



Volunteers recall more than 20 years of working in nature preserves



Volunteers are a prized group of individuals—they give freely of their time and talents, without asking anything in return. One particular group of volunteers, members of the Columbus Audubon Society, have been returning to Ohio's state nature preserves, month after month, year after year for more than 20 years.

Here are some of their stories about why they continue to volunteer, in their own words.

KATRYN RENARD enjoying nature's beauty over and over

Just how does one go about starting a 20 year tradition? The answer is – you don't. You simply do one work trip, then another and another. After awhile you realize you've been doing it for five years, 10 years and now 20 years. None of us thought about making a 20-year commitment, we just kept enjoying what we were doing.

It's a real treat to spend time in our state nature preserves. So many times

we simply walk through them, but on the work trips, we get to stop and enjoy them.

I can remember one work trip in particular at Lake Katharine. We had to carry a lot of supplies. At least a dozen times I walked the same trail, half the time with my head in the air enjoying the fresh autumn breeze on my way to pick up the supplies, and the other half with my eyes more focused on the ground as I carried boards.

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Joyas Voladores flying jewels

Joyas voladores was the name given to hummingbirds by the earliest Spanish explorers to the New World, no doubt amazed by the smallest members of the bird world. Quite the novelty the "hummers" must have been – they are only found in the Americas.

Hummingbirds are perhaps the most amazing family in the bird world. Comprised of 339 species, the hummingbird family reaches its greatest diversity in the tropics. For instance, Costa Rica has 51 species. The reddish hermit, violet sabrewing and tufted coquette are but a few of the more exotic species you might find, should you find yourself in Trinidad, El Salvador or Venezuela.

A fact book could be filled with interesting hummingbird trivia. The smallest bird in the world is the bee hummingbird of Cuba, weighing in at

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The path was covered with bright yellow leaves. The path was gorgeous. Over and over I enjoyed those leaves, seeing more detail each time. I realized that one walk through the woods was not enough time to enjoy everything.

And, frequently, offers the thrill of discovery. Who can forget the black racer snake racing away, or the pre-historic skink that paused long enough for everyone to get a good look? Or jumping up and down on a bog mat and feeling it move?

The work trips got their start in 1982 when Jim Davidson, then president of the Columbus Audubon Society, and I were looking for a way to start a series of works trips. After some pre-planning and meetings with the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves, the Columbus Audubon agreed to provide people if the division would provide the transportation and tools for the work trips.



Our first trip was in March 1982 to plant trees at Clifton Gorge State Nature Preserve. Since then, we have built steps and boardwalks, cut trails, cleared brush and returned months later to burn it, posted boundaries, painted and installed signs, removed garlic mustard, honeysuckle and other invasive plants, and installed wind breaks on sand dunes.

Working in a nature preserve gives me the time to enjoy it. It gives me a sense of belonging to the land and a respect for the beauty of Ohio.

Bill and Joy Beer new recruits who love family feel of trips

Bill and I are among the newest work trippers, having joined just two years ago. From the start, we were made to feel like brand-new friends, and we had a sense of having joined a permanent part of the work trip family.

Our first work trip could have felt more like a one-time outing with a temporary gathering of like-minded souls, but there is a special alchemy with this group, owing to the genuine openness and warmth of its long-time members.

One of the most wonderful aspects of being a work tripper is the sense of pride that comes from visiting the various preserves for pleasure, and treading on boardwalks, stairs and trails that we've helped build, or seeing native plants flourish where we'd removed a choking mass of honeysuckle in previous years.

DOUG BLISS one of the original volunteers who loves work trip traditions

I once read that enduring groups of people have several common characteristics including: 1) a shared mission, 2) traditions and 3) interest in one another. All of the above are true in spades for the Audubon work trip crew.

Our mission is being outdoors, working on a DNAP project that matters and is bigger than ourselves. For the most part, we are office bound during the week and are eager to get outside for a weekend trip to stretch our muscles and our minds and to renew our souls.

We enjoy the feeling of accomplishment that comes from our mutual efforts. We feel good about helping out. We love the chance to look at an interesting insect, bird, amphibian, plant, fungus or rock and will stop work at a word (OK, two words – nature break!) to see any of the above.

