

Natural Ohio

Division of Natural Areas and Preserves

Vol.28, No.2

Spring 2006



2005 Rare Plant Finds

THE TIME SPENT IN THE FIELD LAST YEAR BY BOTANISTS, BOTH AMATEUR AND PROFESSIONAL ALIKE, LED TO A VARIETY OF GREAT RARE PLANT FINDS. AS ALWAYS THERE WERE MORE FIRST-RATE FINDS THAN ROOM TO PRINT—SO HERE'S A GLANCE AT SOME OF THE BEST.

A new plant was discovered for Ohio—southern dewberry or coastal-plain dewberry (*Rubus trivialis*), which is a member of the brambles group, difficult for many botanists to identify. However, Hamilton County native Dan Boone did not have any trouble with this dewberry. Boone is a botanist who makes incredible finds year after year. While surveying for the Hamilton County Park District, he discovered it in a floodplain forest along the Ohio River in Clermont County. The population of this new rarity is quite disconnected from the rest of its range. The closest known sites are located in western Kentucky.

Boone also found the first site in more than 100 years for the small southern pearlwort (*Sagina decumbens*). Working with Barbara Lund of Adams County, he found this species in Portsmouth along the Ohio River. Not stopping there, he and fellow Hamilton County botanist Marjie Becus found the second site ever in Ohio for Missouri violet (*Viola missouriensis*) at East Fork State Park in Clermont County.

Another botanist whose field work always shines is Jim Bissell from the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Bissell found a new sedge for Ohio, Mitchell's sedge (*Carex mitchelliana*), which he collected in 2001 (along with Beverly Danielson, a museum volunteer). He only just recently confirmed its identity. This sedge is very rare away from the Atlantic coast, but Bissell found it in a lake-plain seepage in Ashtabula County. Mitchell's sedge

(continued on page 3)

Irwin Prairie Hosts Special Visitor

On a cold and cloudy day in late January, visitors to Irwin Prairie State Nature Preserve observed Ohio's smallest and one of its rarest owls—the Northern saw-whet owl. Perched on a small pin oak along the preserve's boardwalk, the area soon became a spot to remember. As word spread of the saw-whet's visit, many people came from near and far to take a picture of this unique creature.

Northern saw-whet owls are only 7 inches tall, yet they are voracious predators, often taking prey as big as themselves. Small mammals are preferred but songbirds, frogs and even bats are eaten. When prey is plentiful, saw-whets will kill as many as six mice in rapid succession and then store them away for winter. When food is scarce, these owls will retrieve their kill and then thaw it by "brooding," or sitting on the frozen carcass—giving new meaning to defrosting dinner.

During the daylight hours, saw-whets roost in small conifers, grape vines or shrubs that offer protection from predators and the elements. When the sun goes down, they leave their roost and perch in an area that gives them a view of passing prey. When an opportunity presents itself, they will swoop down and with strong claws claim their prey.

(continued on page 5)

IN THIS ISSUE

from the chief.....	2
preserve spotlight	4
ohio natural landmark	5
new conservation plates	6
nature's calendar	7
natural areas discovery series	8

From the Chief

SPRING IS THE TIME OF YEAR THAT SPEAKS TO RENEWAL AND FRESH BEGINNINGS. MANY OF OUR STATE NATURE PRESERVES ARE AT THEIR BEST AFTER OR EVEN DURING A SPRING SHOWER. THE LUSH VERDANT GROWTH AND THE VIBRANT COLORS AS TREE BUDS BURST FORTH EXCITE THE SENSES AND REFRESH OUR SENSE OF WONDER AT NATURE'S BEAUTY.

For botanists throughout Ohio, spring signals the beginning of an active season of searching for that rare find in the nooks and crannies of unique habitats. Hopefully 2006 will be a banner year as botanists, with hand lenses slung around their necks, troop into our fields and forests to hunt for elusive species. There are a number of great 2005 finds highlighted in this issue.

