

Natural Ohio

Division of Natural Areas and Preserves

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Governor's Residence and Heritage Garden celebrates Ohio native plants

IT'S NOT OFTEN THAT TOUR GROUPS HAVE A CHANCE TO LEARN ABOUT THE GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE FROM OHIO'S FIRST LADY HERSELF, BUT THAT'S JUST WHAT A CINCINNATI-AREA GARDEN CLUB EXPERIENCED AS THEY TOURED THE HERITAGE GARDEN WITH MRS. HOPE TAFT THIS SPRING AT THE GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE.

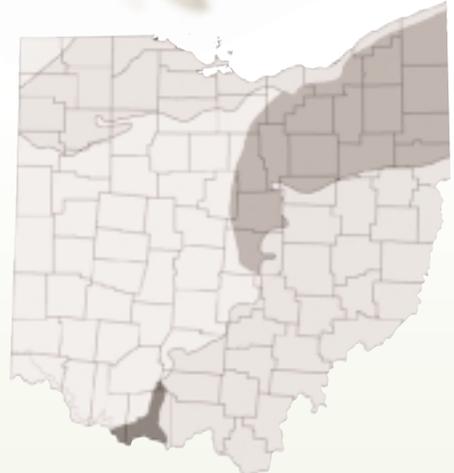
Who better to serve as guide than the woman behind the gardens' massive transformation? Because of her unceasing efforts and love for gardening, Mrs. Taft has worked tirelessly to guide this four-year project which turned the 3.5 acre residence into a showcase for Ohio's native landscapes and plant communities.

The Governor's Residence, a Jacobean Revival-styled home built in the 1920s, was donated to the state for use as the

executive residence in 1955. Between 1957 and 1975, four governors lived there, however from 1975 until 1982 the residence stood empty and fell into disrepair.

In the 1980s, the Celeste administration oversaw many major structural repairs and listed the residence on the National Register of Historic Places, as well as established the non-profit Governor's Residence Foundation to help fund repairs and enhancements. A decade later, the Voinovich administration worked with the Ohio Historical Society to locate period furnishings for the public rooms on the first floor. A Governor's Residence Advisory Commission was formed to oversee the public spaces and ensure that the architectural integrity of the building is maintained.

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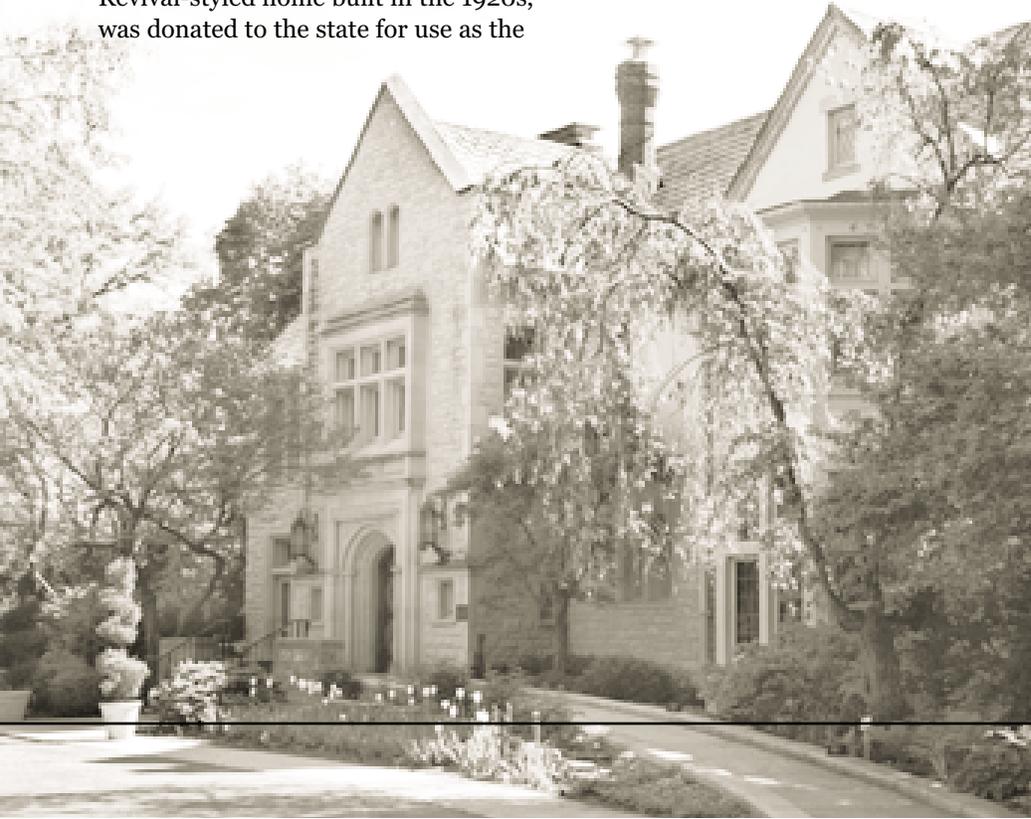