Many of our traditions involve eating food together, sharing food and experiences at lunch breaks. Overnight work trips with family-style meals. Ice cream stops to break up the drive home. And Planning, Christmas and Ornament Exchange potlucks. We also have “Legends of Work Trips Past,” which are recounted endlessly for new folks.

Our interest in one another is also evident. Some of us have gone through physical, emotional or mental hard times. None of this matters to the work trip crew. If you feel like talking, you'll find a sympathetic ear. If not, you can labor and heal yourself in silence among people who care. You are accepted as family and welcome.

SHARON TREASTER Audubon's work trip coordinator finds peace amidst nature

I began work tripping in 1991, cutting, dragging and burning invasive woody plants at Siegenthaler Esker. I came back to Columbus exhausted, sore and eager to go back out.

Over the years I've been introduced to many state nature preserves and met with many of the preserve managers who showed our group the unique aspects of their areas.

The purpose of each project was explained and consequences of previous decisions pointed out. The most dramatic before and after effect involved installing a series of 12 stone-lined trench water diversions to redirect hillside runoff on a picturesque gorge trail at Caesar Creek Gorge in Warren County earlier this year. An abrupt rainfall allowed us to observe the runoff redirected into numerous hillside waterfalls and diverted rivulets descending to the trailside down slope. Our best field test!

My most peaceful work trip was at Kiser Lake Wetlands in Champaign County on a mission in November 2001 to remove invasive shrubs and trees. The fog-cocooned fen was resplendent with holiday bright red stem dogwoods and ghostly white poison sumac, a definitive plant of fen communities. Beads of water clung to spider webs and cotton candy puffs of white fluff bristled from milkweed pods. The wonders of nature freed from the distractions of civilization by a soft curtain of fog.

DNAP coordinators (former employees Chuck Divelbiss and Bill Loebick) during my years have always kept the work trips productive, a time to learn and have fun together.

I look forward to a new season.

(Editor's Note – To learn more about the Columbus Audubon, contact the chapter at (614) 451-4591.)

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less than 2 grams – about the size of a dime – and stretching out at a full 2 inches. This little beast beats its wings 80 times a second on average.

Conversely, the largest is the giant hummingbird of South America. It weighs about 20 grams. Its in-flight appearance has been likened to a sandpiper with tiny legs.



Ohio is lucky to have one species of hummingbird breeding here – the ruby-throated hummingbird. Ruby-throated hummingbirds spend as much time here as they do in their wintering grounds – southern Mexico south to Costa Rica. Some ruby-throateds fly up to 2,000 miles one way in migration and most cross the Gulf of Mexico – a non-stop 500 plus mile trip, which takes more than 20 hours.

Like many birds, ruby-throateds are sexually dimorphic, or males look different than females. Male ruby-throated hummingbirds are stunning; an iridescent green back is set off by a brilliant ruby-red gorget, which is the name for the colored patch of throat feathers many hummingbirds have. Females are duller overall and lack the richly-colored gorget.

No helicopter can match the flying prowess of the ruby-throated hummingbird because this bird can zip straight up, down, sideways and even upside down. Like most males, they put on elaborate aerial displays to attract mates and mark territories. The male flies in a giant, arching pendulum, as if suspended on an invisible string, creating a loud hum with his wings. They can reach 60 mph in these displays.

Despite their size, hummingbirds are among the most territorial of birds. They have been known to attack much larger animals that venture too

near a nest. However, running across a nest is rare – nests only measure about 4.5 cm across, or about the width of a watch face. A penny could easily cap the nest's interior. Nestled within the tiny structure, which is usually composed of thistle and dandelion down laced with spider webs, are two eggs, only 13 mm in length, or about long of your pinky fingernail.

A ruby-throated hummingbird takes in 10 calories daily; a 175lb. person would have to ingest about 248,000 calories to compete. All this food is necessary to fuel their tremendous pectoral muscles, which comprise about 25 percent of their body weight. By contrast, the pectoral muscles of

humans comprise about 5 percent of our overall weight. Its heart beats 250 times per minute at rest and 1,220 times per minute in flight.

The ruby-throated hummingbird has an incredible metabolism. If night temperatures drop too low, these birds actually enter a state of torpor in which their body temperature drops some 30 degrees, thus slowing metabolic functions enough to survive until daybreak brings new feeding opportunities.

