

THE DIVISION OF NATURAL AREAS AND PRESERVES MAKES 2 KEY LAND PURCHASES - Thanks to Ohioan's generosity through the Natural Areas Tax Checkoff Program

In 2012, with tax check off donations, the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves (DNAP) purchased 2 statewide significant properties that harbor rare species and high quality plant associations. The Division purchased a critical 51-acre tract that adjoins **Whipple State Nature Preserve** in Adams County. The property contains a variety of habitats including dolomite cliffs, xeric limestone prairies, and caves. Nine state listed animals and plants have been recorded on the property to date. One of the more striking features of the tract is a rock promontory with a high-quality xeric limestone prairie community. Xeric limestone prairies, or cedar glades, are very rare in Ohio, and are found mostly in Adams County. These communities are typically only a few acres in size and are highly diverse with well over 100 plant species. Robert Whipple donated the original 187 acres to the Division in 1989, and with this 2012 purchase, the Preserve now totals nearly 450 acres and protects over 20 state rare species. Whipple Preserve is open to the public and has a small gravel pull-off parking area and trail. The best time to walk the trails is April to early May during the spring wildflower season. Due to the sensitivity of the plant communities occurring on the new parcel, access will be limited to permit only.

Mercer County was the location for the other purchase. It is a 69-acre parcel that will be **St. Marys River Wetlands State Nature Preserve**. The St. Marys River system has a collection of oxbows and associated wet-



crested coralroot orchid

lands that contain a great variety of wetland plants, including some very rare species. Prior to settlement, the St. Marys River wetlands covered thousands of acres in portions of Van Wert and Mercer counties, and hundreds of acres of this wetland complex still exist. This 69-acre parcel is a wonderful example of the wetland system, and covers an estimated 2/3 of the property. There are four state rare species recorded from the property, including the state endangered catchfly grass (*Leersia lenticularis*). This grass is only known in Ohio from the St. Marys River system and it's the only locality within the Great Lakes basin.

Other state rare species include raven-foot sedge (*Carex crus-corvi*), lake cress (*Armoracia lacustris*), and American sweet-flag (*Acorus calamus*). Swamp forest is the most common wetland community. Canopy trees in this forest include pin oak, red ash, eastern cottonwood, American elm, and silver maple, with an understory dominated by sedges and grasses. The property has a diversity of amphibians that inhabit the vernal pools and ponds. Waterfowl are common as well. The preserve will be open to the public by permit only.



St. Marys River Wetlands State Nature Preserve

A.L. Gibson

NATURE PRESERVE SPOTLIGHTS

Mud Lake Bog State Nature Preserve

Mud Lake Bog State Nature Preserve, in Williams County, is the best preserved “kettle hole” lake in northwest Ohio. A most unusual aspect of Mud Lake is that there is an alkaline fen community on the east side of the lake where groundwater from the hillside enters the lake. In other areas, the lake margin is an acidic bog community with sphagnum and tamarack trees. Since there has been no development on the lake, these habitats on the lake margins have been well preserved.

However, the meadows surrounding the lake have been overrun by the invasive reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*). The meadow on the east side of the lake is consistently wet with groundwater from the neighboring hill; restoration activities might result in a very interesting plant community. Nearby there are some rare plants, including small purple fringed orchid.

In the winter of 2007, 3 plots totaling approximately 1500 square feet were marked. These plots were nearly 100% reed canary grass cover. The existing thatch (dead reed canary grass stems) was cut, raked, and disposed. In April 2008, the reed canary grass was sprayed with aquatic-use glyphosate (AquaNeat). A follow up treatment was done two weeks later. All of the existing reed canary grass had been killed in the plots.

That summer, the first colonizers of the restoration plots were annual species of the sedge family. Also, wildflower seedlings began to pop up. By 2009, the plots were dominated by Joe-Pye-weed, bone-set, blue vervain, monkey flower and native sedge species. From a distance, these plots look like flowery oases of reed canary grass “desert.” To date there haven’t been any rarities discovered, and the only orchid found is the ragged fringed orchid. However, the transition to a meadow dominated by native plant species is remarkable.

