

ONAPA NEWS

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

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'Phantom of the woods' a memorable sight

By John Watts

Of the seven species of woodpeckers recorded from Ohio, the pileated woodpecker is the most spectacular. It is the largest species of woodpecker in North America with the exception of the probably extinct ivory-billed woodpecker. This crow-sized woodpecker is nearly 20 inches tall, has a wingspan of almost 30 inches, and weighs 10 to 16 ounces.

The generic name *Dyocopus* comes from the Greek *drys* meaning "tree", and *kopis* meaning "cleaver," literally a tree cleaver. The species name *pileatus* comes from the Latin word meaning "capped," referring to the large red crest on the head. This crest was used by North American Indians to decorate calumets (peace pipes).

Immortalized by the celebrated cartoon character Woody Woodpecker, the pileated had nearly disappeared from the eastern forest near the turn of the century. One factor causing its disappearance was the harvesting of large expanses of forest. The pileated relies heavily on trees for food and nesting sites, which were rapidly being destroyed. During the 1800's, the pileated was considered by some as a game species and was even sold in city markets for food.

Pronounced either PIE-leh-ated or PIL-eh-ated, this woodpecker has many other names such as the logcock, great black woodpecker and wood hen to name a few.

Males and females are basically black with a white strip on the wing, visible only in flight. Both possess a brilliant red crest which can be seen

with the naked eye, especially on a bright sunny day. Differentiating the male from the female can best be accomplished by noting the color of the mustache extending from the base of the bill rearward on the side of the head. The male's mustache is scarlet red while the female's is black.

In the open, the flight of the pileated is powerful and undulating. In the woods, however, they dash silently from tree to tree, flashing their black and white wing pattern. This habit has

earned them the name "the phantom of the woods."

Pileateds are, like many other woodpeckers, very vocal. Their call can be confused with the common flicker (*Colaptes auratus*); however, the pileated has a much bolder and stronger voice. They make a variety of noises; the two most common are paraphrased "cuk, cuk, cuk" and "yucka yucka yucka, yucka." One of the pioneer names, laughing woodpecker,



Photo by John Watts

Pileated woodpecker

refers to these calls.

Hearing a pileated chisel a tree for insects is an impressive sound. It has been reported that noises made by human wood cutters have attracted pileateds to an area. However, being able to watch this bird feed is an unforgettable sight. Each full stroke into the tree takes place in 1/1000 of a second. As the chips of wood begin to fly, some four to five inches long, the bird will occasionally pause, place its barbed tongue into the hole and pull out its meal. Carpenter ants (*Camponotus sp.*) are a favorite, with as many as

President's Message

ODNR deserves a budget that restores adequate funding

By Guy Denny
ONAPA President

When I retired from ODNR in April 1999 from my position as Chief of the Division of Natural Areas & Preserves, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources was adequately funded, but just barely so. Ever since, the Department has had to endure budget cut after budget cut after budget cut.

By the time the national recession struck during the Strickland Administration, 2007-2010, severe measures had to be taken in order to keep the Department afloat. One of those measures resulted in the abolishment of the Division of Natural Areas & Preserves as a stand-alone division. As the national economy began improving and the Kasich Administration came into power, we had hoped that ODNR, once again, would be adequately funded. That proved not to be the case. Crippling budget cuts continued.

Finally, with the recent election of Governor Mike DeWine, the people of Ohio elected a governor, who in the same tradition as Governor James A. Rhodes, has a deep appreciation for ODNR and a firm understanding how an adequately funded Department of Natural Resources plays a major role in sustaining a strong economy for Ohio. Governor Rhodes' slogan was "Jobs and Progress." Rhodes

understood that maintaining a strong economy meant keeping a skilled workforce in Ohio as well as providing incentives for attracting highly skilled workers from out of state.

To accomplish that, in addition to providing such amenities as good schools, a fair tax base, exceptional infrastructure, health care, etc., providing a strong Department of Natural Resources that offers outstanding recreational facilities and services for working families also fits into the equation.

Today, providing outstanding recreational facilities and services are more important than ever for younger workers and their families. Governor DeWine shares that same understanding and vision. That is why in the ODNR General Operating Revenue Budget for Fiscal Years 20-21, Governor DeWine proposed restoring adequate funding for the Department of Natural Resources. That simply makes good business sense for Ohio.

The details of that budget had not been worked out at the time we went to press with the spring issue of our ONAPA newsletter. The GRF FY 20-21 Budget has to be passed by the Ohio General Assembly and be in place by July 1, 2019.

