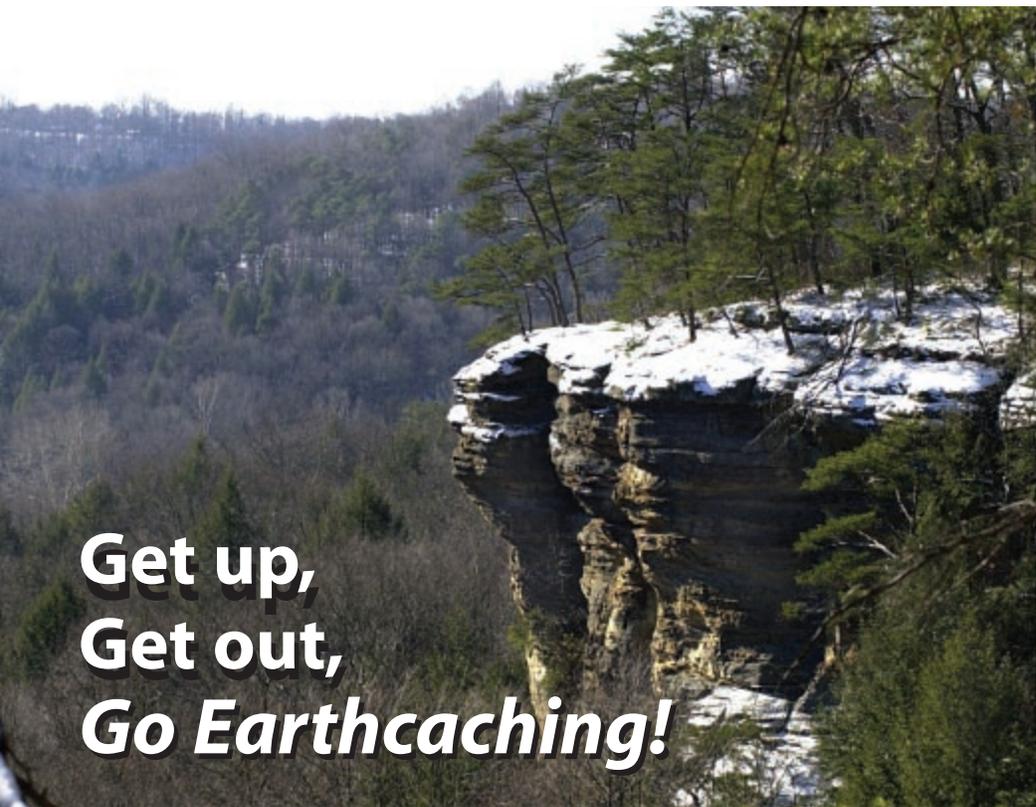


Natural Ohio

Division of Natural Areas and Preserves

Vol.31, No.1

Winter 2009



Get up, Get out, Go Earthcaching!

ENJOYING THE OUTDOORS DOESN'T REQUIRE MANY MATERIAL ITEMS. FOR GENERATIONS, PEOPLE HAVE SET OFF TO EXPLORE THEIR ENVIRONMENT WITH LITTLE MORE THAN COMFORTABLE SHOES, APPROPRIATE CLOTHING AND PERHAPS A WALKING STICK AND SMALL PACK FOR SNACKS AND WATER. OVER TIME, INVENTIONS LIKE BINOCULARS AND CAMERAS MADE EXPLORING THE OUTDOORS EVEN MORE REWARDING BY MAKING WILDLIFE MORE VISIBLE AND CREATING LASTING IMPRESSIONS FROM OUR OUTDOOR ADVENTURES.

Modern technology has now progressed to the point that the adventure experience may be brought indoors via your television or computer. The would-be explorer need never leave the couch, and that is a shame.

Today's electronic equipment is so miraculous in its abilities and so attractive to younger generations, that many who once enjoyed the outdoors now prefer to explore the outdoors from inside. The options are endless—surfing cable shows, watching web cams, hunting via video games—and the growing trend is associated with “nature deficit disorder.” The term, first coined by author Richard Louv in his national bestseller, *Last Child in the Woods*, begs the question all environmental educators around the country are asking, “How do we get kids outdoors again?”

There is at least one small, handheld electronic device that can help parents and their children discover the beauty of the great outdoors—the GPS unit.

