

OHIO STATE NATURE PRESERVES

The Division of Natural Areas and Preserves protects and preserves the pristine, natural places— both biological and geological— in Ohio today.



We're everywhere.

There are 136 State Nature Preserves, totaling 30,000 acres, across the state of Ohio. These important natural areas — which include 40% of Ohio's endangered species and 58% of Ohio's threatened species — are protected in perpetuity and managed for the rare species and habitats that occur within them.

The Division of Natural Areas and Preserves is committed to:

- Purchasing critical habitat to expand the protection of Ohio's most precious natural areas
- Providing all Ohioans access to these preserves for education, recreation, and enjoyment
- Implementing scientifically sound ecological management and endangered species protection
- Raising awareness of Ohio's natural heritage through fun, educational activities for all ages throughout the year

Meet our Central Office Staff



Tom Arbour began working with State Nature Preserves in 1999 at Eagle Creek. He coordinates the State Nature Preserves website and Facebook page, conducts ecological monitoring in northern Ohio preserves, and helps manage the Ohio rare plant list.



Julie Boreman joined the State Nature Preserves staff in 2013. Her prior experience includes volunteer management and fundraising with The Nature Conservancy and The National Audubon Society. Julie's focus with Nature Preserves includes raising awareness of the Tax Checkoff Program, marketing and communications, and overall programmatic support.



Rick Gardner is the Chief Botanist of State Nature Preserves. He began working in 1994 and coordinates with contract, volunteer, and seasonal botanists to monitor state listed plants on private and public lands; monitors eco-management activities and state-listed plants in southern Ohio, writes management plans, reviews and issues research permit applications, works with partners in preserving Ohio's natural heritage, and supports district staff with eco-management activities.



Jill Kasai has over 25 years experience in outdoor recreation, working for ODNR, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Forest Service and National Park Service. She coordinates the Columbus Audubon volunteer work crews and provides access permits for State Nature Preserves.



Marleen Kromer joined the State Nature Preserves staff in May 2014 following a lengthy career with The Nature Conservancy where she led a dedicated team in managing and restoring habitat on TNC preserves and partner lands. Her responsibilities at State Nature Preserves include working with Chief Botanist Rick Gardner to update rare plant records in the Natural Heritage Database and providing assistance on other preserve projects.

Support Ohio's State Nature Preserves

On Your Taxes

The "State nature preserves" checkoff donation on the Ohio income tax form provides greatly needed support to the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves.

Ohioans can donate all or part of their income tax refund by checking "State nature preserves" on line 27d of the 1040 Individual Income Tax Return.

Contributions made on the 2014 tax return, filed in 2015, are considered deductible charitable donations made in 2014.

100% of your tax checkoff donation will be used towards:

- Funding land acquisition and preserve stewardship
- Supporting scientific research and monitoring projects across the state
- Providing outreach and education programs
- Building trails and improving accessibility to Ohio State Nature Preserves
- Promoting conservation and protecting Ohio's endangered species