Can you name Ohio's five major physiographic regions?

Ohio is blessed with an abundance of plant and animal species—key components of a healthy and biologically diverse environment. Our native wildlife and plants exist in diverse habitats, such as wetlands, prairies, woodlands and waterways.

The great Ice Age lasted for nearly 2 million years, ending a mere 10,000 years ago. Two-thirds of Ohio was buried under glaciers. The moving ice scoured and shaped the landscape then covered it with thick layers of rock and soil, known as till. In contrast, the remaining third of the state—where the ice sheet didn't reach—remained a rugged land,

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From the Chief

Summer has arrived. The wildflowers of spring are only a memory and the flowers of summer are at peak bloom. As many of us enjoy the colors in our own backyards, those of us in central Ohio need look no further than Columbus to see representative native wildflowers and trees from Ohio's five major physiographic regions. First Lady Hope Taft and the dedicated staff at the Governor's Residence have developed a series of gardens that are serving as a wonderful educational display of native plants from across our state.

DNAP staff were fortunate to participate in a guided tour of the grounds with a special introduction from the First Lady. If you have an opportunity to visit the Governor's Residence, be sure to walk through the gardens and look at all of the native plants—many can only be seen from the trails of a state nature preserve.

As I close, it is with true regret that I announce my departure from the division at the end of September. I am joining the ranks of Dick Moseley, Ralph Ramey, Guy Denny and Stu Lewis as a retired chief of the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves. I have enjoyed every minute with this group of dedicated staff. I have been one of the fortunate few to have canoed scenic rivers and hiked through natural areas as a part of my job.

I wish the staff all of the best and hope that our leaders continue to recognize the critical need to preserve Ohio's natural heritage and the division's vital role in this mission. I will continue to support the division, and I will continue to visit the best natural areas found in the state nature preserve and scenic river systems.

I hope to see you on the trail!



Tom Linkous, Chief

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providing an entirely different home for plant and animal life.

The Division of Natural Areas and Preserves plays a leading role in protecting Ohio's natural legacy. Our system of 130 state nature preserves and 12 scenic rivers protect the best natural characteristics of the state.

Today, each of Ohio's major physiographic regions depicts the state's regional landscapes, each with its own geological profile and distinct communities of plants and animals. The five regions are the Lake Plains, Till Plains, Bluegrass, Unglaci­ated Appalachian Plateau and Glaci­ated Appalachian Plateau.

Once the bottom of a much larger ancient lake known as Lake Maumee, the **Lake Plains** region is an extremely flat plain. A narrow strip of land along the Lake Erie coast in northeastern Ohio, it broadens significantly west of Cleveland. As water levels rose and fell, sandy beach ridges and dunes formed along the shore. The northwestern area of the region was called the Great Black Swamp—marked by rich, black soils and poor drainage. Protected sites in this region include Headlands Dunes and Goll Woods state nature preserves.