-Ryan Schroeder, Northwest Preserve Manager

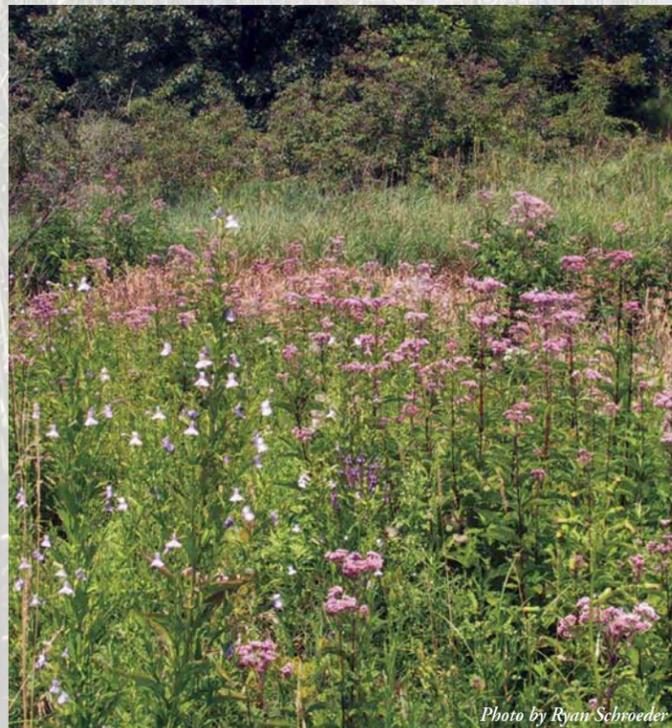


Photo by Ryan Schroeder

Bonnett Pond Bog State Nature Preserve

In northern Holmes County is a hidden gem named **Bonnett Pond Bog State Nature Preserve**. This bog lies within a basin that was formed from a block of ice which had broken off the Killbuck Lobe of the Wisconsin glacier about 13,000 years ago. The block of ice eventually melted, forming a kettle lake, and over thousands of years a sphagnum bog developed. Bonnett Pond Bog has the typical zonation of kettlehole bogs—concentric rings of similar vegetation and a moat at the bog’s edge. Bogs are strongly acidic wetlands with a pH between 3 to 4. Because of the low pH, vital nutrients are in short supply; therefore, a special-adapted flora occurs in these harsh habitats. There are only about one and half dozen high-quality bogs left in the state. Bonnett Pond Bog is one of these last sites in Ohio, and thanks to one caring couple, it is preserved.



Steve Goodwin of DNAP (retired) handing Françoise a State Natural Landmark plaque

Bonnett Pond Bog was owned by Richard and Françoise Reitenbach. Richard was a WW II veteran who met Françoise while serving in France. I fondly remember my first meeting with the Reitenbachs in 1996. Fellow botanist Greg Schneider and I surveyed the bog for rare plants. After getting thoroughly “mucked,” we returned to tell them what we had found. Françoise had her French botany field guide handy, and when we started talking about a particular species she smiled, opened the book, and pointed to the carnivorous bog species, round-leaved sundew (*Drosera rotundifolia*). The common name, sundew, refers to the leaf blades covered with numerous reddish-colored long-stalked glands that secrete a sticky substance (“sundew”). Insects are attracted to the flypaper-like leaves and are trapped. Sundews also have short glands that secrete the digestive enzymes to break down the trapped insect to provide nutrients for the plant.



Round-leaved Sundew

State listed plants at the preserve include the endangered little prickly sedge (*Carex echinata*), the potentially threatened broad-winged sedge (*Carex alata*), and white beak-rush (*Rhynchospora alba*). Other bog species include poison sumac (*Toxicodendron vernix*), swamp loosestrife (*Decodon verticillatus*), three-seeded sedge (*Carex trisperma*), glaucous sedge (*Carex canescens*), highbush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*), and large cranberry (*Vaccinium macrocarpon*).