Hopefully this summer issue of the ONAPA newsletter will be in your hands prior to the passage of the budget bill. If

so, I sincerely hope you will take the time to write or email your state senator and representative to let them know how important you believe adequately funding ODNR is for the future of all Ohioans.

If unfortunately, this newsletter does not reach you before the budget bill is passed by the Ohio General Assembly, we, nevertheless, hope you will take the time to let your elected state officials know how important you believe adequately funding for ODNR, now and in the future, is to you.

Incidentally, Mike DeWine is a life member of ONAPA. He really cares about preserving Ohio's best remaining natural areas for the benefit of this as well future generations of Ohioans. He needs your help to make this happen. So please, take the time to contact your elected officials.

Your input can make a difference. Thank you.

'Phantom of the woods,' cont'd.

(Continued from page 1)

2,600 having been found in the stomach of one pileated. Seventy-five percent of the pileated's diet is comprised of insects, ants being the major source. The remaining 25 percent consist of sumac seeds, wild grapes, poison ivy berries, and other nuts and berries.

The famous naturalist Henry David Thoreau never saw the pileated woodpecker due to its rarity. However, the chances of seeing this large woodland bird are much better today. Any of the southern Ohio nature preserves, especially Lake Katharine near Jackson, would be an excellent place to see the "Winged Paul Bunyan of the bird world."

(John Watts, Land Manager for the Columbus and Franklin County Metroparks, is one of the leading naturalists, nature photographers, and birders in Ohio. He co-authored "The Birds of Hocking County, Ohio" published in 2016 and available at www.amazon.com.)

ONAPA founding member will be missed

We are sorry to report that we have lost a dear and irreplaceable Board member, Delores Cole.

Delores was one of ONAPA's founding members, our webmaster, our newsletter editor, and an organizer of many of our events, as well as the designer of brochures and handouts. Her background in website design and maintenance, as well as membership management has been invaluable to ONAPA.

In addition to ONAPA, Delores managed the websites for six other non-profit organizations, including the Ohio Invasive Plants Council, the Ohio Wetlands Asso-

ciation, and the Ohio Prescribed Fire Council.

Delores fought a courageous battle with lung cancer and passed away May 5.

Contributions may be made in her name to the Ohio Wetlands Association and the Black Swamp Bird Observatory.

We will greatly miss her talents, incredible organizational skills, and generous heart.



Delores Cole

Lakeside Daisy Preserve 118-acre addition dedicated

By Jennifer Windus
ONAPA Vice President

After more than four years of dedicated work to obtain a land acquisition grant from the US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) and negotiations with Lafarge-Holcim to purchase 118 acres from the Lafarge Quarry in Marblehead, ODNR has been successful in acquiring the property as an addition to the Lakeside Daisy State Nature Preserve.

This is a significant addition as the current preserve is only 19 acres. It was a huge accomplishment to obtain a \$1.6 million grant from the USFWS in Region 3 (Midwestern region) for land acquisition for a Federally-listed plant.

The next challenge was to get abandoned quarry land appraised for a price that Lafarge-Holcim would accept. This took three appraisals and significant negotiation with different levels of Lafarge-Holcim to convince them this was a worthwhile sale. During the negotiations, Lafarge merged with Holcim and upper level management that had to approve the land sale changed twice.

The grant was due to expire in June 2019 and negotiations were looking grim as the third appraisal took months to complete. Finally, the appraisal was completed for just less than \$1.1 million and Lafarge-Holcim accepted the offer. The Controlling Board approved the funds and land acquisition on April 22, 2019. Amazingly, DNAP closed on the property in early May and the dedication ceremony was May 7. The property will



Ohio Governor Mike DeWine (center) with Charles Wooley, USFWS, and Mary Mertz, ODNR Director, at the May 7 preserve addition dedication.

be used primarily for Lakeside daisy recovery, so much work needs to be done to move seeds and plants from the active Lafarge Quarry to the new property as Lakeside daisy is not abundant here currently. The preserve will be accessible to the public by written permit from DNAP to protect the daisies and the impressive glacial grooves.

ONAPA was an integral part of the grant-writing, coordination with Lafarge-Holcim, coordination with the final appraiser, and continual prompting with ODNR to make this acquisition a priority during the past three to four years.

ONAPA members can be proud of this partnership and the legacy this valuable alvar habitat provides for Lakeside

daisy. This will now be the largest protected preserve for the Lakeside daisy in the U.S., with many years ahead of restoration to supplement the Lakeside daisy population on the property.

While introduced populations have been established on Kelleys Island and at Castalia Quarry Metro Park, this new acquisition provides us with hope that Lakeside daisy can thrive in Ohio on some of its original (although disturbed by quarrying) alvar landscape, protected for future generations.

