



ONAPA NEWS

Dedicated to promoting, protecting, and improving Ohio natural areas and preserves.

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Goll Woods State Nature Preserve

The oaks of Goll Woods stood tall when the Pilgrims scrambled ashore at Plymouth and when Native tribes stalked game beneath their branches. The oaks remind us of a time when the Ohio country was dominated by swamps, prairies, and forest groves. Goll Woods is a mature remnant of the "Black Swamp." This vast expanse of forests and prairies stretched from Lake Erie to Fort Wayne, hindering transportation, harboring disease and defying settlement in northwest Ohio.



Eastern redbud in bloom at Goll Woods State Nature Preserve.
Photo by Deb Platt, www.TREKOHIO.com

drainage tiles were laid down, crisscrossing the land and robbing the swamp of its water. Forest and prairies gave way to fertile fields of corn, beans and other agricultural crops. Within a few decades the Black Swamp virtually had vanished. Goll Woods is the largest and most mature fragment of the Black Swamp

remaining in Ohio.

The terrain of Goll Woods appears flat at first glance. However the land surface undulates gently within a range of a few feet. The forest communities blend into one another with these subtle changes in elevation. Beech-maple and mesophytic oak forests grow on slightly higher and better drained sites. A mixed hardwood swamp occurs in the lower, wetter portions. At least five species of oaks are found --- bur, chinquapin, swamp white, red and white. Several of the bur and white oaks are more than 110 feet tall and have diameters of more than four feet. Other important mature tree species include box-elder, basswood, American beech, and ashes. The American elms in the swamp died of Dutch elm disease many years ago.

Goll Woods is best visited in the spring when the wildflowers are many and the mosquitoes are few. Trilliums, cresses, buttercups, violets, and other showy plants make an impressive display. Two threatened plant species are especially noteworthy. Three-birds-orchid (*Triphora trianthophora*) may be seen along the woodland trails in mid-August. Rock Elm (*Ulmus thomasii*)

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Let's look back 8,000 years to the retreat of the great Wisconsin ice sheet at the close of the Pleistocene. Immense quantities of water were released by the melting ice. This water was dammed up since outlets to the east and the Atlantic were blocked by the uneven margin of the ice sheet. The lake thus created rose 200 feet above the present day level of Lake Erie. This post-glacial lake eventually emptied as outlets were unblocked, exposing a vast plain of soggy soil. The new land soon was colonized by wet prairies and swamp forests. Thus the Black Swamp was born.

Not until the 1930's did pioneers attempt to settle this swampland. In 1836 Peter Goll and his family journeyed from France to the Federal Land Office in Lima, Ohio. Goll purchased the land along the Tiffin River for \$1.25 an acre.

The Black Swamp persisted until the 1850's and 1860's. Thousands of miles of

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Coltsfoot (*Tussilago farfara*)

Coltsfoot (*Tussilago farfara*), a member of the Aster or Sunflower Family (*Asteraceae*), is one of our earliest spring bloomers; typically in March and early April. It is a common perennial species of northern Europe and Asia that has become well established and naturalized in North America from Newfoundland to Minnesota, and southward. This non-native, conspicuous roadside plant is fairly common and widespread in Ohio, especially in the eastern half of the state. It is most commonly found growing on disturbed soils such as along highway embankments, along stream banks, in abandoned strip mines and other such waste places where bare soil is exposed. Its bright yellow solitary flowers, borne on 4 to 10 inch tall, white-wooly scaly leafless flower stalks, somewhat resemble dandelion flowers at a distance. The leaves, from which it gets its common name, do not become noticeable until after it blooms. When this species goes to seed, its fluffy bright white pappus bristles of the seed heads also become quite noticeable.

The leaves start out rather slowly, but rapidly grow in size after the flowers have gone to seed. The shallowly lobed leaves are somewhat shaped like a colt's hoof, and grow to about the same size, hence the origin of the common name "coltsfoot." The underside of the otherwise green leaves has a distinctive white-hairy surface which also stands out well after the plant has set seed later in the growing season.

