



Volunteer Botanizing A treasure hunt for green-gold

A map, a list and a hardy group of individuals who love the outdoors—the makings of a scavenger hunt?



DNAP Volunteers Dan Boone and Marjie Becus

Botanizing takes both amateur and professional botanists and naturalists into the field, looking for rare and endangered plant species.

Being outdoors is the common thread that links many of the botanists and naturalists who spend their free time in the field—keen eyes roaming the landscape, poised to stop and take a closer look at the mere sight of a colorful bloom along the trail.

The Division of Natural Areas and Preserves (DNAP) relies on a core of staff and volunteers to update the Ohio Natural Heritage Database. More than 13,000 records comprise this database which provides important biological and ecological information about Ohio's rare plants and animals, high-quality plant communities and other significant natural features.

"Without the help of volunteer botanists, the division would be unable

to maintain the hundreds of records on Ohio's endangered plant species," said Dan Rice, DNAP administrator and chief zoologist. "Because of the work of 18 volunteer botanists last year, an additional 200 database records were updated."

A love of nature and being outdoors

Cincinnati-area native and self-described naturalist, Dan Boone, spends as much time outdoors as the weather allows. It makes sense that he'd be drawn to field exploration. It's in his genes—he's the great-great-grandson of the legendary Daniel Boone.

"I stop anytime to see a plant. Last year I saw 1,036 species, mostly flowering, in Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana," said Boone. "I'm very picky about my list—I only count the plant if it's flowering."

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Best Plant Finds of 2001

Of all the states, Ohio is probably one of the best known floristically.

Formal surveys of Ohio's plant life began in the late 18th century, and have continued until the present. The first listing of plants for the state appeared in 1860. Since then, many regional and statewide floras have been published.

In 2001, the new find wasn't an obscure or undistinguished plant only a botanist would love, but a large, showy fern.



Two-seeded copperleaf (Acalypha deamii)

Imagine Jim Bissell's surprise when he stumbled upon a small population of male fern (*Dryopteris filix-mas*) at Singer Lake in Summit County. Bissell, chief

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From the Chief

In Ohio and across the country, many organizations—from the largest corporations to the smallest

public agencies—have been noticeably impacted by the downward turn our economy has taken.

Ohio state government agencies are faced with a shrinking state budget. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources, like other Ohio agencies, was asked to tighten its belt and re-evaluate all programs and activities.

The Division of Natural Areas and Preserves faced a difficult, but nonetheless necessary reduction in its operating budget. Faced with reorganization, the division chose to reduce central support services. Because of a two-year retirement program and grant funding, the initial impact was reduced. We are taking every step to limit the impacts of those cuts.

Front-line field staff—preserve managers and scenic river coordinators—perform the majority of daily operational duties which the public has come to expect. Our intent was to limit the impact of budget cuts for our customers—the users of Ohio’s state nature preserves and scenic rivers.

Critical research and inventorying activities will continue. The division continues to employ a range of scientists who enhance the work being accomplished by field staff. The division will undoubtedly have difficulties to overcome, but we are building partnerships and finding new ways to address ongoing issues.

The division continues to strike a balance between new preserve and scenic river acquisitions and responsibly managing the lands and waters entrusted to us by the citizens of Ohio.

Restructuring will enable us to better balance our operation and management needs. The staff of the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves will continue our commitment to fulfilling our mission. ✓

Sincerely,

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

Volunteer Botanizing continued from page 1

Boone spent the better part of a day in early March leading an early wildflower hike for this novice nature enthusiast. We began at the Hamilton County park, Winton Woods, which surrounds Greenbelt State Nature Preserve. The preserve is an old growth beech-maple woods interspersed with some oaks and other species. Boone also took us to Richardson Woods, a county park only open to the public with permission.

Our final count that day, according to Boone’s rules, was five early blooming species—harbinger-of-spring, skunk cabbage, purple cress, false rue anemone and cut-leaved toothwort.