Ruby-throated hummingbirds are easily attracted to Ohio's backyards. Planting hummingbird-friendly plants, such as trumpet-creeper, salvia and touch-me-nots, will lure them in, but the best way to keep them returning is to erect special feeders filled with sugar water.

Keep a close eye on your hummingbirds this year. Rufous hummingbirds are being spotted in Ohio, usually late in the fall after ruby-throateds have departed. Rufous hummingbirds nest in the mountains of the western U.S., but regularly wander as far as the east coast. They invariably turn up at hummingbird feeders – 13 rufous hummingbirds were seen in 2002. And in October 2002, a feeder in Chillicothe hosted the first calliope hummingbird seen in Ohio.

Jim McCormac
Botanist

Digging it's a mole's life

Joe and I found a mole on a trail at Gallagher Fen State Nature Preserve a few months ago. Being dead, it did not mind our close inspection in the least. As Joe bagged it up for delivery to a local university for positive identification, I couldn't help thinking that here was the perfect earth-moving machine.



It had thick glossy, silvery-gray hair, which enables moles to slide through their earthen tunnels with a minimum of drag. Its oversized hand-like front legs with large claws do the digging.

It turned out to be a naked-tailed mole (*Scalops aquaticus*), our most common version. Although it might give gardeners heartburn to learn that Ohio has several species of moles, this one is the species that causes most of the problems on otherwise well-kept lawns. You can thank the mole's digging habits for that.

The earth is the sum total of a mole's existence. It moves there, eats and sleeps there, mates there. It is born there and usually it dies there, which is why it was so unusual to see one on the surface. There was no sign of a violent death. It simply died.

A more unusual mole sighting occurred while I was jogging my country road route. I ran across one of these little creatures; this one was very much alive. It was on the graveled roadside, apparently trying frantically to get underground and out of the intense light. Unfortunately it kept bumping up against the raised edge of the paved roadway. It would back off, move a short distance down and try again, only to meet the same resistance to its digging efforts.

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Take a geological glance at Mentor Marsh's past



After thousands and thousands of years, northeast Ohio still shows signs of its rich geological past. Mentor Marsh State Nature Preserve, located in Lake County, is a significant remnant of landscape history, left behind by post-glacial succession, which are the changes in the topography and substrate of an area due to deposits left behind by ancient glaciers.

The preserve is a wonderful place to view wildlife, bird watch and wander trails. The marsh itself is an important natural filter within the Grand River watershed. The area's glacial past unfolds as we look at the origin and dynamics of today's Mentor Marsh.

Fourteen thousand years ago, when the glaciers began to recede from northern Ohio, a series of ancestral lakes filled the newly uncovered Erie basin. In northeast Ohio the ancestral lakeshore was as much as 10 miles farther inland than that of modern Lake Erie. Once glaciers completely left the area, Lake Erie took on more modern proportions, leaving behind an abandoned lake plain composed of gravels, sands and silts. A new river, the Grand, cut a steep-walled gorge across this lake plain as it empties into Lake Erie. These flowing waters easily eroded the soft substrates and formed the many twisting curves of the Grand River.

Just before reaching the lake, near present-day Fairport Harbor, the river took one final sharp turn west for about 3 miles to an outlet near what is now Mentor Lagoons. Only a small sliver of land separated this portion of the river from the waters of Lake Erie. Gradually, bank erosion of the channel combined with wave action on the shoreline caused the channel to shift northward. Eventually the river broke through into the lake near its present outlet in Fairport Harbor, so that Mentor Marsh is no longer isolated from the land area to the south.

This shifting of the river's course cut the water flow off from the original channel and allowed vegetation to thrive in the rich sediments of the previous riverbed. Over time the channel, with its rich sediments, was transformed into a thriving marsh, populated with submerged aquatic plants.

As natural succession continued, the marsh channel slowly filled with decaying organic debris and the shallower water was able to support wetland grasses, such as cattails, rushes and sedges. Eventually, a swamp forest supporting pin oak, red maple, alder and ash grew around the edges of the central swamp.

Over the last few decades, environmental changes brought about by nearby human activity led to a dramatic shift in vegetation. Phragmites, or common reed grass, spread rapidly in the marsh and replaced most of the original vegetation. This dynamic environment continues to be subject to the pressures of natural succession as well as those of urbanization and human intervention.

