



ONAPA NEWS

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VOLUME 1 ISSUE 2

FALL - WINTER 2013

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

2013 Year in Review

By Dick Mosley

This year ONAPA members participated in numerous activities and work projects across the state. Listed below are highlights of these activities and projects:

District which funded the materials for the boardwalk. The Columbus Audubon work group has been doing projects on nature preserves for thirty-one years and this project was just one of eight planned for the year. The project was carried out by twenty volunteers and all enjoyed the weather, work and hot lunch. The Licking County Park staff was very impressed with what was accomplished in a day.



Seed collecting at Guy Denny's Prairie
Photo by Delores Cole

Garden, tours can be scheduled on most Tuesdays throughout the year.

On June 1st, ONAPA, the Columbus Audubon Society, Mohican Native Plant Society and Crawford County Park volunteers worked on removing teasel from Daughmer Prairie Nature Preserve. Twenty-eight volunteers worked throughout the day digging teasel rosettes and plants and cutting other invasive plants from the new nature preserve in Crawford County near Bucyrus. Daughmer Prairie is a Bur Oak-Savannah and is a remnant of the Sandusky Plains Prairie which once covered Crawford, Marion, and part of Wyandot Counties in Pioneer times.

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ONAPA volunteers were involved in several projects this field season. Our volunteers assisted the Columbus Audubon Society in building 137 feet of boardwalk at Morris Woods Nature Preserve in Licking County on March 13th. This preserve is owned by DNAP but is being managed by the Licking County Park

Twenty-four members and guests took a tour of the Ohio Heritage Garden at the Governor's Residence in Columbus on May 15th. Former First Lady Hope Taft was our tour guide and she discussed how the Heritage Garden came about and its growth and development during her time living at the Governor's Residence. The Heritage Garden showcases the various plant communities typical in each of the five major physiographic regions of Ohio. If you have not toured the Heritage

PRESERVE PROFILE

Fowler Woods State Nature Preserve

When the first Euro-American explorers pushed across the Appalachian Mountains into what is now Ohio in the eighteenth century, they found a land magnificently forested. The trees were old and they were big, rising eighty feet and more to the first limb. A hollow sycamore on the Scioto River was broad enough to shelter twenty men on horseback with room to spare.

After two centuries of clearing for agriculture, industry and urbanization, that original forest was all but gone. Of the twenty-five million acres of old-growth forest growing in Ohio in 1800, only four million acres of woodlots were left by 1940, and of this remnant, only one million acres contained trees large enough to cut for timber. Ohio's ancient forest had been shattered with only a few scattered shards to show that it had ever existed.

One of these pieces is protected today within Fowler Woods State Nature Preserve fifteen miles north of Mansfield. These 133 acres were part of a section of

land purchased in 1832 from the Federal government by John Dobbin. No one knows why he preserved fifty acres of original forest on his farm, but by 1917 when the land was bought by the Fowlers, the old woods was still there. For the next fifty-four years the Fowlers protected this priceless remnant of natural Ohio in spite of tempting offers from salivating lumbermen. In 1971, the Fowler family finally sold the farm with its old-growth

woodlot. The buyer was the State of Ohio and Fowler Woods was dedicated in 1973 as Ohio's first state nature preserve purchased with state dollars.

In addition to the 50 acre old-growth forest, the preserve contains thirty acres of woodland nearing maturity and 54 acres of former farm fields reverting to forest. The area's location on the edge of the St. Johns Moraine, a ridge of hummocky topography marking an edge of the retreating Wisconsin glacier, adds to its diversity. The Beechdrop Trail (1.3 miles long) and the Buttonbush Trail (.6 miles) wind across the moraine where a beech-maple forest occupies the higher ground and swamp forest fills the poorly-drained dips, with a buttonbush swamp holding water throughout most of the year. The Crataegus Trail (.6 miles), named for the dense growth of hawthorns it passes through, drops off the moraine onto the flatter ground moraine where the rapidly-retreating glacier dropped its load of ground-up rock as a flat sheet.

These differing environments support an amazingly varied plant community. Some 212 species of wildflowers and ferns and 58 species of trees and shrubs can be found in this small area. The spring wildflower display can only be described as spectacular, a show which can be attributed to the fact that the woods were evidently never grazed. The plant community in turn supports an equally varied animal community, most notably warblers and salamanders.

