



ONAPA NEWS

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FALL — 2014

Ohio State Fair Prairie—Photo by Jan Kennedy

ONAPA and the Ohio State Fair Prairie

Guy Denny, ONAPA President

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

On July 18, 2011, I visited the ODNR tallgrass prairie display at the Ohio State Fairgrounds for the first time in more than a decade. A year or so after retiring in 1999 I had stopped by during the Ohio State Fair and was very pleased to see how good it looked due to the efforts of Division of Natural Areas and Preserves staffer Roger Barber. Among his many duties, Roger, a 1989 graduate of Hocking Technical College, was in charge of managing the DNAP Ohio State Fair Prairie Exhibit.



Ohio State Fair Prairie. Photo by Jan Kennedy.

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In 1977, shortly after becoming Assistant Chief of the newly created Division of Natural Areas and Preserves, I along with my colleagues decided to create a small Ohio native tallgrass prairie garden as a DNAP living display at the state fairgrounds.

I spent much of my time designing and taking care of the prairie in those early years. Most of the plants were transplanted from Killdeer Plains and Resthaven wildlife areas thanks to the generosity of the Ohio Division of Wildlife. A prairie planting pretty much takes care of itself once established, but a prairie garden like the state fair prairie requires maintenance during each growing season to

keep it in top notch condition. For many years, I filled that niche, often on my own time, and took great pride in keeping the prairie beautiful by introducing new plants, weeding, controlling invasives, deadheading plants, and removing thatch. As DNAP grew and my duties increased, I didn't have enough time to spend on the prairie and that's when Roger Barber took over for me. Roger had a love and a keen talent for gardening with native plants, especially prairie plants.

Now, fast forward to 2011. I had returned with some other ONAPA volunteers who I had convinced to help with the prairie garden.

This time, I was shocked to see how the garden had fallen into disrepair. After Roger retired in 2007, the fairgrounds prairie no longer received the same loving care Roger

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ONAPA and the Ohio State Fair Prairie

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had given it. The population of Cup-plant (*Silphium perfoliatum*), a large and aggressive prairie species that previously had been prevented from going to seed each year, had now exploded and was crowding out most of the other prairie species. Likewise, sawtooth sunflower (*Helianthus grosseserratus*) another tall and aggressive prairie species, was also crowding out



Ohio State Fair Prairie. Photo by Jan Kennedy.

other prairie plants. Like many members of the sunflower family, it releases chemicals from its roots that inhibit the growth of adjacent plants as a means of reducing competition. Common bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*), a non-native, very aggressive climbing vine, was now out of control and had formed large masses, smothering and pulling down large patches of the remaining prairie wildflowers.

All was not lost, however. There were still some attractive prairie wildflowers left, but they were few and far between, and sadly overshadowed by more aggressive plants. With only ten days before the State Fair opened, there wasn't much we could do that first year, but we weeded and cut back invasive species to better show off the relatively few prairie wildflowers that were still present and blooming. In spite of our efforts, the prairie garden still had the general appearance of a weed patch.

As Governor Kasich and his family toured the grounds on opening day and walked the boardwalk through the prairie, he understandably never stopped to look closely at anything. From

that point on, we decided to make the State Fair Prairie a priority for ONAPA volunteers, helping ODNR bring it back to the grand site it had once been. After the 2011 State Fair, the work intensified and continued until opening day of the fair in 2012. The prairie had not degraded in a single year, nor were we going to be able to restore it in just a single season; it would take years.

By opening day of 2012, we had dramatically reduced the number of cup-plants, sawtooth sunflowers, and invasive species. Gale Martin, operator of a small prairie nursery in Morrow County, donated several plants. We also transplanted a large quantity of prairie wildflowers from my 22 acre prairie in Knox County, as well as numerous spiked blazing stars (*Liatris spicata*) from Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area. We also purchased and then donated a few prairie species that were difficult to acquire otherwise. Jill Kasai with the Division of Parks & Recreation/Natural Areas & Preserves played a major role in working with our ONAPA/ODNR/DNAP volunteers. Jill regularly watered the new transplants throughout that summer of little rainfall. Without her dedication to the project, most of the new transplants would have never survived. Jill continues to work

diligently with us keeping the prairie in great shape.

