



# ONAPA News

Ohio Natural Areas & Preserves Association

*"We are dedicated to promoting, protecting, and improving Ohio natural areas and preserves for educational, charitable, and scientific purposes."*

SUMMER 2013, VOLUME 1:1

Purple Coneflower, Gallagher Fen SNP

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### Join ONAPA!

Visit the website ([www.onapa.org](http://www.onapa.org)) and click the "How you can help" tab.

Check the ONAPA calendar on the website for eco-management projects and upcoming events of interest.

### Contact us:

Staff  
PO Box 415  
Johnstown, OH

## President's Message

### ONAPA: Helping to Protect Ohio's Natural Heritage

Guy Denny, ONAPA President

As with every great adventure, the journey begins with a first step, and so it is with the launching of the Ohio Natural Areas & Preserves Association (ONAPA). This new statewide 501(c)(3) organization is bringing together organizations and individuals to support Ohio's remaining natural areas by providing technical expertise, guidance, and volunteers to help maintain, monitor and restore ecologically significant natural areas in a professional and timely manner.

Over the last decade general revenue funding for ODNR has been drastically reduced. Consequently, in 2009, ODNR Director Sean Logan made the decision to dismantle the Division of Natural Areas & Preserves (DNAP) as a cost-saving measure. The Scenic Rivers Program was transferred to the Division of Watercraft, the Natural Heritage Program with its botanists and ecologists was transferred to the Division of Wildlife, and the remaining nine preserve managers were transferred to the Division of Parks & Recreation. Historically, preserve managers could rely on a knowledgeable and experienced central office team to provide oversight and technical guidance. Now that there is no longer a DNAP supervisory staff, preserve managers are on their own to get the job done as best they can. Unlike their predecessors, most of the present nature preserve managers have little training or experience in this area and it has become difficult for them to adequately complete essential habitat

management duties on their preserves in a timely manner given the press of their state park duties and the necessity



of working under the direct supervision of state park supervisors who may be supportive but lack expertise in natural areas management.

This is where ONAPA can play a role in the attainment of wise and sustainable management practices for our state nature preserves. ONAPA originated at a natural areas stakeholders planning summit held February 17, 2012 at the Gorman Nature Center in Lexington, Ohio. The most frequent recommendation was to establish a statewide natural areas & preserves organization. The challenges are greater now than they have ever been during the history of Ohio's natural areas program, especially with the ever increasing threat of invasive species. We don't have the luxury of time to address these problems. If aggressive habitat management action is not taken soon, it may be too late to save the ecological integrity of many of our most significant natural areas. ONAPA must do what it can to prevent the irreversible degradation of our state nature preserve system.

*Continued*

**“ONAPA advocates for the wise and sustainable management of natural areas for the benefit of Ohio families, educators, and researchers.”**

### **President’s Message Continued**

I am honored to have been elected the first president of the Ohio Natural Areas & Preserves Association. It is a responsibility which I take very seriously. Having spent most of my professional career working in the ODNR Division of Natural Areas & Preserves as the first Assistant Chief and later as Chief for 4 years before retiring in 1999, I am committed to developing the means for maintaining the state’s precious natural areas in a wise and sustainable manner for the benefit of this as well as future generations. Retaining the Division of

Natural Areas & Preserves as a legal entity, keeping the income tax check-off donations program as a funding source exclusively for DNAP, and restoring the Ohio Natural Areas Council are our top priorities. Ultimately, we want to see DNAP restored as a stand-alone division staffed with natural areas professionals at minimal expense to the tax payer. These goals are definitely attainable. They can and must be accomplished. ONAPA members and all Ohio families, now and in the future, expect and deserve nothing less.

## **Breaking News!**

### **ONAPA is Now a Tax Exempt Organization**

We recently received word that the IRS has approved ONAPA’s application for 501 c3 status. This means that we are now officially considered a tax exempt organization and all contributions will qualify as such to the full extent of the law. This is a very important step forward, and Bob McCance is to be heartily congratulated for all his hard work filling out and mailing the seemingly interminable required forms and keeping up with their progress.

