



ONAPA NEWS

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VOLUME 2 ISSUE IV

WINTER — 2014

Boord State Nature Preserve— Tim Snyder.

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

Second Annual ONAPA Annual Banquet & Membership Meeting

Guy Denny, ONAPA President

This past September 20th, Wesley Lodge located at Lakeside Chautauqua, Lakeside, Ohio, was the site of the second annual ONAPA banquet and membership meeting. It was a delightful event which actually began on Saturday afternoon with concurrent field trips to Castalia Prairie at Resthaven Wildlife Area, Sheldon Marsh State Nature Preserve, and Lakeside's Beautiful Mile along the shore of Lake Erie. The weather was perfect and everyone had a great time.

During the meeting, five original ONAPA board members who were serving one year inaugural terms were elected to full 3 year terms. They are Dr. James Bissell, Dewey Hollister, Jim McGregor, Jim Mason, and Dr. David Todd.



Allison Cusick enthralles banquet guests. Photo by Jan Kennedy.

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Silent Auction at the banquet. Photo by Tim Snyder.

Newly elected to the board was Jennifer Windus, who recently retired from the ODNR Division of Wildlife. Jennifer replaces board

member Katryn Renard. Jennifer began her 31 year career with ODNR as a seasonal naturalist for the Division of Parks & Recreation before joining the staff of the Division of Natural Areas & Preserves where she initiated and administered the Division's Monitoring & Research Program before joining the Division of Wildlife. Jennifer received her undergraduate degree in ecology from the State University of New York and a Master's Degree in plant biology from The Ohio State University. Jan Kennedy, Chair of the Preserve Monitoring Committee, was recognized with the first "ONAPA Volunteer of the Year" award for her tireless volunteer efforts on behalf of ONAPA.

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2nd Annual ONAPA Banquet & Membership Meeting

(Continued from page 1)

Following a brief program highlighting ONAPA accomplishments for 2014 and a fine dinner, the keynote speaker, retired DNAP Chief Botanist Allison Cusick, presented a fascinating program entitled, “The New Sandusky Flora”.

On Sunday morning, the three concurrent field trips were repeated. Visitors to Castalia Prairie led by Guy Denny and Jennifer Windus were treated to an array of blooming prairie/fen species including Ohio and Riddell’s Goldenrod, Prairie Rattlesnake-root,



Dean Sheldon.
Photo by Tim Snyder.

Large Blazing-star, Swamp Thistle, Great Plains Ladies’-tresses, and a host of other

They were greeted by Dean Sheldon Jr., whose late father Dr. Dean Sheldon Sr. purchased this outstanding natural area in the 1950s.

colorful and fascinating species

including everyone’s favorite, Fringed Gentians. Dick Moseley, ONAPA Secretary, led the Sheldon Marsh field trip. Participants were given a very special treat both Saturday and Sunday, when they were greeted by Dean Sheldon, Jr. whose late father Dr. Dean Sheldon, Sr. purchased this outstanding natural area in the 1950s. Dean reviewed the history of this nature preserve. The Sheldon property which the family sold to the Division of Natural Areas & Preserves in 1979, was the original entrance to Cedar Point Amusement Park and is one of the last locations in Ohio where the forest-marsh and beach-lake communities can still be found. It is a renowned birding site. Moseley’s field trip interpreted the ecology of the marsh and barrier beach highlighting many of the special plants and animals found here.

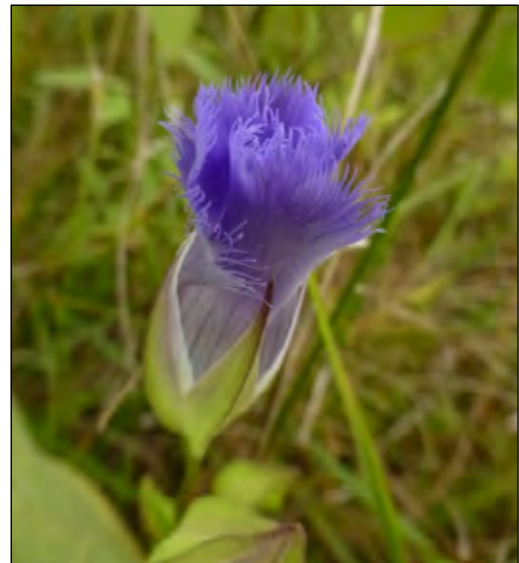
ONAPA board member Cheryl Harner led the “Beautiful Mile” field trip along the handicapped accessible pathway skirting the shoreline of Lake Erie within the Community of Lakeside Chautauqua. Lakeside officials have been working closely with Cheryl to enhance and develop this pathway with native species of wildflowers. Field trip participants



Liatris scariosa is a state-endangered species.
Photo by Jan Kennedy.

enjoyed the colorful flowers, a magnificent tree canopy, and picturesque views of the Lake Erie islands.

