

# OHIO STATE

## Nature Preserves

Annual Newsletter 2014-2015

### SIGNIFICANT RARE SPECIES HABITAT PROTECTED Through Partnerships and Income Tax Refund Program

By Rick Gardner, Chief Botanist, Division of Natural Areas and Preserves

The Division of Natural Areas and Preserves has a long history of forming partnerships to protect state significant natural areas and endangered species. Many of Ohio's State Nature Preserves were protected as a result of collaborative efforts with other state agencies, local advocacy groups, and non-profit organizations. This tradition continues; the Division's most recent land protection projects involved partnering with two non-profit organizations – Appalachia Ohio Alliance and the Arc of Appalachia.

#### The Floyd Bartley Preserve

In 2013, the Division partnered with the non-profit land trust, Appalachia Ohio Alliance, to protect 95 acres in Pickaway County that contain rare, wetland depressions that are home for the state endangered Rocky Mountain bulrush (*Schoenoplectiella saximontana*) and Engelmann's spike-rush (*Eleocharis engelmannii*). This site is the only known site east of the Mississippi River for the Rocky Mountain bulrush, a small, annual sedge that grows in open, wet depressions. The sale price of the land was too great for either group to consider independently, but working together the land is now protected as a preserve.

Using funds donated by Ohioans through the state income tax refund program, as well as a generous donation from the Cincinnati Wild Flower Preservation Society, the Division provided the 25% match required for a Clean Ohio grant application submitted by Appalachia Ohio Alliance.

Appalachia Ohio Alliance was awarded the Clean Ohio grant, purchased the land, and in June 2014 dedicated the site as the Floyd Bartley Preserve. Bartley was a Pickaway County farmer who collected thousands of plant specimens and discovered the Rocky Mountain bulrush at the site in the 1930s. Bartley Preserve is owned by the Appalachia Ohio Alliance and co-managed with the Division.

#### Chaparral Prairie State Nature Preserve strategic addition

In 2014, a 60-acre parcel came up for sale adjacent to the 70-acre Chaparral Prairie State Nature Preserve in Adams County. The Division approached the Arc of Appalachia, a non-profit conservation partner, to collaborate in purchasing this parcel which contains the globally rare Post Oak Opening habitat,

as well as the state listed few-flowered nut-rush (*Scleria pauciflora*) and rattlesnake-master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*). The Arc of Appalachia

(also known as Highlands Nature Sanctuary) has been a great partner with the Division over the years, dedicating hundreds of acres at Rocky Fork Gorge in Highland County into the State Nature Preserve system. They have also partnered with the Division to protect other significant natural areas in Adams County, such as Ka ma ma Prairie and Plum Run Prairie. The Division provided the 25% match for Arc of Appalachia's Clean Ohio grant application, which was awarded in the summer. The new parcel will be owned by the Arc and managed by the Division. In 2015, a trail will be constructed on the new parcel that will link to the existing  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile trail at Chaparral Prairie. The trail will pass through the various plant communities found on the parcel.

Thanks to strong partnerships and collaborative efforts, the Division was able to invest the donations Ohioans made to the State Income Tax Refund program to protect two significant natural areas in the state.



Globally rare Post Oak Opening habitat found on the recently protected Chaparral Prairie State Nature Preserve addition.

Chinquapin oak and glacial depression with state listed plant species.



Ohio Department of  
**NATURAL RESOURCES**  
DIVISION OF NATURAL AREAS AND PRESERVES

# from THE CHIEF



I began my career with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources in the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves some 28 years ago. Since then, my service with ODNR has taken me on a dynamic journey managing Ohio's natural resources, including serving as Chief of the Office of Law Enforcement and Chief of the Division of Watercraft. Now, I am excited to return as Deputy Director to an area that is near and dear to my heart - leading Ohio State Parks and the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves into the future.

Taking the next step on this trek, it is important to reflect on the achievements of the Division in the past year. In doing so, we celebrate volunteer accomplishments, a "best year" of botanical finds, partnerships in land protection, and the first-ever Division of Natural Areas and Preserves Open House.

The Division also celebrates strategic land acquisitions - one of the most important aspects of preservation - with the protection of the Floyd Bartley Nature Preserve and a new parcel at Chaparral Prairie State Nature Preserves. We also honor the career of Martin McCallister as he leaves Natural Areas and embarks on a new personal journey in conservation.

And let's not forget the literal journeys we can take - like our feature story on Christmas Rocks - in which we put our "boots on the ground" and explore Ohio's State Nature Preserves.