“My loyalty lies with the plant. I don’t ever poach or pick a plant, unless it’s for identification, and I still have trouble with that,” said Boone.

As a teenager, Boone became interested in trees, which turned into a profession. He is an arborist with Bartlett Tree Experts in Cincinnati. He credits his company’s support of rare plant work as being one of the reasons he is able to spend time in search of Ohio’s rarities.



It takes a keen eye to glimpse an early spring wildflower peeking out from under its cover of fallen leaves.

Last year, Boone’s keen eyesight, paired with his knowledge of the area, led him to rediscover silver plume grass. Common in other states, it hasn’t been seen in Ohio since 1952.

“I didn’t realize it was considered extirpated—its Latin name had changed. There was an area of Shawnee State Forest that had been damaged by fire. I found a stand of it on a hill where the fire occurred.”

Because Shawnee State Forest is a diverse and intact ecosystem, it is one of Boone’s favorite places to botanize.

Many rare plant finds occur in that area—Boone hopes to find buffalo clover, his favorite, there.

Buffalo clover was last seen in 1990 in Pike County. Boone has revisited the site, without luck. Over the years, Boone has become an expert on running buffalo clover and buffalo clover. His search continues this year... stay tuned!

Virginia roots helped botanist discover extirpated species

A longtime volunteer for the Hamilton County Park District, Marjie Becus has been botanizing since the mid-1970s. Her work for the park district has been a combination of volunteer and grant-funded projects, ranging from counting ginseng and leading interpretative hikes to inventorying a rare find of the late 1980s—running buffalo clover.

She has been helping the division update Heritage Database records for a number of years.

“The division sends me a list of records to update and a map of the last known site,” explained Becus. “I keep a

calendar to look for plants when they flower... making a list of the months and sites to get back to. For example, in May, I count running buffalo clover.”

In 2001, Becus rediscovered two-seeded copperleaf, which hadn’t been seen since 1952. And it wasn’t the first time she found that species.

When visiting an aunt in Virginia in 1999, Becus read an article about a professor from the University of Richmond who found a

two-seeded, three-seeded mercury. That newspaper clipping jolted her memory about a plant she had found at Trillium Trails State Nature Preserve in 1985.

“When I inventoried Trillium Trails for the park district in ‘85, I found this plant and identified it as a mercury,” recalled Becus. She pressed a sample, listed it as an *Acalypha* species and sent it to be filed at the University of Cincinnati.

Becus knew two-seeded copperleaf was supposed to range along the Ohio

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Division's International Partnership is for the Birds

Belize is a place most Ohioans dream of visiting—clear Caribbean waters, white sandy beaches, palm trees and brightly-colored birds in a lush tropical setting.

Did you know that many of Ohio's visiting feathered friends call this Caribbean country home in the cold weather months?

Neotropical migratory birds live in Mexico, Central and South America, but migrate every spring to nest and raise their young in temperate North America. From coastal wetlands to upland forests, their populations continue to decline. Critical habitats in their summer and winter homes have steadily deteriorated. Cooperative international efforts are helping to increase public awareness and involvement in protecting neotropical migrants.

Old Woman Creek (OWC) State Nature Preserve and National Estuarine Research Reserve in northern Ohio and the Belize Audubon Society in Central America are working together to conserve important wetland habitat and coordinate education activities to benefit both countries.

"This project is an excellent example of successful international cooperation for the protection of neotropical migratory birds and their wintering and breeding habitats," said Osmany Salas, executive director of the Belize Audubon Society.

Just a flight away

Belize is a small Caribbean nation bordered on the north by Mexico, the south and west by Guatemala and the east by the Caribbean Sea. Belize's landscape mixes mountains, savannas and coastal lagoons. Offshore lies one of the longest barrier reefs in the world. Small in size, Belize boasts an incredible diversity of habitats and species.

Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary, managed by the Belize Audubon Society, is located in central Belize and encompasses 16,400 acres of shallow lagoons, creeks, marshes and tropical forests. The sanctuary was established in 1984 to protect resident and migrant birds.

In Ohio, Old Woman Creek's preserve protects nearly 600 acres of freshwater coastal wetlands along the south shore of Lake Erie.

Although more than 1,800 miles separate Belize and Old Woman Creek, there are similarities.

Despite their divergent weather patterns, both Old Woman Creek and Crooked Tree attract more than 300 species of birds, and both sites have become magnets for bird enthusiasts. Remarkably, at Old Woman Creek in the spring, you'll see the same birds flying over Lake Erie that have wintered in Belize.

"The Birds with Two Homes project enables both Ohio and Belize to more effectively manage coastal habitat for neotropical migratory birds", said Linda Feix, OWC education coordinator.

Information sharing is vital

Last year, Feix and Gene Wright, administrator from OWC, visited classrooms in Belize and more recently, staff from the Belize Audubon Society came to Ohio. The guests from Belize made presentations to local students, emphasizing the importance of conservation and education at both ends of the neotropical bird migration route.

"International staff exchanges and site visits have been important elements in the success of this project," said Feix. "They reinforce the need to protect habitat and critical stopover sites all along the migratory corridor."

Educating visitors of all kinds

Education is a primary goal of the project. Working with their Belize counterparts, Feix and OWC's Phoebe VanZoest developed exhibits and educational materials to link classrooms and visitor centers in both countries.

More than 400 students and teachers in the buffer communities surrounding both Crooked Tree and Old Woman Creek are sharing educational materials and corresponding via the internet and by mail.

According to Feix, working with teachers in Ohio and Belize has encouraged students in both places to share their interests in protecting habitat for birds through pen-pal letters and photographs.

Heron Moreno, Belize Audubon Society environmental education assistant wrote, "I have never seen a more excited group of children as those who received the letters. They were very pleased!"

Huron teachers are equally enthusiastic about the exchange. Betsy Baerenklau, a fifth grade teacher at McCormick Middle School said, "The Belize project has been wonderful for our students. They are realizing how important Old Woman Creek is."

To continue the education linkage, planning is underway for an international teacher exchange between the two countries. Later this year, OWC and local teachers will host teachers from the Crooked Tree Government School. In turn, Huron teachers hope to travel to Belize in 2003. ✓

*Linda Feix
Old Woman Creek
Education Coordinator*

Birds of Old Woman Creek & Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary

American coot	lesser yellowlegs
American redstart	magnolia warbler
Baltimore oriole	northern rough-winged swallow
barn swallow	rough-winged swallow
belted kingfisher	osprey
black and white warbler	prothonotary warbler
black-crowned night-heron	spotted sandpiper
blue-gray gnatcatcher	ruby-throated hummingbird
blue-winged teal	tree swallow
great blue heron	turkey vulture
great egret	yellow-rumped warbler
green-backed heron	yellow warbler
indigo bunting	

Caesar Creek Gorge

State Nature Preserve

Caesar Creek Gorge State Nature Preserve has a story to tell—a tale rich in natural and cultural history.

This 483-acre preserve located in Warren County, just south of Waynesville, is named after a tributary of the Little Miami State Scenic River, Caesar Creek. It became a dedicated state nature preserve in 1975.

Cizar (pronounced see-zer) was an African-American slave who was captured by the Shawnee Indians in 1776. Befriended by the Shawnee, he was later adopted by their tribe. Cizar spent a great deal of time hunting near the stream which would later bear his name. Over time the stream's name evolved from Cizar Creek to Caesar Creek, today's spelling.

It is believed that Cizar advised Simon Kenton to follow Caesar Creek to the east bank of the Little Miami River, during his escape from Old Town. This allowed Kenton to avoid the west bank Indian trail and escape unharmed.

After the defeat of the Indians in Ohio, settlers cleared the land, creating pastures and crop fields. This affected nearly all of the forests and prairie openings in southwest Ohio. Because of its steep topography, the area along Caesar Creek Gorge retained many of its pre-settlement features.