The acronym GPS refers to the global positioning system, which is a network of navigational satellites first developed

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Enjoying Ohio's Winter Wonderland

There is no doubt that winter snows bring great beauty. If you choose to hike an Ohio woods in winter, be sure you know how to avoid the hazards of the season.

Planning a winter hike should begin before leaving home. Know where you are going and how long it will take you to complete your hike. Learn about the general terrain of the land including any potentially hazardous areas like cliffs, lakes and other low-lying areas.

Be sure to watch the weather and dress appropriately for the conditions. Remember, you can always shed layers. Most importantly, let someone know when and where you are going.

It's a good idea to eat a healthy meal and pack some snacks before leaving. The food will provide your body with energy so it can generate heat. Packing water is important; despite being surrounded by snow and ice, it's not a good idea to eat it. Quenching your thirst with snow or ice will lower your body temperature. Lowered body temperature may lead to hypothermia if not treated.

It only takes a 2° F drop in body temperature to begin showing the signs of mild hypothermia. Early signs include

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FROM THE CHIEF



The winter issue of *Natural Ohio* is a reminder of the greening to follow. But it is also a reminder that the enjoyment of our natural Ohio is for all seasons. Winter brings both the promise of spring and the struggle for survival. I observed that personally on a hike with Director Logan through Sheepskin Hollow in mid-December. I hope you will experience winter in natural Ohio often and safely.

Our ability to acquire and maintain these gems of our fractured landscape for the education and enjoyment of all has much to do with the dedica-

tion of division staff. Your 133 state nature preserves, 14 scenic rivers and Natural Heritage data collection activities are the responsibility of 29 permanent and 39 intermittent employees. Their exemplary work is a testament to their personal commitment; many contribute hundreds of unpaid hours annually in pursuit of our conservation goals.

Individual generosity, through the Natural Areas income tax check-off, conservation license plates and private donations, plays a far greater role than one might imagine. The funds, provided by those who earmark a portion of their Ohio state income tax refund for Natural Areas, are used to acquire land, improve facilities and support special projects which are beyond our budget. The check-off program cannot be used to support permanent staffing but it

remains a critical funding source as our budget has been cut by nearly 22 percent since July.

Now, as all state government faces cuts, your generosity enables the division to provide the service and experience that would otherwise not be possible. So this winter, it's never been more important for me to say thank you. Your past generosity has helped us weather this economic storm.

We hope you will continue to support the division, and encourage others to do the same. Stand with us, as we strive to protect our natural Ohio. 

Steve Maurer

Steve Maurer, Chief

Division of Natural Areas and Preserves

(Winter, continued from page 1)

numbness in the fingers and hands, goose bumps and shivering. Shivering is your body's attempt to create heat by making your muscles move. If you begin exhibiting these signs, it's important to turn back and head for home before it worsens.

Moderate hypothermia, or a 4° F drop in body temperature, will cause confusion, severe shivering and weakening muscle functions. You can test yourself by attempting to touch your pinky finger to your thumb. If you cannot perform this simple task, your body is moderately hypothermic and you must seek help immediately.

If you are unable to find medical attention and your body temperature drops below 90° F, severe hypothermia will set in and you will no longer be able to help yourself. Thinking, let alone walking and other movement, becomes slow and labored and shivering stops. Although shivering may make you think you are getting better, the opposite is true. Without muscle movement, your body temperature will drop even faster. Unconsciousness and eventually death will occur when your body temperature drops below 86° F.

If you find yourself in icy water, hypothermia will set in much faster.

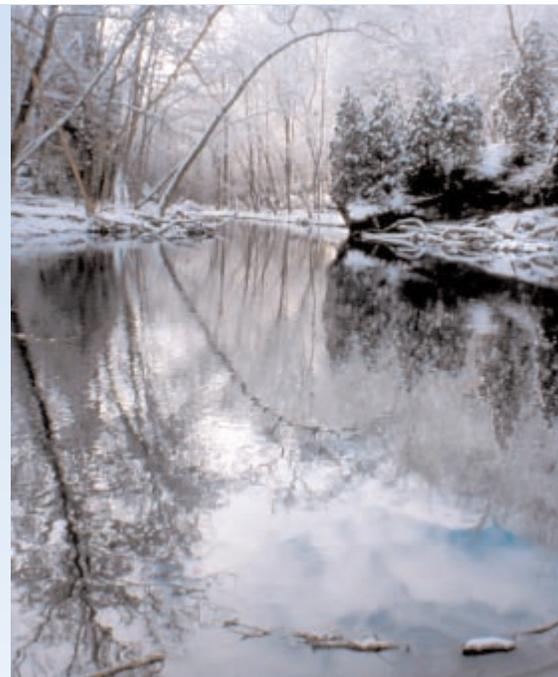
Water absorbs the heat from your body 20 times faster than air. This means if you were dry and it took three hours for your body to reach the severe stage, in water it would only take 10 minutes. Be aware of where you are walking; never cross frozen bodies of water, no matter how small.