Opportunities to visit Ohio's state nature preserves will be enhanced again by the 2006 Natural Areas Discovery Series. Details of the upcoming summer events can be found on page 8. These family-friendly events give visitors a chance to meet staff and learn more about Ohio's natural heritage. I hope to see you there.

Late spring also signals the start of another volunteer season—stream quality monitoring. Beginning in May, hundreds of volunteers will start collecting macroinvertebrate data to help track and document the health of Ohio's 12 state scenic rivers. The data they collect help us understand and better track changes in water quality as well as help maintain the integrity of these streams. Sound interesting? Consider attending one of this year's free workshops to learn more.

Finally, this spring brings a new opportunity for all Ohioans to renew their commitment to preserving Ohio's best waterways. We have updated the Scenic Rivers license plate and added a second design. You can choose from the colorful native brook trout or the graceful great blue heron. The plates are available now. Visit www.oplates.com to learn more.

Spring is here—I invite you to explore nature at its finest from the banks of a scenic river or the trails of a state nature preserve. 


Tom Linkous, Chief

2006 Stream Quality Monitoring Schedule



Spend more time outside—become a stream quality monitoring (SQM) volunteer for the Ohio Scenic Rivers Program. It's easy to volunteer and training is free.

Besides spending time getting your feet wet wading in streams, you'll be assessing the health of our state scenic rivers. You'll be trained to check for changes in water quality and aquatic habitat, as well as learn more about the critters who call Ohio's rivers home.

To learn more or to check for a workshop in your local area, please visit www.ohiodnr.com/dnap/monitor or contact the stream quality monitoring coordinator for your region below:

Central Ohio – Tiffany Taylor,
(614) 265-6422 or email
tiffany.taylor@dnr.state.oh.us

Northeast Ohio – Billie Jaegers,
(330) 527-4184 or email
billie@config.com

Northwest Ohio –
Anne Coburn-Griffis,
(419) 981-6319 or email
bobvargo@dnr.state.oh.us

Southwest Ohio – Bob Welch,
(513) 934-0751 or email
gwelch@who.rr.com 

Rare Plants

(continued from page 1)

will be listed as state endangered on the new 2006-07 Ohio rare plant list.

Bissell, along with Charles Bier and Ephram Zimmerman from the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, found the first record in northeast Ohio for the endangered Bicknell's crane's-bill (*Geranium bicknellii*) at the museum's North Kingsville Sand Barrens Preserve. This wildflower was only known from a couple of small populations in northwest Ohio.

Bissell also found a new population of the endangered Hill's pondweed (*Potamogeton hillii*) near Pymatuning Creek in Ashtabula County. This is the second extant location in the state. Fellow museum staffer, David Kriska, found a new record for the endangered swaying-rush (*Schoenoplectus subterminalis*) at Crystal Lake in Portage County. This natural lake, partially owned by The Nature Conservancy (TNC), continues to yield rare species. Crystal Lake now boasts six state endangered species and is the only site in Ohio for three of these species.

Jim McCormac, Division of Wildlife, continues to add new finds to his list. He found a new population of Olney's three-square (*Schoenoplectus americanus*), a plant he discovered for Ohio a few years ago. Along with Bill Whan and Jen Sauter, McCormac found it on Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, adjacent to Crane Creek State Park. He and Mark Dilley of M.A.D. Scientist Consulting found another small population of the endangered spreading rock cress (*Arabis patens*) along the Scioto River in Franklin County. In Mercer County, McCormac and Marshal Moser of Auglaize County found a new population of the beautiful endangered iris, leafy blue flag (*Iris brevicaulis*), near St. Mary's River.

A group of botanists, including DNAP's Rick Gardner, Don Beam, Cathy Herman, Alice and Fritz Schmitthener and other members of the Friends of Wooster Memorial Park, found a new population of the endangered thin-leaved sedge (*Carex cephaloidea*) on a newly protected natural area in Wayne County.