But interesting though all that might be, it is the oldest trees that attract the most attention, and rightfully so considering how rare such things are in Ohio these days. Walking among these hoary giants, modern Ohioans can catch a glimpse of how the original forest functioned, from the sprouting of a sapling to the death, fall and decay of an aged patriarch—the eternal cycle of birth and death leading to renewed life that is often obscured in our artificially protected world. That alone makes a trip to Fowler Woods State Nature Preserve well worth the effort.

Fowler Woods is located at the junction of Olivesburg-Fitchville Road and Noble Road six miles northwest of Olivesburg in Richland County.



Fowler Woods State Nature Preserve
Photo by Jan Kennedy

Guest Editorial: The Role of ONAPA in Ohio today?

By Joe Sommer, Retired ODNR Director

There had been concern for many years in Ohio with regard to protecting and managing the state's unique natural areas, geologic formations and endangered species of both plants and animals. This was really a work in progress spanning many years. It culminated in 1975 with the passing of legislation that created the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves within the Department of Natural Resources.

Since that time a great deal of progress has been made. The Division, working with the Natural Areas Council, has made acquisitions and dedicated nature preserves in all parts of the state. The Scenic Rivers program was an important addition to the Division's responsibilities. Educational opportunities were a natural and important adjunct to the work of the Division.

When I became Director of ODNR, the Division was carrying on a very busy and vibrant operation with many dedicated employees. While funding is always a concern, we had sufficient

appropriations to carry out our statutory responsibilities. Unfortunately, as the state's fiscal problems grew, DNR was faced with many reductions in funding and difficult decisions had to be made. The Division of Natural Areas took the brunt of the cuts to the point that the Division's programs were incorporated into the Division of Parks. Thanks to the efforts of two former Chief's, Richard Moseley and Guy Denny, along with many other friends and supporters, some funding was secured and the Division's identity was maintained.

While I believe the Division of Parks is working to preserve the Division's Natural Areas programs as best they can, they have their own fiscal concerns and I am sure that these will take priority. Out of real concern for all the work that had been done and the acquisitions made since 1975, the two

former Chief's planted the seed for the creation of the Natural Areas and Preserves Association. This has now grown into a statewide organization made up of friends and supporters of the Division. Many of Ohio's leading scientists, naturalists and conservationists have joined together as members of the Association to assist in carrying out its goals.

These goals, as I see it, include ongoing efforts to maintain and protect, as much as possible, the existing preserves and natural areas. This means working with the Division of Parks to help provide the expertise needed to keep these areas from regressing. In addition, the

Association must expand its membership and recruit volunteers to assist in the maintenance effort. Local governments and existing like-minded organizations should be invited to assist.

Most importantly, ONAPA must embark on an aggressive campaign with members of the General Assembly and the Administration to educate

them on the importance of the Division's programs, on the millions of dollars the state has invested in these programs and their duty to protect that investment. The ultimate goal, of course, is to provide adequate funding to reestablish the DNAP in its former role as a separate Division within DNR.

To accomplish this, ONAPA must embark on a membership campaign to create chapters throughout the state. Direction and leadership will come through the Board of Directors. Local chapters can work directly with their members of the General Assembly. This is most effective. Our legislators must understand the benefits of the Natural Areas programs are not only for today but also for all our citizens in future years. We cannot lose what has been accomplished over the past nearly forty years.

... the Association must expand its membership and recruit volunteers to assist in the maintenance effort.

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

(Continued from page 1)

This preserve is owned by DNAP but is managed by the Crawford County Park District. Several Volunteers from ONAPA have been continuing to cut teasel periodically throughout the season to reduce the production of seed by this non-native species.

Several ONAPA volunteers assisted Jenny Finfera of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in collecting seeds of Lakeside daisy on May 29th from portions of the Lafarge Quarry on the Marblehead peninsula for

ONAPA members were treated to a tour of ONAPA President Guy Denny's 22 acre Tallgrass Prairie in Knox County on July 20. With fine weather and lots of spring moisture the prairie was spectacular and those attending enjoyed Guy's interpretive hike through his prairie. Guy discussed the history of prairies in Ohio and their occurrences in areas of the state and identified the various species growing in the prairie.

Guy invited those attending to come back on September 28th to collect seed for those who wanted to grow their own little prairie patch. During the September tour, he discussed methods and techniques for creating and managing your own prairie. The thirty members and guests attending not only enjoyed collecting seed, but also the fellowship and a day in the prairie.