Ice is another obvious winter danger. It covers streams and ponds and forms on trails, boardwalks and bridges, often making walking difficult.

When visiting an area that may be covered with ice, wear ice cleats on your hiking boots so you can maintain traction on slippery surfaces. Using a hiking stick is another way to stay upright on the trail, as well as test ice thickness.

It's also wise to wear a pair of ultra violet (UV) protective sunglasses and sunscreen. During the rest of the year, plants and the forest canopy block and absorb UV light. The lack of leaves in winter allows more UV rays to reach the ground where they are quickly reflected by snow. This can cause severe sunburn and snow blindness as well.

Lastly, and maybe most importantly, pay attention to your body. If you think your surroundings may be unsafe or you are feeling unwell, follow your foot-



steps back and avoid any potentially unsafe situation.

No matter your preferred winter activity, be sure you are properly prepared for your outdoor adventure. By understanding the season's hazards and being prepared, you can safely enjoy all the wonders of winter. 

Andy Varsho

Naturalist

Northeast Lakeshore District

(Earthcaching, continued from page 1)

in 1973 by the U.S. Department of Defense. Today, this system employs more than two dozen satellites, each in its own orbit 11,000 miles above the earth.

Each satellite emits a constant stream of data which includes information on the position of the satellite and the exact time as determined by highly accurate atomic clocks. When a hand-held GPS unit receives these radio signals, it uses the data from three or more satellites to triangulate the user's position on Earth to an accuracy within a few yards.

GPS units may be purchased for less than \$100 and are being used by millions of people around the world for finding everything from the nearest Chinese restaurant to the best way back to deer camp. A new hobby, geocaching, has grown from the use of GPS units.

Geocaching uses the GPS unit as part of a scavenger hunt to locate a hidden box of "treasures" or a log book so you can leave behind a signature or trinket to prove you discovered the "cache." Coordinates for thousands of caches can be found on the Internet and finding them can be fun for the entire family.

Establishing caches on public land varies by area. Prior permission is required for creating caches on state park and state forest properties. State wildlife areas and state nature preserves do not allow traditional caches on their lands, however, the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves has begun to permit virtual caches.

In virtual caching, objects or logbooks are not left behind. Instead, treasure seekers are simply challenged to find a specific location. Virtual caching can be a great alternative to traditional geocaching and EarthCache, a program of the Geological Society of America (GSA), is catching on with GPS users.

Harold Collins, a 7th grade science teacher in Berea, KY, explains, "An EarthCache is a location that people can visit to learn about some aspect of

earth science. It could be a mineral site, fossil site, rock formation, meteorite impact crater, an island in a river, just about anything."

The finders of EarthCaches are challenged to answer a series of questions about the feature and submit them online. The GSA reviews each EarthCache submission prior to posting it on their website to ensure that each submission adheres to their program guidelines.

EarthCaches must be educational, practice "leave no trace" outdoor ethics, and, if posted for public lands, must be approved by the land manager. To learn more, visit www.earthcache.org.

Collins and his wife both enjoy this interesting and educational outdoor pursuit.

"We are a team," says Collins. "Since I am a science teacher, geology is an interest of mine. EarthCaching has no containers hidden, thus no impact on the environment. It became fun to search out new locations."

EarthCaches have already been established at Clifton Gorge, Conkle's Hollow, Davis Memorial, Goode Prairie, Irwin Prairie, Raven Rock, Rockbridge, Siegenthaler Kaestner-

Esker and Whipple state nature preserves.

Interested in establishing an EarthCache at your favorite nature preserve? You'll need to secure permission from the site manager first and visitors must stay on the trail, so all caches must be visible from the trail.

Another way to practice with your GPS unit is to use the division's new visitor's guide which now includes longitude and latitude coordinates for each site. Download a PDF version of the new brochure at www.ohiodnr.com/dnap or request a copy by calling **(614) 265-6453**. 