Looking forward, we are setting our course on partnership projects and ever more rigorous land management and protection strategies. Through events like the upcoming Botanical Symposium this March, and future "on the ground" partnerships with Ohio Natural Areas and Preserves Association and other conservation friends, we can be assured of an ongoing, shared adventure in protecting the best of Ohio's pristine natural lands.

This is my first contribution to the Natural Areas newsletter as Deputy Director. I am excited to be with Ohio State Parks and Preserves once again, and look forward to taking the next step of this dynamic journey together.

Gary Obermiller  
Deputy Director of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources  
Ohio State Parks and Preserves

## DIVISION OF NATURAL AREAS AND PRESERVES OPEN HOUSE A GREAT SUCCESS

On Wednesday, November 5, 2014, supporters of State Nature Preserves from across Ohio gathered at Mohican Lodge and Conference Center to reacquire themselves with current work and recent successes of the Division. Deputy Director Gary Obermiller made opening remarks, and the first Chief of the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves, Dick Moseley, shared the history, challenges and highpoints of the Division over the years. Obermiller also invited guests to share their questions or concerns - and topics of funding, protection and the future of the Division were discussed.

Assistant Chief Dee Hammel, sharing her thoughts, "felt the event was a great success! It brought awareness to the great things that are

happening in our Preserves, it highlighted the partnership between Ohio State Parks and the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves, and it allowed interested constituents to meet our preserve staff and ask questions about our work. It also brought awareness to our volunteer efforts, especially with the Ohio Natural Areas and Preserves Association."

Nearly 200 people attended the event, which featured district displays and regional highlights. Preserve managers and field staff from across the state enjoyed conversations with guests about protection strategies, recent land purchases and opportunities available with conservation partners and like-minded supporters.

## BIDDING FAREWELL TO VETERAN PRESERVE MANAGER - MARTIN MCALLISTER

By Heidi Hetzel-Evans, Ohio State Parks and Preserves



There's no doubt that Ohio's State Nature Preserves harbor diverse, unique habitats and landscapes. Equally diverse and unique is the wealth of field staff talent that has graced the division's offices over the years.

Veteran employee of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), Martin McCallister is one such rarity. Martin's first job at ODNR was as a seasonal naturalist with Ohio State Parks. He spent several summers at West Branch and Hueston Woods state parks. He was hired by the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves in September 1990 as a preserve manager in southern Ohio. He remained with the Division until 2011, when he moved to Ohio State Parks to assume regional management of parks and preserves. Although his job title changed through the years, Martin's focus remained on conservation and customer service.

Martin's love for outdoor recreation, such as hunting, hiking and fishing, influenced his choice of profession. Prior to joining ODNR, Martin held a variety of part-time jobs exclusively related to the outdoors. He also credits a favorite professor at Shawnee State Community College for mentoring him and shaping his future.

In addition to serving as a preserve manager, Martin was a commissioned law enforcement officer and an accomplished naturalist. It's not easy to move seamlessly between all the duties that preserve managers must perform, but Martin made it look easy.

We asked Martin to look back at his time with Natural Areas and choose a few projects he was the most proud of; here's what he had to say: "Without a doubt, the most significant projects of my career were those that resulted in additional land or significant natural features being protected for future generations. The acquisition and dedication of Scioto Brush Creek State Nature Preserve in Scioto County protected four federally listed species and many others considered rare in Ohio."

Behind every land acquisition are many hours of negotiations between the preserve manager and the landowner - that's the aspect of land acquisition that most folks never read about. Preserve managers provide a crucial role and Martin was a skilled communicator during land conservation negotiations. Other projects that top Martin's accomplishments include acquiring the Blue Jay Barrens conservation easement and Shoemaker State Nature Preserve in Adams County. All of these land acquisitions were made with donated funds.

Rick Gardner, chief botanist for the Division, spent many hours with Martin working on land acquisitions which involve evaluating the property, conducting biological inventories and developing management plans for the newly-acquired parcels.

"I have fond memories of working with Martin and had the pleasure of attending some of Martin's interpretive programs. On one hike to the Serpent Mound Disturbance Region in Adams County, Martin brought along Play-doh to demonstrate how the meteor impact altered local geology. He had everyone captivated, both young and old."

Educating the public is another aspect of Martin's work that gained him many fans. Martin recalled that some of his best days were those that gave him an opportunity to connect children with the wonders of nature. "I watched over the years as some of those same children grew up and chose careers in natural resources," recalled Martin.