The preserve's natural history goes back to the time of Ohio's glaciers. The gorge was formed when great

volumes of glacial meltwater, taking the path of least resistance, cut through bedrock to expose Ordovician limestone and shale rich in fossils. The steep, rugged banks along Caesar Creek were not desirable to early settlers looking for farmland.

The very topography of the preserve, which harbors a variety of colorful, native wildflowers and a heavily-wooded landscape, continues to shelter the area from development.

Color abounds when spring comes to Caesar Creek Gorge State Nature Preserve. Its hillsides are home to a variety of wildflowers such as wild ginger, large-flowered trillium, bloodroot, hepatica, trout lily, Miami mist and many more. Its hillsides are heavily wooded with beech, maple, hickory and oak.

The preserve's Caesar's Trace trail allows visitors to view the steep topography of the gorge. Along the trail, you'll find an understory plant community which includes paw paw, spicebush, bladdernut and leatherwood. The trail will also take you past fossil-rich Ordovician limestone.

ge



Find Caesar Creek State Nature Preserve
Located in Wayne Township in northeast Warren County. From Oregonia, travel 3 miles north on Corwin Road.

Turtle Watching

Spring is here—time to get turtle watching.

It may not be an action-packed afternoon, but turtles are pretty interesting. They are, after all, an ancient life form, having changed little since the Triassic Period.

Ohio is home to a dozen species of turtles. Most can be found around the water, but some, such as the Eastern box turtle, prefer drier places. Found in woodlands, this gentle animal sports a high-domed shell vividly marked with splotches of yellow against a dark background. The under part of its shell, called the plastron, is hinged in the center, so the front and back can be drawn up tightly against the upper shell, called a carapace, thus protecting the inhabitant in a box.

Another interestingly marked turtle, the common map turtle, was named for the network of fine yellow lines decorating its carapace. Unlike the box turtle, it prefers large bodies of deep water. It uses its powerful jaws to crush snails, crayfish and clams, its principal food.

The snapping turtle also depends on strong jaws to earn its supper. These turtles can grow to 14 inches and weigh up to 35 pounds. They are bold and aggressive, and will not hesitate before snapping at anything that comes their way—including fingers. Their nasty disposition, coupled with their large size, have landed many a snapper in hot water, literally. They are the most common species used for turtle soup.

Musk turtles have a different defense against their adversaries. When captured, this turtle emits a foul odor from glands located on either side of its carapace. Partial to deep, still water with muddy bottoms, it is distinguished by two bright yellow stripes on either side of the head.

The midland painted turtle also prefers water, but can be seen basking on logs along the banks of streams, its deep green carapace blending into the scenery. From a distance, this turtle resembles the proverbial “bump on a log.” Get too close, and the bump slowly slides into the water.

Of the less common turtle species in Ohio, the most familiar is the red-eared

slider—thousands have been sold as pets. The few colonies of this southern species found here may have started as unwanted pets. The Ouachita map turtle has been found here, but may have been brought in, since Ohio is on the eastern edge of its range.

On the other hand, Blandings turtles are Ohio natives. More northern in range, they are found along the shores of Lake Erie in marshy shorelines and wet meadows, and can be easily identified by a yellow throat and chin.



Spotted turtle

The wood turtle is a rare sight in northeastern Ohio. Its most striking identification marks are the orange patches on its neck and limbs, and its rough shell. Most turtles keep their feet solidly on the ground, but this little marvel has been known to climb a 6-foot fence!

Arguably the most handsome turtle in Ohio is the spotted turtle, which is found in the shallow water of ditches, small streams, marshes and bogs. Random spots of yellow scattered across a dark shell make identification easy. Once fairly common here, their numbers have been drastically reduced by the destruction of their wetland habitat.