The fertile region known as the **Till Plains**, located south of the Lake Plains in western Ohio, is characterized by gently rolling hills. Most hills are a series of moraines, or glacier-created mounds of rock and soil up to 100 feet high. A hilly belt of bedrock in Bellefontaine, Campbell's Hill, rises 1,549 feet above sea level—the highest point in the state. Protected sites include Siegenthaler-Kaestner Esker and Lawrence Woods state nature preserves.

The **Bluegrass** region is a small triangular area that reaches up into southern Adams and Pike counties from Kentucky. Limestone, dolomite and shale bedrock are characteristic of this unglaciated region and the landscape changes from gentle slopes to steep slopes, depending on erosion. Flat-topped hills and uplands rimmed

by cliffs define the area. Protected sites include Chaparral Prairie and Davis Memorial state nature preserves.

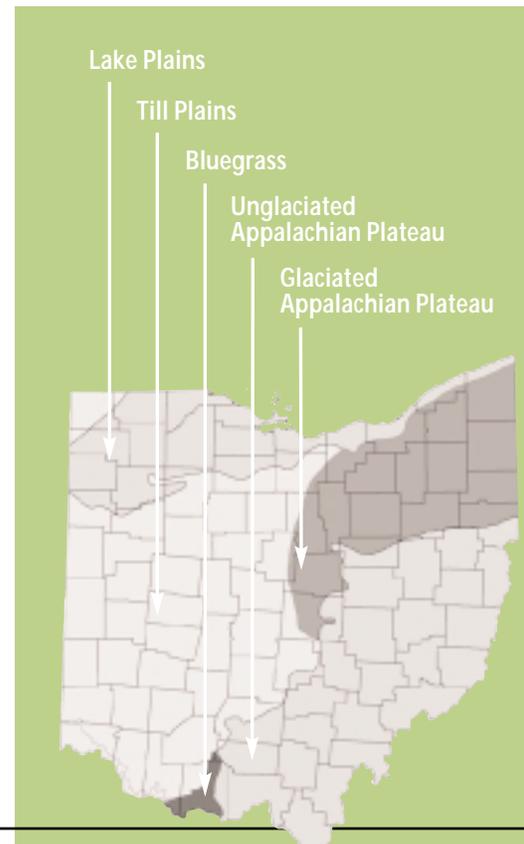
Also untouched by glaciers, the **Unglaci­ated Appalachian Plateau** in southeastern Ohio features deep valleys, high hills and winding streams. Sandstone, common in the region, supports a variety of cliffs, gorges, natural bridges and waterfalls. Although the region has thousands of forested acres, the topography is rough and much of the soil is infertile. Protected sites include Conkle's Hollow and Rockbridge state nature preserves.

Carved by glaciers and ancient streams, the **Glaci­ated Appalachian Plateau** is less hilly and lacks the rugged quality of the unglaciated landscape. Evidence of the region's glacial past includes bogs, kettle lakes and a landscape marked by small hills of sand and gravel called kames. Protected sites include Jackson Bog and Kent Bog state nature preserves.

To learn more, visit our website at www.ohiodnr.com.



Heidi Hetzel-Evans
Public Information



New Purchase Protects Ohio Rarity

CONSIDERING MYSELF A MAN OF SCIENCE, I DON'T ALLOW MYSELF THE LUXURY OF BELIEVING IN FATE WHEN IT COMES TO LAND PROTECTION OR ANYTHING ELSE FOR THAT MATTER. HOWEVER, REFLECTING ON THE UNBELIEVABLE SERIES OF EVENTS WHICH LED TO THE PROTECTION OF THIS BOTANICALLY-RICH, NATURAL AREA, I AM FORCED TO APPRECIATE, IF NOT DESTINY, THE POWER OF LIKE-MINDED INDIVIDUALS IN COLLABORATION.