The genus name *Tussilago* is from the Latin word *tuss*, "cough," and *agere* "to chase," meaning "to chase away or dispel a cough." From earliest times, people have used coltsfoot to treat coughs and asthma. The specific epithet *farfara* is the ancient Latin name for this plant. In times past, coltsfoot was used as the main ingredient in cough syrup and asthma teas. An extract from the roots and fresh leaves was once used for making cough drops. Reportedly, the dried leaves were



Coltsfoot (*Tussilago farfara*)



Coltsfoot leaves (*Tussilago farfara*)

also steeped to make a throat-soothing tea. Up until the modern discovery of antihistamines, the dried leaves of coltsfoot were also used as the basic part of the herbal smoking mixtures to which asthmatics resorted for hundreds of years. Reportedly, the smoke has been inhaled to relieve bronchial congestion since early Greek and Roman times. The leaves and flower heads are said to be aromatic and edible, but caution is required since the leaves contain, among other compounds, a high alkaloid content which can cause sickness if eaten in more than very small quantities. Reportedly, modern laboratory tests using mice and rats reveal that ingesting coltsfoot may cause cancer if taken in large doses or repeatedly in small doses.

Coltsfoot has been so highly regarded as a medicinal plant, that for generations the outline or silhouette of a coltsfoot leaf has been used as a symbol for apothecary shops signs in Europe. Early colonists from Europe, for whom this plant was so highly regarded as a medicinal plant, brought coltsfoot with them and introduced it to North America. This is one of the few white man's plants that the Iroquois also adopted for the treatment for coughs and tuberculosis. Fortunately, even though coltsfoot is a non-native species, it is not terribly invasive in as much as it requires exposed mineral soils in which to germinate and is then typically squeezed out once other taller plants become established on such sites. At the very least, coltsfoot offers a welcome bright yellow splash of color to our otherwise drab very early spring landscape.

~~ Guy Denny
ONAPA President

Goll Woods State Nature Preserve (cont'd)

(Continued from page 1)

grows in the central portion of the swamp. This is one of only a handful of Rock Elm populations in the state.

Four generations of the Goll Family treasured the forest, protecting the big trees from insistent loggers. Only in 1916, during the lumber emergency of World War I, were a few large trees removed from the forest. The woods was acquired by the state from the descendants of Peter Goll in 1966. In 1969 Goll Woods was designated a National Natural Landmark and was dedicated as a state nature preserve in 1975.



Goll Woods State Nature Preserve

gaze upwards into the high canopy of the mature oaks. Picture the Native people filing through the forest and the intrepid Peter Goll daring to settle this inhospitable country. Reflect on the drainage laws and the demise of the Black Swamp. Imagine the Goll family resisting the pressures to cut the valuable trees. Give thanks for the rare chance to glimpse Ohio's past among the oaks of Goll Woods.

Goll Woods State Nature Preserve is situated in Fulton County, approximately 3 miles north and west of Archbold, Ohio. From Archbold follow SR66 one plus miles to Township Road F. Follow TRF 3 miles west to Township Road 26. The parking lot is ¼ miles south on TR 26.