By no means were we done yet, but now the prairie garden was once again colorful with an abundance of showy prairie wildflowers. This time during the Governor's traditional walk, First Lady Karen Kasich stopped to ask about the royal catchfly (*Silene regia*) whose bright scarlet blooms caught her eye. Clearly,

we were making progress.

Immediately after the 2012 State Fair, work began in earnest with ONAPA volunteers continuing to improve the garden that fall and into the following spring and summer. More plants were moved from my Knox County prairie including purple coneflowers (*Echinacea purpurea*), compass-plants (*Silphium laciniatum*), rattlesnake-master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*), and many more royal catchfly, as well as a large number of additional spiked blazing-stars (*Liatris spicata*) from Killdeer Plains.

By 2013, the ODNR prairie was once again

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This time, I was shocked to see how the garden had fallen into disrepair.

ONAPA and the Ohio State Fair Prairie

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quite beautiful. This time on the Governor's walk-through, the Governor asked questions about the plants he was seeing. However, the real reward came when he returned a little later with the First Lady and his daughters to have a family picture taken in front of the compass-plants. That, and all the nice compliments the volunteers received from fairgoers as well as from ODNR and Exposition staff about the prairie during the course of the fair, made all the hard work well worth the effort.

Over the past year, ONAPA volunteers continued working on the prairie garden, and it was even more colorful during the 2014 fair. Like any garden, work on it will never be finished, but ONAPA volunteers take great pride in their efforts. We are always looking to recruit more volunteers to help with this effort. If you have an interest in lending a hand and would like to learn more about gardening with Ohio native prairie species, contact us at www.onapa.org. Sharing the beauty of Ohio's native prairie wildflowers is a rewarding and worthwhile experience.

Thank you for your support! New ONAPA Members and Donors

Akron Garden Club
Jane Anderson
Melanie & Jeff Andrew
Robert D. Bergstein
Elizabeth & Edgar Boles
Donald Comis
Jayne Crawford
Friends of Shawnee State Park
Suzanne Hartford
Maryann Kafer
Jennifer B. Langston
Kathy Bruner & Philip M. McCutcheon
Ronald E. Pilatowski
Diane W. Pollock
Mary Ogi
Frances S. Reppinger
Jana B. Robbins
Charlotte & R. Quincy Robe
Lisa Ruschman
Adriane Ruzak
Dean E. Sheldon, Jr.
Diane Squire
Kathleen Stout
Stratford Ecological Center
Summit County OSU Ext. Master Gardeners
Ronald Stuckey
Jane Chilcote Walsh
Maralean G. Woodcock

Upcoming Member Tours

Saturday, September 6, 2014 at 10 a.m.

Late Summer Wildflowers of Shawnee State Forest

Leaders: Retired DNAP Chiefs, Guy Denny & Dick Moseley

Shawnee State Forest is nicknamed "The Little Smokies of Ohio" because of its similarities to the Smokey Mountains, only on a much smaller scale. Many of the same Appalachian Mountain wildflowers that bloom this time of year in the Smokies, also can be found growing along the roadsides of Shawnee State Forest. Participants will learn how to identify these roadside late summer wildflowers and learn about their natural history.

Saturday, September 27, 2014 at 10 a.m.

Prairie Seed Collecting, Knox County

Leader: Guy Denny



For those of you who would like to start your own prairie garden or expand the prairie garden you may already have, this is your chance to collect native prairie seeds. We will discuss the

origin and ecology of Ohio prairies and introduce participants to numerous prairie plants native to Ohio. Participants will have the opportunity to collect seeds as we go along. Please, no commercial collectors. This event is just for prairie wildflower hobbyists.

Saturday, October 25, 2014 at 10 a.m.

Hocking Fall Color and Geology Walk at Rockbridge State Nature Preserve, Hocking County

Leader: Tim Snyder

Ohio's longest natural bridge highlights this 2 ½ mile hike which showcases the dramatic effects of glaciation on the drainage systems of the state. The trail leads uphill through a collection of environments before reaching the forested main body of the preserve—one reason the preserve was made part of the Hocking Valley Birding Trail. Fall color should be peaking at this time, providing another reason to get outdoors.