Scioto Brush Creek drains eastern Adams County and western Scioto County as it makes its way eastward to the Scioto River at Rushtown. Along its meandering course it cuts its way down 700 feet through the Mississippian sandstones, Devonian shales and Silurian dolomites that comprise the border between the Interior Low Plateau and the Unglaciated Appalachian Plateau.

This diverse geologic pedigree sets the stage for an incredible assemblage of plant communities ranging from xeric prairie remnants to Appalachian oak forests. These communities in turn provide habitat for literally dozens of species considered rare in Ohio, as well as the United States.

The search for (and subsequent discovery of) one species of potentially threatened willow (*Salix caroliniana*) in the late 1980s by Stanley Stine, a distinguished botanist, led to his even more important discovery of the federally threatened Virginia spiraea (*Spiraea virginiana*). This latter record, along with others, led to Scioto Brush Creek being placed on a list of important unprotected sites—where it sat for many years.

In late 2003, after a short presentation on the ecological significance of the creek at an annual Scioto Soil and

Water meeting, I was approached by a realtor. She asked me if, since I liked the creek so much, I would like to buy a parcel she had listed for sale? My jaw dropped as I learned that the property was the same area harboring one of only three known populations of Virginia spiraea, as well as the state endangered southern monkshood (*Aconitum uncinatum*). Records for an endangered salamander, the hellbender, and other rare fish, mussels and plants were well documented on that property as well. Unfortunately, before the department could arrange an acquisition, the land was sold. Sadly, I had to be content with calling the new landowner and letting him know about the unique character of the stream and surrounding land.

"If you ever decide to part with the property, we would be interested in..." These are words I've spoken to many landowners. It usually leaves me with a disconcerted feeling, however, this time something felt different. The landowner seemed legitimately interested in rare species. "Here's my number," I said.

Two years later the call came. "I'd like to protect that property on Scioto Brush Creek," said the voice on the other end.

The landowner, Ron Beach of Columbus, had thought long and hard about the property and its rare species, as well as his future and what was important to him and his family. The division closed on the property earlier this year. Today, the Beach property may be the cornerstone of a new state nature preserve.

The new natural area protects 30 acres in Scioto County including a mile of frontage on the lower mainstem of Scioto Brush Creek. It is the division's hope that through willing sellers, this tract will become the core component of a larger system protecting the outstanding ecological diversity of



Scioto Brush Creek



Virginia spiraea

this high-quality stream. Currently, without a trail system or parking area, the site is open to the public by written permit only. 

Martin H. McAllister
Southern Ohio Regional
Preserve Manager

Tinker's Creek State Nature Preserve



STRADDLING THE NORTHERN SUMMIT AND PORTAGE COUNTY LINE, TINKER'S CREEK STATE NATURE PRESERVE IS PART OF A LARGE WETLAND COMPLEX THAT SUPPLIES THE LOWER CUYAHOGA RIVER WATERSHED.

Adjacent to Tinker's Creek State Park, between the cities of Streetsboro and Aurora, this large, undeveloped preserve provides a diverse habitat for a variety of plants and animals in a setting which is easily accessible to visitors. Partially sculpted by glaciers, the preserve lies in a broad valley of mixed glacial materials.

The 786-acre preserve is part of a protected wetland that is more than 2,000 acres in size. Home to the bald eagle and a sizeable heron rookery, the

preserve features several different identifiable wetlands including open water areas, buttonbush and oak swamps, marshlands, beaver impoundments, spring-fed ponds and riparian corridors along the creek itself.

Originally a hunting reserve for local professionals, the property was purchased by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources in the 1960s. For several years, trout derbies were held in the seven man-made ponds which comprise the open water areas along the preserve's Seven Ponds Trail. In 1974, the property was transferred to the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves for management.

In addition to the wetlands, there are also areas of upland forest with a diverse selection of trees including oak, maple and American beech. Trees of special note include burr oak, several young American chestnuts and a pair of non-native bald cypress trees at the end of one of the ponds.