Mentoring the next generation of botanists, Gardner, accompanied by his eight-year-old niece, Sara Protzman, found the fourth current site for the threatened midland sedge (*Carex mesochorea*) growing in his parent's woodlot in Butler County.

Gardner, McCormac, American Electric Power's Ray Showman and Ohio EPA's Brian Gara located a new population of the endangered grass, *Panicum yadkinense* in Vinton County. This is the third location for this inconspicuous grass. Also in Vinton County, Todd Hutchinson, an ecologist with the U.S. Forest Service, found a new population of the endangered Bartley's reed grass (*Calamagrostis porteri* subsp. *insperata*) in Zaleski State Forest.

TNC's Dave Minney is another botanist who consistently finds some of Ohio's most obscure plants. Minney co-discovered two new populations of two state endangered plants: short-fringed sedge (*Carex crinita* var. *brevicrinis*) and Tennessee pondweed (*Potamogeton tennesseensis*) in Adams County last year. This year he found additional populations with Gardner and John Howard of Adams County. Both species were only known from one location prior to Minney's discoveries. Botanizing in Adams County, Howard made his own discovery when he found a new site for the endangered dwarf hawthorn (*Crataegus uniflora*).

A trio of veterans, Minney, Gardner and Boone, found another population of Tennessee pondweed in Vinton County. But Minney's list of finds wasn't over yet. He also discovered the federal endangered running buffalo clover (*Trifolium stoloniferum*) in Lawrence County.

Division of Forestry's Brian Riley made a number of good finds in 2005 including three new locations of the endangered big-tree plum (*Prunus mexicana*), two in Adams County and the other in Scioto County, which was a first for that county.

Tim Walters, a botanist with The Mannik and Smith Group, found a new population of the threatened rock elm (*Ulmus thomasii*) in a wet woods in Williams County.

Michael Liptak, a botanist with EnviroScience, found a new locality in Franklin County for the threatened pale umbrella-sedge (*Cyperus acuminatus*).

The rare plant list wouldn't be complete without the moss and lichen categories. AEP's Showman found another new lichen for the state, *Canoparmelia amabilis*, which will be listed as endangered in Ohio.



A new Ohio lichen, *Canoparmelia amabilis*, was found at Acadia Cliffs State Nature Preserve.

Along with Gara, Showman found this lichen at Acadia Cliffs State Nature Preserve in Washington County. Kent State's Barb Andreas, Gardner and Diane Lucas of Lorain County found the rare moss, *Dichelyma capillaceum*, at Lake



Missouri violet

Katharine State Nature Preserve in Jackson County. It was also added to Ohio's new rare plant list.

As always, there were a number of great finds that we couldn't include here, but we'll be featuring more noteworthy finds in the Summer issue. For those of you already out in the woods, wetlands and prairies of Ohio, good luck! 

Rick Gardner
Heritage Botanist

Halls Creek Woods State Nature Preserve

NEED SOME QUIET TIME AWAY FROM TRAFFIC, THE OFFICE OR THE OTHER DEMANDS OF YOUR BUSY DAY?

Nestled inside one of Ohio's fastest growing counties, you'll find a place to escape the hustle and bustle of everyday life. Halls Creek Woods State Nature Preserve features the tranquility of a state nature preserve and the scenery found along the Little Miami State and National Scenic River.



dwarf larkspur

(Photos courtesy of David FitzSimmons)

This southwestern Ohio state nature preserve, purchased by the state in 1973, bears the name of the creek that runs through the area. There, the two branches of Halls Creek come together before joining the Little Miami. The creek, a slight stream most of the time, really comes alive after a rainstorm. Ordovician limestone outcrops create several small stairstep waterfalls when rain is plentiful, making the waterfalls a popular photographic spot.

Much of the preserve is mature forest of three types: maple-cottonwood-sycamore floodplain forest, beech-sugar maple forest and oak-maple forest. The combination of diverse hardwoods and the Illinoian till and Ordovician limestone and shale creates a boon for plant detectives.

