



Natural Ohio

Bob Taft, Governor • Sam Speck, Director
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Spring 2004

NEW PROGRAMMING SERIES debuts this spring

Looking to spend some quality time outside? Check out the 2004 Natural Areas Discovery Series, presented by the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves.

The division has begun hosting open house-styled events, one Saturday each month from April until October. Many of the events feature scheduled hikes, interpretative programming and a chance to meet division staff.

The popularity of past programming activities prompted the division to begin offering regional events that could reach more participants than some of its past programs.

“Ohio’s state nature preserves have a lot to offer visitors—scenic vistas, rare plants and a variety of landscapes in any season,” said Nancy Strayer, Division of Natural Areas and Preserves’ acting chief. “Our new programming series is a great way to discover a new preserve, or visit an old favorite.”

The first event took place at Clifton Gorge State Nature Preserve in late April. Preserve Manager Tim Snyder, working with other preserve staff, coordinated three hikes. Visitors had a chance to see the many wildflowers gracing the preserve’s trails as they wind along the Little Miami State and National Scenic River.

“Clifton Gorge has always been known for its brilliant display of spring wildflowers,” said Snyder. “Although flowers were the center of attention, visitors were also introduced to the equally interesting geology and cultural history of the area.”

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TNC LENDS PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT to Natural Heritage Database

The following excerpted article, written by Jessica Sharon, was featured in The Nature Conservancy, Ohio Chapter newsletter, Ohio Landscapes. The article features two TNC employees who are on loan to the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves for a few hours each week.

Field work may be solitary, but The Nature Conservancy’s (TNC) botanist Rick Gardner also spends time working with other ecologists to discuss restoration and protection issues. Because of the limited number of botanists across the state, knowing where to look for threatened species is extremely helpful.

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Rick Gardner

Fowler Woods

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The division invites you and your family to try one of this year's Natural Areas Discovery Series' programs

WILDFLOWER RAMBLES IN PORTAGE COUNTY

**Eagle Creek State Nature Preserve
May 8, 7:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

Whether you love the colors of spring wildflowers or spotting birds in flight along a scenic creek, you'll have your choice of outdoor fun. The 7:30 a.m. hike along Beaver Run Trail will focus on the birds of Eagle Creek. Two wildflower walks (10 a.m. and noon) will feature the varieties of spring blooms seen from on and off the preserve's trails. The 10 a.m. walk will be longer and visitors are encouraged to bring water or a snack.

"The 10 a.m. hike will take visitors to a rarely visited area on the southern side of the preserve," said Emliss Ricks. "They'll see acres of large-flowered trilliums and other spectacular wildflowers."

All walks will start at the preserve's parking lot. Eagle Creek is located on Hopkins Road, one mile south of Center Road in Nelson Township, which is located 2 miles east of Garrettsville. For more information, contact (330) 527-5118.

CELEBRATING GREAT LAKE ESTUARIES IN ERIE COUNTY

**Old Woman Creek State Nature
Preserve & National Estuarine
Research Research
June 19, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

Early summer is a beautiful time to visit the shores of Lake Erie and this event is sure to please visitors of all ages. A full day of activities includes hourly tours of the new environmentally friendly Visitor's Center, research exhibits, guided hikes through the various habitats of the preserve and, if conditions permit, short canoe trips into the estuary.

Old Woman Creek is located 3 miles east of Huron on U.S. Route 6. For more information, contact (419) 433-4601.



Large-flowered
trillium at Eagle Creek

THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS IN WARREN COUNTY

**Little Miami State and National
Scenic River & Caesar Creek Gorge
State Nature Preserve
July 10, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

By land or by water... choose your nature adventure. About 35 visitors will have an opportunity to canoe along the Caesar Creek and before returning, take a short hike into Caesar Creek State Nature Preserve.

For visitors who prefer their adventures on land, a 2-mile hike along the preserve's Caesar Trace Trail will highlight the best of the preserve's habitats. Hikes are scheduled for 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Canoes will be provided on a first-come, first-serve basis for the 10 a.m. canoe float session. Transportation will be provided from the take-out point back to the Shelter House where the trip begins. Personal flotation devices will be available, but participants weighing less than 90 pounds must bring their own. All participants will be required to sign release forms, and anyone under age 18 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian to participate. The area is remote and refreshments are not provided, so please plan accordingly.