Martin McAllister
South Region
Preserve Manager



Geocaching at Ohio Public Lands

If you are interested in establishing a cache on property owned or managed by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, please adhere to the following guidelines:

- Always consult the local facility manager for permission before establishing a cache. You'll need their assistance to determine a safe, scenic and appropriate location.
- Traditional caches are not permitted on state nature preserves or wildlife areas, however, virtual caches are allowed. Illegally placed caches will be removed.
- If you need help contacting a specific site manager, please contact the appropriate division:

Division of Forestry – **(614) 265-6692**

Division of Natural Areas and Preserves – **(937) 545-8313**

Division of Parks and Recreation – **(614) 265-6911**

Division of Wildlife – **(614) 265-6309**

Hueston Woods State Nature Preserve



NO MATTER THE SEASON, A HIKE THROUGH THE BIG WOODS OF SOUTHWESTERN OHIO WILL BRING PEACE AND SOLACE AS YOU TAKE IN THE SILENT STRENGTH OF THE OLD WOODS THAT SURROUND YOU.

The Big Woods, as Hueston Woods State Nature Preserve was known locally for many generations, was declared a National Natural Landmark in 1967 and became a state nature preserve in 1973. Located in Butler and Preble counties, the preserve lies within Hueston Woods State Park. The site protects one of the finest examples of old-growth forest in the state.

Hueston Woods is a tiny souvenir of the beech-maple forest that once stretched in a broad band from southwestern Ohio to its northeastern corner. This forest type is dominated by beech trees along with varying proportions of sugar maple, red and white oaks, and white ash. Beech trees form nearly 44 percent of the canopy, sugar maples make up 28 percent and white ashes form 19 percent.

Because the woods are mature and fairly undisturbed, the layered effect common to old-growth forests is well-developed. Each level—ground, shrub, sapling and canopy—provides a distinct habitat with varying amounts of heat, light, wind and water. The resulting land-

scape harbors an array of wildlife and plant communities.

Your recreational opportunities in the park and preserve are varied, but when you visit try at least one of the preserve trails. Because some of the trails wind between the state park and state nature preserve, it's important to know that when you're in the preserve, pets and off-trail use are strictly prohibited. Pick up a site brochure at one of the preserve kiosks, so you can find your way from trail to trail.

From beginning to end, the West Shore trail will take you on a lovely 2-mile hike along the shores of Acton Lake. Along with beautiful scenery, it's a good area for wetland bird watching as well.

Along the way, you'll pass the Sugar Shack—a maple syrup production hut that is still being used for demonstration purposes. After the shack, stay on the trail closest to the shoreline. You'll see anglers have made natural footpaths to access fishing spots. After walking about a mile, you'll be at the other end of the trail—watch the signs because once you cross into the park you'll be headed away from the Big Woods.

The Big Woods trail is a hike that can be started from either the Big Woods or Brown Road parking lot. This trail takes you through mature woods, and you'll see tree species ranging from 100 to 200 years old. Features to watch for include

the “survivor tree,” the “pregnant lady tree” and several wooden bridges.

The Sugar Bush trail blends the beauty of a wintry woods with our agricultural history. This section of Hueston Woods State Nature Preserve remains a working sugar camp, which is a woods where maple sap is collected to make syrup. As you walk along this loop trail, you will see evidence of the area's maple syrup tapping past. Scars, left by spels that extract the sap from a tree, make a spiral pattern up and around the tree. Learn more about maple syrup making at the Big Woods by attending the annual demonstration days on March 7-8 and 14-15.

Your last hiking option is the Blue Heron trail which parallels a section of the Sugar Bush trail on the other side of a creek. You can access it near the Blue Heron parking lot. Or, if you want a half-mile jaunt, take the trail from the parking lot to Acton Lake and back again.

Still lauded for its majestic trees, this 200-acre preserve continues to change with time. Massive trees have been toppled by storms, opening sunny spots in the dense forest shade. The forest is a patchwork of old and new growth, yet it still stands as a silent witness to pre-settlement Ohio. 

To learn more, visit www.ohiodnr.com/dnap.

Neighboring land at Whipple State Nature Preserve gains protection

Located in the rolling hills of Adams County, Whipple State Nature Preserve has long been a favorite choice for wildflower enthusiasts in April. A treasure-trove of spring ephemerals can be seen at this southern Ohio wooded site. Now, because of the forethought of an Adams County landowner, an additional 68 acres of adjacent land has been added to the preserve.