~ ~ Allison W. Cusick,
Retired Chief ODNR Botanist

Walk the trails of Goll Woods and

Sign up now for the ONAPA 2018 Kansas Prairie Adventure



National Grassland Tour Bus



Bison at Tallgrass Preserve



Flint Hills Discovery Center

The destination for the 2018 out-of-state ONAPA naturalist-led field trip will be to the Flint Hills Region of eastern Kansas where the western boundary of the tallgrass prairies of North America begin. The prairie remnants in Ohio are at the extreme eastern terminus of the tallgrass prairies of North America. On **Monday June 11, 2018**, participants should depart for Kansas, perhaps staying overnight in Columbia, Missouri, which is about a 9 hour drive from central Ohio. On **Tuesday, June 12th**, participants need to meet at the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve Visitor Center adjacent to Strong City, Kansas at 2:00 PM. This is about a 4 hour drive from Columbia Missouri. After exploring this fascinating ecological area, we will spend the night in Emporia, Kansas, the nearest town with available lodging, situated about 20 miles to the east of the preserve. On **Wednesday, June 13th**, we will return to the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve which is operated by the National Park Service and continue exploring the plants and animals of the tallgrass prairie until about 1:00 PM when we will depart for the Flint Hills Discovery Center in Manhattan, Kansas which is about 54 miles to the north. After spending time at the Discovery Center, we will find meals and lodging for the night in Manhattan. On **Thursday June 14th**, we will meet at the Konza Prairie Biological Station located 8 miles south of Manhattan and operated by Kansas State University. We will explore Konza Prairie until about 1:00 PM when we will then wrap up our prairie adventure and depart for home.

Participants will be limited to the first 40 individuals who sign up for this prairie adventure on the ONAPA website. Participants will be responsible for providing their own transportation, meals, and lodging. ONAPA board members with knowledge of prairie plants and animals will lead the field trips. If you are definitely planning on participating **you need to register quickly.** We will use Eventbrite to manage reservations and to maintain a waitlist. Your Eventbrite confirmation email will provide details needed for the trip including driving directions, lodging and restaurant suggestions. If your plans change we ask that you please cancel your registration so that another ONAPA member can take your place.

Stewardship in Action, Join Us in 2018!

For stewardship projects details and to register to participate, visit www.onapa.org
Rain dates will also be posted on the website.

We also ask that you keep track of your volunteer time, including driving time to the site and submit it
online at <https://www.onapa.org/volunteer-hours.html>

If you have not submitted your 2017 time please do so as soon as possible.



ONAPA volunteers at Rhododendron Cove State Nature Preserve

Tuesday, March 27, 10am – 3pm – Rhododendron Cove SNP (garlic mustard removal)

Tuesday, April 24, 10:30am – 3:30pm - Lake Katharine SNP (garlic mustard removal)

Tuesday, May 8, 10am – 3pm - Lawrence Woods SNP (garlic mustard removal)

Wednesday, May 23, 10:30am – 3:30pm - Sheldon Marsh SNP (garlic mustard removal)

Tuesday, June 5, 10:30 am – 3:30pm - Clifton Gorge SNP (understory woody species removal)

Saturday, June 23, 10am – 3pm - Daughmer Savanna SNP (teasel & other invasives removal)

Saturday, July 7, 10:30am – 3:30pm – Jackson Bog SNP (woody species & purple loosestrife removal)

Tuesday, July 24, 10am – 3pm - Springville Marsh SNP (cattail & woody species removal in fen meadows)

Tuesday, August 21, 10:30am – 3:30pm - Myersville Fen SNP (woody species removal in fen meadows)

Saturday, September 8, 10am – 3pm - Springfield/Gallagher Fen SNP (woody species removal in east fen)

Wednesday, September 19, 10:30am – 3:30pm - Kent Bog SNP (woody species removal)

Wednesday, October 10, 10:30am – 3:30pm - Gott Fen SNP (woody species removal)

Saturday, October 20, 10am – 3pm - Brinkhaven Oak Barrens (woody species removal)

Thursday, November 8, 10am – 3pm - Medway Prairie Fringed Orchid Site (woody species removal)

Wednesday, November 14, 10:30am – 3:30pm - Karlo Fen SNP (woody species removal)

Upcoming ONAPA Field Trips 2018

ONAPA field trips will last from 2 to 3 hours or longer depending on interest. Bring a snack or a bag lunch to tide you over.

All trips require registration but we will be using Eventbrite to manage reservations for field trips that have a limited participation. On these trips, we ask that you please cancel your reservation if your plans change so that another ONAPA member can take your place.