In 1997, the Reitenbachs agreed to have the bog designated as a State Natural Landmark. In 1999, the Reitenbachs generously donated 17 acres to the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves, and a few months later the site was dedicated as Bonnett Pond Bog State Nature Preserve. The preserve is open to the public by permit only. You may contact the Division for an access permit by visiting the Division’s web page or calling 614-265-6561.

-Rick Gardner, Chief Botanist

Farewell to a Friend of the Preserves

It is with sad heart that we report that **Randy Beinlich**, Ohio State Nature Preserve Manager at **Lake Katharine**, passed away November 2012. He was an ODNR employee for almost 28 years.

Randy was destined to be an outdoor guy, being born in the Big Sky Country of Montana (October 1963). His passion for the out-of-doors led him to be part of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in 1984. (The Ohio CCC was modeled after the Federal CCC of the 30’s and 40’s, where hard work and environmental concerns were intertwined to provide jobs and money during the Great Depression.) Randy was located in southern Ohio, in Portsmouth, at the Riffe CCC camp where he stewarded young adults (18-24 years old), providing education, skills, and training. These abilities, in turn, would lead to valuable and significant work experiences in the conservation and recreation area. Randy influenced an untold number of young adults on their way to productive and meaningful careers.

When the CCC was disbanded in 2003, the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves was fortunate to be able to utilize his skills and knowledge in conserving and protecting Ohio’s State Nature Preserves. Randy was blessed to be located at a gem of a State Nature Preserve – Lake Katharine. Lake Katharine State Nature Preserve, located in Jackson County, is 2,000 acres of rare bigleaf and umbrella magnolias, wildflowers, and sandstone cliffs rimming a 52 acre spring fed lake. Six miles of trails showcase the beauty found within the nature preserve.

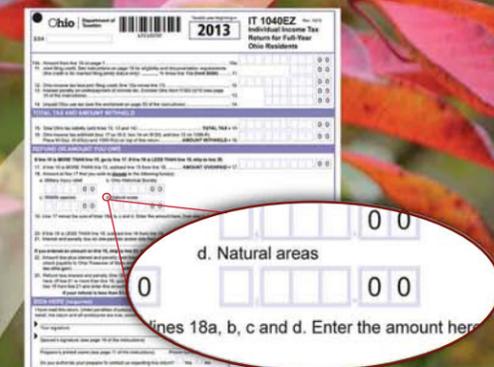


Randy so believed in maintaining the preserves, he indoctrinated his daughters at a young age, signing them up as volunteers to work along side him at special projects. He was a tireless worker with a passion for the out-of-doors, enjoying fishing and other pursuits. His final wishes proved again his commitment to conservation, as he requested all memorials be made to the Columbus Audubon Society so they could continue their volunteer work in the preserves. It was only fitting that his memorial service was held at Lake Katharine State Nature Preserve with a full honor guard.

ADD THESE TO YOUR BUCKET LIST:

- Go a little wild!**
 Bird and butterfly watch, hunt for fox and deer tracks, and hope to catch a glimpse of a mink on the 100 State Nature Preserves across Ohio that are open to the public. (It’s so easy - no permits needed.)
- Get healthy!**
 Take a wildflower hike in the sunshine and fresh air. (Note to self: remember camera)
- Donate to the Natural Areas Tax Checkoff Program!**

Protect Ohio’s natural treasures by supporting the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves. Donations to the DNAP Tax Checkoff Program ensure that the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves has the funding necessary to acquire and forever protect the natural wonders of Ohio. Make a donation by the checking “Natural Areas” on your 2013 Ohio Income Tax Return.



TWO OHIO BOTANISTS HAD "BIG YEAR" IN PLANT DISCOVERIES

In 2012, two Ohio botanists experienced a "Big Year" in plant discoveries. Brian Riley and Daniel Boone volunteered their talents to the Division, surveying for rare plants across the state, and had a year we will never forget.