Honeysuckle Blitz at Clifton Gorge State Nature Preserve
Photo by Tim Snyder

ONAPA volunteers worked at the Honeysuckle Blitz at Clifton Gorge State Nature Preserve on November 2nd organized by the Cincinnati Wild Flower Preservation Society in cooperation with ODNR. Nearly 200 volunteers made it the largest volunteer effort yet to remove this invasive species from the preserve. ONAPA along with nearly 30 other organizations in southwestern Ohio

financially sponsored this project. The weather was great, the barbeque grill-out lunch was delicious, and several acres of honeysuckle were removed making the project a success. Kudos to the Cincinnati Wild Flower Preservation Society and its members Christine Hadley and Jim Mason for planning and organizing this successful project. Christine and Jim are also ONAPA members and Jim is one of our newest ONAPA Board members.

A big **Thank You** to all who worked on the various projects this field season! With your help we can plan and carry out more projects next field season on the preserves.

planting at Kelley's Island State Park. The seeds were dispersed in previous planting sites within the state park in November.

On October 2nd, eight ONAPA volunteers helped Jenny of the USF&WS move 269 Lakeside daisy plants from an area scheduled to be mined at the Lafarge Quarry and transplant them to an area at Kelley's Island State Park where previous plants had been transplanted and are thriving. Lakeside daisy is a Federal Threatened species and an Ohio Endangered species. The Marblehead peninsula quarry, the Lakeside Daisy State Nature Preserve and the sites on Kelley's Island are presently the only viable populations of this plant in the United States.

Daughmer Prairie is a Bur Oak-Savannah and is a remnant of the Sandusky Plains Prairie which once covered Crawford, Marion, and part of Wyandot Counties in Pioneer times.

Meet Your New Board Members



Robin W. Green-is the President of Hidden Creek, Limited, and is responsible for the creation and development of Hidden Creek at the Darby, a unique 604 acre planned community located along Darby Creek. Ms. Green has received a number of national awards for her environmentally sensitive development, illustrating how competing demands of conservation and growth can be balanced while protecting the health of the ecosystem. She has served as a corporate real estate attorney with the international law firm of Squire, Sanders and Dempsey. Robin also served as Executive Director of the Ohio Chapter of the The Nature Conservancy and currently serves as a Board member for the Trust for Public Lands in Ohio. She was appointed by Governor Voinovich to the Environmental Quality Improvement Council and to the Governor's Blue Ribbon Task Force on Water Resources Planning and Development.

"ONAPA's mission is to educate and inform Ohioans as to the value, purpose, and status of natural areas, nature preserves and biodiversity protection."

She was appointed by Governor Voinovich to the Environmental Quality Improvement Council and to the Governor's Blue Ribbon Task Force on Water Resources Planning and Development.



Jim Mason- is owner of Horticultural Management Inc., a commercial landscape company. He is a professional in the restoration of natural landscapes and an expert on invasive plant removal. Jim was President of the B-W Greenway Community Land Trust (B-WGCLT) and is the site manager for Hebble Creek Wetland Reserve, a Greene County Park District natural area. He volunteers extensively in the community to help with invasive plant control including B-WGCLT, Western Wildlife Corridor (land trust), Cincinnati Wildflower Preservation Society, Cincinnati Wild Ones as well as the Clark County Park District at their Medway site. Jim is a life member of the Cincinnati Wild Flower Preservation Society and has volunteered with the Beaver Creek

Wetlands Association doing invasive plant management.

First Annual Meeting a Great Success

The first ONAPA Annual Meeting was a great success with 74 members and guests attending the meeting and banquet which was held at Der Dutchman Restaurant near Belleville, Ohio. The banquet meal was served family style and the food was plentiful and enjoyable. Dr. David Brandenburg was the keynote speaker after the meal and his presentation, "Botanical Travels from Coast to Coast", was both informative and absolutely entertaining due to his humor and timing that kept us in stitches. Brandenburg is the author of the National Wildlife Federation's *Field Guild to Wildflowers of North America* and has a seat on ONAPA's Scientific Advisory Committee. His presentation highlighted the adventures he encountered as he traveled throughout North America seeking plants from Alaska and Canada to Mexico and every state in between. His wildflower photographs and anecdotes were wonderful. We also had a silent auction that raised \$150.00 for the organization's endeavors. Thanks to all members who donated items for the silent auction.