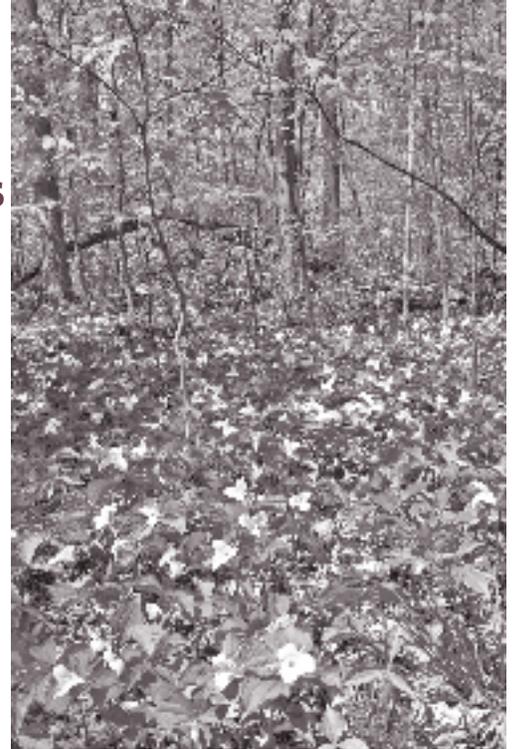
Caesar Creek Gorge is located 3 miles north of Oregonia on Corwin Road on the east side of the Little Miami State Scenic River. For more information, contact (513) 934-0751.

A BLAZE OF PRAIRIE GLORY IN ADAMS COUNTY

**Chaparral Prairie
State Nature Preserve
August 7, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

The prairies of Adams County are near peak bloom in early August. You won't forget the bright hues of all the prairie wildflowers on display at Chaparral Prairie and other Adams County sites. This open house-styled event features summer wildflower walks and prairie programming. If you like what you see at Chaparral, staff will be on-hand to direct you to other Adams County prairies.

From West Union, travel north on State Route 247 for ¼ mile. Turn left on Chaparral Road for about 2.5 miles. Turn right on Hawk Hills Road; the preserve is on the left. For more information, contact (937) 544-9750



BIRDING ON THE COASTAL DUNES OF LAKE COUNTY

**Headlands Dunes State Nature Preserve
September 18, 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

As summer turns to autumn, Headlands Dunes is a wonderful place to experience one of Ohio's best coastal dunes communities. Whether your interest is botanical or avian, there is plenty to see at this Lake Erie preserve. Many rare plants grow on the sand dunes and a variety of shore birds can be seen resting along the beach. Begin your visit with an 8 a.m. bird hike, or learn more about coastal plants by joining one of two hikes (11 a.m. or 1 p.m.) focusing on the unique vegetation of the dunes.

Located west of Fairport Harbor on the north end of State Route 44 and extreme east end of Headlands Beach State Park. Parking and restrooms are available in the state park. For more information, contact (440) 632-3010.

LEAF PEEPING IN RICHLAND AND WAYNE COUNTIES

**Fowler Woods and Johnson Woods
State Nature Preserves
October 16, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

Fowler Woods and Johnson Woods will both be hosting fall foliage events, giving you twice the opportunity to see the best in fall color. Guided, fall color hikes will begin at each site at 10 a.m., 12 p.m. and 2 p.m. Choose the woods you haven't seen yet, or see both beautiful wooded preserves on the same day. Both preserves have good accessibility for a range of visitors.

Fowler Woods is located in Richland County, 6 miles northwest of Olivesburg on Olivesburg-Fitchville Road, just south of its junction with Noble Road. For more information about Fowler Woods, contact (419) 981-6319.

Johnson Woods is located in Wayne County about 4 miles north of Orrville on State Route 57, then travel one mile east on Fox Lake Road. Parking is available on the north side of Fox Lake Road. For more information about Johnson Woods, contact (419) 433-4919. ✓

TNC LENDS PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT

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“It’s very important to collaborate with fellow botanists and ecologists because we need to share information on rare species and rare habitats,” Gardner said.