A 1.5 mile trail gives visitors a chance to see the variety of wetlands, as well as their attendant floral and faunal communities. Here you'll see the work of beaver and muskrat, and a myriad of avian species, such as songbirds, water-

fowl, shorebirds and birds of prey. Freshwater springs create clear ponds for turtles, frogs, snakes and other native reptiles and amphibians.

A great site for wildlife watching, opportunities for viewing unusual animals await visitors along the Seven Ponds and South Point trails. Our national symbol, the bald eagle, has been nesting at the preserve for the last 10 years. Meanwhile, Benjamin Franklin's candidate for our nation's top bird, the wild turkey, can also be spotted along the trails.

Other uncommon animals to spot at Tinker's Creek include the spotted turtle, four-toed salamander, five-linked skink, least weasel, leopard frog and northern black racer.

A walk on the trails at Tinker's Creek is a pleasant and often surprising step away from the hubbub of life in that corridor between some of the busiest metropolitan areas in northeast Ohio. To learn more, visit

www.ohiodnr.com/dnap. 

Emliss Ricks, Jr.
Northeast Ohio District
Preserve Manager

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“Once you move into the Governor’s Residence and start giving tours, you learn that people want to see what’s from their part of the state. We were doing that fairly well with pictures, artifacts and other things.” explained Mrs. Taft. “One day it dawned on me, we could do that outside too. You can tell Ohio’s history through plants.”

So began the master plan for the Heritage Garden. The Governor’s Residence Advisory Commission appointed Cincinnati landscape architect Gary Meisner to the commission about the same time Mrs. Taft became acquainted with Dewey Hollister, a horticulturalist from Cincinnati who Mrs. Taft described as a man “who knows everything about every plant that ever grew in Ohio.” At the behest of Mrs. Taft, the two men created a master plan for the Heritage Garden in 2002 which placed native plants in a residential setting. Others have helped along the way including an impressive list of Ohio botanists, horticulturalists and landscape architects.

“The Heritage Garden educates visitors about the environmental and economic benefits of using native plants,” said Mrs. Taft. “You can conserve water and make a beautiful garden while helping native plants survive.”

The woodland wildflower garden was one of the first areas to be transformed by adding native spring ephemerals to the beds. Today, dozens of Ohio natives flourish alongside more traditional garden plants. During an early May



water-leaf

visit, the list of blooming natives included wild ginger, red and white trilliums, golden seal, twin leaf, spice bush and celandine wood poppy.

“As the woodland garden began to take shape, we thought it would be fun to highlight other regions of the state,” said Mrs. Taft. “Visitors could become more familiar with what’s native to their part of the state, as well as other areas. With its five major physiographic regions, Ohio has more diversity than many other states.”

Educating Ohioans about native plants is a passion for Mrs. Taft. She hopes the gardens teach preservation of Ohio’s ecosystems, as well as show the beauty of our state’s rare and endangered native plants.

“If we don’t have these plants, it will be a great loss,” she said. “Some day it may turn out that the only places to see some of these plants will be in our protected sites, such as state nature preserves, or in the backyards of people who wanted to save them.”

Turning traditional English-styled beds and garden areas into havens for Ohio native plants and shrubs has been a challenge for landscaping staff. A garden area has been designed for each of Ohio’s physiographic regions.

Plants come from a wide variety of sources, including plant rescue trips. Mrs. Taft, who demands ethical digging of natives, has participated on a few rescues with the Akron Garden Club. Working with developers, members rescue natives and return them to places where they can grow and thrive. Mrs. Taft rattled off a number of rescued plants thriving at the Governor’s Residence including blue cohosh, trilliums and hepatica.

The project also relies heavily on donations of plants and materials. One of the most fascinating elements of the Appalachian garden is a huge piece of dolomite and limestone, measuring 8 ft. long by 4 ft. wide by 3 ft. 4 in. high, donated by an Adams County landowner and painstakingly removed and transported to the residence by the Ohio Department of Transportation. Along with it came



Mrs. Taft in the Appalachian garden.

more than a dozen “volunteers” which are now thriving, including wild columbine, liverwort and spleenwort. Smaller pieces of dolomite and limestone, also donated, encircle rhododendron, native impatiens, golden ragwort and Christmas fern.