R. Gardner

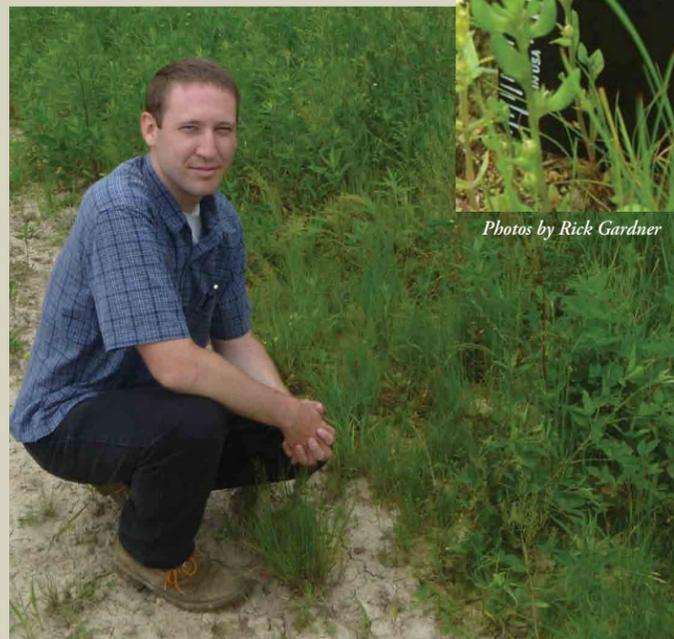
Brian Riley had arguably one of the best years of any Ohio botanist since we started tracking rare plants in the 1970s. In his home county of Pickaway, Brian discovered two species that had not been seen in Ohio for over 60 years. Brian called me about discovering the state threatened inland rush (*Juncus interior*) and other rare plants in Pickaway County. I, in a joking manner, said "Brian, while you're out and about keep watch for the extirpated chaffweed (*Centunculus minimus*)." The next day, Brian found chaffweed! Chaffweed, a member of the primrose family, is a small, delicate annual that requires a sharp observer to locate. Brian was not done though- on a return trip to the chaffweed site, he found the extirpated Perideridia (*Perideridia americana*). Perideridia, a member of the carrot family, was collected only once before in Ohio; a 1950 specimen was collected by a Pickaway County farmer and amateur botanist, Floyd Bartley. (The only collections of chaffweed prior to Brian's discovery were made by Bartley too). Perideridia is a fantastic find, as it is a prairie species that reached its eastern limit in the Pickaway Plains of Ohio. When Ohio was settled, the Pickaway Plains was 20 miles long and 5 miles wide. The conversion of this landscape to agriculture has all but eliminated The Plains. Perideridia was one of many species that inhabited this region. Other state listed species Brian found in his home county include the state threatened five angled dodder (*Cuscuta pentagona*) and two state endangered species, Leidberg's panic grass (*Dichanthelium leidbergii*) and round-leaved spurge (*Euphorbia serpens*).



Photos by Rick Gardner

Dan Boone, who has studied Ohio's only two native clovers for over 20 years, in one year found not one, but two new populations of the state endangered buffalo clover (*Trifolium reflexum*). Prior to these discoveries, buffalo clover was known only from one site in Ohio. Buffalo clover, unlike our common lawn white clover (*Trifolium repens*), has one or sometimes two large flower heads that may be white, pink, or red. Buffalo clover is an annual, and depends on disturbance to maintain or create its habitat, open oak woods. Its name refers to its close association with woodland bison that once roamed Ohio up to the early 1800s. Fire is also important for this species; years of fire suppression and the extirpation of bison have made buffalo clover one of Ohio's rarest plants.