## **2012 Board Meetings**

### **ONAPA Moves Forward**

The very first full board meeting of the newly created Ohio Natural Areas & Preserves Association was held June 29, 2012 in Westerville at which time mem-

bers of the new board of trustees were appointed and officers elected. The second meeting was held September 28<sup>th</sup>. At this meeting, committee chairs were selected and

committee members appointed. Among the committees are the Science Advisory Committee chaired by Dr. Raymond

Heithaus, the Resource Protection Committee chaired by retired DNAP District Manager Timothy Snyder, the Communications Committee chaired by Robert McCance, Jr. former DNAP Natural Heritage Administrator and Executive Director of the Kentucky State Nature Preserve Commission, and the Legislative Committee chaired by former DNAP Field Operations Administrator and 20<sup>th</sup> Ohio House District State Representative Jim McGregor.

The third and final board meeting of 2012 took place November 30<sup>th</sup> at Highbanks Metro Park north of Columbus. Although this was a regular board meeting, it was also a very special event. In addition to **Continued**



**November 2012 Board Meeting**

## 2012 Board Meetings Continued

board members, the meeting was opened to all committee members as well as to those individuals who had participated in the natural areas stakeholders meeting held at Gorman Nature Preserve on February 17<sup>th</sup>. Several additional stakeholders from across the state were also invited. This meeting was a way of introducing a broad spectrum of people from throughout Ohio to the newly created Natural Areas & Preserves Association.

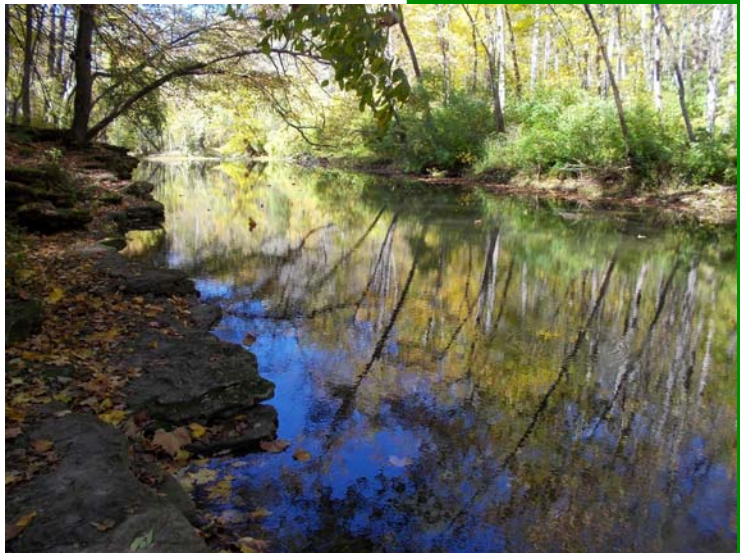
There were 82 individuals in attendance including board members. Many more would have been invited, but the size of the meeting room limited the number of people who could attend. Among those present were two former Directors of ODNR, representatives from 9 major colleges and universities, 7 county park districts, 5 Audubon Chapters, the Buckeye Forest Council, Ohio Environmental Council, Ohio Chapter Sierra Club, League of Ohio Conservation Voters, and the Ohio Wetlands Association. There were also several retired DNAP preserve staff and managers present along with representatives from numerous organizations including the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Akron Garden Club, Burroughs Nature Club, the Ohio Historical Society, Cincinnati Wildflower Preservation Society, and Arc of Appalachia Preserves. In all, it was a very impressive gathering of conservation and environmental leaders from throughout the state. A special treat was to have Paul Knoop, Bert Szabo and Dr. David Rigney present, all of whom served on the first Governor-appointed Natural Areas Council back in 1970.

In addition to participating in the regular board meeting, attendees were introduced to each ONAPA board member. The board members as well as committee chairs represent some of the brightest minds and most experienced natural areas managers in the state of

Ohio.