The Heritage Garden is a work in progress and several areas are slated for enhancement including a miniature Cranberry Bog and the Lake Erie sand dunes garden. Both gardens have been a challenge for the horticultural staff.

According to Mrs. Taft the bog was a particular challenge because, as she explained, “they aren’t usually located in central Ohio gardens.” Staff studied the water issues, such as how to avoid using city water because the pH levels aren’t consistent with an acidic bog. Pond water serves as a temporary solution. Soon staff will use a new cistern to collect rain water for watering the bog plants, such as pitcher plant, sundew and grass-pink orchids.

Possibly the most challenging spot, according to Mrs. Taft, has been the Lake Erie sand dunes garden. When in full bloom, plants like potentilla, swamp milkweed, sand grass and sea oats should be found there. However, the plants are not always thriving due to limited sunlight, poor drainage and

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a shallow soil base. To compensate, the garden will be enlarged and deepened, by bringing in more sand, direct from the Oak Openings region, to help the natives adapt.

No gardening task is too small for Ohio's First Lady. "Being out in nature is very healing and soothing to the psyche," said Mrs. Taft. "I just love being outside and I love weeding."

She added with a chuckle, "The better the gardens look, the more stress I've dealt with because I've been out there weeding."

When Mrs. Taft describes the Heritage Garden, you can hear the pride in her voice as she discusses what may be the longest lasting legacy of her many philanthropic projects as First Lady. Whether it's her excitement over the dozens of prairie plants that will bloom this summer or the recent affiliation of the Residence and Heritage Garden with the national Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center, she is proud of all that has been accomplished in just four years.

Currently, Mrs. Taft and the Governor's Residence Advisory Commission are working to establish the residence and gardens as an official botanical garden. Recently the site was named a Founders Fund Award finalist by the National Gardening Clubs of America. And Mrs. Taft isn't done yet.

"We are so excited about our new water garden— we'll have more than 50 aquatic plants in the water and in pots." She added with a smile, "I have to learn those plants yet."

No doubt, if you're lucky enough to find yourself on a Heritage Garden tour led by Ohio's First Lady, she'll know her aquatic plants as much as the other native rarities she is so lovingly tending.

To learn more about the Governor's Residence and Heritage Garden, please visit their web site at: www.governorsresidence.ohio.gov. Public tours are given on Tuesdays by appointment only.

Heidi Hetzel-Evans
Public Information

More Noteworthy Finds of 2005

Volunteer botanists and naturalists made so many great rare plant finds in 2005 that we couldn't fit them all in the last issue—so here's a county listing of more rare finds. We can't wait to hear about this season's botanical discoveries!

To report a rare plant find, contact Rick Gardner at: rick.gardner@dnr.state.oh.us.