The land is part of a 109-acre family farm, which has been in the Hughes family since 1929 when Alva Otto Hughes purchased the farm at a public auction for \$4,000. The property eventually passed on to Alva's grandson, Harry David Hughes and his wife, Mary. The Hughes family has enjoyed the woods and its beauty over the years.

Mr. Hughes, who passed away in 2002, farmed, worked at the local hospital and spent his spare time cultivating his flower beds and spending time in the family's woods. After his passing, Mrs. Hughes contacted the division about

protecting a portion of the farm as it was adjacent to the preserve.

"My husband loved the outdoors and we spent many happy hours fishing... bringing home many odd rocks, or walking in the woods on the hillside," recalls Mrs. Hughes. "Our grandson loved the hillside, and he and his friends have spent many nights camping in the woods."

The property is a lovely place with dolomite cliffs and rocks, and mature trees. It harbors a myriad of plant species including nine state listed plants. The division's Heritage staff have recorded nearly 200 species of plants.

"So many different wildflowers grow there in the spring. All in all it is a very special area, as my husband was a very special person," says Mrs. Hughes.

Two threatened species, false garlic (*Nothoscordum bivalve*) and potato-dandelion (*Krigia dandelion*) are some of the rarest species found there. In the

spring, blue cohosh, toadshade trillium, large-flowered trillium, dwarf larkspur, wild hyacinth, twinleaf, wild ginger, hepatica and many other spring blooms carpet the ground.

Because of the wonderful memories, it was a difficult decision for Mrs. Hughes, but she was determined to protect the woods in perpetuity.

"It is my wish in the years to come that the Hughes tract, which is joined to Whipple State Nature Preserve, stay unchanged so it can be enjoyed," explains Mrs. Hughes.

Thanks to the Hughes family, the 68-acre parcel will now be forever protected. To show its appreciation, the division will name the parcel after the Hughes and provide signage in their honor. 

Rick Gardner, *Heritage Botanist and Mary Hughes*

St. John's Dam Removal — five years later

We love to track change—how tall we've grown, how much weight we've lost (or gained) or how many miles per gallon our car is getting. But, how easy is it to track the changes of a river?

In the case of the Sandusky State Scenic River, removing the St. John's Dam in 2003 brought a range of changes the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves can track just five years later.

The aging lowhead dam had impounded 8.5 river miles, which extended 1 mile upstream of the river's confluence with Sycamore Creek. Prior to removal, the impounded waters were deemed impaired by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Two years later, changes were easily noted. The former impounded area was classified as a warmwater habitat by the Ohio EPA, and the section from Mexico Bridge to Heck's Bridge was classified as exceptional warmwater habitat.

The term warmwater habitat is assigned to streams capable of supporting and maintaining a balanced, integrated and adaptive community of warmwater aquatic organisms. Today, based on recent macroinvertebrate sampling, six of the seven sampling sites now meet the criteria for exceptional warmwater habitat.

The river is recovering on its own. Other than removing the old dam, the Ohio Scenic Rivers Program has done no other engineering to assist with the recovery. Just five years after the dam's removal, the area has four new riffles that were previously underwater. A riffle is a shallow area of stream with fast, turbulent flow over a mixed gravel and cobble substrate, which is easily identified under normal low flow conditions. They are quickly colonized by macroinvertebrates, or aquatic insects, which in turn lead to healthy fish populations.

There are other benefits to removing aging lowhead dams. Upstream flooding has been minimized since the river is now lower, and there is more exposed floodplain which allows additional water to be held between the banks.

Fishing has improved and the St. John's Bridge Scenic River Area provides excellent public access to the Sandusky River. It's located in the same place the dam once stood. The site is a fitting tribute to the rapid recovery of the river system, and to all those who enjoy this fine river.

To learn more about the Sandusky State Scenic River, please visit www.ohiodnr.com/dnap. 

Bob Vargo
*Northwest Ohio
Scenic Rivers Manager*

Protecting Blanding's Turtles at Sheldon Marsh



IT'S A WARM, HUMID EVENING IN EARLY JUNE. THE SOUTHWEST WIND HAS WARBLERS RESTLESS AS THEY RIDE THE COMING FRONT ACROSS LAKE ERIE TO REACH THEIR BREEDING GROUNDS TO THE NORTH. TO THE WEST, THE CLOUDS ARE BEGINNING TO BUILD AND THE FAINT RUMBLE OF THUNDER CAN BE HEARD. AS THE SUN DISAPPEARS INTO THE APPROACHING STORM, AN ANCIENT REPTILE WITH A BRIGHT YELLOW CHIN COMES ASHORE ON THE SANDY BEACH. SHE SMELLS THE SAND AND BEGINS TO ASCEND THE SAME DUNE HER MOTHER CLIMBED DECADES BEFORE HER.