One of the main features of this meeting was a PowerPoint presentation designed to show participants the history behind the natural areas movement in Ohio, how the Ohio Natural Areas Preservation Act became law, the creation of the Division of Natural Areas & Preserves (DNAP), and the history of DNAP from its earliest years to the present. Several state nature preserves were also featured showing current management problems primarily involving issues with invasive species and unchecked natural succession that are actually posing a threat to the ecological integrity of the sites. This presentation

clearly demonstrated why there is a need for ONAPA and how members can assist ODNR in addressing these serious challenges facing our nature preserve system. After lunch, attendees were able to participate in the committee meetings of their choice which met in different corners of the building. In all, it was a very productive day that gave everyone the opportunity to participate and network with like-minded people from across the state. The next gathering, which will be our first annual members' meeting, is being planned on October 5, 2013.



*“In all, it was a very impressive gathering of conservation and environmental leaders from throughout the state.”*

**Little Miami River at Clifton Gorge State Nature Preserve**

*“Although this was a regular board meeting, it was also a very special event.”*

## Save The Date

October 5, 2013—the first ONAPA annual banquet is coming to town! Please join us at Der Dutchman Restaurant in West Bellville (at I-71 and State Route 97) at 5:30 p.m. for a time of meeting your fellow ONAPAers, sharing accomplishments and learning more about Ohio’s fantastic natural areas and the threats they face. There will be opportunities on Saturday (and maybe Sunday) to visit nearby preserves with naturalist guides and meet with the officers and members who are working to insure that these vital remnants of Ohio’s natural heritage are passed on to future generations in good shape. A short business meeting will allow members to participate in the administration of the organization. Discounted room rates will be available at the Bellville Quality Inn for those wanting to spend the night. Keep watching the website and this newsletter for more information and registration forms!

*“I remember seeing the bed of green sphagnum moss, the clumps of white-barked birch trees, and especially, the dense stand of tamarack...”*

Kent Bog State Nature Preserve

### Kent Bog State Nature Preserve Where Time Has Virtually Stood Still Since The Ice Age

Tom Cooperrider

I first visited Kent Bog in June 1961. I remember seeing the bed of green sphagnum moss, the clumps of white-barked birch trees, and especially, the dense stand of tamarack at the bog’s center. The population of tamaracks is the largest in Ohio, with more than 2,000 trees.

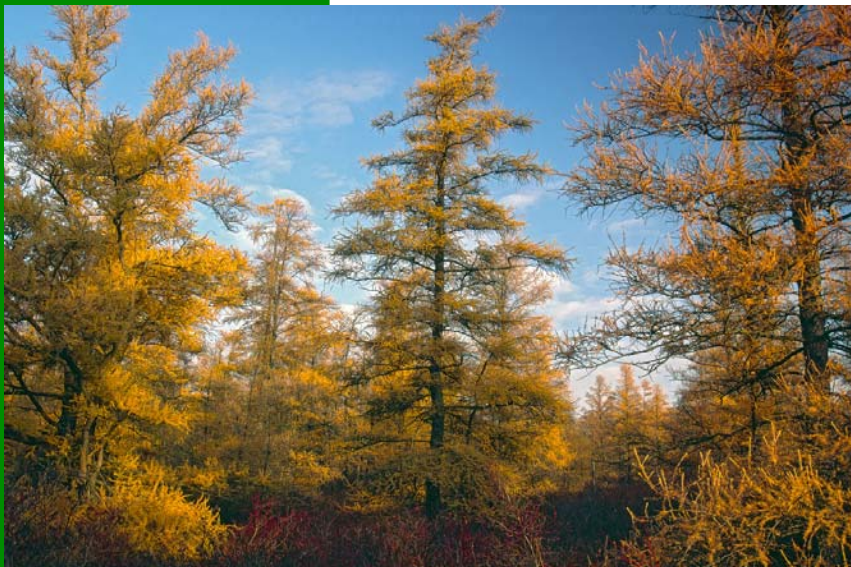
Located at the southern edge of Kent in Portage County, Kent Bog was dedicated as a state nature preserve in

1985. Today, visiting the preserve is like taking a botanical trip to the north country. Tamarack and other boreal, or northern plants of the bog, such as leather-leaf, small cranberry, tawny cotton-grass and few-seeded sedge also grow in Labrador and Newfoundland.

At the end of the Ice Age, about 12,000 years ago, a large chunk of ice became separated from the glacier which covered this region. It came to rest at a site just south of what is now Meloy Road, in western Portage County. The huge ice block, about 45 acres in size, was quickly buried under enormous amounts of clay, silt, sand and gravel newly released from the melting glacier. When the buried ice eventually melted, its water formed a large kettle hole lake within a deep clay basin.