Special thanks go to Cheryl Harner for putting together this year’s annual banquet and membership meeting with help from Paula Harper. Also special thanks to board members Katryn Renard and



Fringed gentian, Resthaven.
Photo by Jan Kennedy.

especially Mary Christensen who worked so hard to put together our extremely successful silent auction that raised over \$1,000 for ONAPA.

Representative Cheryl Grossman A Friend of Ohio's Natural Areas

Jim McGregor



Cheryl Grossman has always loved the out-of-doors. Elected as Grove City Mayor in 1968, she had previously served on a number of Commissions and was glad for the opportunity to further assist her neighbors. Today, Grove City has 260 acres of Parkland and Cheryl is thankful to have been a part of that preservation.

Mayor Grossman was continuously re-elected and in 2008, she determined to run for the Ohio House 23rd district. Her hard work and fine reputation led to her election to the Ohio House of Representatives.

Cheryl has now served Ohioans for six years in the House. During that time, she has received a 100% rating from the Ohio League of Conservation Voters. Representative Grossman has supported pivotal con-

servation legislation such as HB231 which regulates the withdrawal of Lake Erie waters. That vast fresh water sea on Ohio's north boundary seems unlimited, but only ten percent of its water is renewable. Ninety percent is an inherited treasure left from the times of the glaciers. Should users withdraw more than ten percent of Lake Erie waters in one year, the coast line would shrink irretrievably. Such conservation and wise use of natural resources is characteristic of Representative Grossman.

Cheryl also helped to save the Ohio Division of Natural Areas and Preserves law when the Strickland administration attempted to eliminate it from the Ohio Revised Code. She voted to appropriate two million dollars for the Division when the Administration proposed a Natural Areas budget of zero.

Cheryl shares the Ohio Natural Area and Preserves Association's love of Ohio's flora and fauna. Cheryl's sons have also developed a love for our wilderness heritage and are devoted conservationists in today's millennial generation. She is kith and ken to us and we are thankful for her leadership.

Looking for that Perfect Holiday Gift?



ONAPA memberships can be the perfect eco-friendly gift for the nature-lovers on your list. The cost is reasonable, and the recipient will enjoy four issues of the ONAPA News, field trips to interesting natural areas led by qualified naturalists, opportunities to help protect Ohio's amazing biodiversity, and the thrill of knowing they are part of a movement intent on passing the real Ohio in good shape to future generations.

For your gift use the membership form on page 8 of this newsletter issue or go to www.onapa.org to download a membership form or to pay using PayPal. When using PayPal be sure to give us instructions on who the gift membership is for and their contact information by emailing us at info@onapa.org.



A Note of Thanks

I appreciate receiving the 2014 ONAPA Volunteer of the Year award. Thank you for the vote of confidence, and I look forward to many more volunteer opportunities. It is an honor to be a member of a group of dedicated volunteers who are intensely committed to preserving Ohio's natural areas. We have lost so much. We must save what remains.

Jan Kennedy

Late Summer Wildflowers of Shawnee State Forest

Guy Denny



Creeping Aster (*Eurybia Surculosa*) is state-endangered. The only population is found in Shawnee State Forest. Photo by Jan Kennedy.

Shawnee State Forest has been nicknamed “The Little Smokies of Ohio” since it reminds visitors of a



Silver Plume Grass is state-endangered. Photo by Jan Kennedy.

much smaller version of the Great Smokey Mountains of Tennessee and North Carolina. Floristically, it shares many of the same Appalachian plants as its namesake, which is why ONAPA sponsored a field trip there this past September to view late summer wildflowers. Many of the species encountered along the

stream valleys are the same as those found at lower elevations in the Smokey Mountains including Hollow Joe-Pye Weed (*Eupatorium Fistulosum*), Leafy Elephant’s Foot (*Elephantopus carolinianus*), Small-Headed Sunflower (*Helianthus microcephalus*), Florida Blue Lettuce (*Lactuca floridana*), and Beefsteak Plant (*Perilla frutescens*), a naturalized plant originally



Shawnee group with Guy Denny. Photo by Jan Kennedy.

from India.