Saturday March 3rd, 10 a.m.: *Preparing for Spring Wildflowers*. Leader Steve McKee, naturalist and retired Director of the Richland County Park District and Gorman Nature Center. This program is designed to teach participants how to use the plant key which is the main component of *Newcomb's Wildflower Guide*. No limit to the number of participants, but **participants do need to register** so we have enough handout materials. Meet in Mansfield at the Gorman Nature Center on State Route 42.

Tuesday April 17th, 10 a.m.: *Clifton Gorge State Nature Preserve Wildflower Walk*. Leader Dick Moseley, retired Chief of DNAP and ODNR Deputy Director. No limit to this event, but **participants need to register**. Meet at the Clifton Gorge parking lot along State Route 343 west of Clifton, Ohio.

Thursday April 26th, 10 a.m.: *Spring Wildflowers at Spencer Lake Wildlife Area*. Leader Gordon Maupin, retired Executive Director of the Stark Wilderness Center in Wilmot, Ohio. **Limited to the first 25 to sign up**. Meet at Spencer Lake Wildlife Area in Medina County. Rain date is April 27th.

Tuesday May 15th, 10 a.m.: *Reptiles of Resthaven Wildlife Area*. Leader Greg Lipps, Jr., one of Ohio's foremost herpetologists. No participation limit, but **participants do need to register** for this event. Meet at the Resthaven Division of Wildlife office located on Cement Street, Castalia, Ohio.

Saturday May 19th, 10 a.m.: *Tour of the Brown Family Environmental Center at Kenyon College*. Leader Dr. Raymond Heithaus, retired professor of biology at Kenyon College and first Executive Director of the Brown Family Environmental Center. **Limited to the first 20 to sign up**. Meet at the Environmental Center. The Brown Family Environmental Center is located at 9781 Laymon Road, Gambier, Ohio 43022.

Monday June 11th through Friday June 15th: *Field trips to the National Tallgrass Prairie Preserve and Konza Prairie Biological Station*, eastern Kansas. Participants must register for additional information.

Saturday July 21st, 10 a.m.: *Fungi of the Hocking Hills Region with a focus on edible species and how to prepare them*. Leader Mark Bailey, Ohio Mushroom Society. **Limited to the first 15 to sign up**. Meet at the overflow parking area at Cedar Falls State Park, Hocking County. If we have an absolute dry spell, we may have to reschedule.

Saturday July 28th, 10 a.m.: *Tour of Guy Denny's Prairie*. **No participation limit**. Meet at Guy Denny's Prairie located at 6021 Mt. Gilead Road, Fredericktown, Ohio.

Saturday, August 25th, at 10 a.m.: *Fall Shorebird Identification along Lake Erie*. **No participation limit**. Leader Jason Larson, naturalist, expert birder, and Director of the Richland County Park District and Gorman Nature Center will lead a shorebird identification field trip.

Saturday September 22nd, 10 a.m.: *Annual Prairie Seed Collecting Event at Denny's Tallgrass Prairie*. Meet at Guy Denny's residence, 6021 Mt. Gilead Road, Fredericktown, Ohio at 10:00 AM. **No participation limit**. This annual event is for those who want to collect Ohio native genotype prairie seeds to start or expand their prairie wildflower patches. Collect all the seeds you want, but please, no commercial collecting.

Oops Correction!

In the recent article about Clear Fork Gorge State Nature Preserve that appeared in the winter 2017-2018 issue of "ONAPA News," the scientific name of the round-leaved orchid was incorrectly reported as *Amerorchis rotundifolia*. Actually, this smaller species of round-leaved orchid is an Arctic and boreal species rarely occurring as far south as northern Michigan. The species of round-leaved orchid occurring in Clear Fork Gorge State Nature Preserve has the scientific name *Platanthera orbiculat*. Thanks to both botanists Allison Cusick and Steve McKee for bring this mistake to our attention. ~ Guy Denny

2017 ONAPA Year in Review

The Ohio Natural Areas & Preserves Association is an all-volunteer, state-wide non-profit professional organization established in 2012 for the sole purpose of promoting, protecting, and improving Ohio's best remaining natural areas and preserves. This is accomplished primarily through conducting "boots on the ground" stewardship work projects on nature preserves and natural areas managed by DNAP and other land managing agencies and organizations, in addition to providing in-field nature education programs for our members.