Boreal plants, such as tamarack and leather-leaf, that had moved southward in front of the advancing glacier colonized the area around the new lake. Following the Ice Age, in most areas these northern plants were displaced by plants

*Continued*



## Kent Bog State Nature Preserve Continued

more typical of today's northeastern Ohio. However, in the bog that formed around the lake, the northern plants survived.

As individual plants in the bog died, they did not decay completely. Fungi and bacteria, the principal decomposers, were unable to function effectively in the bog conditions. Little by little the partially decomposed plant materials, called peat, accumulated, slowly filling the lake. Eventually the basin that held the lake was completely filled with water and tightly packed peat, much of which is derived from sphagnum moss. The last vestige of an open lake at the Kent Bog site probably disappeared prior to European settlement. Meanwhile, the northern plants had taken up residence on the peat substrate, producing the kettle hole bog we see today.

Two of the bog's wildlife are noteworthy—the spotted turtle and the veery. Named for its bright yellow spots, the small and secretive spotted turtle is a scarce sight in Ohio. The veery, a bird species, can be seen and heard in summer. In Ohio, verries nest mostly in northern counties. Like the bogs they frequent, their general distribution is north of Ohio.

The first sign of spring in the bog occurs in April or May when leather-leaf shrubs display thousands of small, dull white flowers. During the summer, the bog presents a panorama of various shades of green coming from the sphagnum moss and the leaves of leather-leaf, gray birch, tamarack and the abundant Virginia chain-fern and highbush blueberry.

Shortly after mid-October, Kent Bog reaches its peak in fall color. On the bank encircling the bog, the leaves of maples, oaks, sour-gum and other hardwood trees turn shades of red, orange and yellow.

The birch leaves are yellow and the blueberry leaves are red, as are those of the stunted red maples that have moved into the bog.

Toward the end of October, the tamarack forest becomes a sea of gold. After two or three days of bright gold color, the needles turn brown and fall. Those landing on the boardwalk collect in temporary windrows on the gray planks while others settle on the peat substrate or the green sphagnum moss.

Kent Bog was purchased and preserved because of its scientific value and its role in Ohio's natural history. Today, students and researchers come to the bog to learn from it firsthand.

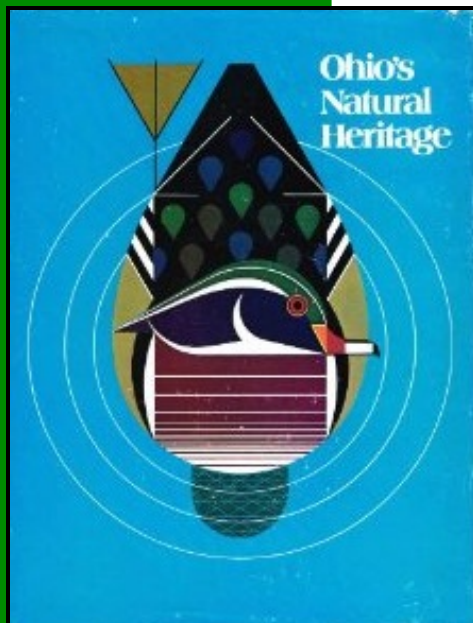
*This article (edited for present use) was originally published in the Spring 2005 issue of Natural Ohio, the newsletter of the Division of Natural Areas & Preserves. Tom Cooperrider was a distinguished professor of botany at Kent State University who trained a number of Ohio's most eminent botanists. His initial work on the Flora of Ohio led to his involvement in passing Ohio's rare plant legislation and the creation of the Division of Natural Areas & Preserves. His work at Kent Bog led to its becoming the first nature preserve purchased by DNAP with tax check-off funds. In 1995, its name was changed to the Tom S. Cooperrider Kent Bog State Nature Preserve in his honor.*



Kent Bog State  
Nature Preserve

*“...the leaves of maples, oaks, sour-gum and other hardwood trees turn shades of red, orange and yellow.”*

“...the finest overview of Ohio’s natural heritage yet developed!”