Despite the wet weather, the field trips to Clear Fork Gorge, Fowler Woods and Daughmer Prairie were enjoyed by all. A big Thank You goes to Cheryl Harner and Delores Cole for planning and making arrangements for all the activities involved with the Annual Meeting, banquet and field trips.



Banquet Keynote:
Dr. David Brandenburg
Photo by Tim Snyder

2014 ONAPA Members' Tour Schedule Announced



Swamp Milkweed
Photo by Jan Kennedy

Looking for a chance (or several) to visit some of Ohio's most notable natural areas under the guidance of trip leaders who know the areas intimately? ONAPA is offering the following opportunities for members and their guests in 2014.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

April 19, 2014:

Fowler Woods State Nature Preserve spring wildflower walk with Dick Moseley

May 3, 2014:

Clifton Gorge State Nature Preserve wildflowers and geology with Tim Snyder

May 3, 2014:

Clear Creek State Nature Preserve bird walk with Columbus & Franklin County MetroParks naturalist John Watts

May 12-13, 2014:

Lafarge Alvar Lakeside Daisy tour with Jennifer Windus, Cheryl Harner, Guy Denny and Tim Snyder.

May 24, 2014:

Tour of the Oak Openings of Northwestern Ohio with Guy Denny

June 28, 2014:

Ecology of Lake Erie Beaches with Dr. James K. Bissell

July 12, 2014:

Tour of Chaparral Prairie SNP with Dick Moseley

July 26, 2014:

Dragonflies of Ohio's Wetlands & Streams with Dr. Jim Davidson

August 9, 2014:

Wetland walk at Tinker's Creek State Nature Preserve with Ray Stewart

September 6, 2014:

Late summer wildflowers at Shawnee State Forest with Dick Moseley and Guy Denny

September 27, 2014:

Prairie seed collecting at Knox County Prairie with Dick Moseley and Guy Denny

October 25, 2014:

Hocking" fall color and Geology walk with Tim Snyder

November 22, 2014:

Upper Cuyahoga Waterfowl Watch with Geauga County Chief Naturalist Dan Best



Pileated Woodpecker family
Photo by Warren Uxley

Contributions To Ohio's Natural Areas Tax Checkoff Program Protect Your State Nature Preserves

Each year, Ohio's most pristine natural areas are better protected thanks to donations to Ohio's Natural Areas Tax Checkoff Program. These donations directly and immediately help the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves (DNAP) manage a system of 136 nature preserves, totaling 30,000 acres, across the state.

These important natural areas - which include prairie landscapes, forested wilderness, deep valleys, high hills, gorges, natural bridges, waterfalls, and winding streams – are protected in perpetuity and managed for the rare species and habitats that occur within them.

Visitors are invited to explore many of these preserves, which are open daily from dawn to dusk, and activities such as bird watching, hiking, nature study and wildlife photography are highly encouraged.

State Nature Preserves are sanctuaries for rare plants and animals - 40% of Ohio's endangered species, and 58% of Ohio's threatened species, are represented and protected within them. As tax payers, Ohioan's should take pride in protecting these magnificent natural areas for conservation, recreation, and enjoyment for generations to come.

The majority of the Division's funding for "on the ground" conservation action comes from the Natural Areas Tax Checkoff Program. This money is used specifically for new land purchases,

facility upkeep, ecological management and research, and educational activities for all ages throughout the year. Since its inception more than 30 years ago, the tax checkoff program has received widespread public support. Over two million donations have been made, providing over \$16 million for natural land conservation and management. Yet many native plants and animals are threatened with elimination from Ohio. High quality natural areas are being lost faster than they are being saved. The Natural Areas Tax Checkoff Program provides a convenient and efficient way for all Ohioans to support nature conservation.

The majority of the Division's funding for "on the ground" conservation action comes from the Natural Areas Tax Checkoff Program.

Income Tax Return (line 20b of the 1040EZ form). Contributions made on the 2013 tax return, filed in 2014, are considered deductible charitable donations made in 2014.

As tax season approaches, we hope that you will remember the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves when filing your state income tax return – and join us in protecting Ohio's natural treasures, forever.