Turnover in the preserve management ranks is rare; Martin joins a small group of committed professionals who spent more than 25-30 years protecting Ohio's rarities and unique landscapes. Like his retired colleagues, Martin will continue to volunteer for a number of local preservation groups, such as the Friends of Scioto Brush Creek. He also looks forward to serving the private sector in conservation. For Martin, retirement will be just the beginning of another career in land conservation and natural resource management.



Cedar Fork of Scioto Brush Creek - Shoemaker State Nature Preserve.

In his own words, Martin described the satisfaction his job has brought him over the years. It also explains why this committed, experienced, well-respected professional will be difficult to replace:

According to Martin: "Any job that pays you to explore the best remaining natural areas in the state and then devise strategies to ensure their protection has to be the greatest job in Ohio."

Although Martin retired from ODNR, his legacy to conservation and natural resource protection continues, as he has recently accepted a position with the Ohio Chapter of The Nature Conservancy at the Edge of Appalachia Preserve in Adams County.

*Congratulations,  
Martin!*

# THE BEST

## Plant Discoveries

of 2013 & 2014

By Rick Gardner, Chief Botanist

### Every year, Ohio botanists make exciting plant discoveries and 2013 proved to be one of the best years in recent history.

I fondly remember my first “best find,” when I discovered Sprengel’s sedge (*Carex sprengelii*) on a sandstone block in Tuscarawas County in 1994. It was only known from 2 other sites at that time. A new population of this sedge was discovered in 2013 when the Division’s field botanist **Andrew Gibson**, accompanied by **Chris Thompson** of Miami County Parks, found Sprengel’s sedge growing in the floodplain of the Stillwater River. This new discovery is the southernmost Ohio population of this state threatened species, and it is Andrew’s first “best find.” I am sure it won’t be his last!



This small orchid, not seen in Ohio since 1933, was found in 2013 in Ashtabula County by **John Pogacnik** and his son **Shaun**.

While pulling garlic mustard at Clifton Gorge State Nature Preserve in Greene County, State Nature Preserve volunteers **Hope Taft**, **Cheryl Carpenter**, **Jerry Greer**, and **Tim Snyder**, with Division staff **Michelle Comer** and **me**, found a population of the state threatened resurrection fern (*Pleopeltis polypodioides*) growing on a dolomite slump

block. **John Knouse** of Athens County also found a large population of this rare fern on a sandstone cliff-face in Washington County.

Toledo Metro Parks volunteer **Ruta Klavins** has been making exciting finds for several years now and made another great discovery in 2013 - a new Lucas county population of the state endangered Bicknell’s cranes-bill (*Geranium bicknellii*). This species is known from a few sites in the Oak Openings region of Lucas County and one location in Ashtabula County.

**Joe Moosbrugger** of Crane Hollow Inc. discovered a new population of the Appalachian filmy fern (*Trichomanes boschianum*) in Hocking County. This fern grows on moist rock shelters in a limited area in the Hocking Hills. This is the third known site for Ohio.

Hocking County residents **Denis Case** and **Rita Apanius** found a new population of the Federal endangered running buffalo clover (*Trifolium stoloniferum*) in Ross County, while **Ray Showman** of Vinton County discovered a population in the Wayne National Forest in Vinton County. Apparently discoveries in two new counties were not enough - as Division Preserve Managers **Jim Osborn** and **Jason Garey** found two populations at Lake Katharine State Nature Preserve in Jackson County, within a few days of each other. Just 30 years ago, this large, showy clover was thought to be extinct. It is remarkable that populations were discovered in three new counties in one year.

Northwest District Preserve Manager **Ryan Schroeder** found a new population of the state endangered Missouri ironweed (*Vernonia missouriensis*) in Fulton County. This species is currently known from a handful of locations in northwest Ohio.

**Jim Bissell**, Curator of Botany at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, found a new site for the state endangered Clinton’s wood fern (*Dryopteris clintoniana*) at West Geneva Swamp in Ashtabula County. Museum staff and volunteers found a new site for the state threatened marsh bedstraw (*Galium palustre*) at McCoy Fen Nature Preserve, also in Ashtabula County.

The Ohio Heritage Naturalists, a volunteer group for the State Nature Preserves, visited a private property in Fairfield County and discovered a number of state listed species during a 5 hour survey. The most exciting species found that day was the endangered primrose-leaved violet (*Viola primulifolia*), discovered by **Jason Larson**, **Brian Riley**, **Marilyn Kircher**, **Jules Lapp**, **Jerry Greer**, **Tom Bain**, and **myself**. This species is only known from two other sites in Ohio.