Perhaps the most important role of ONAPA is to provide assistance with habitat management projects in nature preserves primarily involving the control and removal of invasive species. This past year was very successful with 22 such stewardship work projects completed involving over 100 ONAPA volunteers plus our two ONAPA stewardship assistants.

During 2017, with dues and generous donations from our members, ONAPA was able to expand the Stewardship Assistant Program started in 2016 from one to two stewardship assistants. The Stewardship Assistant Program is designed to give recent college graduates in natural resources an opportunity to gain valuable work experience in natural area management to better prepare them for fulltime employment in this field.



West Virginia Member Trip



Lake Katharine State Nature Preserve Stewardship Project



Moss Identification ONAPA Field Trip

In addition to these stewardship projects, ONAPA provided 15 in-field nature educational programs for our members on a variety of topics from mosses, birds and lichens to ferns, dragonflies, and winter tree identification. These field trips included our out-of-state field trip to Dolly Sods Wilderness Area and Cranberry Glades Botanical Area in southeastern West Virginia. These field trips give ONAPA members an opportunity to see special natural areas and learn about these rare habitats and their flora and fauna.

Other accomplishment for 2017 include our continuing work with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to assist with establishing populations of the federally listed Lakeside Daisy on Kelley's Island as well as assisting with annual monitoring of the Ohio populations of the federally listed Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid. The ONAPA burn team, established last year, conducted spring burns at Daughmer State Nature Preserve as well as several prairies managed by the Knox County Park District. ONAPA members continue to help work on the Ohio Heritage Garden at the Governor's Residence as well as to provide year-round upkeep of the ODNR prairie at the state fair grounds. During 2017, we came out with a

new ONAPA brochure and traveling display as well as conducted a very successful annual meeting on August 19th at the Der Dutchman Restaurant in Plain, City. Instead of a three day event as in the

(Continued on page 7)

Thank You for Your Support! Newest Members & Donors

Lyndsey M. Davisson
Jan Dixon
T. Burt Dowden
Kent Environmental Council
Gregory Lipps
Bill Loebick

Dean Dorman & Jan McGonagle
Daniel F. Styer
Christine Sutter
Toledo Naturalists' Association
Turkey Run Heritage Farm



2017 ONAPA Year in Review

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past, we had speakers in the morning including keynote speaker Mitch Magdich from the Toledo Zoo who gave a program on "Bumble Bees and Other Pollinators of the Oak Openings." We then had a lunch buffet and our annual business meeting, and ended with a choice of three field trips, one to the Darby Plains prairies, a second to Columbus Metro Parks prairies & savannas, and the third to west-central Ohio fens.



Mielke Road Savanna WA Stewardship Project

And lastly, members of the ONAPA Executive Committee, spent a great deal of time down at the Ohio Statehouse meeting with numerous State Senators to remove proposed very severe cuts in the FY18-19 biennium operating budget impacting the already financially impoverished ODNR Natural Areas Program. The good news is that State Senator Frank LaRose (R) Ohio Senate District 27

and candidate for Ohio Secretary of State offered a budget amendment that would keep funding at the same level for the Natural Areas Program as in the previous operating budget. Although every senator with whom we met agreed to support Senator LaRose's amendment, in the end the amendment was removed in caucus prior to the budget bill's being sent to the Joint

Conference Committee. Very disappointing but, nevertheless, we applaud Senator LaRose's efforts to come to our aid.

