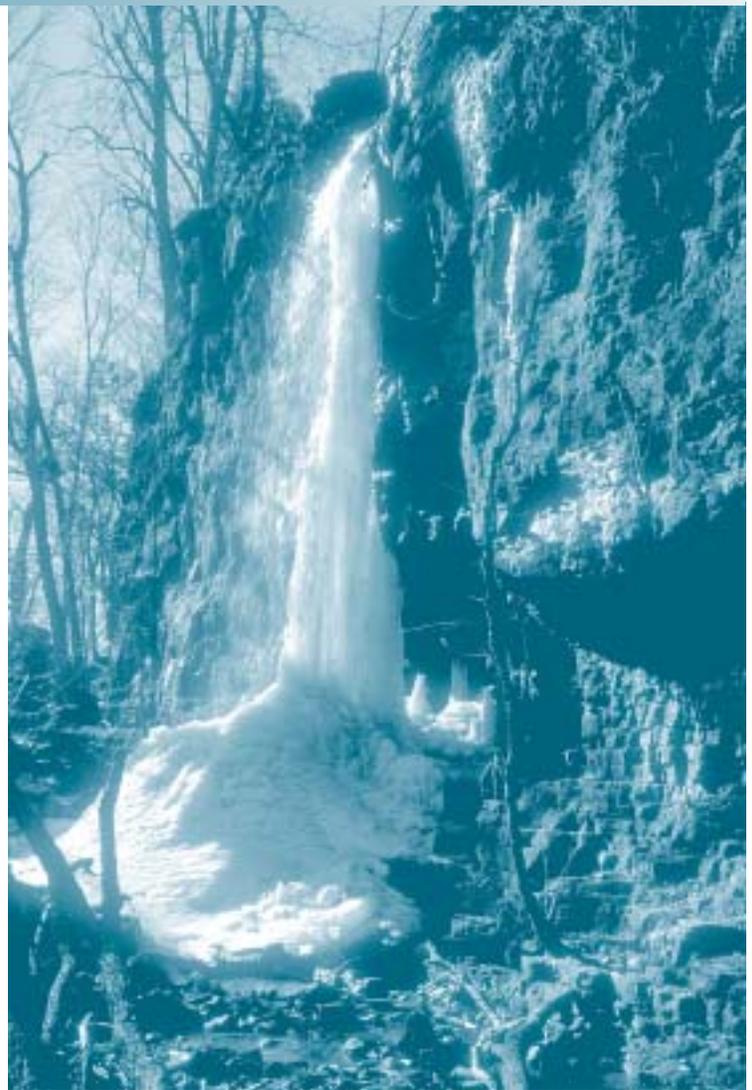
inhabited the area from 300 B.C. to 600 A.D. Almost 2 miles of hiking trails provide scenic views.

In much more recent history, the Miami and Shawnee Indians inhabited the area. After the War of 1812, the Indian threat dissipated and settlers moved in. Numerous mills were built along the river's banks, some still stand. Clifton Mill near Yellow Springs is still in operation. Historic buildings, grist mills, textile mills and stagecoach trails can still be found in this historic river valley.

Trail offers miles of hiking and biking

Once an abandoned railroad right-of-way, the Little Miami Scenic Bike Trail is 47 miles of paved trail, winding along the Little Miami through four counties. It offers access to rolling farm country, towering cliffs, steep gorges, beautiful forests and spectacular views of the river.

More than 340 species of wildflowers are known to inhabit the corridor. Virginia bluebell, bellwort, wild ginger and wild columbine are only a few. The trail offers numerous recreational pursuits, including biking, hiking, cross-country skiing, rollerblading, backpacking and horseback riding. Several public launch facilities provide boating access.



Clifton Gorge State Nature Preserve

State facilities abound

Other area attractions include three state nature preserves—Clifton Gorge, Halls Creek Woods and Caesar Creek Gorge; three state parks—Caesar Creek, East Fork and John Bryan; and Spring Valley Wildlife Area, which is one of the best birdwatching areas in southwest Ohio.

Strong local conservation efforts

There are many wonderful natural resource opportunities in Ohio. There is also a huge population of people who call Ohio home. Too often, the two seem geographically separated. The Little Miami State and National Scenic River is an example of how both can co-exist. One visit to this area and you'll learn why the communities along the river are so protective of its scenic shores. ✓

Jerry Ballard
Southwest Ohio Scenic River Manager

The History of Ohio's Hills

Hill country. It wraps around the eastern reaches of Ohio from Lake Erie to the Ohio River, from Conneaut to Cincinnati. Where did they come from—these gentle, rounded hills?