Dan has been searching for new populations of this species since it was rediscovered in Ohio in the early 1990s. Dan found a site in Hamilton County, and a few weeks later found another site in Pike County. As a fellow botanist, I know the elation, a "botanical high," Dan felt when he made these discoveries. I wish I could have been there to see Dan do a "botanist jig." Dan was not alone on the Pike County discovery, as fellow botanists Dave Minney, Andrew Gibson, and Brian Riley were there to witness Dan's elation. Congratulations on a stellar 2012, Dan!



These discoveries are a few of the many fantastic finds Ohio botanists made in 2012. Congratulations to Brian and Dan for these wonderful finds, we wish them -and all our Ohio botanists- luck in the years to come.

-Rick Gardner, Chief Botanist

WE NEED YOU!

Join the ranks of more than 300 volunteers who are helping to preserve and improve Ohio's most unique landscapes and special habitats.



Mitch LaBuda, who passed away this summer, was one of our volunteer photographers. DNAP is extremely thankful for the beautiful shots he took of the flora and fauna that make our State Nature Preserves special, unique places.



Gina and Tom Patt have been visiting and recording their travels to State Nature Preserves for years. Visiting them all is on their bucket list.



Boy Scout Troop 6290, Adams County, replacing a trail bridge at Adams Lake State Nature Preserve, May 2013.



The Columbus Audubon constructed a stairway on a deeply eroded trail at Shoemaker SNP during their 2 day project, April 2013.

Volunteering in our State Nature Preserves can be as simple as walking a trail, picking up litter, and contacting a preserve manager if the trail needs maintenance. Some volunteers who are handy with tools pitch in on work days that involve clearing vegetation from trails, making minor repairs to boardwalks, or using chainsaws to remove fallen limbs blocking the path. Individuals and groups are welcome to help with the ongoing work of removing invasive plant species, as well as special projects such as building bridges, boardwalks and stairways, or assisting with clean-ups of large areas. Volunteers with specialized knowledge are invited to assist with vegetative surveys, identifying endangered and threatened species, and providing interpretive programming for preserve visitors. Wherever you are in Ohio, there is a preserve in your area that can use your talents and skills!



For more information or to request a volunteer form, e-mail: rick.gardner@dnr.state.oh.us

or write to: Division of Natural Areas and Preserves,
2045 Morse Road, Bldg. C-3,
Columbus, OH 43229

The Columbus Audubon Society removing 200+ tires from an illegal dump at Whipple State Nature Preserve, October 2013. They have been providing Service in the Preserves for 31 years.

MEET THE PRESERVE MANAGERS OF THE DIVISION OF NATURAL AREAS & PRESERVES

The field staff of the Division of Natural Areas & Preserves (DNAP) consists of a dedicated group of natural resource professionals with a passion for Ohio's natural history. Preserve managers must do many things, from repairing signs and boardwalks, leading natural history programs, to invasive plant management. Our State Nature Preserve system is currently divided into five districts: north-east, northwest, southeast, southwest, and central.

District Preserve Manager **Adam Wohlever** leads DNAP's efforts in Northeast Ohio. Adam began his career with the Department serving as a State Park Naturalist in **Hocking Hills State Park**. He became manager of the northeast lakeshore preserve district in January of 2007, and is now District Manager for state nature preserves in Northeast Ohio. He has a particular interest in interpretive programming. Adam's favorite preserves are **Eagle Creek** and **Triangle Lake Bog** (Portage County). When asked what he likes most about his job as a preserve manager, Adam shared the following, "the dynamic work environment and multiple work responsibilities, encompassing prescribed burning to interpretive hiking takes the doldrums out of each day. It's much more exciting and rewarding than any office job."



District Preserve Manager **Jeff Johnson** heads up DNAP's efforts in Southeast Ohio. Jeff first started with the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves in 1994 as a seasonal natural resources aide and became a full time preserve manager in 2000. Jeff enjoys the variety that being a preserve manager offers: "From day to day, and sometimes hour to hour, we have to constantly shift gears and move from conducting a public program to treating invasive species, from cutting trees off a trail, to helping someone identify a species of flower they have never seen before. To say the least, the job is never boring."