Rare plant finds here include potentially threatened species, such as Deam's three-seeded mercury, wild kidney bean and prickly pear cactus.

In the spring, the preserve's forest floor is covered with many striking wildflowers. Visitors can spot large white trillium, toadshade trillium, jack-in-the-pulpit, mayapple, trout lily, wild hyacinth and many more. Equally pretty in the fall, visitors can enjoy the

colors of autumn reflected by the waters of Halls Creek.

Wildlife viewing is another pleasant pastime at this 278-acre preserve. Turkey, deer, squirrels, fox, coyotes, ground hogs, skunks and even the occasional beaver have all been spotted at the preserve. The diversity of the landscape also offers wonderful nesting habitat for many bird species, including wood thrushes, great blue herons, wood ducks and pileated woodpeckers.

Although the site does not currently offer a trail system, the majority of the preserve is surrounded by roads. Watch for the boundary signs and take a compass or GPS unit with you. Parking is minimal; there are several pull-off spots along the road near the entrance.

Halls Creek makes a nice stop for anyone wishing to use the Little Miami River canoe access that is adjacent to the preserve. Or, combined with biking the Little Miami River State Park Scenic Bike Trail that is located across from it, the preserve provides visitors with the peace and quiet which often eludes us in our busy lives. 

Shannon Hoffer
Southwest District Preserve Manager

Rare Oak Openings Habitat Recognized

ONE OF THE BEST REMAINING EXAMPLES OF AN OAK BARREN PLANT COMMUNITY BECAME OHIO'S NEWEST NATURAL LANDMARK IN JUNE 2005. LOCATED IN SOUTHWESTERN HOLMES COUNTY, IT IS ONLY THE SECOND SITE TO RECEIVE THIS DESIGNATION IN THE COUNTY.

"Ohio's natural landmarks represent Ohio's natural heritage including rare species, habitat for rare species or unique geological formations," said Nancy Strayer, assistant chief for the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves.

Strayer explained that Ohio's program, like its national counterpart, is a way to recognize a site without changing private property rights.

Because of the efforts of the Killbuck Watershed Land Trust and volunteers like Don Beam, 113 acres of this special habitat and its rare plants are protected. Using state and local Clean Ohio funds, Killbuck Watershed Land Trust purchased Brinkhaven Oak Barrens in 2004.

The area has long been regarded as a rare plant community. In the 1920s, noted ecologist, Paul B. Sears, described the area as:

"essentially Oak Savannah, the oak forming open thin groves, or being present as scattered clumps or individuals, with the (generally lower) ground between occupied by grasses and other herbaceous vegetation."

As Sears discovered, a variety of plants can be found thriving in the area. Little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*) is the dominant grass in these openings along with Indian grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*) and big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*) and scattered black (*Quercus velutina*) and white oaks (*Q. alba*).

Some of the state listed species at Brinkhaven Oak Barrens include purple triple-awned grass (*Aristida purpurascens*), round-fruited pinweed (*Lechea intermedia*) and thyme-leaved pinweed (*L. minor*).

Fires are important in sustaining the savannah community. A study, conducted by the U.S. Forest Service, found that the Brinkhaven site has experienced periodic fires, with the last one occurring in 1975. Because woody vegetation has been increasing in the openings, the main objective has been to remove the invading woody vegetation from these openings.

Since the site was purchased, Beam, along with a group of local volunteers, has been enhancing the openings by cutting woody vegetation and conducting prescribed burns. With the work of volunteers and the protection afforded the site by the Killbuck Watershed Land Trust, Brinkhaven Oak Barrens joins a long list of protected natural areas in Ohio. 

Rick Gardner
Heritage Botanist



Irwin Prairie Visitor

(continued from page 1)

Northern saw-whet owls can be identified by their small size and lack of ear tufts. They have yellow eyes and feathers of brown with white streaks.