Saturday, November 22, 2014 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Upper Cuyahoga Waterfowl Watch, Geauga County

Leader: Geauga County Chief Naturalist Dan Best

We will carpool and caravan along La Due Reservoir for diving and dabbling ducks, grebes, loons, Bonaparte's Gulls and Bald Eagles with the possibility of Tundra Swans and Sandhill Cranes. Lunch stop (on your own) at the Auburn Inn will be followed by a stop at Burton Wetlands State Nature Preserve to scan Lake Kelso for waterfowl along with an explanation of the Ice Age origin of Lake Kelso and other glacial lakes in this kame/kettle region of Geauga County.

Visit www.onapa.org for driving directions. Please email info@onapa.org to let us know you are joining us. List the tour in the subject line of the email and include your name and phone number.



Ohio Natural Areas & Preserves Association

Annual Banquet & Fieldtrips
Sept. 20, 2014 — 5:30pm Social
6:00pm Banquet

Wesley Lodge
501 Central Ave.
Lakeside, OH 43440
(corner of 5th & Central Ave.)

Join your friends for the second annual ONAPA Banquet.

The featured speaker:

Allison Cusick — *'The New Sandusky Flora'* "We will lament what has been lost, marvel at what has persisted, and cheer what has been preserved."

Show your support for Ohio's Natural Areas and enjoy free guided tours, hosted by experts. Visit the most scenic and historic lakefront resort on Ohio's North Coast.

REGISTRATION FORM (one person per form) Date: _____

Name: _____ Home Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Cell: _____

BANQUET PRICES:

ONAPA Banquet	\$35.00	\$
<i>Become a Member:</i> Family \$30; Individual \$25; Senior (60+) \$15; Student (under 22) \$15		\$
<i>Make checks payable to: 'ONAPA'</i> TOTAL:		\$

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

Castalia Prairie: an original prairie remnant, a site known for Fringed Gentian, *Gentiana crinita*.
Sheldon Marsh: a unique barrier beach, host to numerous unique flora species and excellent fall birding.
Lakeside's Beautiful Mile: an easy-to-WALK, waterfront path with amazing views of Lake Erie islands.

- | | |
|--|--|
| ♦ Saturday: Sept. 20th , 1pm-3pm | ♦ Sunday: Sept. 21st 10am-12noon |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Castalia Prairie | <input type="checkbox"/> Castalia Prairie |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sheldon Marsh | <input type="checkbox"/> Sheldon Marsh |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lakeside's Beautiful Mile | <input type="checkbox"/> Lakeside's Beautiful Mile |

Banquet at Wesley Lodge 501 Central Ave., Lakeside, OH	Registration Deadline Sept. 10, 2014	Mail to:
Request 'ONAPA' Discount Hotel Lakeside or Fountain Inn 866-952-5374 ext. 230	Questions: 419-683-8952 banquet@onapa.org www.onapa.org	ONAPA P.O. Box 415 Johnstown, OH 43031

ONAPA Returns to Lakeside

Warm and breezy September weather is perfect for tours of natural areas on Ohio's North Coast. The Ohio Natural Areas and Preserves Association (ONAPA) will convene in Lakeside, Ohio on Sept. 20-21, 2014. The Saturday evening banquet will be held at Wesley Lodge and discount hotel reservations are available at either the Fountain Inn, or the historic Victorian era Hotel Lakeside. Fall is wonderful time to visit the most scenic and historic resort on the shore of Lake Erie



Free field trips will be held within the watershed of our Great Lake, Erie. Castalia Prairie offers Fringed Gentians in the fall and our leader, Guy Denny, knows where to find them! Sheldon Marsh is a barrier beach well-known for unusual botany and migrating birds. Trip leader Dick Moseley is familiar with all of Sheldon Marsh's history, both natural and historical. A special (easy to walk) tour

of Lakeside's Beautiful Mile will be led by our guest speaker, Allison Cusick. We will be on the look-out for native Sandusky flora.