Working with Jeff at Boch Hollow is newly hired preserve manager **Levi Miller**. Levi is responsible for **Boch Hollow** and **Kessler Swamp State Nature Preserves** (Hocking County). Levi brings a wealth of expertise to DNAP, having previously worked with a wide variety of wildlife research projects including deer, turkey, geese, wood ducks, barn owls, Allegheny woodrats, Indiana bats, and timber rattlesnakes. Levi also worked with the U.S. Forest service, implementing salamander diversity and oak-hickory forest regeneration projects. Please welcome Levi to DNAP.



Joining Jeff and Levi in the southeast District is **Jason Garey**, who began work with DNAP in March 2013. Jason grew up living in State Parks for a time, all the while wanting to pursue a career in natural resources. After working full time with the Hocking Soil and Water Conservation district as a Wildlife Specialist/Forest/Technician for the past twelve years, Jason comes to DNAP with responsibilities at **Lake Katharine**, **Boord**, and **Compass Plant State Nature Preserves**. Jason is excited about developing new ecological management plans and to ramp up effort on invasive species control in these areas.



Jody Holland, also in the southeast district, is based at **Blackhand Gorge**. Jody is a long time employee with ODNR, serving in many capacities. In 2006, he began with the Division of Natural Areas & Preserves. Jody has worked with members of the local community to establish Friends of Blackhand Gorge. The gorge is the only State Nature Preserve that incorporates a recreational bike trail. Jody has been working hard to enhance the visitor experience at **Blackhand Gorge State Nature Preserve**.

Preserve manager **Adam Hoople** leads DNAP's efforts in Southwest Ohio. Based at Chaparral Prairie State Nature Preserve in Adams County, Adam became preserve manager in 2010 after working as a seasonal. Adam has a special connection to **Chaparral Prairie**, he and his wife Laura met and were eventually married at Chaparral. The best part of Adam's job? "Protecting the best natural areas in the state, trying to save these places for the next generation."



Preserve manager **Michelle Comer** heads up DNAP's preserve management efforts in the newly created central district. Michelle first worked for DNAP in 1997 at **Lake Katharine State Nature Preserve**. She then began with the preserve system in the west central district in May 1999. In September 2012 Michelle was promoted to preserve manager. Michelle enjoys being a "boots on the ground" manager. Her passion for State Nature Preserves is clear, "It is a real pleasure and an honor to work in some of the most spectacular natural areas in the state, it is a challenging but worthy career."