It should be noted that, while all botanical finds and discoveries make botanists excited about the state of Ohio’s natural diversity – some finds stand out as stellar even in an already amazing year. The following finds felt like the “heavy hitters” of 2013:

Ohio Heritage Naturalists found the endangered green carrion-flower (*Smilax pulverulenta*) on the new St. Marys River Wetlands State Nature Preserve in Mercer County. This species was about to be declared extirpated (extinct in Ohio) until this discovery. Those present on this discovery included: **Andrew Gibson**, **Michelle Comer**, **Heidi Edwards**, **Jamee Nirider**, **Bill Roshack**, and **myself**.



Silver plume grass – a rare grass that grows up to 8 feet tall and was found in two unique locations in Ohio in 2013.

**Jim Bissell’s** “best of the best” find of 2013 was rediscovering the extirpated prairie redroot (*Ceanothus rubra*) on a clay slump along the Grand River in Ashtabula County. This low growing shrub was last seen in Ohio in 1983.

It is always incredible to find new, presumed native species for our state. In 2013 botanist **Brian Riley** did just that – discovering two new species for Ohio: pale spike-rush (*Eleocharis macrostachya*) in Clinton and Pickaway Counties, and vervain-leaved thoroughwort (*Eupatorium pilosum*) in Athens County. In Lawrence County he also found a new population of the endangered silver plume grass (*Saccharum alopecuroides*), a grass that grows up to 8 feet tall and is more common south of Ohio. Before this discovery, it was previously only known from one location in Scioto County.

Within days of Riley’s discovery, **Dave Minney** of Pike County, who has his own long list of great finds, found another population of silver plume grass. This one, which numbers in the hundreds of plants, was located in Gallia County.

Orchids are some of the rarest and most strikingly beautiful wildflowers in Ohio flora. There were five species extirpated in Ohio, but thanks to Lake County Parks naturalist **John Pogacnik** and his son **Shaun**, that number now stands at four. While visiting a preserve in Ashtabula County owned by The Nature Conservancy, they discovered a population of the presumed extirpated heart-leaved twayblade (*Listera cordata*). This small orchid had not been seen in Ohio since 1933!



Vervain-leaved thoroughwort (*Eupatorium pilosum*), an exciting new native species for Ohio. Photo credit Brian Riley.

Exciting finds of 2014 include field botanist “extraordinaire” **Daniel Boone’s** discovery of Hall’s bulrush (*Schoenoplectiella hallii*) at the new Bartley Preserve in Pickaway County. This species is a Federal candidate species and a new species for Ohio.

**Brian Riley**, mentioned above with two new species discoveries in 2013, found another new species in 2014 - rambling dewberry (*Rubus biformispinus*) in Trumbull County. He also found a new population of the state endangered Appalachian quillwort (*Isoetes engelmannii*) in adjacent Portage County.

Finally, **Ruta Klavins** found a new population of the state endangered small-flower false foxglove (*Agalinis purpurea* var. *parviflora*) on Toledo MetroParks property in Lucas County. This rarity is only known from two other locations in Ohio.

Congratulations and thank you to Ohio’s talented botanists and naturalists for their time and expertise in making these significant botanical discoveries. Happy botanizing in 2015!

In April 2014, the Division launched our new website, naturepreserves.ohiodnr.gov. Our webpage now features a streamlined look that highlights Ohio’s State Nature Preserve System. Perhaps the most prominent upgrade is an interactive map that includes all preserves open without a permit. Each preserve page also includes a “tell your preserve story” comment area, enabling you to share your experiences with

us. New photos by staff and volunteers highlight activities and timely “finds” across the state. We invite you to naturepreserves.ohiodnr.gov to help plan your next visit! Want to stay in touch with Ohio State Nature Preserves throughout the year? Join our newsletter list! Sign up at naturepreserves.ohiodnr.gov/newsletter, or send your email address to julie.boreman@dnr.state.oh.us.

# FEATURED PRESERVE

## CHRISTMAS ROCKS

A journey along the trails.

By Jim Osborn, Preserve Manager

Ask local Fairfield county residents about Christmas Rocks State Nature Preserve and they will probably mention the massive sandstone overlook, Jacob's Ladder. A trek beyond the views at the overlook promises to be a memorable experience. Let's take a journey along the trails.

Starting at the intersection of Mink Hollow and Meister Road, the trail stretches north along a graveled township road. The preserve's biodiversity is quickly apparent. The hillside on the left exhibits a mixed oak forest, and on the right is a wetland highlighted with willow, buttonbush, and sensitive fern. Observant hikers will see marsh marigolds and skunk cabbage scattered in the wetland just below the road.