The botanist’s work is a little easier, however, thanks to the collaborative efforts of Gardner and other scientists who continue to maintain one of the most complete databases available for rare plants and animals. While The Nature Conservancy has been tracking species since its inception, it wasn’t until 1974 that the organization helped to establish a state-by-state listing of rare species in the U.S.

Since then, this database—known as the Natural Heritage Program—has grown to include a network of public and private organizations whose goal is to produce a single, comprehensive catalogue of the status and locations of rare species.



Working with the Ohio Division of Natural Areas and Preserves, The Conservancy set up Ohio’s Nature Heritage Database in 1976 and provided the original staff for the program before turning it over to the division.

If you want to know, for example, where in Ohio you’d most likely find a grass-pink orchid, or the rare Allegheny woodrat or if you’d like to know how many bogs can be found in Portage County, you’d go to the Ohio Natural Heritage Database.

“You can search by county, by topographical quad, by watershed. The

database will tell you when the species was last observed and how many individuals were seen,” said Marleen Kromer, the Ohio Chapter’s inter-agency program development director.

The information found in the division’s growing database allows developers and businesses to comply with environmental laws when developing projects. Local governments use the data to assist in land use planning and municipal agencies are guided by the Natural Heritage Database to better manage our public lands.

“The Heritage data is important to many groups, including TNC, because it provides essential information that is used in developing our conservation plans. It’s the basis for our actions. If we can help ensure that it provides the

best information available, then it is a good investment for the Conservancy to assist in this small way,” said Kromer.

Just as The Nature Conservancy helped establish the program, the Ohio Chapter is helping to keep the database current. Gardner and Kromer have been spending several hours each week at the division’s offices, helping to meet staffing needs.

“The time that Rick and Marleen have spent working with the Natural Heritage Database has been invaluable,” said Nancy Strayer, acting chief for the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves. “By being an active partner in furthering the division’s mission, The Nature Conservancy’s Ohio Chapter continues to help us make a difference in Ohio.” ✓

Best Plant Finds of 2003

With more than 1,800 native plants, Ohio is one of the most floristically diverse states in the Midwest. Ohio botanists continue to discover an average of two new species annually, and 2003 was no different. There were many significant endangered and threatened plant finds last year—more than we have room to print.

Two species previously unrecorded in Ohio were both found in Clermont County. Cincinnati botanist Dan Boone found both in an unusual acidic wetland dominated by sphagnum moss and netted chain fern. Boone located twining screwstem (*Bartonia paniculata*), a tiny member of the gentian family. On a later visit, Boone found red chokeberry (*Aronia arbutifolia*), a large and striking shrub with bright red fruit.

Another great find, bigtree plum (*Prunus mexicana*), was found by The Nature Conservancy’s (TNC) botanists Rick Gardner and Dave Minney, along with Lawrence County botanist Judy Dumke. The plants were found in the Wayne National Forest and it was Lawrence County’s first record in 52 years.

The southernmost region of Ohio produced noteworthy finds. Jackson County finds included Tennessee pondweed (*Potamogeton tennesseensis*) by Minney and Gardner, and spotted panic grass (*Panicum yadkinense*) by

Minney, who also found it in Scioto County. Also, Phil Zito, recently retired from the division, found coppery St. John’s wort (*Hypericum denticulatum*) along with division botanist Jim McCormac.

In neighboring Pike County, Boone relocated buffalo clover (*Trifolium reflexum*). The only modern record was from 1990.

It takes a sharp eye to locate the tiny endangered Carolina leaf-flower (*Phyllanthus caroliniensis*), but DNAP volunteer botanist Len Mikles discovered the plant growing in a remote area of Shawnee State Forest in Scioto County, along with volunteer Pat Deering and McCormac. Elsewhere in the forest, Shawnee State Park Manager Kevin Bradbury found a small colony of the threatened great rhododendron (*Rhododendron maximum*), which is only the second county record. Another Scioto County find, Virginia ground-cherry (*Physalis virginiana*), was found by former

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Kiser Lake Wetlands



Within Kiser Lake State Park are two distinct areas protected within the borders of Kiser Lake Wetlands State Nature Preserve in Champaign County. The history of the preserve lies in both natural and man-made forces—forces which shaped the landscape of today and left behind a variety of interesting plants, birds and habitats.