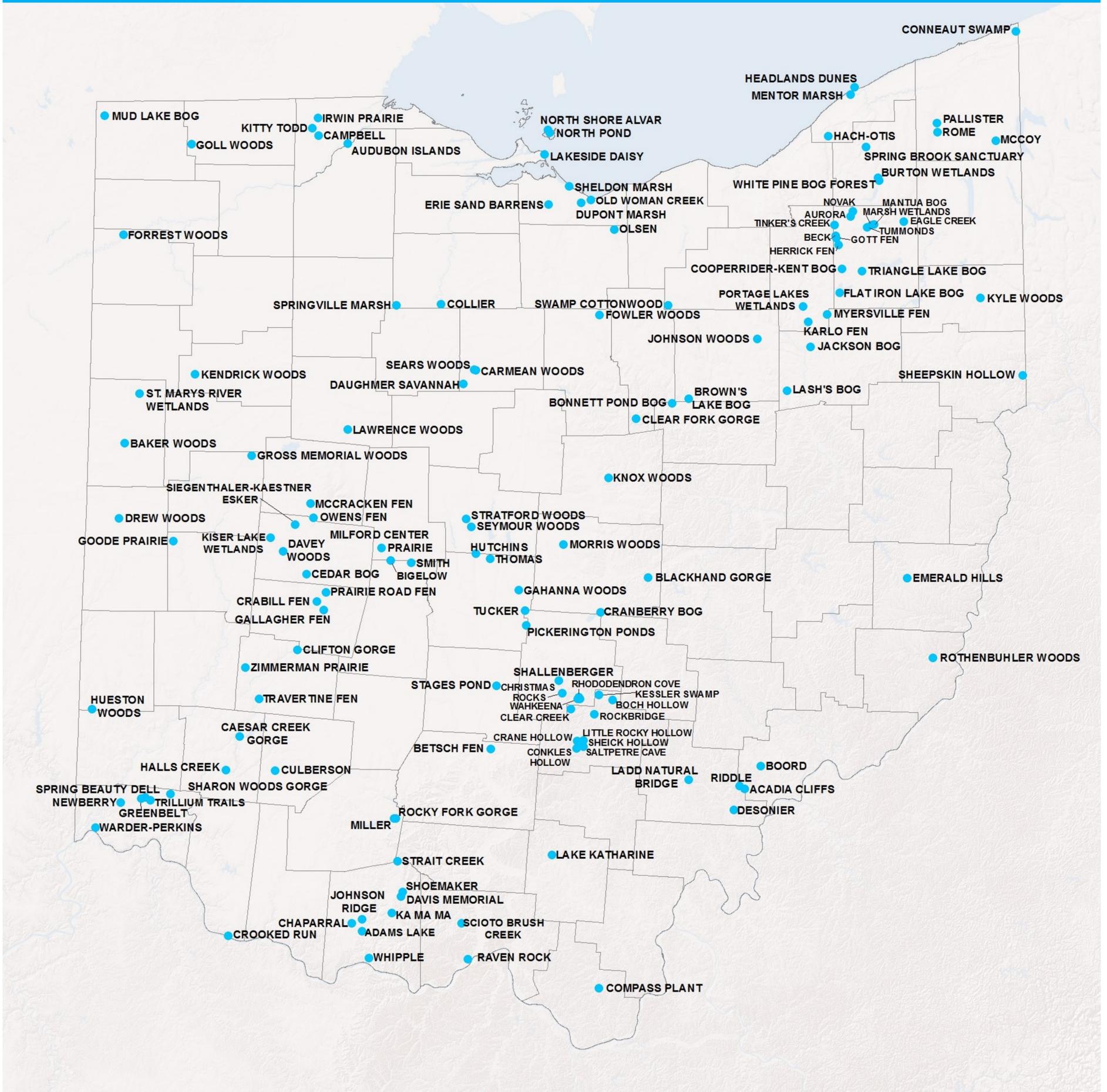
On Your Vehicle

Due to the increasing number of specialty plates, your local BMV office may not have information available on this plate. It is much easier to purchase them online at: www.plates.com.

Navigate to specialty plates and drop down to "Nature Preserves."

We appreciate your support!

RARE . BEAUTIFUL . PROTECTED .



Recent Land Purchases



In 2012, State Nature Preserves purchased the 69-acre St. Marys River Wetlands State Nature Preserve. Located in Mercer County, the St. Marys River system has a collection of oxbows and associated wetlands that contain a great variety of plants including rare species like catchfly grass (raven-foot sedge, (*Carex crus-corvi*), lake cress (*Armoracia lacustris*), and American sweet-flag (*Acorus americanus*).



In 2012, using tax checkoff donations, a critical 51 acre tract was added to Whipple State Nature Preserve in Adams County. The property contains a wide variety of habitats including dolomite cliffs, xeric limestone prairies and caves. Nine state listed animals and plants have been recorded on the property to date.