Feel free to join us on September 10 for a field trip to visit this new acquisition. Go to ONAPA's website for more details and to register in advance.

Annual Meeting Saturday, August 17

Goslin Nature Center at Alley Park, Lancaster, Ohio

Speakers: Doug Wynn, John Watts, Jennifer Windus and Guy Denny

Field Trips: Rockbridge State Nature Preserve Boch Hollow State Nature Preserve
Rhododendron Cove State Nature Preserve Clear Creek MetroPark

Registration and agenda posted at www.onapa.org/onapa-annual-meeting

Summer field trips scheduled through September

ONAPA kicked off the field trip season with a visit to the Lake Erie shore May 19 with Jason Larson, director of the Richland County Park District and expert birder.

Opportunities to examine Ohio's biodiversity will continue through the summer, from exploring for odonata along the Mohican River to searching for pollinators and arachnids of the tallgrass prairie. Whether examining the health of streams, seeking out the beauty of mosses and lichens or envisioning how a new preserve will help preserve an endangered species, there is a field trip for every ONAPA member.

ONAPA field trips will last from two to three hours or longer depending on interest. Bring a snack or a bag lunch to tide you over and water. Rain dates are scheduled for some activities.

Please register for field trips by emailing Guy Denny at guydenny@centurylink.net. Except for the August 3 Field Trip to Strait Creek preserve, participation is not limited, but you must register. Don't forget to include your name and cell phone number.



Lakeside Daisy

2019 ONAPA Field Trips

Friday, June 28: *"Dragonflies, Damselflies and Other Invertebrates of the Clear Fork River Area"* with field trip leaders Judy Semroc and Larry Rosche (Rain Date July 1). Meet at 10:00 am along the Mohican River at the junction of State Route 3 and State Route 97 south of Loudonville, Ohio.

Tuesday, July 16: *"Stream Quality Monitoring on Little Beaver Creek Wild & Scenic River"* with field trip leader Matthew Smith, NE Ohio Assistant Regional Scenic River Manager (Rain Date July 25). Meet at 11:00 am at Beaver Kettle Farm Cabin, East Liverpool.

Saturday, July 27: *"Bumble Bees of the Prairie"* in Knox County at Denny's Prairie with field trip leader Dr. Randy Mitchell, Akron University. Meet at 1:00 pm at Denny's Prairie in Knox County, west of Fredericktown, Ohio.

Saturday, August 3: *"Exploring TNC's Strait Creek Bluffs Prairie"* with renowned field botanist and naturalist, Andrew Gibson, the "Buckeye Botanist." Meet at 10:30 am. Participation will be limited to the first 15 people who register.

Saturday, August 24: *"On the Hunt for Ohio Spiders"* with field trip leader Dr. Richard Bradley. Meet at 11:00 am at Denny's Prairie in Knox County west of Fredericktown, Ohio.

Saturday, August 31: *"Mosses of a Limestone Woodland."* Meet at 10:00 am at Indian Mounds Reserve in Greene County with field trip leader Dr. Robert Klips.

Tuesday, September 10: *"A Visit to the New Addition to the Lakeside Daisy Preserve."* Meet at the Lakeside Daisy State Nature Preserve on Alexander Pike at 10:30 am with field trip leaders Jennifer Windus and Guy Denny.

You must register to participate: email guydenny@centurylink.net with your name and cell phone number. More information on 2019 field trips is available at:

www.onapa.org/onapa-field-trips

Lake Katharine preserve protects unique natural heritage thanks to early partnership

By Dick Moseley

It is amazing how things work out as life experiences bring about certain future actions. In this particular instance it brought about the preservation of this unique nature preserve.

Steve Warner, who was an original staff member of the Natural Areas Program, served as a naturalist at the summer camp at Lake Katharine while in college at OSU. At the time, he had no idea how his background at the camp and his familiarity with the area would one day lead him to its preservation as a State Nature Preserve many years later.

Steve approached Edwin A. Jones and James J. McKitterick, who were the owners of this private retreat, about preserving this beautiful property as a nature preserve. With Jim McKitterick's poor health and Eddie's desire to see that the property be protected rather than be developed, they were amenable to working with the Division to acquire the property. In the end, the preserve was the first preserve acquired by a gift-sale arrangement where part of the land was donated and part was sold to the state which had certain tax advantages for the business partners.