Unlike many birds, the saw-whet relies on camouflage to protect itself from predators. This trait makes it hard to see. However, when you do find one, it will sit and allow you to get fairly close. Irwin Prairie's surprise visitor sat only a few feet from most birdwatchers, staying everyday and allowing many to take its picture. In fact, this saw-whet would only open his eyes for a few seconds as people approached, then quickly returned to daytime slumber.

Saw-whets are rare but can be found throughout Northern Ohio during the winter months. They are often seen in thickets of small pine trees and shrubs adjacent to meadows and fields. To find them, look for the "white wash" (bird scat) at the base of the trees. Often times you have to look closely because they can hide well.

Although the saw-whet owl at Irwin Prairie moved on by early March, there's always next year. Some good Ohio locations to find the Northern saw-whet owl include Sheldon Marsh and Irwin Prairie state nature preserves and Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area. The sighting of this small owl is a great addition to any birder's "life list." 

Steve Harvey
Northwest District Preserve Manager



New conservation plate features Ohio rarity



Many native species, some rare and endangered, find protection in Ohio's 12 high quality state scenic rivers. Two such species will grace the new Scenic Rivers special license plates—the brook trout and the great blue heron. While the blue heron is a more common sight in the wild, the brook trout is only found to naturally occur within the confines of the Chagrin State Scenic River watershed in northeast Ohio. It is a wonderful symbol of the importance of Ohio's system of protected rivers.

The brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*) is one of Ohio's rarest and most beautiful fish. It is a small- to medium-sized fish with a dark olive green back marked with light green or yellowish wavy lines, or vermiculations. The sides of the fish are lighter with many pink or red spots encircled with bluish rings. Spawning males are a brilliant orange or red below.

The native range of the brook trout extends across Canada from Newfoundland to the western shore of the Hudson Bay. In the U.S., brook trout are found throughout New England, the Great Lakes basin and in the Appalachian mountains into northern Georgia. Some of the populations are anadromous, meaning they move from the ocean to freshwater to spawn.

This species has also been widely introduced throughout the western U.S. and other continents.

Most Ohio fish are usually no greater than 10 to 12 inches in length. In other parts of its range, such as in Canada, the brook trout may grow to 24 inches or longer. It has become a prized sport fish on the northeast coast of North America.

Brook trout are typically found in clear, cold, well-oxygenated headwater streams and small rivers. They prefer to inhabit undercut banks and small, deep pools with some form of cover nearby. Because Ohio's rivers and streams are predominantly warmwater systems, they do not provide suitable conditions for any trout, including the brook trout, which is a state-listed threatened species.

In Milton Trautman's *Fishes of Ohio*, he quotes a noted 19th century Ohio naturalist and physician, Jared P. Kirtland, who wrote in 1838, "The speckled trout are to be found in Ohio in only two streams, a small creek in Ashtabula County, and a branch of the Chagrin River, in Geauga County. They also exist in the headwaters of the Allegheny, in Pennsylvania, but never run down into the Ohio (River)."

Trautman further notes that in 1930, these streams contained habitat suitable for brook trout, but by 1945 "almost all vestiges of these habitats had been destroyed."

Today, this native fish is only found in Woodie Brook and Spring Brook, which are headwaters of the Chagrin. In 2002, the division worked with the Geauga County Park District to dedicate a significant portion of the Spring Brook watershed as a state nature preserve. Dedicating the stream corridor provided long-term protection for one of Ohio's last remaining populations of this rare species.

The division worked with local partners, the Western Reserve Land Conservancy and the Geauga Park District, to provide funding to restore the Woodie Brook habitat and stream channel, as well as protect nearly 12 acres of riparian corridor through conservation easements. In all, 2,200 linear feet of the stream is protected.