"State Nature Preserves are sanctuaries for rare plants and animals - 40% of Ohio's endangered species, and 58% of Ohio's threatened species, are represented and protected within them. "

Ohioans can donate all or part of their state income tax refund by checking "Natural areas" on line 27b of the 1040 Individual





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 to 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.
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



Remember ONAPA when planning your Year End Charitable Donations

ONAPA is a privately supported, not-for-profit, state-wide membership organization. Our tax ID is 45-5080814. Your donation is fully tax-deductible and can be made online using PayPal at www.onapa.org.

Shop using AmazonSmile to Help ONAPA



Through the new [AmazonSmile](#) program, Amazon will donate a portion of your Amazon purchases to a participating charity of choice. Please consider choosing the Ohio Natural Areas & Preserves Association (ONAPA) as a beneficiary of your purchases by shopping through [AmazonSmile](#) (www.smile.amazon.com). And please encourage your family and friends to choose us too!

With your help, we can help to protect Ohio's natural legacy!

Give Something Back, Join us for a Work Trip

ONAPA is sponsoring a series of work trips to help our state nature preserve managers tackle those nefarious invasive plants that threaten to crowd out important native species. Volunteers are welcome. If you have not yet registered as a volunteer, sign-up forms will be available as you arrive at the site. Bring sturdy gloves, sun screen, water and a lunch, and dress appropriately for both the site and the predicted weather. See you in the field!



Daughmer Savannah State Nature Preserve

April 26, 2014: Myersville Fen invasive woody species removal

May 31, 2014: Daughmer Savannah teasel pull

June 21, 2014: Compass Plant woody species removal

July 19, 2014: Springville Marsh experimental work on a sedge meadow to remove invasives

October 11, 2014: Kent Bog buckthorn removal

November 1, 2014: Jackson Bog woody species removal



Spiderwort

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



Volunteer Help Wanted!

You already know that currently we are an entirely volunteer organization. We could use your help with our many projects and activities. If you have the interest and skill set to help create a really great Ohio conservation organization that looks after our finest natural areas, please visit our website at www.onapa.org and select VOLUNTEERING and then VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES to fill in our online

volunteer form. Amongst the skills needed, we are looking for people to help with the following:

Preserve Monitors: Visit a nature preserve or other significant natural area on a regular basis and report any problems you see to ONAPA. See Jan Kennedy's article on the ONAPA Volunteer Monitors Committee in this issue of the News.

Work Trip Volunteers and Leaders: There is more work to do than any manager can handle. We will have several work trips this year to state nature preserves and want to build a network of skilled leaders to assist in future projects. You can learn to lead projects and assist managers once your skill set meets their needs. We will help train you to recognize the invasive species requiring removal and the look-alike native ones that should not be harmed. We have a short introduction to planning work trips written by Katryn Renard, who has led these trips to preserves for over thirty years.



Social Marketing: If you are experienced with marketing, media relations, or advertising and want to donate your time to a great cause, we need your help!

Serve on a Committee: Committees include Communications (help with marketing, membership development, and social media), a subcommittee to develop chapter guidelines (seeking local leaders who already help with preserve management and may or may not belong to an existing tax exempt group), Volunteer Coordination, and Development (grant writing, fundraising, etc.).

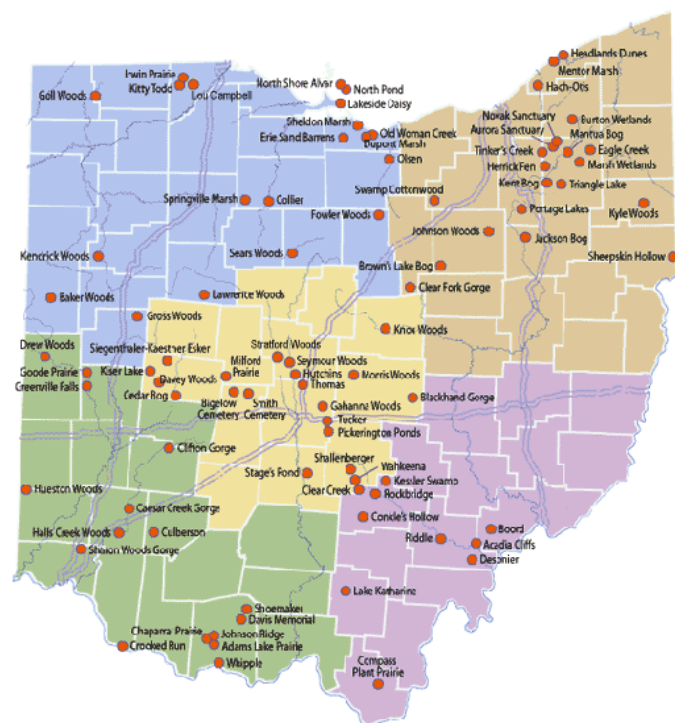
Outreach Coordination: Help build our database of contacts. Examples include getting a list of Ohio colleges and universities with natural areas, identifying locations for distribution of our membership information, and identifying meetings for our tabletop display.