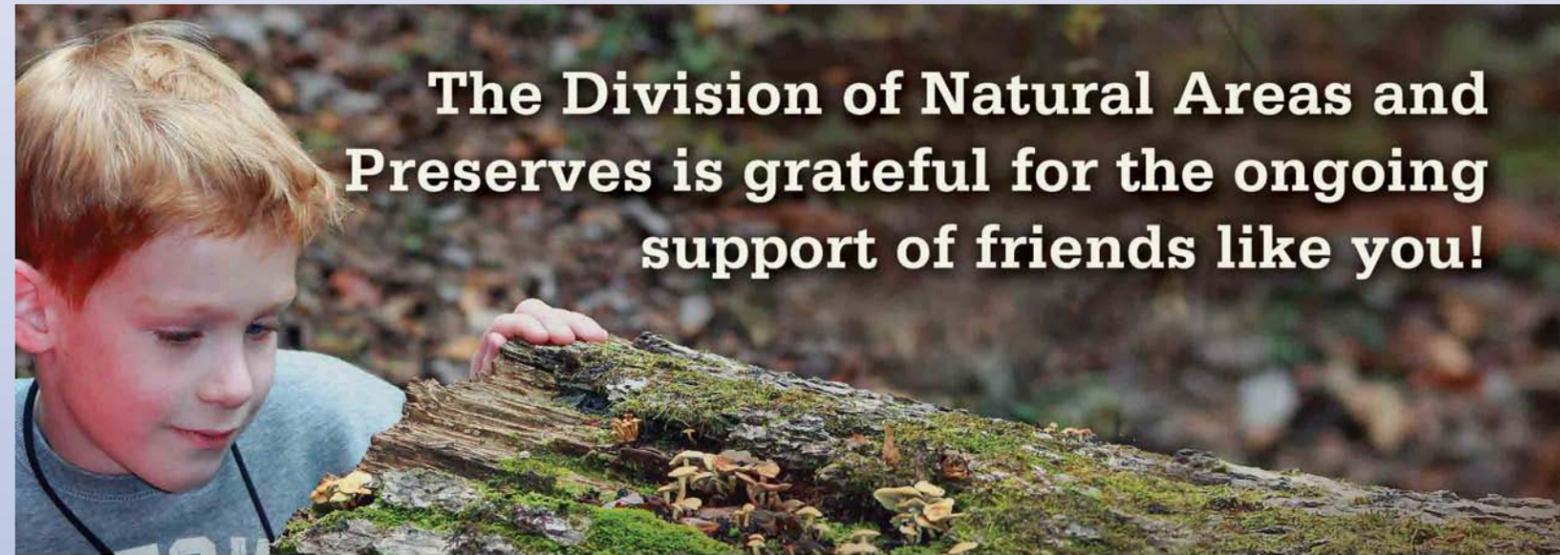
Ryan Schroeder is district preserve manager for Northwest Ohio, a position he has held since 2006. Ryan's favorite preserve? "Probably Lou Campbell in Lucas County, the diversity of habitats in one

preserve is pretty awesome." Ryan has led an extensive effort to remove the invasive species glossy buckthorn at **Irwin Prairie State Nature Preserve** (Lucas County). Ryan is based at **Goll Woods State Nature Preserves**, home to one of Ohio's most significant old-growth forests.

Ohio's State Nature Preserve system has a dedicated staff of men and women across the state working tirelessly to ensure the ecological integrity of our preserves. Leading seasonal crews, preserve managers are busy maintaining trails, removing invasive species, and leading educational programs. We encourage you to visit your favorite State Nature Preserve to discover the amazing natural diversity Ohio has to offer. Please seek out your local preserve manager to thank them for their dedication and hard work.



-Tom Arbour



We thank you for your personal commitment to protecting the natural treasures of Ohio. During these trying economic times - and up against ever increasing pressures of development and habitat destruction - DNAP continues to seek out new properties to purchase, while still protecting and managing 136 State Nature Preserves across Ohio.

We cannot do this without your support. If you would like to join us in preserving Ohio's precious lands and waters, please consider making a special contribution to the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves today. Your gift will go far in ensuring that the best of what's left in Ohio will be protected - forever - thanks to you!

Please send this form with your tax-deductible check or money order made payable to "The Division of Natural Areas and Preserves" to:
Division of Natural Areas and Preserves, 2045 Morse Road, Bldg. C-3, Columbus, OH 43229



Yes, I would like to support the Ohio Division of Natural Areas and preserves!
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Thank You!

Invest in Ohio's State Nature Preserves!

Ohio's State Nature Preserves receive \$15 for every plate sold. These important dollars support facility and trail improvements, and provide new education and interpretive programming, signage, and materials for visitors. Proudly display your commitment to protecting Ohio's natural treasures by visiting oplates.com, and purchase your Nature Preserves license plate today.



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Tom Arbour

WE WOULD LOVE TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH YOU!

The Division of Natural Areas and Preserves is hoping to create an updated email contact list for our friends across the state. This will enable us to:

- Share and celebrate current conservation accomplishments and successes
- Announce DNAP and partner organization volunteer opportunities on State Nature Preserves throughout the year
- Promote special events, educational activities, and field experiences across the state

If you would like to receive DNAP updates via this email contact list, please send your email address to: julie.boreman@dnr.state.oh.us

THANK YOU!

DNAP does not sell or share any personal information.



Ohio Department of
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