Get exercise and help us out at the same time!

## Book Nook

### Ohio's Natural Heritage

Michael B. Lafferty, Editor-in-Chief, The Ohio Academy of Science, Columbus, OH. 1979. 324 pp. 9" X 12"

*In each issue of the ONAPA NEWS we will feature one or more classic resources (usually books) on Ohio's natural heritage, many of which were written in whole or in part by the giants of Ohio biological and geological research. While many are now out-of-print, copies can usually be found in libraries or purchased in used book stores or through the internet. It is our hope that this column will encourage readers to discover these classics.*

What better book to begin the Book Nook column with than the finest overview of Ohio's natural heritage yet developed! From the jacket featuring artwork by Charley Harper—one of Ohio's premier wildlife artists—to the last page, this

book is a visual and informational feast. Part I includes sections on the bedrock and glacial geology of Ohio, its weather, waters, forests, prairies, bogs and caves. Part II surveys each of Ohio's physiographic regions. Part III looks at the impact of Man on the land from prehistoric times to the present. The list of contributors reads like a Who's Who of Ohio naturalists: Louis Campbell, Ralph Ramey, Charles King, Jane Forsyth, Richard Goldthwait, Roger Troutman, Richard Mosely, Jr., Guy Denny and many others. Lavishly illustrated with photographs, maps and diagrams, the book is full of detailed information, yet easy and enjoyable to read. The full-page maps of glacial deposits, original vegetation, bedrock geology, and groundwater resources have become classics in their own right, having been reprinted in the thousands for public distribution. For anyone seeking a compre-

## An Opportunity for People Who Enjoy A Walk in the Woods

If you enjoy visiting Ohio's nature preserves or have a particular one that you feel especially attached to, you might want to consider becoming a preserve monitor. The job is simple: walk the trails and make note of any problems you see—trees down, vandalism, broken boardwalks, alien spaceships. Fill out the appropriate places on the monitoring form (available on the ONAPA website at volunteering/preserve monitoring) and send it to the address listed.

If you are interested in a deeper monitoring commitment, you might consider signing up as an ODNR-Division of

Natural Areas and Preserves volunteer. This will enable you to accomplish tasks beyond the public trail system, such as walking boundary lines to check for illegal encroachments. Off-trail monitors must maintain good working relationships with the ODNR preserve managers responsible for the areas involved, and inform the managers before the fact of any off-trail visits they intend to make. Keeping these lines of communication open in both directions will be crucial to the success of this effort.

Monitors are additional eyes to help an under-funded, **Continued**

## An Opportunity Continued

overworked ODNR staff keep up with situations that might require action in the areas for which they are responsible. Our goal is to advance their success as effective preserve managers, and in the process, provide another layer of protection for the nature preserves.

For more information on the preserve monitoring program, visit the Volunteering tab on the ONAPA website, or write us at ONAPA Monitoring Program, P.O. Box 415, Johnstown, OH 43031.

## Help Us Name Our Newsletter

We are looking for a few good names...well, actually only one. While "ONAPA News" does the job, it is, frankly, generic, not to say boring. So put on your thinking caps and send in your suggestions for a new name for our newsletter. We are looking for a creative, eye-catching, maybe even intriguing name that encapsulates what ONAPA is all about. E-mail your suggestions to [staff@onapa.org](mailto:staff@onapa.org), or snail-mail them to Staff, P.O. Box 415, Johnstown, OH 43031. The winner will have their name and winning entry announced in an up-