Mentor Marsh comprises a variety of ecosystems, which support many plants and animals. It is this diversity



Find Mentor Marsh

From Painesville, 3.5 mi. west on SR 283, .5 mile north on Corduroy Road.

of environments that offers visitors a wealth of wildlife viewing opportunities amidst an otherwise urban setting. The 673-acre preserve offers rare solitude for many animals, from the microscopic to those visible by the naked eye. Birds, butterflies, reptiles,

amphibians and mammals are easily seen and recognized by the casual observer visiting the marsh.

Birdwatching remains one of the most popular year-round activities at Mentor Marsh. Birding opportunities are exceptional during spring and fall due to migratory patterns. Birds on the way to Canada in the spring stop to fuel up on the seeds and nectars found along the southern shores of Lake Erie before making the long trip across the lake. Conversely, during autumn, birds need to stop and re-fuel on the long return trip.

The marsh offers several observation decks and trails for birdwatching throughout the year. The Newhous overlook, located on Woodridge Lake, has a 1/10-mile paved access trail, which leads to a wheelchair-accessible overlook. The entire western end of the marsh can be seen from this point. The gently swaying reed grass (*Phragmites*), which constitutes the majority of the vegetation in this area of the marsh, creates a feeling of serenity as visitors quietly observe their surroundings.

Nearby is another wonderful birding access, Wake Robin Trail. A 1/5-mile boardwalk trail, flanked by towering reed grass, takes visitors through the center of the marsh without getting wet feet. A small viewing platform is located along the boardwalk, overlooking a cattail-surrounded pond.

Kerven Trail is a 1-mile loop, which traverses through an old wood forest, a pine stand and has a covered overlook offering a northern viewing angle.

The longest trail in the preserve, Zimmerman, is 2 miles long and

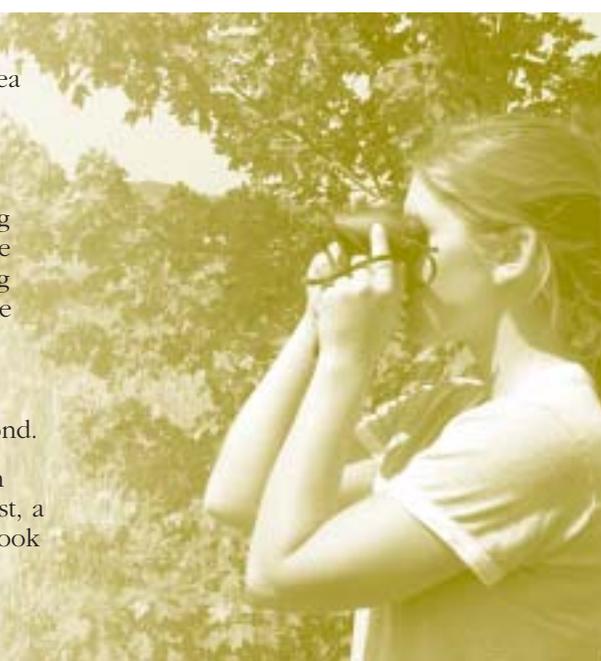
follows the west edge of the northeastern section of the marsh rim. This trail, which does not loop, is more strenuous than the others and crosses small streams and shallow ravines. Visitors can access Zimmerman from either of the two parking lots located on Headlands Drive and Rosemary Road.

The Marsh House, located at 5185 Corduroy Road, is operated by the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Open to visitors seasonally and on weekends, the Marsh House offers a variety of programming throughout the year. Nature programs for groups are available by calling (440) 257-0777.

Mentor Marsh was designated as a National Natural Landmark in 1966, and a majority of the area was formally dedicated as a state nature preserve in 1973. It is jointly owned by the Cleveland Museum of Natural History and the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves.

When visiting Mentor Marsh State Nature Preserve, please stay on designated trails. The preserve is open to the public year round during daylight hours, but pets and bicycles are strictly prohibited. Bringing along a pair of binoculars will enhance wildlife viewing at the preserve.

*Charlotte McCurdy
Northeast Lakeshore District Preserve Manager*



Advanced Notice for Natural Ohio Readers

VISITOR LOTTERY Cranberry Bog Open House Saturday, June 21, 2003 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Enter the Cranberry Bog Open House Lottery and you may be one of 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.