The steep contours on the hill break into a sandstone ledge as the trail rounds a corner. Trailing arbutus festoon rocks under young hemlocks just across the narrow gravel road from skunk cabbage and buttonbush. The trail starts up a grade, passing private property on the left, and comes to a cable gate – the terminus of the township road. The trail continues north along an abandoned road-bed and hints at historical times when other forms of traffic passed through this valley.

A bulletin board, nearly across from another private inholding, provides more information. The wetland and fields on the right side of the trail have morphed into a mature forest. Hikers stopping here and listening quietly can here the rippling sounds of Arney Run gliding over shallow shoals below.

Arney Run, a glacially reversed stream, defines the valley. As the stream widened out the valley, it created several small oxbows which provide numerous amphibian breeding sites. In the early spring - starting at the wetland at the entrance and extending the length of the valley - Christmas Rocks is a place to hear the mating songs of frogs.

Christmas Rocks has an aerobically challenging trail system. The early gentle grades start rocking and rolling past the cable gate, with the trace of the old township road moving upward along the slopes overlooking Arney Run. Cucumber magnolias, beech, red oak and tulip poplars stretch upward just below the road while white oaks dominate the uphill side.

As you catch your breath at the first intersection, you will find a four by four post with orange and blue directional arrows. The left pointing orange arrow marks the loop that leads visitors to Jacob's Ladder. Serious climbing starts here as the forest quickly becomes dominated by white and chestnut oaks peppered with sourwood. In the spring, blooms of pink lady's slipper orchids please winded hikers

and are later replaced by rattlesnake plantain and spotted wintergreen. A rising cliff comes into view and the trail narrows down to a single track which climbs up a challengingly steep slope. Arrive during the mountain laurel bloom, and the effort becomes most rewarding. Suddenly the trail breaks out on top into a breathtaking view of forested hills. On the rock, stunted sourwood and pitch pine define the austerity of life on exposed sandstone faces.

Orange flagging leads visitors down a steeply descending ridge to rejoin the main trail. The forest once again shows the effects of aspect and position on plant communities as chestnut oaks give way to red oaks and tulip poplars. Just a short distance north, blue arrows mark another loop and another climb. This single-track trail passes through white pines and winds through rocks decorated with pink lady's slippers, before reaching a long level ridge. Like the ridge on the orange loop, this ridge is also dominated by chestnut oaks, sourwood, and mountain laurel. Virginia pine and white pine mix it up before the trail makes a sharp descent and passes again under, and parallel to, exposed sandstone outcrops. A planted white pine forest, perhaps from the Civilian Conservation Corps days of the 1930s, dominates the forest below the trail.

The trail breaks out of the pines into a cove and circles around into a gentle descent. First shown to me by District Preserve Manager, Jeff Johnson, and named "ginger valley", it is truly a peaceful place. Almost like a cathedral, sandstone outcrops on the steeper slopes curve around this cove while large tulip poplars dominate the forest. On the ground, several species of ferns compete for space with wild ginger. In season, showy orchids add color.

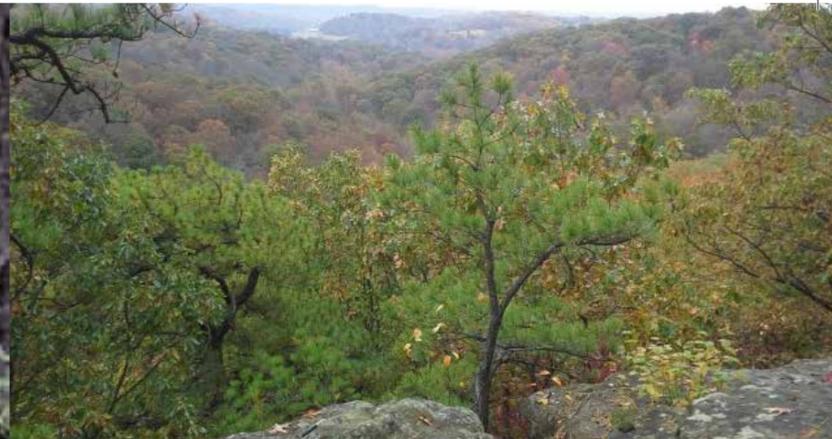
The blue loop continues downhill, rejoining Arney Run at an old creek ford of the abandoned township road. In season, look along here for coral-berry, horse-balm, and green coneflowers. The trail widens back out and moves along Arney Run southward and back toward the parking lot. The worst climbs are over! However the township road still rolls up and down, with the draws and hollows emptying water into Arney Run.