Finally, Ohio is home to the Eastern spiny soft-shell turtle, and its cousin the midland smooth soft shell. Both turtles are covered with a tough, rubbery membrane instead of a shell—two more examples of natural Ohio’s fascinating variety. ✓

Tim Snyder
West Central District Preserve Manager

Shannon Hoffer
Preserve Manager

Best Plants Find
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botanist for the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, has worked tirelessly to protect Singer Lake. It is fitting that he found this spectacular new addition there.

Proving that lightning can strike twice in the same place—or state—Steve McKee independently found another male fern population in Richland County. McKee, director of the Gorman Nature Center in Richland County, has conducted exhaustive botanical surveys of his region.

Cleveland botanist George Wilder located a population of kidney-leaved violet (*Viola renifolia*) in a Cuyahoga County woodland. This find is a testimony to George's sharp eye, as this diminutive white violet closely resembles the much more common species, sweet white violet (*Viola blanda*). Like the male fern, this species occurs at more northerly latitudes and the Ohio population is one of the most southern occurrences yet discovered. It also becomes Ohio's 27th species of native violet.

In Ohio, at the beginning of the 2001 field season, there were 100 species of plants listed as extirpated—not having been seen in 20 years or more and believed to no longer occur in the state. Finding an “X” is always a feather in a field botanist's cap. The “X” list now stands at 95.

Perhaps the most impressive find is silver plume grass (*Saccharum alopecuroideum*), which was found in Shawnee State Forest by Dan Boone. Standing more than 7 feet tall, this showy grass is adorned with a silvery tuft of inflorescence. The site where Boone located it had been subjected to an intense wildfire the year before. It is thought that burning may have been the catalyst for its emergence from dormancy. Legendary Ohio botanist Floyd Bartley last recorded this species in 1951.

Dave Minney of The Nature Conservancy found Elliott's bent grass (*Agrostis elliottiana*) growing on a sandstone rock outcrop in Pike County. This obscure little grass was last collected in 1953 in Clinton County.

Two-seeded copperleaf (*Acalypha deamii*) was named for the famous Indiana botanist, Charles Deam. It was thought

to be gone from Ohio. Last seen in 1952 in Brown County, this species barely ranges north into the state along the Ohio River. It was found in Hamilton County by Marjie Becus. Her discovery stimulated interest in the species and Dan Boone, Denis Conover and DNAP's Allison Cusick later found additional populations nearby.

Looking at the 2002 rare plant finds, if one botanist stands out, it was Jim Bissell. He also added two extirpated rediscoveries to his resume. Bissell rediscovered the lance-leaved grape fern (*Botrychium lanceolatum*) in Ashtabula County. This easily overlooked plant was last documented in Hocking County in 1970.



Silver plume grass (*Saccharum alopecuroideum*)

Bissell also rediscovered the inconspicuous winged cudweed (*Gnaphalium viscosum*) in Geauga County. In spite of its name, this small plant is an interesting member of the sunflower family (*Asteraceae*), and is an exceptional find—the last Ohio record dates from 1926.

The division is always interested in new discoveries of endangered species, and several significant finds were recorded last year. John Pogacnik of Lake County Metro Parks leads the list with two very significant finds.

Pogacnik located bog bedstraw (*Galium labradoricum*) and bog willow (*Salix pedicularis*) in the White Pine Bog of Geauga County.

The division's survey of NASA's Plumbrook Station in Erie County produced some noteworthy finds. Working collaboratively on this project, DNAP botanists Greg Schneider and

Rick Gardner found large new populations of least St. John's-wort (*Hypericum gymnanthum*). Their find is the third Ohio site, and botanist Tim Walters found even more of this tiny plant at Plumbrook.

Walters also located a new site for thin-leaved sedge (*Carex cephaloidea*) at Plumbrook. This is only the third extant Ohio population of this easily overlooked sedge, of which there are about 150 species recorded from Ohio in the genus *Carex*.