## Meet ONAPA's People

### Executive Committee

*Guy L. Denny—President*

*Ray Heithaus—Treasurer*

*James F. McGregor—*

*Governmental Affairs Officer*

*Robert McCance—Vice President*

*Richard E. Moseley, Jr.—Secretary*

*Cheryl Harner*

*Timothy Snyder*

### Board of Directors

*Dr. Barbara Andreas*

*Dr. James Bissell*

*Mary Christensen*

*Delores Cole*

*Guy L. Denny*

*Cheryl Harner*

*Ray Heithaus*

*Dewey Hollister*

*Robert McCance*

*James F. McGregor*

*Richard E. Moseley, Jr.*

*Katryn Renard*

*Timothy A. Snyder*

*Joseph Sommer*

*Dr. David Todt*

### Newsletter

*Tim Snyder—Editor*

*Steven Gratz—Layout Editor*

**None of the work  
that ONAPA**

**accomplishes could**

**be possible without**

**the wonderful**

**guidance and**

**insight from the**

**Board of Directors.**

**Thank you!**

# Support ONAPA Today!

## Join Us!

Sign up online at the ONAPA Website ([www.onapa.org](http://www.onapa.org)) under "How You Can Help" for a membership form. And while you're at it, why not sign up an interested friend, relative, or enemy as a special gift for a memorable occasion. Adding your voice to the effort will help insure that our message is heard.

## Support Us Financially!

You can make a secure donation to ONAPA through PayPal. Visit the ONAPA website to donate.

## Give Us Time!

ONAPA and associated organizations sponsor work trips to various nature preserves around the state in need of some tender, loving care. Volunteers must be registered with ODNR's Division of Natural Areas and Preserves before participating. Visit the ONAPA website for more information.



Find us on Facebook at OhioNAPA

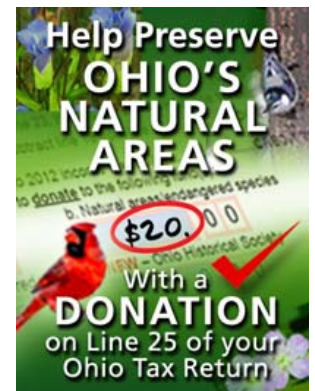
## MEMBERSHIP LEVELS:

Life	\$1000.00
Benefactor	\$500.00
Patron	\$100.00
Business	\$100.00
Organization	\$40.00
Family	\$30.00
Individual	\$25.00
Senior (60+)	\$15.00
Student (Under 22 years old)	\$15.00
Fee for U.S. Postal Service Delivery of newsletter (Email is default method)	\$5.00

## Preserve License Plates



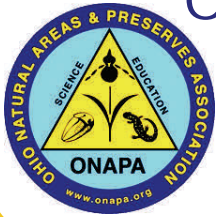
## Income Tax Donation



Any help you can give is greatly appreciated!

ONAPA helps you protect a \$25,000,000 investment in Ohio's natural resources





# Ohio Natural Areas & Preserves Association

First Annual Banquet & Fieldtrips  
October 5, 2013 — 5:30pm Social  
6:00pm Banquet

Der Dutchman Restaurant  
720 State Rt. 97  
Bellville, OH 44813  
(off I-71)

*Join your friends for the first ONAPA Banquet.*

**A special discounted membership is being offered for this event to *new members*.**  
Join ONAPA Today!

The featured speaker:

**David Brandenburg — ‘Botanical Travels from Coast to Coast’**

Spend an entertaining evening reliving the highlights of his botanical adventures!

Show your support for Ohio's Natural Areas and enjoy free guided tours, hosted by the local pros, to mid-Ohio's most beautiful scenic areas!

## REGISTRATION FORM (one person per form)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

## BANQUET PRICES:

Non-Members	\$35.00	\$
Current Member of ONAPA	\$25.00	\$
Membership & Banquet (save \$10 on \$25 membership)	\$40.00	\$
<i>Make checks payable to: 'ONAPA'</i> <b>TOTAL:</b>		\$

**FREE FIELDTRIPS:** Mark only 1 trip per day for Saturday and/or Sunday.

◆ **Saturday: Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>**, 1pm-3pm

◆ **Sunday: Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>**, 10am-12noon

Clear Fork Nature Preserve

Clear Fork Nature Preserve

Fowler Woods (Shiloh, OH)

Fowler Woods (Shiloh, OH)

Daughmer Prairie (Bucyrus, OH)

Daughmer Prairie (Bucyrus, OH)

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**Quality Inn - 'ONAPA' Discount**

1000 Comfort Plaza  
Bellville, OH 44813  
419-886-7000

**Reserve Room by:**  
08-15-2013

**Registration Deadline**

**Sept. 30, 2013**

Questions: 419-683-8952  
banquet@onapa.org  
www.onapa.org

Mail to:

**ONAPA**  
**P.O. Box 415**  
**Johnstown, OH 43031**