The mountains of the Great West display their origin in buckled rock or piles of volcanic ash. The layers of rock forming the Appalachians arch upward like a rumpled rug. But the rocks of Ohio, even in this hill country, are nearly flat. No tortured evidence of earthly convulsions mar their placid horizontal quality. So, how did they get here?

Ohio's hill country is part of the Appalachian Plateau, a wide apron of rock that was uplifted in the dim past, but uplifted so gently that the rocks remained flat. There are a few minor up bends, or anticlines, and down bends, synclines, and even fewer faults where the rocks broke under stress. Their effect on the landscape we see today has been minimal.

Ohio's hills were not thrust up like the Rocky Mountains or the Appalachians. Their form is not due to rock being uplifted, but to rock being eroded away, bit by tiny bit. The story of our hills is not so much a story of the formation of bumps, but of hollows. It is the valleys eroded from the flat-lying rocks that have created the hills.

There is a distinct boundary between the hill-country and the flat plains to their west. In places this "Appalachian front" rises several hundred feet above the plain and can be seen for miles. Here, surely, is an example of dramatic earth forces at work, of a major uplift of rock? Not so.

Ohio's geology, like its landscape, is subtle. Although we speak of the rocks of the hill country as being horizontal, in truth they are not. They tip ever so gently down to the east—so gently that you would have to travel several miles before noticing that the rock layer you are following is getting lower.

The rocks of Mississippian age you see in the Appalachian front, east of Columbus, are buried beneath

several thousand feet of younger rocks at East Liverpool on the eastern border. This gentle dip means that, as you travel eastward, you will cross increasingly younger rock layers that lie in great strips running north and south across the state.

From a short distance up, it would seem that eons of erosion have beveled this original arc flat. But at ground level and from the 6 foot height perspective of humans, the beveling appears to have been very uneven.

Rocks differ in their hardness, and hard rocks are more difficult to erode away. Thus they remain standing higher than the rock layers which are softer. The Appalachian front is our premier example of especially hard rock which has resisted erosion much longer than rocks to the west. This is best displayed in the Mount Logan Range at Chillicothe, much of which is now protected as Great Seal State Park.

Many of the rock layers behind the front are not so sturdy, and erosion has carved them into gentle hills. But in places, harder rock forms a more impressive landscape. The tough Black Hand sandstone of the Hocking Hills and the Sharon Conglomerate of Jackson County and northeastern Ohio are two good examples. Such areas have become the focus of parks and nature preserves because of their scenic interest and generally wild aspect, as well as the unusual plant communities they often support.

Our hills may not be as dramatic as the mountains we see on scenic calendars, but they have an interest all their own, and a history that is, in many cases, longer and more complex. Fortunately, we do not have to know their past to enjoy their present. All we have to do is protect them. ✓

Tim Snyder
West Central District Preserve Manager

Goodbye

In the past six months, the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves (DNAP) lost a lifetime of experience with the retirements of four key employees—Allison Cusick, Steve Goodwin, Patricia Jones and Bill Loebick. Over the years, each played a significant role in shaping the state's system of nature preserves and scenic rivers.



Chief botanist retires

Had it not been for the direction of two educators, Allison

Cusick might have turned to a career in English. Cusick credits a 7th grade teacher for interesting him in biology. Later, after earning an undergraduate degree in English, Cusick worked under Dr. Tom Cooperrider and went on to earn a Master's degree in botany.

Cusick served as the chief botanist for the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves. He retired after more than 24 years with the division. His fondest memories are from the early days of a career that began at an old Columbus hangar building in 1978.

"During my years with DNAP, I have seen the number of state nature preserves greatly increase," said Cusick. "I have also seen natural areas lost to development or degraded by human activities. On the whole, however, the state of Ohio's natural areas is better today than two decades ago."

Cusick made a number of rare plant finds in his career, including the rare juniper sedge (*Carex juniperorum*) at Lynx Prairie in Adams County.

Even in retirement, Cusick is engaged in studying plants—Ohio's invasive species.

Old Friends

He also writes and stays active in philatelic events. He and his wife, Carol, have formed a tour company and plan on escorting people to natural and cultural sites around Ohio and surrounding states.



Thirty years of managing preservation

Steve Goodwin learned the division from the ground up.

He began his career with DNAP in 1972 as a student intern preparing grant applications for local Land and Water Conservation Fund projects.

In the mid 1970s, Goodwin worked for the division's Scenic Rivers program, as a scenic river coordinator for the Little Miami State Scenic River. In the late '70's, he helped establish a field operations program for scenic river facilities, as well as develop site and management plans for the division's growing number of nature preserves and scenic river properties.