Located about 25 yards off the north shore of Buckeye Lake, the island contains unusual northern bog species, including grass-pink orchid (*Calopogon tuberosus*), large cranberry (*Vaccinium macrocarpon*) and pitcher plant (*Sarracenia purpurea*).

Boat transportation to and from the island is available, courtesy of the Greater Buckeye Lake Historical Society, for a donation of \$5 per person.

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

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

Only postcards will be accepted and they must be postmarked between May 1-31. Cards postmarked earlier or 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 4)

Successful lottery participants will be notified by mail in early June. Tours will be filled in the order of the cards drawn. In the event of cancellations, additional names may be drawn and contacted before the event. Also, in the case of additional cancellations, walk-ins will be accepted on the day of the event.

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

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Finally, through either exasperation or sheer dumb luck, the mole turned the other way and scurried into the grass-covered ditch. I followed its route for a few feet by the moving vegetation, and then all movement stopped. Evidently it had found dirt.

Moles literally swim through dirt, using their wide front legs armed with stout claws to push the soil beneath and behind them while their rear legs can kick the soil farther back into their excavated tunnels. When they have filled the tunnel with 5 or 6 inches of this waste dirt, moles push it back toward the last opening made to the surface. If the distance is more than several feet, they will give up and make new exit holes. Thus are formed those frustrating mounds of raw dirt that seem to pop up over night on lawns across the Midwest to vex the patience of mowers.

The most bizarrely equipped of our native moles is the star-nosed mole. In place of the common mole's rather non-descript naked nose, this one has a fleshy, many-fingered appendage that no doubt increases its sensitivity. This is vitally important.

Being underground creatures, moles have dim eyes and are always shown in cartoons and children's classics with glasses. Moles don't see their way through life, rather they feel their way through it.

The star-nosed mole inhabits wet areas, preferring the peat soils of swamps and brook sides. Water holds no fear for them and they are frequently seen swimming.

Although we may hate the visible damage moles can do to our lawns, we must be grateful for the good they do. Moles do perform a service for us. Their diet consists mostly of worms, grubs and larvae, which they find buried. Were it not for their voracious appetites, our world would be overrun with adult insects, some much more damaging than moles.

So spare a kind thought for moles every now and then. It's not easy living underground (and you think you had trouble getting a date!), but someone's got to do it.

Tim Snyder

West Central District Preserve Manager

Recent retirements leave big shoes and empty hats behind

The ability to “wear a lot of hats” during any single day out in the field is practically a job requirement for the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves’ district preserve managers. Field staff are required to face the daily challenges of facility maintenance, invasive species, law enforcement, education and interpretative programming.

Two veteran preserve managers hung up their uniforms recently – Eddie Reed retired in early October and Mark Howes retired on November 30. Together, Reed and Howes dedicated nearly 50 years of their lives to keeping Ohio's natural past intact.

Howes spent his entire career managing sites in central Ohio, including the Hocking Hills region, while Reed most recently managed the north central district. Some of their sites included Conkle's Hollow, Fowler Woods, Lakeside Daisy, Springville Marsh and Rockbridge state nature preserves.

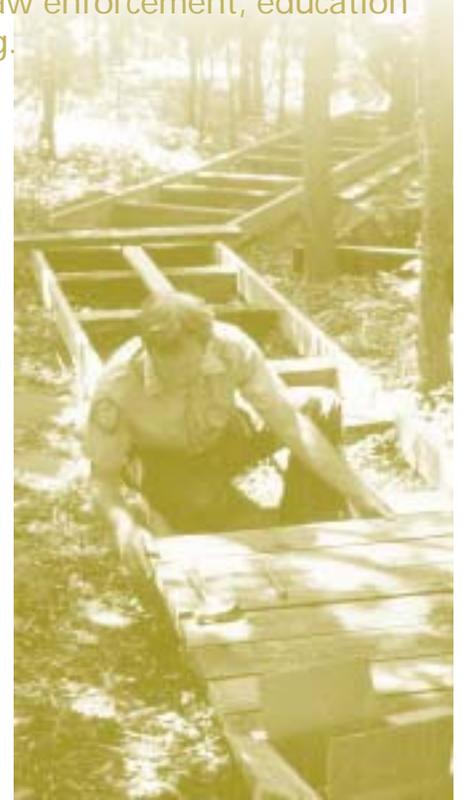
In their respective regions, Reed and Howes discovered ways to make the unique flora and fauna at their sites more accessible to the citizens of Ohio. Along with other long-time preserve managers, these men built a tradition of preserve management that continues today.