The exercise is worth it. In season various wildflowers and wildlife inhabit this preserve. I love working here because I don't know what plant or animal I will see next. The climbs are tough but doable. The trail is long, but not too long. Bring some water, a snack and binoculars, and within a few hours explore the wonders of Christmas Rocks. And don't just stop at Jacob's Ladder - you will miss a lot!

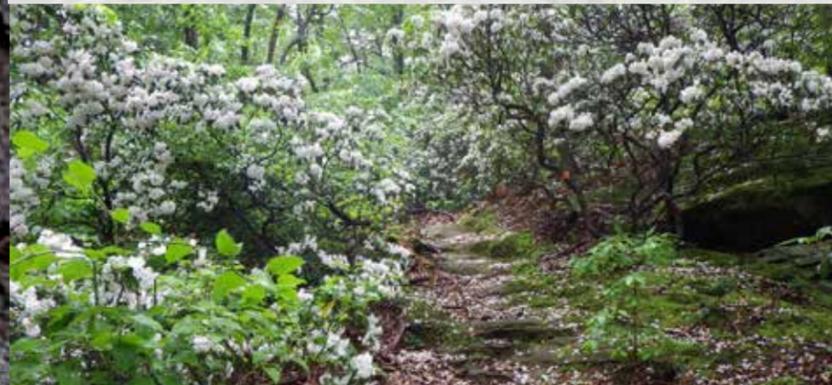
Christmas Rocks Preserve is located in Fairfield county about 7 miles south/southwest of Lancaster. Visit [naturepreserves.ohiodnr.gov/christmasrocks](http://naturepreserves.ohiodnr.gov/christmasrocks) to plan your next trip.



*Pink Lady's slipper (Cypripedium acaule) can be found at Christmas Rocks in the spring.*



*The view from atop Jacob's Ladder at Christmas Rocks State Nature Preserves.*



*Mountain laurel bloom along natural sandstone steps at Christmas Rocks State Nature Preserves.*

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NATURE PRESERVES FOREVER**



*Ohioans can donate all or part of their state income tax refund by making a contribution on line 27d of the 2014 Individual Income Tax Return (line 20d of the 1040 EZ form).*

[naturepreserves.ohiodnr.gov/support](http://naturepreserves.ohiodnr.gov/support)

# VOLUNTEERS

## VOLUNTEERS HONORED AT OHIO'S STATE NATURE PRESERVE STAFF CONFERENCE IN NOVEMBER

Volunteers are a critical and essential component of the Natural Areas team – working alongside Division land managers to preserve and protect over 30,000 acres of Ohio's most pristine landscapes across the state.

Over 300 State Nature Preserve volunteers assist with invasive species control, trail installation and maintenance, boundary marking, facility upkeep and improvements, and outreach events each year. These hard working individuals donate countless hours of time – on the road getting to events, participating in volunteer projects, and cleaning their clothes, boots, and tools after events – all for the sake of protecting the best of what is left in Ohio.

On Wednesday, November 5th, the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves was honored to celebrate the specific contributions of five of Ohio's most dedicated natural areas volunteers. The following friends of the Division joined staff for an evening banquet at Mohican State park, following our public Open House celebration.



### Tom Bartlett

The Division thanks Tom for his outstanding contributions in ornithology and public outreach; specifically recognizing his 31 years of volunteer research at Springville Marsh State Nature Preserve in north-central Ohio. Since 1983, Tom has logged thousands of hours capturing, banding and releasing over 35,000 individual birds at Springville Marsh State Nature Preserve. Bartlett's total

banding actually exceed 65,000 since he began his research in northwestern Ohio and the Lake Erie Islands in the early 1970's.

Tom explains why he decided to volunteer, "Springville Marsh was a unique habitat which I was part of helping to preserve. I thought (my research) would produce a good database of species for the county. I love the outdoors, the natural world, and science. I figured if I was going to be outdoors, I might as well be doing science at the same time."

For years Tom has led guided bird tours for the Black Swamp Bird Observatory, and has raised over \$50,000 for bird conservation through his 20 years of "Big Sits" at Magee Marsh.



### Judd Clover

Judd Clover is an invaluable member of the State Nature Preserves southeast district team. Having volunteered with Natural Areas for over two years, he has donated countless hours at Christmas Rocks, Shallenberger, and Stages Pond State Nature Preserves. Judd is an independent, highly productive volunteer - quickly

learning the identification and life histories of invasive species, working tirelessly to remove these species from the preserves, and finally preparing and relaying his field data to preserve managers on a regular basis.