The state acquired the 1,467 acre property in 1976, making it the largest preserve in the system at that time. Lake Katharine was later dedicated as an Interpretive and Scientific Nature Preserve on July 19, 1977. Governor Jim Rhodes, a friend of Eddie Jones and Jim McKitterick, spoke at the dedication ceremony, thanking his friends for helping preserve Ohio's natural heritage by donating a portion of this unique area. Today, Lake Katharine is 1,850 acres in size, second only to Clear Creek Preserve, the largest, at 3,045 acres.

Due to their foresight and generosity, we are fortunate to be able to enjoy this outstanding natural area and its many habitats. Virginia pines, oak and mountain-laurel dominate the dry ridge tops of the towering sandstone bluffs and sheer rock faces that plunge into the beautiful clear-water lake named for Eddie Jones' wife Katharine. The hemlocks, relics of colder times when the climate was influenced by the nearby continental glacier, line the shores of Lake Katharine, giving one the impression that they are on a lake somewhere in Can-

ada. The rich Appalachian forest community is cut by three deep ravines with glacial relic trees of hemlock and sweet birch as well as sweet gum and beech.

The preserve has outstanding flora with a variety of wildflowers at all three blooming seasons of the year. Spring wildflowers are abundant in late April to early May along the one mile loop Calico Bush Trail and includes a variety of trilliums, violets, corydalis, orchids, lilies, and the rare *Sullivantia* as well as the June blooming Mountain laurel or Calico bush for which the trail is named. If you want to see the Bigleaf Mag-



Photo by Ian Adams

nolias, then the two-mile Salt Creek Trail or Pine Ridge Trail will take you to large stands of this species as well as the other magnolias (Cucumber and Umbrella).

These three species and the Tulip tree are all found on the preserve and it is one of the few sites in Ohio to have all four members of the magnolia family. Stands of River birch are also found along the Salt Creek floodplain. A variety of asters and other members of the sunflower

family occur along the trails of the preserve in the fall.

But the visit is not complete unless one takes in the geology of the site. It may be one of the first things you notice about the preserve. The massive walls of the Sharon conglomerate dwarf the visitor as you walk along the trails and are easily one of the most impressive elements of a trip to Lake Katharine. Notice that the walls have lenses of rounded quartz pebbles of various thicknesses throughout the rock formation.

There are also recess rock shelters that are smaller than those in the Hocking Hills but one is a junior size Ash Cave on the Scientific section of the Preserve (accessed by permit only). All in all, you will be awed by the geological forces that have shaped this amazing preserve.

If you plan to visit the area, the preserve is located in Liberty Township of Jackson County. From Jackson, go two miles west on State Street which becomes CR 76, then turn north on CR 85 (Lake Katharine Road), and proceed two miles to the preserve.

Enjoy your visit!

Half of U.S. native magnolias at home in Ohio

By Guy Denny

One may generally think of flowering magnolia trees as being symbolic of the Deep South along with stately plantations and Live Oaks draped with Spanish moss. Actually, of the eight species of magnolias native to the United States, four species of magnolias are native right here in Ohio. They are the Cucumber-tree (*Magnolia acuminata*), Tulip-tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), Umbrella Magnolia (*Magnolia tripetala*), and the Bigleaf Magnolia (*Magnolia macrophylla*); with the latter two species being quite rare in Ohio.

The magnolia family (*Magnoliaceae*) is represented by two genera in North America, *Magnolia* and *Liriodendron*. This family has a very ancient lineage. Fossil records of numerous, now extinct, magnolia species have been found dating back to around 60 million years ago to the upper Cretaceous Period, about the time when dinosaurs disappeared. Many taxonomists consider the least specialized types of floral structure to be the most primitive. Therefore, on this basis, the magnolias are considered to be among the world's most primitive flowering trees. They are thought to be the first plants to bear seeds in a protective ovary or fruit.

The Tulip-tree is the most abundant and widespread magnolia in North America. It is one of the tallest and most valuable hardwood trees in the eastern United States. Its characteristic straight, self-pruning, limbless trunk reaches a

height of about 125 feet, but has been known to grow as high as 198 feet and with a diameter greater than twelve feet. Although foresters and lumbermen refer to this species as yellow poplar, that common name is a misnomer since this species is a magnolia and not even a close relative to the genus *Populus*, the poplar trees.

The genus *Liriodendron* comes from the Greek *lirion*, "lily or tulip" and *dendron*, "tree". The showy, yet not overly conspicuous, tulip-like flowers of this tree appear in mid-June after the new leaves unfold from their distinctive duck-billed shaped buds. The specific epithet *tulipifera* is of Latin origin in reference to the tulip-like flowers which are about tulip size and bear six greenish-yellow petals, each with a bright orange patch at its base.

Although the Cucumber-tree is a large tree attaining a height of about 80-90 feet, unlike the Tulip-tree, it is not abundant enough to be commercially important for its lumber.