Funding for projects like these and others is provided by sales of Ohio Scenic Rivers license plates. That funding is critical to the mission of the Ohio Scenic Rivers Program, which is to protect Ohio's vanishing high quality streams, their habitats and the rare and endangered species associated with them.

Ohio's two Scenic Rivers conservation plates truly symbolize the best of Ohio's waterways. Purchasing one of these new plates provides important funding to continue the division's conservation efforts, such as river corridor and riparian forest protection, dam removal, research and the Ohio Stream Quality Monitoring Project. To learn more, visit www.ohiodnr.com/dnap or www.oplates.com. 

Bob Gable
Administrator, Ohio Scenic Rivers

Following Nature's Calendar

HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED GROUNDHOG'S DAY AS NEW YEAR'S DAY? COMPARED TO OUR CONVENTIONAL CALENDAR IT WOULD SEEM A BIT TARDY; BUT, ACCORDING TO NATURE'S TIMETABLE AND MANY PRE-ROMAN CALENDARS THAT IS WHEN THE NEW YEAR BEGAN.

Until Julius Caesar's time, even the Roman new year began in March. Caesar himself moved New Year's Day up to the first of January in deference to the god, Janus, he of two faces—one looking forward and one looking behind.

Most early cultures, including the Egyptians and the Mayans, began their years with the advent of spring, a time of planning and renewal. And Mother Nature herself stirs long before winter is officially over.

The groundhog is emerging in early February to see or miss his (or her) shadow. In truth, this large ground squirrel is stirring at the first signs of spring, the lengthening days. Groundhog's Day is approximately halfway between the winter solstice and the vernal equinox, an event referred to as a cross-quarter day.

Although we consider the equinox the first day of spring, it was considered the middle of spring to early cultures. Already skunk cabbage has bloomed and on warm and sunny days the earth has that fresh smell of spring. Most of us are insulated from the natural world for most of our lives, missing the subtle changes taking place across the landscape as the seasons move through the calendar.

Occasionally an all-too-alert spring peeper or chorus frog may sing boldly while a green frog may surface in an

ice-free shallow to soak up the warm sun while thousands of tiny unnamed invertebrates wriggle and twist in the still cold waters. And on a warm rainy night, one might be fortunate to witness the spectacle of hundreds of spotted salamanders moving to their breeding ponds to participate in their age old ceremony before virtually disappearing for the rest of the year.

With the alternating warm days and cold nights, the sap begins to run and the maple trees are tapped, and the annual ritual of maple syrup production occurs in late February and on into March.

By the time the equinox arrives in late March, the rays of the sun are directly over the equator and moving into the northern horizon. While there is still a chance for snow and frost, the daytime temperatures sometimes reach the 70s. The roller-coaster ride that is early April can see temperatures rise or fall by 40 degrees in a single day.

Things are really happening now. Daylight increases between two and three minutes each day. The sun is in the heavens for 12 plus hours, melting away the winter blanket of snow. The first green shoots of woodland wildflowers begin pushing their way up through the soil. Redwing blackbirds sing from the wetlands as they prepare to nest amongst the cattails and each evening the woodcock begins its spectacular spiraling courtship flight. Spring peepers, chorus and wood frogs are in full concert. This is high spring!

By the time May begins, we are in what the ancients considered the beginning of summer. They danced around maypoles to celebrate this season of warmth and new life. Many wild animals and birds are born or hatched these weeks. The woodlands are carpeted with a riot of color as

early spring ephemerals bloom prior to the leafing out of the forest canopy, a brief period in May. Many of our colorful feathered friends are returning to court and nest. Frequent walks are a must.

Once we reach the middle of May, the warm weather stabilizes and we seldom see freezing temperatures. The hardwoods leaf and the forest floors darken as planting season begins. New growth abounds. The air is full of pollen and humming insects as corn is planted. By late May, the temperature reaches into the 80s, with attendant thunderstorms and the occasional tornado.