Having made news in 2000 for discovering Missouri rock cress (*Arabis missouriensis*), Gary Haase added to our knowledge of this mustard by finding yet another Oak Openings population in Lucas County. Haase works for The Nature Conservancy.

Adding to his 2001 finds, Bissell discovered the fourth known Ohio population of ovate spikerush (*Eleocharis ovata*). He found it near Sheldon Marsh State Nature Preserve in Erie County.

Finally, John Mack from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency spotted the elusive false hop sedge (*Carex lupuliformis*) growing in flooded oxbows in a spectacular riparian woodland in Paulding County. This is only the fourth known Ohio site for this sedge.

Congratulations to all of these botanists, and thanks to all of those who contributed the results of their fieldwork to the Ohio Natural Heritage Database. ✓

Jim McCormac
Botanist

Volunteer Botanizing

A treasure hunt for green-gold
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River. When she re-inventoried the same preserve last year, she recalled, “all of a sudden there it was.” Later, wondering how rare it truly was, Becus went on to discover it at two other sites.

Until a few months ago, Becus was a microbiologist for Procter & Gamble by profession and a field botanist in her spare time. Now retired, Becus will have more time to spend walking in the woods, gardening with her granddaughter and adding a few more rare finds to her plant list.

If at first you don't succeed...

After 30 years, botanist Ray Showman hasn't gotten tired of the world of lichenology. The division benefits from his specialized knowledge and relies on him to help keep the database's lichen records updated.

As an environmental specialist for American Electric Power, Showman has become a lichen expert.

"My day job involves looking for lichens. AEP uses lichens to monitor air quality—they are really sensitive to air pollution," explained Showman.

Lichens are perennial. Showman finds it easier to look for them when the foliage is down. Most of the listed lichens grow in specific habitats, such as rock cliff plant communities.

Conkle's Hollow State Nature Preserve is home to four endangered species, and other rare lichens have been found at nearby preserves.

Most of the division's lichen records are built on Showman's field work and identifications. When pressed to name a favorite find, he finally admitted to one.

"I found a new species of lichen (*Hypotrachyna showmanii*). The



Volunteer botanist Ray Showman

species was actually named for me," said Showman.

In addition to updating lichen records, Showman also handles updating most of the Vinton County vascular plant records. Many of the records he works on are about 10 years old. Showman receives satisfaction from finding plants and updating old records.

Like his fellow botanists, Dan Boone and Marjie Becus, Showman enjoys being outside and the thrill of the chase.

"You might not find it the first time, but then you might go back again and find it there," said Showman.

The finds of botanists like Boone, Becus and Showman are critical to monitoring the health of Ohio's plant communities. To learn more about volunteering for the division, please contact (614) 265-6453. ✓

*Heidi Hetzel-Evans
Public Information*

2002 Stream Quality Monitoring (SQM) Workshops

Be ready to get your feet wet and have fun!

Looking to volunteer?

Interested in aquatic science? Need some field experience? Become a volunteer monitor and help assess the health of Ohio's Scenic Rivers. You'll be checking for changes in water quality and aquatic habitat. So easy, hundreds of volunteers participate each year.

We would like to invite you, your family and friends to attend any of the Stream Quality Monitoring (SQM) Workshops scheduled for 2002. No experience is needed and the training is free.

If you are interested in SQM training, reserve your spot for the training by contacting the respective coordinator listed for that region. ✓

CENTRAL OHIO SCENIC RIVERS

Contact: Michael Lee
Central Ohio SQM Coordinator
(614) 265-6422

Big Darby Creek State Scenic River

Franklin County
Battelle-Darby Creek
Metro Park, Indian Ridge

June 18, 6:00 pm-8:00 pm
June 22, 12:00 pm-2:00 pm
July 9, 6:00 pm-8:00 pm
July 13, 12:00 pm-2:00 pm

Kokosing State Scenic River

Knox County
Mt. Vernon Riverside
Park's river access
May 29, 4:00 pm-6:00 p.m.