Located in Johnson Township in Champaign County, within Kiser Lake State Park, south of the campground on Kiser Lake Road. Park at the Red Oak Trail parking lot.

State Nature Preserve *Visit a wet fen meadow in summer*

The preserve is a remnant of a fen that was formed after the last Ice Age, when the retreating Wisconsin glacier left depressions behind, which later filled with water to create a lake. As the lake drained, the low areas still held water and were filled with decaying plant material. The original, natural lake was blocked at one end by the Farmersville moraine and at the other end by the glacier which took a few centuries to retreat northward. As that lake drained, it left more than 300 acres of peat, which is now mostly covered by the waters of Kiser Lake.

In the 1800s, settlers created a lake when a dam was built across Mosquito Creek, which had flowed through the fen, known as Mosquito Lake Bog. As the dam deteriorated, Mosquito Lake emptied and once again revealed the original bog. Later in 1940, Mosquito Lake Bog was once again blanketed by water when the dam for the present lake was constructed.

Dedicated in 1975, the preserve's 51 acres gives visitors a chance to see

diverse habitats, such as prairie fen meadows, woods and marsh. The alkaline water percolating to the surface of the preserve's fen comes from cold water springs and seeps. The water temperature and the 3-foot layer of nutrient-rich, decaying plant matter, or peat, supplies nutrients to plants not commonly seen in Ohio's backyards.

Kiser Lake Wetlands is actually two distinct areas. Fourteen acres are located on the southern shoreline and 37 acres are in the headwater area at the southeast corner of Kiser Lake. Although the larger of the two areas is open to the public year round, the 14-acre area is only open to visitors with access permits. The 37-acre headwater parcel features a 2/3 mile trail which is partially a boardwalk trail, keeping visitors' feet dry as they traverse the wettest areas of the preserve.

Many of the preserve's most interesting plant species were transported from the south with the retreat of the Wisconsin glacier. Unique plants like prairie sedge, beaked sedge, coolwort

and smooth gooseberry can be found growing in the preserve.

Summer is a great time to visit and view the vibrantly colored prairie and fen wildflowers. Some of Kiser Lake Wetlands' showiest blooms include the fiery queen-of-the-prairie and the lovely small-fringed gentian. Interesting preserve plants include shrubby cinquefoil, marsh marigold, grass of Parnassus, big bluestem, Ohio goldenrod and poison sumac.

Visitors may also see an assortment of wildlife including whitetail deer, turkey, owls, hawks and a variety of woodpeckers.

Kiser Lake Wetlands State Nature Preserve features a boardwalk trail in the Headwaters section. For more information, call (937) 663-4197 or visit our web site at www.ohiodnr.com/dnap. ✓

*Herb Leen
West District Preserve Manager*

Volunteers make a difference at Caesar Creek

A group of dedicated high school students from Mason donated their time and money to Caesar Creek Gorge State Nature Preserve in Warren County. Working with their high school advisor, Tim King, students helped the division protect native plants by cutting invasive bush honeysuckle. A special thanks to two students, Lyndsay Tomandi and Kurt Phillips, who raised \$300 for the preserve. The division appreciates the efforts of all the students who helped improve conditions for visitors at Caesar Creek Gorge.

If you or a group are interested in donating your time to a local state nature preserve or scenic river program, please contact (614) 265-6453 or visit our web site at www.ohiodnr.com/dnap. ✓



Conkle's Hollow To Close Temporarily

Beginning June 7, Conkle's Hollow State Nature Preserve in Hocking County will be closed to the public.

Construction on a new footbridge, as well as upgrading the Lower Gorge Trail for better accessibility, is set to start in early July.

The division hopes the preserve will reopen in November 2004.

For construction updates, please call (740) 420-3445. ✓

Make a splash in river preservation

Stream quality monitoring (SQM) is a fun and easy way to help preserve Ohio's state scenic rivers. The best part? It doesn't take a lot of time or experience to learn SQM and what a great excuse to splash around in water!