Jim Osborn and Judd were working together one day and Jim wondered aloud about the humidity for an eco-report. Without hesitation, Judd pulled a digital weather recorder from his pack and read the humidity, temperature, and wind speed on the spot. Let there be no doubt – we get good work – and good data – from Judd!

Judd's ability to assess a need, exercise his own initiative, understand and implement our management procedures, and improve a situation is remarkable. His efforts with Boy Scout Troop 240 in Lancaster Ohio have brought to fruition two Eagle Scout Projects completed at Christmas Rocks and Shallenberger.



### Todd Crail

The Division thanks Dr. Todd Crail and his students at the University of Toledo for their efforts protecting Irwin Prairie State Nature Preserve – one of the best remaining twigrush wet prairies left in the Oak Openings region. These wet prairie habitats have been overrun by glossy buckthorn, an invasive shrub.

Dr. Crail saw an opportunity to inspire his students to volunteer with invasive species removal while also learning about these ecosystems. To date, Dr. Crail and his students have spent over 2000 volunteer hours to hand clear over 20 acres of buckthorn infestation. The reduction of buckthorn will enable the native prairie plants, many of which are rare in Ohio, to recolonize these areas.

Through the leadership of Dr. Crail, the students are able to learn about habitat management techniques, ecosystem processes in these environments, and basic plant identification. We thank Dr. Crail for his personal commitment to Ohio State Nature Preserves, and his ability to educate, motivate, and inspire the next generation of conservationists.



### Christine Hadley

The Cincinnati Wild Flower Preservation Society has been a longstanding, steadfast supporter of State Nature Preserves through generous sponsorships, in-kind volunteer projects, and donations. Each year the Society hosts an annual "Give Back" volunteer day. In the fall of 2013, this event became the largest volunteer event in the history of the Division. An estimated 150+ volunteers cleared 15 acres of invasive

honeysuckle at Clifton Gorge State Nature Preserve.

Christine Hadley, Society President for the last 4 years, invested hundreds of hours preparing for the event – including advertising, pre-registration, and securing donations of lunch, supplies, and equipment. She took the entire week of the event off work to coordinate the many and varied details of the day.

Christine and the Society also coordinated another large volunteer event at Travertine Fen State Nature Preserve. Finally, under Christine's leadership, the Society has held silent auctions at the Ohio Botanical Symposium to raise money to fund acquisitions and eco-management projects in the Preserves. The Division thanks Christine, and the Society, for their ongoing support.

## Katryn Renard

The Columbus Audubon Society has been in existence for over 100 years, and with 3000 current members, is one of the largest Audubon chapters in the nation.

Columbus Audubon members have made a longstanding commitment to the preservation of high quality natural areas in Ohio. In 1982, a "Service in the Preserves" program was established in which Natural Areas preserve managers and Audubon volunteers worked together to define projects at State Nature Preserves. Many founding members still participate in the "Service in the Preserves" projects, and a number of volunteers have 28 or more years of service.

Eight service projects are selected around the state annually. They are typically one day projects and involve invasive species removal, boardwalk and bridge construction, and trail maintenance.



Katryn Renard (pictured left) has served as the Service in the Preserves leader for 32 years. Her dedication to both Audubon and Natural Areas is remarkable – and the Division honors her years of service and her commitment to protecting Ohio State Nature Preserves. Under her leadership, Columbus Audubon has donated approximately 20,500 hours to on-the-ground stewardship.

The Division acknowledges the outstanding volunteer efforts of the Columbus Audubon "Service in the Preserves" program, and thanks Katryn for her 32 year commitment to protecting Ohio's State Nature Preserves.



Service in the Preserves work day at St. Marys River Wetlands, March 2014. From left to right: Natural Areas staff Heidi Edwards & Jamee Nirider, and Columbus Audubon volunteers Natalia Nekrasova, David Smalarz, Terry Smith, Gerry Greer, Terry Smith, Emily Eby, Mark Baranoski, Katryn Renard, Bruce Renard, Glenn Skinner, Jana Robbins, and Tom Logsdon.

## Volunteer

More than 300 volunteers help preserve and protect State Nature Preserves across Ohio each year. Projects are fun, educational, informative, social events – and also help land managers get strategic work done to further our ecological management goals.

Tasks can be as simple as walking a trail, picking up litter, and reporting back to the preserve manager if a tree is down or a boardwalk needs repairs. If you enjoy getting your hands dirty, maybe you would like to help tackle invasive species removal or repair that broken plank in the boardwalk.