ONAPA Volunteer Monitors Committee

The goal of the Volunteer Monitoring Program is to recruit one or more monitors for each State Nature Preserve. The plan that is being formulated will call for volunteer monitors who will work together with the following regional coordinators, depending on the district (the districts are not yet finalized): Barb Andreas, Tim Snyder, John Jaeger, and Jan Kennedy. The regional coordinators will encourage and recruit monitors who live in proximity to the Preserves to become interested stakeholders. The coordinators will also be close enough to the sites to respond to requests if the monitors have questions and concerns about what they have observed.

What is a preserve monitor?

Volunteer monitors will provide extra eyes and ears to help ONAPA alert preserve managers to basic problems that may be present in the Preserves such as vandalism, invasive species, litter, broken boardwalks, trees down on trails/boardwalks, deteriorating signage, etc. The monitors' reports will be sent to Jan Kennedy, chairman of the committee. Jan will forward them to the DNAP botanist Rick Gardner. The Volunteer Monitoring Committee is working with Rick now and he has been getting some reports. He appreciates receiving them and is looking forward to receiving more. This data will help to identify potential volunteer work days and projects.



There will be training sessions for volunteers to learn about the various invasive species that are threatening the ecological integrity of the Preserves.

Volunteer monitors can write up descriptions of what they have observed, or a Monitoring form can be downloaded from our website under VOLUNTEERING and PRESERVE MONITORING.

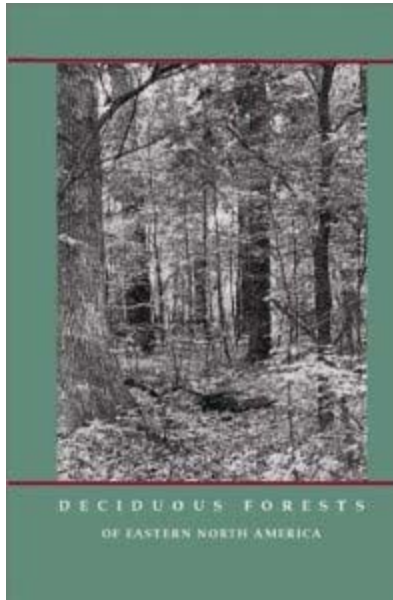
If there is a State Nature Preserve that you are interested in monitoring, please contact Jan Kennedy at JanaTK720@gmail.com, or by phone at 419-564-7778.

Volunteer monitors will provide extra eyes and ears to help ONAPA alert preserve managers to basic problems that may be present in the Preserves ...

Book Nook: *Deciduous Forests of Eastern North America*

E. Lucy Braun, Ph.D., Hafner Publishing Co. 1967 596 pp.

E. Lucy Braun's Deciduous Forests resulted from 25 years of study and over 65,000 miles of travel during a time that included the disruptions of World War II.



E. Lucy Braun's *Deciduous Forests* resulted from 25 years of study and over 65,000 miles of travel during a time that included the disruptions of World War II. But Lucy was never less than indefatigable, and although some of her conclusions may not be accepted today, the book remains a classic work of research. Her purpose, as explained in the preface, was to reconstruct the pattern of the original forest, to present data on the composition of forest communities, and to trace through time the development of the present pattern of forest distribution—an ambitious program, but one which she fulfills admirably. Here the reader will find discussions of, among other things, the now-familiar forest associations such as the beech-maple and oak-hickory, paleobotanic history, disjunct species, and forest development as related to the physiographic history of the eastern United States. Nine maps, 91 tables and plenty of photographs exhibit Lucy's

commitment to the data. For anyone wondering how Ohio's forests fit into the bigger picture, *Deciduous Forests* remains one of the best resources. Although long out of print, the book can still be found in libraries (especially those at research centers such as universities) and occasionally for sale on the internet and in specialty book shops. It is a book well worth adding to your personal library.