Working the Eddie Reed way – with humor, muscle and brainwork

Preserve management is actually Eddie Reed's second career; he spent quite a few years at a golf course following college. In 1979, he accepted a job with the division as the Sandusky River Area Preserve Manager.

He recalled his first day on the job – September 16, 1979 – he visited Springville Marsh with former employee, Jim McGregor. The two had to use machetes to make their way into the preserve. Less than a month later, a small dedication ceremony was held at the preserve to dedicate Reed's newly constructed boardwalk.

With his passion for woodworking, which continues today with his handcrafted chess and backgammon sets, Reed's favorite projects were



Eddie Reed

always those that made use of his skills. He is proud of the staircase at Howard Collier Scenic River Preserve, which happens to be one of his favorite sites.

“But, I'm also attached to Fowler Woods. Some thought I was crazy when I said that I wanted to have the whole trail at Fowler Woods boardwalked,” remembered Reed. “Now, we have many trails that are all boardwalk, but Fowler Woods was the first.”

Reed also enjoyed helping other managers with their own construction projects. He says he considered the resulting teamwork as the most important part of his job.

Besides encouraging other field staff to use the *Eddie Reed Way* – humor, muscle and brainwork, Reed had some advice for new preserve managers.



Mark Howes

“It is important to smile and laugh as you work,” said Reed. “You need to use your best stuff to get things done and sometimes you have to create your own methods.”

Reed lives in Sycamore and has two children, Stephanie and Tom, whom he characterizes as awesome. Reed doesn't have to worry about how he's going to spend his retirement. Reed began his third career, carpentry for a local builder, the day after he retired from the division.

Childhood dream spurred devotion to preservation

How many of us spend our careers doing what we hoped to do as children? Mark Howes did.

“I was so excited to get on; it's what I've always wanted to do since I was 8,” said Howes. “It was a dream come true when I got the call.”

Other than a year spent in the Division of Parks and Recreation and another with a federal program, Howes spent 26 years of his career in the place he loved best – out-of-doors. He says his satisfaction level couldn't have been greater than when he was working in the field alongside fellow preserve managers.

Howes began as a preserve manager in January 1977 and he stayed in central Ohio his entire career.

“I truly believe in what DNAP stands for and what it is doing,” said Howes. “It's what makes our division so unique – we're committed to the philosophy of the division and that's why I stayed.”

According to Howes, budgets have always been tight. Then, as now, preserve managers are responsible for grass mowing, trimming and trail maintenance at a number of sites – and

most without seasonal help. Howes still remembers early projects that involved all aspects of construction, including salvaging lumber from other sites.

Howes drew a lot of satisfaction from working on projects which provided benefits to visitors. Some favorite projects included building six bridges at Desonier – hauling all materials in

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Spend more time outside – become a scenic river volunteer!

Looking to spend a few extra hours outside or just love wading in streams and getting your feet wet? Become a volunteer monitor and help assess the health of Ohio's State Scenic Rivers. You'll be checking for changes in water quality and aquatic habitat, as well as learning more about the critters who call our scenic rivers home.

If stream quality monitoring (SQM) sounds like something you'd like to do this spring and summer, check the list for a workshop in your local area. It's easy to become a volunteer and training is FREE.

CENTRAL OHIO SCENIC RIVERS

Contact: Michael Lee
Central Ohio SQM Coordinator
(614) 265-6422
email: mlee564@aol.com

Big Darby Creek

Franklin County
Battelle-Darby Creek
Metropark. Meet at Indian
Ridge bulletin board near
parking lot.

April 12, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
April 26, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
May 18, 3-5 p.m.

Olentangy River

Delaware County
Highbanks Metropark.
Meet at streamside
study area at Big
Meadows parking lot.
May 4, 3 p.m.-5 p.m.

NORTHEAST OHIO SCENIC RIVERS

Contact: Billie Jagers
Northeast Ohio SQM Coordinator
(330) 527-2961
(330) 527-4184
email: billie@config.com

Chagrin River

Geauga County
Russell Twp. Park on SR 306.
May 12, 5-7 p.m.