County	Plant	Listing	Name
Adams	• dwarf hawthorn (<i>Crataegus uniflora</i>)	E	• Rick Gardner & Martin McAllister • Gardner
	• spring nettle (<i>Urtica chamaedryoides</i>)	E	
Ashtabula	• striped maple (<i>Acer pensylvanicum</i>)	E	• Jack Barthels & Jim Bissell • Karen Adair & Gardner • Bissell, David Kriska & Judy Semroc
	• painted trillium (<i>Trillium undulatum</i>)	E	
	• American highbush-cranberry (<i>Viburnum opulus var. americanum</i>)	E	
Belmont	• Rock ramalina (<i>Ramalina intermedia</i>)	E	• Ray Showman, Brian Riley, Herb Smith, Mary Sidwell & Gardner
Brown	• Canada milk-vetch (<i>Astragalus canadensis</i>)	T	• Larry Henry, Gardner & Josie Winterhalter • Marjie Becus
	• running buffalo clover (<i>Trifolium stoloniferum</i>)	E	
Clark	• few-flowered spike-rush (<i>Eleocharis quinqueflora</i>)	E	• Gardner & Pat Lawless
Fairfield	• Bradley's spleenwort (<i>Asplenium bradleyi</i>)	T	• Brian Gara, Showman & Jeff Johnson
Geauga	• swamp currant (<i>Ribes triste</i>)	E	• Bissell
	• wolffiella (<i>Wolffiella gladiata</i>)	T	• Gardner & Adair
Hocking	• rock serviceberry (<i>Amelanchier sanguinea</i>)	E	• Brian Riley • Bob Klips & Tara Poling
	• Trematodon moss (<i>Trematodon longicollis</i>)	New	
Lawrence	• Cuspidate dodder (<i>Cuscuta cuspidata</i>)	E	• Judy Dumke & Barbara Lund
Lorain	• moss (<i>Pohlia bulbifera</i>)	New	• Diane Lucas
Lucas	• rock serviceberry (<i>Amelanchier sanguinea</i>)	E	• Gary Haase • Tim Walters • Walters
	• Missouri rock cress (<i>Arabis missouriensis</i>)	E	
	• blue toadflax (<i>Linaria canadensis</i>)	E	
Madison	• wild rice (<i>Zizania aquatica</i>)	T	• Gardner & Lawless
Marion	• pale umbrella-sedge (<i>Cyperus acuminatus</i>)	T	• Jim McCormac, Jen Sauter & Marty Sedluk
Montgomery	• rock shield lichen (<i>Xanthoparmelia angustiphylla</i>)	New	• David Dister
Portage	• wolffiella (<i>Wolffiella gladiata</i>)	T	• Kriska
Summit	• rose pogonia (<i>Pogonia ophioglossoides</i>)	T	• Bissell

Nature's Calendar ~ part two

THE SONG OF BULLFROGS, CRICKETS AND KATYDIDS FILLS THE NIGHT AIR. IN THE DISTANCE OWLS ANSWER THE HOWLS OF THE COYOTE. THE NIGHTS ARE WARM AND MUGGY, SCENTED WITH THE PERFUME OF SUMMER FLOWERS, AND THE MILKY WAY STREAMS ACROSS THE NIGHT SKY. THIS IS HIGH SUMMER.

In our country, fireworks and barbecues dominate our evening activities during the weeks of early July. Insect activity is at its greatest, with colorful silkworm moths drawn to night lights and the constancy of buzzing mosquitoes. These are the days we remember as summer. Crops are growing in the green fields while fresh fruit and vegetables flourish in our gardens. Powerful thunderstorms are a common occurrence. Brilliant lightning and rolling thunder break the haziness of hot summer days.

What we see as the beginning of summer was actually the middle of the season on the ancients' natural calendar, when the sun's rays are directly over the Tropic of Cancer—23.5 degrees above the equator in the northern hemisphere. Six weeks later, August brings the third cross-quarter day of the year, ending a period often referred to as the "dog days," a time of "maddening" heat and drought.

Today, early August is the time when we celebrate the bounty of our agricultural world with state, county and local fairs. In early Saxon times, Lammastide, a wheat harvest festival, was held in August. The word Lammastide comes from the custom of offering bread from the newly ground wheat at mass. Early Celts referred to this day as Lagnasadh, a holiday that celebrated the summer games of Lug, the sun god.

On nature's calendar, the middle of autumn occurs on September 22, at the autumnal equinox, which is when the sun's rays are directly over the equator again as it makes its descent into the southern hemisphere. Once again, daylight and darkness are of equal length. Nights become cold with the shortening daylight and plants begin to fade. This is still a time of much beauty, with a myriad of fall bloomers in full color along roads and in fields.