At the top of the dune, well out of the reach of the storm surge, the female Blanding's turtle starts to dig with her hind legs. Occasionally she will turn and place her chin in the hole and test the site for proper temperature and humidity. When she is done, she will lay nearly two dozen eggs, lightly cover them with sand and return to the lake. If the coming storm erases all signs or scent of her nest, her young will hatch in late August.

The Blanding's turtle is a medium-sized turtle with a distinctively yellow chin and high domed shell. In Ohio, they are found mainly in the counties surrounding Lake Erie where they inhabit marshes and shallow ponds. These turtles are listed as a species of concern in the state because much of their habitat has been destroyed and their population is declining.

Where Blanding's turtles persist, they are under constant pressure from human development and wildlife predation. Female turtles must often cross roads to reach their nesting grounds and many are hit by careless drivers before laying their eggs.

Wildlife predation plays a major role in the declining turtle population in general. The biggest culprit is the raccoon. In the last 20 years, the raccoon population in Ohio has grown by 800 percent. Raccoons have adapted and now benefit from the abundant food and shelter provided by humans.

In the past 15 years, the division has witnessed almost 100 percent predation on turtle nests at Sheldon Marsh State Nature Preserve in Erie County. As soon as the female turtle finishes laying her eggs, raccoons have been seen digging them up and eating them. Each year you can easily find more than 50 nests destroyed. From 1985 to 2006, staff has only seen one Blanding's turtle hatch at the preserve.

Because they are long-lived, individual turtles may live for up to 80 years, so observing them in numbers can be deceiving. Despite the presence of older turtles, no new turtles are surviving and their population is plummeting.

With the threat of losing our Blanding's turtles, the division is taking proactive measures to protect newly laid eggs. After discussing the situation with leading herpetologists, the division began a pilot raccoon trapping project at Sheldon Marsh.

In 2007, staff set traps at the preserve from January to March, which is the state's furbearer trapping season. More than 30 raccoons were removed, however, by the time the Blanding's turtles were ready to lay their eggs, raccoons had repopulated the area and continued to raid the nests.

Working with the Ohio Division of Wildlife, the division moved to trap the raccoons during turtle nesting season. Seventeen raccoons were removed from May to June. The results were immediate and positive—only 10 nests were destroyed. By October 2008, staff



This turtle nest has been decimated by raccoons, no eggs were left untouched.

tracked more than a dozen Blanding's turtles which had successfully hatched plus an additional 250 hatchlings of undetermined species, as evidenced by turtle tracks.

The success of the trapping program was startling—Sheldon Marsh regained hundreds of turtle hatchlings in one season, as compared to one turtle hatchling in 15 years.

The division will continue to monitor the progress of the Blanding's turtle population at Sheldon Marsh, as well as look at other preserves where state listed reptiles may be suffering due to nest predation. 

Steve Harvey

North District Preserve Manager

(Editor's note—Steve Harvey, who has been a regular contributor to Natural Ohio, has recently taken a position with the Ohio Division of Wildlife. The division appreciates his efforts and we wish him good luck in his future professional endeavors.)

Correction

Our apologies to the Waterville Historical Society who we neglected to thank for lending us their image of Roche de Boeuf for our special Scenic Rivers Program Anniversary edition.

2009 Natural Areas Discovery Series

March 25 – *Chaparral Prairie*

Woodcock Watch

6:30 pm

Join us to see the strange and beautiful courtship display of the timberdoodle, also known as the woodcock. Dress for the weather. For more information, please contact **(937) 544-9750**.

(Southwest Ohio - Adams County)

April 25 – *Goll Woods*

Spring Wildflower Hikes

11 am & 1 pm

View one of the finest displays of spring wildflowers in northwest Ohio. You'll see a variety of pastel-colored spring ephemerals including several trillium species. For more information, contact **(419) 445-1775**.