On the ridge tops of Shawnee, field trip participants got to see a number of Appalachian species including Stiffleaf Aster (*Ionactis linariifolius*), Maryland Golden Aster (*Chrysopsis mariana*), Downy Lobelia (*Lobelia puberula*), and Sweet goldenrod (*Solidago odora*), all in full bloom. With the help of local botanist and ONAPA member David Kuehner, we also got to see some extremely rare Ohio plants including Creeping Aster (*Eurybia surculosa*), Striped Gentian (*Gentiana villosa*), Gall-of-the-Earth (*prenanthes trifolioata*), Erect Goldenrod (*Solidago erecta*) and Silver Plume Grass (*Erianthus alopecuroides*).

Book Nook: The Fishes of Ohio

Since its original publication in 1957, Milton B. Trautman’s *Fishes of Ohio* has been a major source of information on the life, characteristics and distribution of the many and varied fish occupying Ohio’s waters. A result of 35 years of field work and research, the treatise was quickly recognized as a regional classic. In 1981, the revised edition appeared with updated maps and information gathered over the previous twenty years by Trautman—Emeritus Professor of Zoology with The Ohio State University—and his wife, Mary. Nearly all of the 179 species and subspecies detailed in the book is given an outline drawing, maps showing its continental and state-wide distribution, and detailed descriptions of its identifying characteristics, habitat and Ohio distribution (both present and historical). A separate paragraph updates the information as of 1980. One of Trautman’s objectives was to “...demonstrate the changes in distribution and abundance of Ohio fishes...between the years 1750-1980....” He succeeds admirably. Introductory information on the geology, climate, topography and historical conditions of the state, along with five color plates and a key to species and sub-species add greatly to the volume’s usefulness. The revised edition (782 pages) is available from The Ohio State University Press as well as several on-line booksellers.

Ohio's Natural Heritage Program in Crisis

Bob McCance

When the DNAP was split apart and its programs sent to three other Divisions of DNR in 2009, the Natural Heritage Program staff was sent to the Division of Wildlife. The program had been created as a joint effort of the Nature Conservancy (TNC) and ODNR in 1976. Its mission was to collect data on rare plant and animal species, high quality plant communities and other significant features of Ohio's natural heritage such as rock bridges, caves, and glacial striations. These data were then analyzed so that the highest quality rare species populations, natural plant communities, and natural areas could be evaluated and ranked in importance. This information drove new land project decisions by both DNAP and TNC.

In the late 70's and throughout the 80's, the program had the support of DNR leadership and DNAP Chief Richard Moseley. Numerous seasonal staff, often 10-15 individuals contributing 13+ thousands of hours per year, built the program into one of the most successful in the country. Heritage data benefited much more than just TNC, DNAP and ODNR. Environmental consultants used the data for site-based environmental review on highway projects and building sites, scientists used it for identifying research project locations, and the public had a new tool for learning about Ohio's significant features.

When the DNR leadership forced the Natural Heritage Program onto the Division of Wildlife, they did not provide adequate funding. Some Heritage staff were transferred to other jobs within the DOW and

seasonal hiring of field biologists and data specialists was significantly reduced. This has caused the data base and the species occurrences records to age rapidly and therefore its value declined. Without significant additional funding and ODNR commitment, the program is headed toward irrelevancy and ultimate elimination.

Currently the program has only two staff, both of whom are nearing retirement. The computer system utilized by the program is part of a national network of heritage programs in many states and Canadian Provinces managed by NatureServe in Arlington, Virginia. This computer system has been refined over 40 years and is very complex; it simply will not be possible to just assign a new person to the job and expect everything to be okay. This year's state budget will be the last opportunity to provide new staff who can be trained before the current staff depart. In a state where Ohio DNR is about 2% of the state budget, and what was DNAP is about 1% of DNR, this issue has great difficulty gaining traction with DNR leadership, let alone the people who decide on program funding in the legislature. Without additional funding this year and transfer back to DNAP, the Ohio Natural Heritage Program will cease to help Ohioans manage their rarest species and significant natural features. I doubt anyone is actively opposed to this program; it simply has been ignored for too long. I urge you to offer your opinions to DNR leadership and to your state legislators. It is past time for good people to do something!

Prairie Seed Collecting Event



Greg Pifer collecting seeds.
Photo by Jan Kennedy.

for planting, they were turned loose to collect their own seeds from the numerous native prairie species found throughout Guy's 22 acres of native tallgrass

prairie. Interested in starting your own prairie or prairie garden? ONAPA members had a chance to do just that by participating in the annual "Prairie Seed Collecting Event" at Guy Denny's prairie in Knox County this past fall. Forty participants turned out for the event. After a brief orientation on how to collect and prepare prairie seeds

prairie.