It was an active and very successful year as ONAPA continues to grow and prosper thanks to the wonderful support of our membership. We anxiously looking forward to 2018 with the hopes that this be an even greater year of achievements.

~ ~ Guy Denny
ONAPA President

The BIG GIVE

The ONAPA Board would like to take this opportunity to thank the ONAPA members and friends listed below that participated in the Columbus Foundation's BIG GIVE by donating to the Ohio Natural Areas & Preserves Association. The Licking County Foundation nominated ONAPA to be a part of the BIG GIVE program for the first time. The contributions and grants made on our behalf amounted to \$4,850.00 which generated \$416.60 from the Bonus Pool for a grand total of \$5,266.60.

Over 900 non-profit organizations in the Central Ohio Area participated in the BIG GIVE and generated donations in excess of \$18.3 million during the 26 hour rally which was held on October 10th and 11th of 2017.

The Columbus Foundation, its family of donors, and corporate partners provided the \$1.3 Million Bonus Pool for the BIG GIVE. Donations received during the rally were eligible for Bonus Pool funds based on a pro rata basis. Everyone who gave had their donation(s) amplified. The funds we received will provide additional support for our Stewardship Assistant Intern Program which helps recent college graduates to gain land management skills while working on Ohio's Nature Preserves doing habitat management. It has been both beneficial to the preserves as well as the assistants by enhancing their resume for future job opportunities in this field. Again, thank you for your generous support of ONAPA.

Anonymous-2
Lester Barnhart
Lisa K. Brohl
Patricia Callis
Denis Case
Guy Denny
Christine Dille
Kathleen Duffy
Emily Eby
Clyde Gosnell

Bethany Gray
Wendy Grindstaff
Steve & Georgia
Heminghauser
Babs Janko
Janet Kohr
Michael Kohr
John Laverty
Stan Lockwood
Mary-Francis Macioce

Gwen Marshall
Nancy Ambers Massar
Susan Moore
Diana Morse
Ann & Dick Moseley
Evelyn Newell
Jeanne Reed
Eric Schaub
Mary Schilstra
Elizabeth Sidorenko

Peggy Spaeth
Nathaniel Stitzlein
William Styer
Sharon Treaster
Jane Walsh
Tom Weeks
Robert Zeitz

Help Wanted - June 23rd - Teasel Pull at Daughmer State Nature Preserve



Every year since 2012, ONAPA has conducted work trips to Daughmer Prairie Savannah State Nature Preserve in Crawford County to eradicate Common Teasel which is a very invasive non-native species. When this effort first began, right after the preserve was acquired by ODNR and sheep grazing was ended, thousands and thousands of Common Teasel plants sprung up squeezing out the native prairie plants. Every year thereafter, the work of volunteers to remove teasel from this nature preserve has paid off. Today, there are probably just a little more than 200 plants of Common Teasel present in the nature preserve. Teasel, a biennial species, has persisted because of the long-term seed bank established by since eradicated plants that went to seed before they were removed as well as by a few mature plants missed each year in our eradication efforts. But, we are just about there. With your help, it appears we are on the verge of totally eradicating teasel from Daughmer State Nature Preserve.

Please plan on joining us Saturday June 23rd at 10:00 AM at the preserve parking lot located at 786 Marion-Melmore Road, Bucyrus, Ohio, Crawford County. If you have them, bring work gloves and a long-handled shovel. Soft drinks and water will be provided. This is a very worthwhile cause that is really paying off. Save this date and hope to see you there.

News About ONAPA Membership Benefits

This issue lists our 2018 member field trips and stewardship projects. If you wish to join us for a member field trip it is important to keep your membership current.

As a current ONAPA member, you are receiving a paper copy of the Spring Newsletter issue. If you would rather prefer to **receive the newsletter by email going forward**, please let us know by emailing info@ONAPA.org. Thank you!



Ohio Natural Areas & Preserves Association

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