Free SQM training workshops are being held around the state—reserve your spot by contacting the SQM Coordinator near you. ✓

NORTHWEST

Ohio Scenic Rivers

Contact Anne Coburn-Griffis
(419) 981-6319

Maumee State Scenic River Lucas County

May 8, 10 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.
Farnsworth Metropark, meet in Roche de Bouf parking lot near main shelter house.

June 12, 10 a.m.–11:15 a.m.
Providence Metropark, meet in main parking lot near main shelter house beside dam.

Wood County

July 10, 10 a.m.-11:15 a.m.
September 25, 10 a.m.-11:15 a.m.
Weir Rapids Fishing Access, meet in parking lot beside main river rapid.

Paulding County

Sept. 25, 12:30 p.m.-1:45 p.m.
Antwerp Village Park, meet at east park drive entrance.

Sandusky State Scenic River Sandusky County

June 5, 12-1 p.m.
August 14, 11:00 a.m.-12 p.m.
Wolf Creek Park, meet in canoe launch parking lot (second entrance to park from State Route 53 South).

Wyandot County

June 5, 10-11 a.m.
October 2, 2-3:15 p.m.
Indian Mill, park and meet in fishing access lot adjacent to main rapids.

NORTHEAST

Ohio Scenic Rivers

Contact Billie Jaegers
(330) 527-2961

Little Beaver Creek State Scenic & Wild River Columbiana County

May 11, 5-7 p.m.
Gaston Mill, Beaver Creek State Park.

Grand State Scenic River Lake County

May 13, 5-7 p.m.
Hidden Valley Metropark, picnic area.

Upper Cuyahoga State Scenic River

Portage County
May 19, 5-7 p.m.
Mantua Village Park.

CENTRAL OHIO

Scenic Rivers

Contact Michael Lee
(614) 265-6453

Big Darby Creek State Scenic River Franklin County

May 20, 6-8 p.m.
June 13, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
June 24, 7-9 p.m.
July 15, 7-9 p.m.
Battelle-Darby Metropark, meet at Indian Ridge bulletin board.

Olentangy State Scenic River Delaware County

May 19, 6-8 p.m.
June 12, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
June 23, 7-9 p.m.
July 14, 7-9 p.m.
Highbanks Metro Park, meet at streamside study area.

SOUTHWEST

Ohio Scenic Rivers

Contact Bob Welch
(513) 934-0751

(Workshops to be announced – please call for schedule.)

BEST PLANT FINDS OF 2003

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twining screwstem

Wayne National Forest botanist Erin Larson and Dumke. Since it was added to Ohio's list in 1996, only a few sites have been found in Adams County.

In Lawrence County, Dumke and Gardner found the rare Sampson's snakeroot (*Gentiana villosa*). This endangered, beautiful gentian may be overlooked

because it blooms late—sometimes into November. Another Lawrence County find was made by Jarel Hilton, a TNC botanist who found the threatened yellowish gentian (*Gentiana alba*).

It is especially encouraging when finds are made on privately owned land. More rare plants have been found on an Adams County prairie owned by John Howard than any other similarly-sized prairie in the county. Two more finds can be added from Howard's prairie, the threatened narrow-leaved pinweed (*Lecbea tenuifolia*) and three-flowered melic (*Melica nitens*).

Narrow-leaved pinweed was also spotted by Gardner and Debbie and Gary McFadden at the Buzzard's Roost Preserve in Ross County.

Kudos to botanists who know their sedges. Gardner, Boone and another Cincinnati-area botanist, Marjie Becus, found the endangered false hop sedge (*Carex lupuliformis*) at Culberson Woods State Nature Preserve in Clinton County.

Moving north, Bob Harter found the showy, purple-flowered Gattinger's foxglove (*Agalinis gattingeri*) along the crests of shale cliffs overlooking Alum Creek Reservoir in Delaware County.

The northeastern corner of the state consistently produces great finds, in no small part because of Jim Bissell, a talented Cleveland Museum of Natural

History botanist. Two Geauga County finds included the triangle grape fern (*Botrychium lanceolatum*) and the endangered swamp red currant (*Ribes triste*).