Science oriented supporters might want to assist in identifying rare, endangered or threatened species in the preserves. Or do you have knowledge and outdoor skills that you would like to share with others? If so, leading field trips or providing interpretive programming might be a good volunteer position for you.

Groups can also do a “one-time” project to meet a service goal, or just to enjoy a unique experience together helping to preserve the natural beauty of Ohio.

Please contact Heidi Hetzel-Evans with questions or to learn more about volunteering with Ohio State Nature Preserves. She can be reached at 614-265-6520 / heidi.evans@dnr.state.oh.us.

## Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

The Columbus Audubon Society’s “Service in the Preserves” program plans projects at State Nature Preserves each year. They are a great way to see the preserves, as well as meet and work alongside like-minded folks who enjoy Ohio’s beauty and diversity. Everyone is welcome to join!

Projects are usually scheduled on Saturdays, and leave the ODNR parking lot at 7:45 am and return by 5:00 pm. We spend the day in the field, so always dress for the weather, and bring gloves, tools if you have them, and your lunch/drinks for the day.

If you would like to join the carpool to the site, please RSVP to Rick Gardner at rick.gardner@dnr.state.oh.us. This enables us to reserve enough vehicles to get the entire crew to the site.



*Columbus Audubon volunteers building a bridge and steps at Lake Katharine State Nature Preserve.*

### Upcoming events in 2015 include:

**April 25-26 – Johnson Ridge**  
trail & footbridge installation

**May 30 – Springville Marsh**  
boardwalk maintenance

Find the latest updates at  
[naturepreserves.ohiodnr.gov](http://naturepreserves.ohiodnr.gov)

# Volunteer at a State Nature Preserve

# SHOW YOUR SUPPORT OF STATE NATURE PRESERVES EVERYWHERE, EVERYDAY!



The Ohio Nature Preserve license plate is a perfect symbol for the natural beauty found in Ohio’s 136 preserves across the state.

When you purchase this Nature Preserve license plate, your donation will build new trails, improve accessibility and increase educational opportunities for visitors like you.

Visit [oplates.com](http://oplates.com) to order your plates today.

## PROTECTING OHIO'S NATURAL LEGACY



## OUR SHARED JOURNEY

The Division of Natural Areas and Preserves is grateful for your ongoing support as we strive together to protect the beauty of Ohio. We thank you for your personal commitment to protecting the natural treasures of the state.

This is a journey Ohioans must take together to protect and manage our 136 State Nature Preserves, while continuing to seek out new properties to purchase and preserve.

We hope that you will consider joining us in this journey – helping to preserve Ohio’s precious lands and waters – with a special contribution today. Your gift will go far in ensuring that the best of what’s left in Ohio will be protected.

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-4, Columbus, OH 43229



Yes, I would like to support the Ohio Division of Natural Areas and Preserves!  
I have enclosed a tax-deductible check or money order payable to "The Division of Natural Areas and Preserves"

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

DNAP does not sell any personal information. However I recognize that any information provided to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Natural Areas and Preserves constitutes a public record subject to disclosure.

*Thank You!*



Ohio Department of  
**NATURAL RESOURCES**  
DIVISION OF NATURAL AREAS AND PRESERVES

*See you there!*

# 2015 OHIO BOTANICAL SYMPOSIUM

The 13th Annual Ohio Botanical Symposium promises to be the biggest and best event! Mark your calendars for **Friday, March 27, 2015** and plan to join us in north Columbus at Villa Milano for a day of inspirational and fun presentations, a delicious lunch, and the opportunity to purchase native plants, books, and other unique nature related items.

Dr. Robbin Moran, Curator of Ferns and Lycophytes at The New York Botanical Garden, will be our keynote speaker. Dr. Moran is the award winning author of *A Natural History of Ferns*. His presentation will take a humorous and educational look at the most astonishing and unusual ferns of Ohio.

Dr. Cynthia Morton, Curator of Botany at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, will be an exciting addition to the program this year. Her presentation will highlight the importance of genetic diversity in urban trees.

Other topics include the traditional presentation on best recent plant discoveries in Ohio; plus goldenrods, Cedar Bog, edible natives, and Phlox.

Register online at [cmnh.org/discover/nature/Ohio-Botanical-Symposium](http://cmnh.org/discover/nature/Ohio-Botanical-Symposium). Pre-registration is required, and registration will be accepted until March 24, 2015.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Natural Areas and Preserves  
2045 Morse Road, Building C-4  
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