However, it is the hardiest of the magnolia trees in North America. Consequently, its seedlings are used as root stock on which several varieties of ornamental magnolias are grafted and sold. Nowhere is this species common. Rather it tends to be scattered throughout the forest mixed in with other species of trees. In Ohio it occurs mostly in the eastern

(Continued on page 7)



Photos by Guy Denny

Native Ohio magnolia flowers: Top: Cucumber-Tree (left), Tulip-Tree (right).
Bottom: Umbrella Magnolia (left) Bigleaf Magnolia (right).



Characteristic features of the Cucumber-tree magnolia: leaf, bud, flower and fruit.

(Continued from page 6)

half of the state, but more frequently in the northern part of the Allegheny Plateau. Like the Tulip-tree, this species is also chiefly Appalachian in range but does extend as far northward as southern Ontario, Canada.

The genus *Magnolia* was named in honor of Pierre Magnal, an early eighteenth century professor of botany from Montpellier, France. The specific epithet *acuminata* meaning “pointed”, refers to the abruptly acuminate or sharp-pointed leaves. The common name Cucumber-tree refers to the fleshy fruit resembling a miniature, 2-4 inch long cucumber. Although green at first, the fruit turns rose-colored when ripe and then releases several one-half inch long bright scarlet seeds, which hang suspended by long slender threads from the fruit for some time before falling to the ground. This seed dispersal mechanism is also shared with both the next two species of native Ohio magnolias which also have similar cucumber-like looking fruit.

The unusual bell-shaped flowers of the Cucumber-tree appear in late May and are only 1 ½ to 2 inches wide, significantly smaller than those of the other magnolias. These flowers are very inconspicuous since they are essentially the same greenish-yellow color as the spring foliage.

The Umbrella Magnolia is a small tree which usually doesn't attain a height over 30 feet. This is also a species of the Appalachian Mountains where it is rare and local from southern Pennsylvania, south to southern Alabama, west to central Kentucky and southwestern Arkansas. It is a state listed, disjunct species in Ohio, known primarily only from Scioto and Jackson countries. The specific epithet *tripetala* means “with three petals”, referring to the three petal-like sepals. Actually, there are six or nine creamy-white petals. The not especially fragrant large flowers that appear in late May, are about 6 to 11 inches in diameter. The large tropical-looking leaves, which are 18 to 25 inches long, are often clustered near the ends of the branches in an umbrella-like manner, giving rise to the common name Umbrella Magnolia.

The Bigleaf Magnolia is the rarest and most spectacular of all our magnolias. When the famous French botanist and explorer, Andre' Michaux named this species *macrophylla*,

meaning “large-leaved,” he was making reference to the fact that this species has the largest entire leaves of any tree in North America. Unlike the similar yet smaller leaves of the Umbrella Magnolia which are tapered at both ends, the leaves of the Bigleaf Magnolia are 20 to 30 inches long and distinctively narrowly cordate (heart shaped) at the base.

No less spectacular than its giant leaves are the giant showy flowers of the Bigleaf Magnolia that appear in June, well after flowering of the Umbrella Magnolia. Each flower is 12 to 18 inches in diameter with six white petals, each of which has a distinctive rose-colored spot at the base. Bigleaf Magnolia can attain a height of nearly 60 feet. It also tends to occupy the higher and drier areas of ravines than the smaller sized Umbrella Magnolia. The Bigleaf Magnolia relatively rare, widely scattered throughout the Piedmont region of North Carolina, south to Florida and west to Kentucky and Louisiana.

In Ohio, this disjunct state endangered species is known only from the Rock Run area of Jackson County. The bulk of the Ohio population is protected within the boundaries of Lake Katharine State Nature Preserve, along with a large population of Umbrella Magnolias. Both of these species are Teays Age relicts. They reached Ohio millions of years ago via the preglacial age Teays River System corridor that had its headwaters in the Piedmont region of North Carolina. Continental glaciation during the last Ice Age subsequently buried the Teays System, giving rise to the present-day Ohio River System while eliminating most Teays Age relicts from Ohio.

However, some of these plant relicts, including both the Umbrella and Bigleaf magnolias, survived in scattered protected areas, disjunct, or well outside their present range. They remain today as part of our diverse and fascinating Ohio natural heritage.

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Ohio Natural Areas & Preserves Association

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SAVE THE DATE: The ONAPA Annual Meeting will be Saturday, August 17 at the Goslin Nature Center at Alley Park, south of Lancaster, Ohio. To register and for more information, go to www.ONAPA.org/onapa-annual-meeting.