Many cultures celebrate their fall harvest during this season. According to conventional wisdom, this is the first day of autumn; although many view the Labor Day weekend as the "official" end of summer. Shadows lengthen and shady spots dampen as mornings cool. The period of sunlight shortens by several minutes each day and evening chores are done in the dim, half light of twilight. The songs of insects, ever-present since early summer, begin to fade as members of that choir disappear one by one. Migrating songbirds move about silently, their plumage dull and indistinct as they navigate southward. Fields and roadsides see their last colors as fall flowers begin to fade. By late September, we've experienced our first frost and cold nights become the norm.

Many cultures, including ours, celebrate harvest festivals during this time of year. October is one of the most enjoyable months in Ohio, with warm and usually stable weather early, then cooling as the leaves on our trees blaze with brilliant colors before dropping off, opening up the forest canopy once more.

Halloween, or All Hallows' E'en, on the 31st day of October, marks the fourth and last cross-quarter day on nature's calendar. This date denotes the end of autumn and the beginning of the dark period—winter. Originally,

Halloween was an ancient Druid festival honoring Crone Hecate, the destroyer who brought death to all vegetation.

The following day, Samhain (pronounced *saveen*) was celebrated as the Celtic New Year in deference to the departing sun. Also, the Roman deity Pomona, goddess of fruit and seed, was feted on this day with a customary sharing of apples and nuts. During this dark time, the Celts believed that spirits of the newly dead wandered the countryside looking for living bodies to inhabit. In the absence of sunlight, bonfires were lit to protect the living. The first of November was also a Christian high holy day—All Saints' Day.

As we trudge through November and into early December, daylight drops to a mere eight hours. For many of us, it is already dark during our daily commutes. The shortest day of the year occurs between the third and fourth week of December. In ancient times this was considered to be the middle of winter. The sun, when it is visible through the clouds, is at its lowest angle, sitting directly over the Tropic of Capricorn in the southern hemisphere, and barely clears the backyard tree line in our sky, leaving long, blue shadows on fresh snow.

Finally, the natural calendar takes us through the slowly lengthening days of winter towards the first week in February when the new year will again be celebrated, at least by the ever-observant groundhog.

Emliss Ricks
Northeast Ohio District
Preserve Manager

*(Editor's note: Part One of this article was featured in the Spring 2006 issue of **Natural Ohio**. If you missed it, you can find it at www.ohiodnr.com/dnap under the Publications link.)*

Another Natural Areas Discovery Series Winds Down

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THERE ARE ONLY THREE EVENTS LEFT IN THE 2006 NATURAL AREAS DISCOVERY SERIES. WE'VE MET SO MANY NEW FRIENDS THIS YEAR— IT'S GREAT TO TALK TO LOCAL USERS AS WELL AS FOLKS VISITING A SITE FOR THE FIRST TIME. IF YOU HAVEN'T ATTENDED ONE OF THE DIVISION'S PROGRAMS YET, CONSIDER ADDING ONE OF THESE EVENTS TO YOUR FALL CALENDAR.

Birding on Coastal Dunes *Headlands Dunes State Nature Preserve*

Saturday, Sept. 16, 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

This popular event is back again! An early morning hike (7:30 a.m.) will give avid birdwatchers a chance to add new birds to their life list. Or, learn more about the unique coastal vegetation found along the preserve's dunes at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Call **(440) 632-3010** for details.

Celebrate Caesar Creek *Caesar Creek Gorge State Nature Preserve*

September 23, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Canoe along a tributary of the Little Miami State and National Scenic River, and before returning, take a short hike into Caesar Creek Gorge State Nature Preserve. The canoe float is free, but preregistration is required by calling **(513) 934-0751**.

Fall Foliage Festival *Conkle's Hollow State Nature Preserve*

October 21-22, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

We may be biased, but one of our favorite places to view Ohio's brilliant fall colors is Conkle's Hollow State Nature Preserve. Choose the accessibility of the Lower Gorge trail or the more challenging Upper Rim Trail. The event also features a pioneer encampment and uniformed naturalists along the trails. Call **(740) 420-3445** for details.



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.

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