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Central Office Accomplishments

Research and Monitoring

- Inventoried the federally endangered running buffalo clover at Boch Hollow and Lake Katharine.
- Re-established eco-management monitoring studies at Adams Lake Prairie, Cranberry Bog, Davis Memorial, Irwin Prairie, and Myersville Fen.
- Established new eco-management monitoring transects and plots at Bartley, Boch Hollow, and Chaparral Prairie.
- Surveyed monitoring plots to evaluate wetland condition at Sheldon Marsh, Dupont Marsh and North Pond.
- Surveyed the state endangered dragon's mouth orchid at Mantua Bog.
- Surveyed showy lady slipper orchids at Gott Fen.
- Organized and participated in the 2014 Ohio Rare Plant Committee meeting to review status of state rare plants.
- Since January 2013, staff have revised 17 preserve management plans and developed four new management plans.
- In the past two years, staff, contractors, and volunteers recorded more than 600 rare plant records across the state.
- In 2014, State Nature Preserves contracted herpetologist Jeff Davis to conduct an eastern massasauga survey and make habitat management recommendations to ensure the viability of this state endangered snake.

Outreach and Education

- Central office staff organized the 2013 Ohio Botanical Symposium (400 attendees) and the 2014 Ohio Botany Research Symposium. Currently planning the 2015 Ohio Botanical Symposium.
- Preserve management staff prepared seven staff in-service trainings on invasive species control strategies and native plant and animal identification.
- Botanical staff led workshops for the Ohio Division of Wildlife, Highlands Nature Sanctuary, and the Ohio Wetlands Association.
- Botanists led field trips across the state for local native plant societies and organized events including Flora Quest and the Wild Edibles Workshop.
- Central office staff, working with the ODNR Office of Communications, launched a new State Nature Preserve website, naturepreserves.ohiodnr.gov.
- Central office staff coordinates the State Nature Preserves Facebook page, reaching 5000+ Ohioans each week.
- Central office staff published four newsletters throughout the year reaching 16,000 readers across the state.



Tom Arbour conducts a guided tour for wetland regulators from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Cooperrider-Kent Bog in 2014.



Retired preserve manager Tim Snyder, joined by former Ohio first lady Hope Taft, Michelle Comer, Cheryl Carpenter and Jerry Greer point out their find of a new population of little gray polypody at Clifton Gorge in 2013.

Partnerships and Volunteers

- Partnered with the Appalachia Ohio Alliance (AOA) to acquire the 95-acre Bartley Nature Preserve by providing a 25 percent match for a successful clean Ohio grant. The site protects a rare prairie pothole wetland, the only known Ohio location for Hall's bulrush and Rocky Mountain bulrush.
- Signed a management agreement with ODOT to manage a xeric limestone prairie remnant in Belmont County. This site is one of the only known examples of this rare plant community in the Western Allegheny ecoregion and is home to the state rare tall larkspur.
- Partnered with the Cincinnati Wild Flower Preservation Society in organizing the largest volunteer event in Nature Preserves history at Clifton Gorge. 150+ volunteers removed Amur honeysuckle.
- Ornithologist Tom Bartlett has banded more than 34,000 birds at Springville Marsh.
- Wetlands biologist Mick Micacchion continues 20+ years of research at Gahanna Woods.
- Partnered with the Cleveland Metroparks and the Crooked River Weed Management Authority to manage invasive plants in Cuyahoga River watershed preserves.



State Nature Preserves staff and volunteers inventory running buffalo clover at Boch Hollow.



Chief botanist Rick Gardner establishes a vegetation monitoring plot at Bartley Preserve.



Connect with State Nature Preserves through Facebook at www.facebook.com/ohiodnap



A new State Nature Preserve website, naturepreserves.ohiodnr.gov, was launched in April 2014.



State Nature Preserves volunteers removed non-native common teasel at Daughmer Savannah in 2013 and 2014.