"During my tenure at ODNR, I enjoyed providing technical assistance to many local governments and conservation groups regarding the management of nature preserves such as Jackson Bog, Gahanna Woods, Mentor Marsh and Hach-Otis," said Goodwin.

Project management became one of Goodwin's specialties. During the 1980s, he coordinated the Natural Areas Checkoff Program and in the 1990s, the Ohio Natural Landmarks Program. Most recently, Goodwin administered DNAP's capital improvement projects and other activities funded by the NatureWorks program.

Goodwin, who retired in December 2001, is an active board member of The Ohio State University, School of Natural Resources Alumni Society. He also serves as advisor to both the Appalachian Ohio Alliance and Owl Creek Conservancy.



A fondness for days in the field

Before joining the division in '78, Bill Loebick spent a few years with

ODNR's Division of Parks and Recreation as a naturalist. When he began with DNAP, he brought his love of the outdoors to his new job as field operations manager.

For 22 of his 24 years with the division, Loebick stayed in field operations. His duties ranged from coordinating interpretative programming to maintenance, public relations and law enforcement. According to Loebick, the best days were spent out in the field, making his trail and bridge designs come to life.

Loebick had his share of challenging projects over the years, including building the boardwalk, observation deck and tower at North Pond State Nature Preserve on Kelleys Island. He spent a great deal of time at Kelleys, along side staff and volunteers, doing everything from hauling materials and hammering nails to providing guidance for novice builders.

"My idea of a good day was any day we could see something completed or when everything on a project went right," said Loebick. "I always appreciated a letter from the public or someone stopping me to say—good job, I really enjoyed visiting that site."

In the past two years, Loebick served as real estate administrator. Although he missed being in the field, he also found satisfaction in his new duties.

"I enjoyed working with landowners to protect land," said Loebick. "The hope of doing something good by acquiring land and know that it would be there forever."

Loebick plans on returning to work in a few months. Home renovations and gardening on his 73-acre mini-farm will give him enough to do until he returns to natural resource management.



Technology changed but love of job didn't

According to Dr. Patricia

Jones, Ohio's Natural Heritage Database is one of the most important aspects of the division. Jones, who retired May 31, devoted her 25-year career with DNAP to managing its database program.

The Natural Heritage Database contains more than 13,000 records of important biological and ecological information about Ohio's rare plants and animals, high-quality plant communities and other significant natural features.

"The database never forgets. People come and go, but the (database) records and the work of those who are gone remain," said Jones.

In the early days of the program, records from the database were used to support acquisition and preservation projects. Jones explained that now, the information is also used by planners and public agencies to locate rare species and natural features before a project begins.

Technology played a role in Jones' career over the years. In the beginning, staff used punch cards to log information into the database. Today, database staff plan to convert to GIS mapping software to display data in a visual format.

Jones really liked her job; it gave her a chance to use her biology background and her literature research skills. She admits she'll miss having access to all the materials and books under her care.

Jones plans a retirement filled with "doing all the things you don't have a chance to do when you're working," including home repair, gardening and spending time with family.

"On behalf of the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves, I thank our retirees for their work over the years and the commitment and talent they brought to their jobs everyday," said Chief Lewis. "Ohio is a better place because of the work of these fine state employees." ✓

New Boardwalk at Jackson Bog State Nature Preserve

More than 70 people helped the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves officially open the new 4,200 ft. boardwalk at Jackson Bog State Nature Preserve in mid June.

The event, which featured guest speaker ODNR Director Sam Speck, also recognized volunteers from the Friends of Jackson Bog for their hard work and support of the preserve.

"Jackson Bog is one of Ohio's truly unique natural places," said Director Speck. "This new boardwalk will reveal the preserve's abundant meadows and spring waters to students, scientists and visitors, while protecting the fragile ecosystem from potential harm."

After the event, guests tried the new boardwalk which features an observation deck, benches and new interpretive signage along the trail.



The boardwalk brings visitors closer to an array of plants including: pitcher-plant, round-leaved sundew, queen-of-the-prairie, Kalm's lobelia, grass-of-Parnassus, swamp thistle and shrubby cinquefoil.

Jackson Bog State Nature Preserve is situated in Jackson Township Park South in Stark County. The preserve is open daily, from sunrise to sunset. For more information, contact Emliss Ricks, Jr. at (330) 527-5118. ✓

Our sincere apologies

... to our readers who were unable to participate in this year's Cranberry Bog Open House Lottery.

Due to printing and mailing issues that were beyond our control, many readers did not receive the newsletter with lottery information prior to the May 31 deadline.

For those interested in attending next year's Open House, we will again use a lottery system. The newsletter will carry the information in the Winter 2003 issue, giving all of our readers a chance to participate. ✓

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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