The Interminable Forest

By Tim Snyder



Beech-maple Forest

Some things which our forebears experienced are forever lost to us. Take their perception of the great forests of the Midwest, for instance. Words like "unending," "dreary," and "limitless" crop up often in written descriptions of the woodlands encountered by the pioneers. Such

words hardly describe the scattered woodlots of our present landscape.

In part, the difference is due to the success those same pioneers had in "conquering" the unending, dreary, limitless forest. With axe, saw and fire they

attacked the trees, remaking their surroundings into an image of the pastoral European landscape most of them associated with "civilization." A few patches of ancient old-growth forest still survive in Ohio, but none of them are big enough to get lost in. Not one requires more than a few minutes of serious walking to go from one side to the other. In most of them the edge of the forest can easily be seen from the center. Even in the larger blocks of second and third growth forest that now cloth our southern hills, a hiker is never more than a mile from an old road, an abandoned farmstead, a brushy field or some other evidence of human activity.

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The woods have become a plaything, a pleasant past-time, a hobby—not the vital, life-defining presence they once were.

Along with this physical shrinking of the forest has come a perceptual shrinking. In 1764, it took Colonel Bouquet's army nearly a month of intense marching to get from Fort Pitt (present Pittsburg, Pennsylvania) to the Forks of the Muskingum (Coshocton, Ohio). A quarter of a century later it took Griffith Foos four and one-half days to move his family the forty miles from Franklinton on the Scioto (now Columbus) to Springfield. You can see a lot of trees at one or two miles an hour. No wonder the forest seemed interminable.

Improvements in transportation came slowly. By 1835 the canal system was fairly established in Ohio. Bulk goods like grain could be moved more cheaply and efficiently, but not necessarily more rapidly. Any canal boat caught going over three miles an hour could be fined for speeding. The purpose was to prevent erosion to the canal banks, but practically the speed of a boat was limited by the speed at which the mules pulling it could walk. Find a lonely country road somewhere (it had better be *very* lonely!) and try keeping your car moving at three miles an hour. Chances are, it will idle faster than that.

Is it any wonder that the forests seemed endless to our ancestors? Not only have

we lost the vast expanse of woodlands they experienced, we have gained perceptions they never thought possible. Back then it was widely believed that the human body could not survive traveling at a mile a minute. Now we get upset when we are forced to follow a car going only sixty miles an hour. For them a trip across the country was a one-time affair—you moved to Oregon and *stayed* there

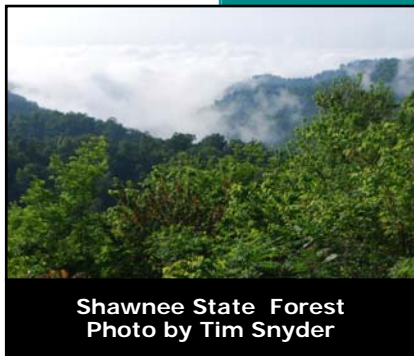
because the trip was so long and arduous. Now we can drive to the west coast in a matter of days, or fly there in hours.

The result is an unhealthy detachment from the natural world. There is plenty of time to study the plants and animals when you are creeping by them at an oxen's pace. They become

little more than a hazy blur when seen from a speeding automobile and virtually invisible from an airplane. Fortunately, we still have legs, and an hour or two spent under our own motive power will do wonders to bring the world back into proper perspective. Even our remaining woodlands, small though they may be, regain a little of their original aura of limitlessness when seen on foot. Some of the best places to recapture a little of the awe our pioneer ancestors felt are the old-growth forests protected as state nature preserves. Fowler Woods, Hueston Woods, Gahanna Woods, Goll Woods and Lawrence Woods State Nature Preserves are good places to start. Just be sure to walk the trails slowly.

Some of the best places to recapture a little of the awe our pioneer ancestors felt are the old-growth forests protected as state nature preserves. Fowler Woods, Hueston Woods, Gahanna Woods, Goll Woods and Lawrence Woods State Nature Preserves are good places to start.

"A few patches of ancient old-growth forest still survive in Ohio, but none of them are big enough to get lost in."



**Shawnee State Forest
Photo by Tim Snyder**



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

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Join or Renew Your Membership Today!

Membership Levels

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 15 - Student | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 40 - Organization |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 15 - Senior | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 100 - Business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25 - Individual | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 100 - Patron |
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| | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 - Life |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$5 - For mail delivery of our newsletter | |

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