Olentangy State Scenic River

Delaware County
Highbanks Metro Park,
streamside study area
June 25, 6:00 pm-8:00 pm
June 29, 12:00 pm-2:00 pm

NORTHEAST OHIO SCENIC RIVERS

Contact: Billie Jagers
Northeast Ohio SQM Coordinator
(330) 527-2961 or (330) 527-4184

Grand State Scenic River

Lake County
Hidden Valley Lake Metropark,
Hidden Valley Picnic Shelter, Klasen
Road off Rt. 528. Rain or shine.
May 23, 5:00 pm-7:00 pm

Upper Cuyahoga State Scenic River

Portage County
Camp Hi Canoe Livery, Abbott Road
off State Route 82. Rain or shine.
May 30, 5:00 pm-7:00 pm

NORTHWEST OHIO SCENIC RIVERS

Contact: Anne Coburn-Griffis,
Northwest Ohio SQM Coordinator
(419) 981-6319

Maumee State Scenic River

Lucas County
Farnsworth Metropark, meet
in Roche de Bouf parking lot
near main shelter house
June 22, 10:00 am-11:30 am

SOUTHWEST OHIO SCENIC RIVERS

Contact: Terry Carroll
Southwest Ohio SQM Coordinator
(513) 934-0751

Greenville Creek State Scenic River

Darke County
Bear's Mill Access
July 13, 10:00 am-1:00 pm

Little Miami State Scenic River

Warren County
Mathers Mill
(SW Scenic Rivers Office)
May 25, 10:00 am-1:00 pm
July 20, 10:00 am-1:00 pm

Warren County
Carl Rahe Access
June 5, 1:00 pm-4:00 pm
Sept. 21, 10:00 am-1:00 pm

Warren County
Fort Ancient Access
Aug. 17, 1:00 pm-4:00 pm

Stillwater State Scenic River

Miami County
Bruckner Nature Center
June 20, 2:00 pm-5:00 pm

Montgomery County
Aullwood Farm
Aug. 10, 10:00 am-1:00 pm

VISITOR LOTTERY

Cranberry Bog Open House

Saturday, June 22, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Have you ever stepped on a floating island of sphagnum moss? Enter the Cranberry Bog Open House Lottery and you may be one of the 480 visitors who will visit one of Ohio's most unique places.

Cranberry Bog State Nature Preserve is located in Licking County, about 30 miles east of Columbus. Registered as a National Natural Landmark in 1968, the island dates from 1830 when Buckeye Lake was created. Because the original 50-acre island has eroded to 11 acres, it is a fragile site and visitation is limited to permit access only, except during the annual open house.

Located about 25 yards off the north shore of Buckeye Lake, the island contains unusual northern bog species, including grass-pink orchid, large cranberry and pitcher plant.

Transportation to and from the island is available, courtesy of the Greater Buckeye Lake Historical Society, for a donation of \$5 per person. Guided tours of the preserve are free.

If you're interested in attending this year's event, please submit a post card (one per family) to:

Div. of Natural Areas & Preserves,
1889 Fountain Square Court, F-1,
Columbus, OH 43224.

Only postcards will be accepted and they must be postmarked by May-31. Cards postmarked later will not be accepted.

Please print legibly the following:

- Contact name
- Street Address
- City, State, Zip



- Daytime phone number
- Total in your party (not to exceed 10)

Successful lottery participants will be notified by mail in early June. Tours will be filled in the order of the cards drawn. Walk-ins may be accepted on the day of the event, in the event of cancellations.

For more information, please contact (614) 265-6453. ✓

PRESERVING NATURE TODAY FOR THE NEEDS OF TOMORROW

The Division of Natural Areas and Preserves' Mission Statement
Administer a system of nature preserves and scenic rivers by identifying and protecting Ohio's significant natural features.

Vision Statement
Leading Ohio in the stewardship of its natural heritage.

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Visit our website at: www.ohiodnr.com/dnap



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