(Northwest Ohio - Fulton County)

May 2 – *Blackhand Gorge*

Spring Wildflower Ramble

10 am

Dozens of beautiful spring blooms await you at this wooded preserve, located along the Licking River in Licking County. We will hike the Blackhand trail that leads past cliffs of Blackhand sandstone and hear stories of days gone by. For more information, contact **(740) 763-4411**.

(Central Ohio - Licking County)

May 9 – *Lakeside Daisy*

Annual Open House

9 am to 4 pm

This state nature preserve is home to one of Ohio's rarest wildflowers—the bright yellow Lakeside daisy. Held in conjunction with the village of Marblehead's Daisy Day Festival, the Open House features naturalist-led walks and a display. For more information, contact **(614) 265-6520**.

(Northern Ohio - Ottawa County)

May 16 – *Chaparral Prairie*

Frog and Toad Hike

7 pm

With their populations declining, amphibians are a fascinating species. Join a naturalist-led walk to discover these small, but vocal residents of Ohio's wetlands. Wet weather footwear and flashlights recommended. For more information, contact **(937) 544-9750**.

(Southwest Ohio - Adams County)

May 17 – *Lou Campbell*

Open House and Trail Dedication

10 am to 1 pm

A microcosm of the botanically significant Oak Openings region in northwest Ohio, Lou Campbell is home to more than 30 state-listed species. Two rarities—the lavender blossoms of wild lupine and the yellow-flowered plains puccoon—will be in full bloom. The new trail will wind through a variety of habitats. For more information, contact **(419) 445-1775**.

(Northwest Ohio - Lucas County)

May 24 – *Crane Hollow*

Guided Tours

You are invited to explore this privately owned dedicated nature preserve which is located in the heart of the Hocking Hills. You'll have your choice of three different hikes led by naturalist guides. The scenery includes dry ridge tops, massive rock outcrops and a cool stream valley shaded by majestic hemlocks. Some hiking will be difficult as the terrain covers steep hillsides and uneven ground. Participation is limited. For further information or to sign up, please call **(740) 438-5777**.

(Southeast Ohio - Hocking County)

Cranberry Bog Open House

Saturday, June 20, 9 am to 5 pm

Postcard lottery to be held in May 2009

Cranberry Bog State Nature Preserve is one of Ohio's most unique places. Once 50 acres, the island has eroded to less than 11 acres—and each year it continues to lose more of its fragile habitat. With the exception of the annual Open House, visitation to Cranberry Bog is limited to permit access only.

Located off the north shore of Buckeye Lake, the island contains unusual northern bog species, such as grass-pink orchid, large cranberry and carnivorous plants, such as sundew and pitcher plant.

To enter the Cranberry Bog Lottery, please submit a postcard (one per family) to:

**Division of Natural Areas & Preserves
2045 Morse Road, Bldg. F-1
Columbus, OH 43229**



May 30 – *Tinker's Creek*

Wetlands and Waterfowl

10 am & 12:30 pm

Join us as we explore nature's rebirth at this Portage County preserve. This hike will focus on the extensive natural wetlands while traversing the Seven Ponds trail. We will also share in spectacular views of an active bald eagle nest from a newly constructed observation deck. For more information, contact **(440) 632-3010**.

(Northeast Ohio - Portage County)

May 30 – *Chaparral Prairie*

Skulls, Skins, Scats and Tracks

1 pm

Naturalists will introduce native mammals using skins and skulls for identification. A hike to search for tracks and other animal signs will follow, as well as plaster-casting footprints and studying live, wild specimens. For more information, contact **(937) 544-9750**.

(Southwest Ohio - Adams County)



Biodiversity unites Ohio Botanical Symposium speakers

art by Butch Grieszmer
DNAP Eco-Analyst



April 3, 2009
9 am – 4 pm
Columbus

Six speakers, with backgrounds as diverse as their topics, are the highlight of the 9th Annual Ohio Botanical Symposium. From meeting the challenges of protecting Ohio's biodiversity to learning more about Ohio's rare plants and woodland fungi, the symposium offers something for all plant enthusiasts.

This yearly event draws more than 400 participants.

For more information and to download registration materials, visit www.ohiodnr.com/dnap. The cost is \$25 per person which includes a lunch buffet and break refreshments.

Interested in display opportunities? Contact Rick Gardner at **(614) 265-6419**. 



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 Fund. If you are receiving duplicate newsletters or need to report an address change, please call **(614) 265-6520**.

Become a partner in protecting Ohio's special places... **donate to the Natural Areas Income Tax Checkoff Fund**



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