Also on hand again this year was Gale Martin who operates **Natives in Harmony Nursery** (www.nativesinharmony.com) located in Marengo, Ohio. As always, Gale had quite an array of very reasonably priced, high quality, colorful native Ohio prairie species for sale at the event. The weather was excellent and everyone had a fine time collecting their very own prairie seeds. The



Preparing to collect seed.
Photo by Jan Kennedy.

real thrill begins when those seeds start to germinate this coming spring.

And a Good Time Was Had by All



Rockbridge.
Photo by Tim Snyder.

Thirty-two participants showed up at Rockbridge on the brisk morning of October 25 for the Hocking Hills Fall Color Hike sponsored by ONAPA. After a brief report on ONAPA activities by president Guy Denny, the hardy group set out under the leadership of Tim Snyder for an exploration of the glacially-cut gorge of the Hocking River and Ohio's longest natural

bridge protected by Rockbridge State Nature Preserve. The hike concentrated on the geology of the area, emphasizing the glacial activity that resulted in the gorge and the natural bridge.

The ONAPA field trip program for 2014 closed out on November 22 with the Upper Cuyahoga Waterfowl Watch in Geauga County. Watch the newsletter and website for information on the 2015 field trip series and join your fellow ONAPA members in the outdoors.



Tim Snyder at Rockbridge.
Photo by Jan Kennedy.

Thank you for your support! New ONAPA Members and Donors

Scott Behnken
Tom and Jan Bernard
Machelle Ashbaugh & Tim Bischoff
George & Jann Bowne
Alistair Bradley
Richard Bradley
Alex L. Brown
Nina Bruns
Jeanne Budde
Sarah A. Colston
Columbus Natural History Society
Vivian Crooks
Julie Davis
Carol DeHart
Deb DeLong
Theresa Duncan
Nancy E. Earl
Mark Baranoski & Emily Ebby
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James Decker & Denise Hellman
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David Keller
Kathy Keller
Shirley A. Kindrick
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Liz Melick
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Gina Patt
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Nancy Rhinehart
April Riser
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Sandra M. & Randall C. Rowe
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Guy E. Thrans Jr.
Richard M. Tuttle
Barbara Velez Barbosa
Janet Wertz
Pam Wetterau
Julie Wittmer

As of 11/22/2014

Help Ohio's State Nature Preserves!

Voluntary donations made through your Ohio income tax return help the Ohio Division of Natural Areas and Preserves provide critical management of our 136 preserves and many endangered species. Your dollars can make a difference!

For current information on ONAPA field excursions and work trips, visit onapa.org.

NATURE PRESERVE LICENSE PLATES



Your purchase of a preserve license plate supports the Division's conservation efforts

CHECK THIS SPOT!

Tax Refunds Fund Preservation

Check "State nature preserves" on your Ohio income tax return and provide greatly needed support towards protecting Ohio's natural areas.

Ohioans can donate all or part of their state income tax refund by checking line 27d of the 2014 1040 Individual Income Tax Return (line 20d of the 1040 EZ form).

Contributions made to Ohio State Nature Preserves are tax deductible.

You can also make a direct contribution to:
 The Ohio Department of Natural Resources
 Division of Natural Areas and Preserves
 2045 Morse Road, Bldg. C-3
 Columbus, OH 43229
naturepreserves.ohiodnr.gov

Deadline for Spring 2015 issue—February 1



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Membership Levels

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- \$ 15 - Senior
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- \$ 30 - Family
- \$ 40 - Organization
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To submit inquiries, comments or questions, or information on your nature-related event for inclusion in the ONAPA calendar, e-mail us at info@onapa.org

Deadline for submissions to the Spring—2015 Issue of ONAPA News is February 1st



Kroger Rewards Program Benefits ONAPA

ONAPA has signed up as a recipient of the Kroger Company's rewards program that benefits nonprofit organizations without costing the individual any of their own money.

Here is how you can help:

1. Go to the Kroger.com website. Find the "Set up an Account" in the upper right side of the first page. You will be asked to enter your email address, create a password, and select your preferred store. If you wish, you can decline to receive emails from Kroger.
2. You can then link your Kroger Plus shoppers card to your account and select which organization receives donations from Kroger. ONAPA's number is **92516**, which is the quickest way to link to us. ***You must do this every year.***
3. ONAPA will receive donations from the Kroger Company based upon how many people are linked to us and how much they spend at Kroger. It will not cost you anything and it will help ONAPA achieve its mission. ***When you shop, check the bottom of your receipt to make sure ONAPA is listed as a recipient.***



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