Not content to remain in northeast Ohio, Bissell waded into the wetlands of Magee Marsh State Wildlife Area in Ottawa County and found our rarest water lily, the endangered bullhead-lily (*Nuphar variegata*). This is the first record in the western Lake Erie marshes in 33 years.

Back in northeast Ohio, Portage Parks' Brad Stemen found the endangered fireweed (*Epilobium angustifolium*) in Portage County. This is only the third Ohio county where it has been found in recent decades.

At Irwin Prairie State Nature Preserve division staff have been waging war against the invasive glossy buckthorn, which threatens to take over the rare twig-rush dominated wet sedge meadows. It was exciting when DNAP's Greg Schneider found the endangered narrow-headed panic grass (*Panicum spretum*) and Canada St. John's-wort (*Hypericum canadense*) in newly cleared areas. The panic grass had only been found in one small area of Lucas County.

Schneider and other division staff also found the potentially threatened rock harlequin (*Corydalis sempervirens*) in the same area. This gorgeous relative of Dutchman's-breeches hasn't been seen in Lucas County since 1929.

Also in Lucas County, MetroParks of the Toledo Area has been innovative in restoring and managing rare Oak Openings ecosystems. Volunteer botanist Ruta Kurta located a new site for our rarest gentian, the endangered prairie gentian (*Gentiana puberulenta*). This is only the third known site. Two other park volunteers found rarities as well: Kim High documented the endangered old-field toadflax (*Linaria canadensis*) and Chris Free found a population of the potentially threatened Virginia meadow-beauty (*Rbexia virginica*). All three finds occurred on sites where the park district has been restoring degraded plant communities, particularly by using controlled burning.

Often good barometers of air quality, the status of Ohio's lichens is important to the division. One of Ohio's leading

authorities on lichens is Ray Showman, a biologist for American Electric Power. With his input, the division lists 16 species of extremely rare Ohio lichens. Last year, Showman found yet another state record, the horny beard lichen (*Usnea subscabrosa*). It often grows on sandstone cliff faces, which is where Showman found it in Jackson County.

Barbara Lund, a naturalist from Adams County, made an amazing discovery—she found the first state record of Lea's shadow lichen (*Phaeophyscia leana*) in her home county. This lichen is globally rare, with only a few scattered locales in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky and Tennessee.

Also in Adams County, Mark Zloba, a fantastic lichenologist and employee of the Cincinnati Museum Center also found a first state record—southern soldiers (*Cladonia didyma*). This ground-dwelling species bears red-capped fruiting bodies and is reminiscent of the common lichen known as British soldiers (*Cladonia cristatella*).

The Ohio Division of Natural Areas and Preserves depends heavily on the contributions of botanists from around the state to keep the Ohio Natural Heritage Database current. Thanks to all the botanists and naturalists who contributed to another successful botanical year. ✓

Jim McCormac
Botanist

Old Woman Creek's first manager retires



You could say that Old Woman Creek and Gene Wright grew up together, professionally speaking at least.

After more than 25 years, Gene Wright is leaving a program he

managed since its creation—Old Woman Creek State Nature Preserve and National Estuarine Research Reserve.

After spending eight years as an engineering draftsman, Wright returned to college to study for a career

Islands in the Sky

Between the city of Lancaster, in Fairfield County, and the abrupt rise marking the edge of the Appalachian Plateau southwest of the city, stands the Knobs. In the far West, these flat-topped outliers of the plateau would be called buttes. Here in the East, they have a solid covering of trees which softens their outlines, so the early settlers called them “knobs”—Beck’s Knob, Allen’s Knob, Claypool Knob, Ruble Knob.

The tops of the higher knobs rise 250 feet above the surrounding fields and give fine views south into the Hocking Hills and north across the lowland plain of central Ohio. To the observant climber, however, there is something even more fascinating here than the view. There is a marked difference between the forest at the base of the knobs and the one which grows on their tops. There are few other places in the state where the contrast between two forests is so strikingly evident.

The lowland forest is a rich mix of various oaks, maples, beech, cherry, walnut, hickory, ash and elm—an association called “mixed mesophytic” by foresters. Where they have not been logged, the trees are of an impressive size. In the spring, the ground at their feet is carpeted with a luxuriant growth of wildflowers.