June brings high summer and the time of blooming grasses. Timothy, orchard grass and other temperate climate grasses and sedges are in full flower now. What we see as the start of summer, the time of the summer solstice, when the direct rays of the sun are 23.5 degrees into the northern hemisphere, was considered to be the middle of summer by early peoples. The farther north folks lived, the longer the daylight hours, so that north of the Arctic Circle the sun never sets for several weeks but skims along the northern horizon throughout the nighttime hours. At our latitude, we enjoy a bit more than 16 hours of daylight. When it finally does get dark, we are treated to fireflies, the summer constellations and the warmth of summer evenings. 

Emliss Ricks
*Northeast District
Preserve Manager*

(Editor's Note – Read the second half of Nature's Calendar in the Summer issue.)

Discover Ohio's Natural Heritage

Now's your chance to discover the natural beauty to be found along Ohio's scenic rivers or within a state nature preserve. The division's Natural Areas Discovery Series continues through October. To see a full listing or to find directions, visit www.ohiodnr.com/dnap.

Kokosing State Scenic River Day

Saturday, June 17, noon to 4 p.m.

Great for the whole family, this event features displays, stream activities, river walks, canoeing, aquatic critters and other river-related festivities. Parking is available at Kenyon College's Brown Family Environmental Center. To learn more, call **(614) 265-6422**.

Sandusky State Scenic River Day

Saturday, June 24, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Take a canoe trip along the lovely Sandusky State Scenic River. Open to the public, the canoe float will begin at Indian Mill access area and will end at Parker Covered Bridge. We'll break for lunch (bring your own) after returning to Indian Mill for stream quality monitoring demonstrations.

The canoe float is free, but pre-registration is required by calling **(419) 981-6319**. Personal floatation devices are available for adults, but participants under 18 must supply their own.

In Search of the Great Rhododendron

Sunday, July 9, 1 p.m.

Join staff from the Ohio Historical Society (OHS) and the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves on a back country hike through the rugged rhododendron-studded hills of Wahkeena Nature Preserve and Rhododendron Cove State Nature Preserve. This hike will traverse some difficult terrain as we search for the beautiful blooms of the great rhododendron. Participants must be conditioned for strenuous hiking; bring water and wear proper shoes for this off-trail ramble. Registration is limited. Parking will be available at Wahkeena, courtesy of OHS. Call **(740) 420-3445** to register.

Blaze of Prairie Glory

Saturday, July 29, 10 a.m. to noon

The prairies of Adams County are near peak bloom in late July. You won't soon forget the bright hues of all the prairie wildflowers on display at Chaparral Prairie State Nature Preserve. For more information, call **(937) 544-9750**.

Tale of Two Bogs —Kent Bog and Triangle Lake Bog

Saturday, August 12, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Back by popular demand—visit two jewels of the Ice Age representative of two different eras of community succession—an open water lake and a more mature bog meadow. Both harbor unusual plant communities including carnivorous plants, tamaracks, rare northern shrubs and sedges. After the 10 a.m. hike at Kent Bog State Nature Preserve, we'll travel to Triangle Lake Bog State Nature Preserve around noon. After lunch (bring a sack lunch and water), a guided tour of Triangle Lake Bog will begin. For more information, call **(330) 527-5118**.

Preserving Nature Today for the Needs of Tomorrow

Mission Statement:

Administer a system of nature preserves and scenic rivers by identifying and protecting Ohio's significant natural features.

This newsletter is a free public service made possible through your contributions to the Ohio Natural Areas Income Tax Checkoff program. If you are receiving duplicate newsletters, please contact **(614) 265-6453**.

www.ohiodnr.com/dnap



Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Division of Natural Areas and Preserves
2045 Morse Road, Bldg. F-1
Columbus, OH 43229-6693
(614) 265-6453

Bob Taft, Governor
Sam Speck, Director
Tom Linkous, Chief

An Equal Opportunity Employer—M/F/H

Prsrt Std
U.S. Postage
PAID
Columbus, OH
Permit No. 537