Cuyahoga County
Chagrin Reservation, Old
River Farm Picnic Shelter.
Located on Route 174 North.
May 15, 5-7 p.m.

Grand River

Lake County
Hidden Valley Metropark.
Located on Klason Road,
off SR 528, Madison.
May 22, 5-7 p.m.

Little Beaver Creek

Columbiana County
Gaston Mills in
Beaver Creek State Park.
May 19, 5-7 p.m.

Upper Cuyahoga

Portage County
Camp Hi Canoe Livery Located
on Abbott Road off SR 82.
May 29, 5-7 p.m.

NORTHWEST OHIO SCENIC RIVERS

Contact: Anne Coburn-Griffis
Northwest Ohio SQM Coordinator
(419) 981-6319
email: bobvargo@bright.net

Maumee River

Lucas County
Farnsworth Metropark
Meet in Roche de Bout parking
lot near main shelter house
May 17, 10-11:30 a.m.
June 8, 2-3:30 p.m.
August 9, 10-11:30 a.m.
September 27, 10-11:30 a.m.

Providence Metropark
Meet in main parking lot near
main shelter house beside dam.
May 31, 10-11:30 a.m.

Sidecut Metropark
SQM Workshop and Canoe Float.
July 12 – time to be determined

Sandusky River

Wyandot County
Indian Mill.
Park and meet in fishing access
lot adjacent to main rapids.
April 19, 10-11:30 a.m.
July 26, 10-11:30 a.m.

Sandusky County
Wolf Creek Park.
Meet in canoe launch parking
lot (second entrance to Wolf
Creek Park from SR 53 South).
April 19, 12:30-2 p.m.
June 21, 10-11:30 a.m.

Seneca County
Huss Street Bridge.
Meet in park on east side
of river. Monitoring will be
done on north side of bridge.
September 20, 10-11:30 a.m.

SOUTHWEST OHIO SCENIC RIVERS

Contact: Bob Welch
Southwest Ohio SQM Coordinator
(513) 934-0751
email: gwelch@who.rr.com

Greenville Creek

Darke County
Bears Mill Access
May 17, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
July 12, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Little Miami River

Clark County
Garlough Road Access
July 19, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Greene County
Jacoboy Road Access
June 14, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Warren County
Mathers Mill Access
May 31, 1-4 p.m.

Fort Ancient Access
August 30, 1-4 p.m.

Stillwater River

Miami County
Stillwater Prairie Access
May 14, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Brukner Nature
Center Access
June 21, 2-5 p.m.

Covington Dam Access
July 26, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Montgomery County
Aullwood Farm Access
August 9, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

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a tractor during a very rainy season – and improvement projects at Conkle's Hollow, including a 220-ft. staircase and three-dimensional kiosk.

As much as Howes enjoyed the autonomy of being a preserve manager and the different challenges each day brought, it is the staff that he will miss most.

"I'm going to miss the people; I've been blessed to work with such tremendously dedicated people," said Howes. "I feel like we were making a difference and I still feel that today – it's not about the money."

Howes lives north of Lancaster with his wife, Stephanie and their four children, Ben, Abbey, Aaron and Nate. Howes has an older daughter who is married and lives in Pittsburgh with his grandson, Braden. He admits with four children, he isn't really retiring. However, Howes says he is ready to move on to other things, working in home repair and possibly doing some berry farming on his new land.

A simple checkmark can make a big difference

Please use Line 25 on your income tax form to donate to the preservation of Ohio's nature preserves, scenic rivers and endangered species.

It's easy to support the protection of Ohio's natural heritage through the Natural Areas Checkoff Program. Taxpayers may donate any portion of their Ohio state income tax refund to support natural area acquisitions, education programs, scientific research and protection of threatened and endangered species.

Your generous donation helps protect high-quality scenic rivers, significant native plant communities, such as bogs, prairies, oak savannahs and old growth forests, and numerous rare plant and animal species.

Direct donations can also be made by sending a check made payable to:

Checkoff Special Account
Division of Natural Areas & Preserves
1889 Fountain Square Court, F-1
Columbus, OH 43224.

Today, only scattered remnants of Ohio's unspoiled natural landscape remain as tributes to our state's proud natural heritage.

Join us – together we can make a difference!



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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