On top of the knobs, the forest appears poor and straggly. Lowland tree types are sparsely represented, and the few scattered individuals

found seem barely able to grow beyond the sapling stage. The dominant tree on top is chestnut oak (*Quercus montana*), and even it seems to survive mainly on determination. The larger trees appear to split their strength, growing two or three trunks of mediocre size from a common point, as though they were afraid to put all their effort into one main stem which might not survive. Thickets of mountain laurel crowd around them, but the growth of blueberry and fern on the open areas of the forest floor is noticeably thin.

What we have here on the knob tops is an outlier of the forest association found in the hills farther south. The Black Hand sandstone capping the knobs creates a thin, well-drained, dry and acidic soil. Only plants especially adapted to these harsh conditions can survive.

The base of the knobs, on the other hand, felt the touch of the glaciers. Here the ice was brought to a grinding halt against the Appalachian Plateau. It sent probing fingers between the

knobs, but was not able to overtop them. When the ice retreated, it left behind a thick layer of till over the flatlands and lower slopes of the knobs. It is this till which forms the rich soil supporting the diverse mix of mesophytic forests. The unglaciated knob tops rising above the till offer sanctuary for the dry oak forest of the south—in effect forming islands of Appalachian habitat in the sky.

Two of Fairfield County’s knobs—Allen and Ruble—are now protected within Shallenberger State Nature Preserve. Trails lead through the rich woodland at their feet and up the 80-foot wall of caprock to their tops, giving fine views of the contrasting forest communities and the surrounding terrain.

Shallenberger State Nature Preserve is located on Beck’s Knob Road, just north of U.S. Route 22 southwest of Lancaster. The preserve is open daily, from sunrise to sunset. ✓

Tim Snyder
West Central District Preserve Manager

that might allow him to help the environment.

Wright became Old Woman Creek’s first preserve manager just as the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves was establishing a new federal-state estuarine program there. Working with the preserve’s other first hire, Dr. David Klarer who headed up research, Wright spent his first few years building bridges with local folks.

As preserve manager, Wright also managed other sites, including Sheldon Marsh and Erie Sand Barrens. He helped the division acquire Augusta-Anne Olsen (formerly named Vermilion) State Nature Preserve. He also hired Linda Feix, who after volunteering, transitioned into a full-time education coordinator in the early 1980s.

As the federal-state program evolved, so did Wright’s job. In the early ‘90s, Wright was promoted to program administrator. During Wright’s tenure, Old Woman Creek became a nationally renowned estuarine research reserve facility. In addition, Wright and his staff provided guidance for more than 100 scientific and monitoring projects, and coordinated numerous training programs about wetlands and coastal management issues.

Wright described himself as a facilitator and troubleshooter. He credits his team members, as well as other staff along the way, for all the successes at Old Woman Creek.

“I never did anything alone... Linda, David, Gary (Obermiller), John (McFadden) and others... they are the people who got the job done,” said Wright.

Wright is proud of Old Woman Creek’s recent sustainable building renovations, completed in 2003. But Wright said it is the preserve’s international partnership with Belize that has been most personally satisfying. Partnership opportunities have brought new friends and colleagues.

“I’ve loved working with all the different agencies and individuals involved in the partnership—the students, their teachers and all the universities,” said Wright.

Wright, who retired in January, resides in Huron with his wife Sandy. He is looking forward to traveling and already has plans to visit Arizona and Alaska this year. ✓

Cranberry Bog Open House Lottery

Saturday, June 26 • 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 for your chance to see one of Ohio's most unique places.

Cranberry Bog State Nature Preserve is located in Licking County, about 30 miles east of Columbus. With the exception of the annual Open House, visitation to Cranberry Bog is limited to permit access only. Once 50 acres, the island has eroded to less than 11 acres.

Located 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.

To enter the Open House Lottery, please submit a post card (one per family) to:

Division of Natural Areas and 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 the following:

Contact name
Street Address
City, State, Zip
Daytime phone number

Total in your party (not to exceed 4 unless the number of immediate family members is greater)



pitcher plant

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, walk-ins will be accepted at the Open House. ✓

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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