Retired Ohio Heritage Botanist, Allison Cusick, is returning by

popular demand. If you were unable to attend the Lakeside Daisy tour this spring, here is your second chance! His program, *The New Sandusky Flora*, "...will lament what has been lost, marvel at what has persisted, and cheer what has been preserved."

Make your reservations early and let historic Lakeside be your fall-destination location. Book an extra day, as there is plenty to do and see on Lake Erie in September. Visit the Marblehead Lighthouse or an Ohio winery! The locals say fall is the very best season to enjoy the lake.

To reserve your seat using PayPal, go to www.onapa.org or print and mail in the form on the preceding page.

Moseley's Sandusky Flora

Edwin Lincoln Moseley's *Sandusky Flora: A Catalogue of the Flowering Plants and Ferns Growing Without Cultivation in Erie County, Ohio, and the Peninsula and Islands of Ottawa County* was published in 1899 as the Ohio State Academy of Science's first special paper. Its 167 pages present a snap-shot of the Erie Island area as it was 100 years ago. The bulk of the publication is the actual catalog of plants—an annotated list that includes locations, relative abundance and occasional notes that add greatly to its interest. We learn, for instance, that shagbark hickory was used by two wheel works in Sandusky, that a hundred acres of American lotus filled the head of Sandusky Bay, and that cup plant (*Silphium perfoliatum*) was found on the Huron and Vermilion Rivers and at Castalia. Of equal interest is the essay filling the first 24 pages in which Moseley presents the geography, geology, and derivation of the flora of his chosen area as he understood it. He also briefly discusses



Edwin Lincoln Moseley

the results of his own investigations into the gradual submergence of the south shore of Lake Erie as shown by the presence of old river channels and submerged logs in the bottom of Sandusky Bay. A hand-drawn map gives the location of his collecting areas and an aerial view of the landscape as it existed then. The "great glacial groove," soon to be quarried away, is noted on Kelleys Island. More intriguing is the "glacial groove" on Marblehead Peninsula, perhaps the enigmatic one shown in a U.S. Geological Survey publication of the same time period.

Moseley's *Sandusky Flora* provides a baseline against which the present flora of this very interesting region can be

compared. Allison Cusick will do just that as the keynote speaker at the upcoming ONAPA annual banquet on September 20, at Lakeside. It will be a presentation you will not want to miss.

ONAPA field trip: Dragonflies and Damselflies of the Darby Plains and Big Darby Creek

Jan Kennedy

The dragonfly and damselfly expedition on a pleasant and breezy Saturday, July 26, 2014, was a resounding success. About two dozen people were present for the event. The trip leaders were Dr. Jim Davidson, Guy Denny, and Cheryl Harner. Everyone was mesmerized by the color, beauty, and diversity of these fascinating, flying insects. We immersed ourselves in the habitats in which they live. Wading in Big Darby Creek to get up-close views of the energetic odonates was a highlight of the day. Some of the dragons and damsels even posed long enough to have their portraits taken.



Participants in Dragonfly Workshop. Photo by Jan Kennedy.

Preserve Monitoring Makes a Difference

Within the Ohio Nature Preserve System as currently restructured, there are only 9 or 10 full time preserve managers responsible for oversight of more than 100 preserves scattered throughout the state. The job of making even weekly visits to all these sites, some of which can be an hour or two from the manager's base of operation, is an overwhelming task.

To provide extra sets of eyes to help preserve managers keep up with what is going on in their preserves, ONAPA has initiated a volunteer preserve monitoring program. Preserve visitors can now go to the ONAPA website and download the preserve monitoring form to report whatever they observe during their visit. This form is especially useful for reporting such things as vandalism, litter, downed trees across trails, maintenance issues, and occurrence of invasive species. The forms can also be used to inform managers about what is in bloom when and where, and what species of birds and other animals are being observed. These reports are forwarded to ONAPA Volunteer Monitoring Coordinator Jan Kennedy who, in turn, sends them to Chief Bota-



Fringed Gentian

nist Rick Gardner. Rick records the information and then sends the reports out to the individual preserve managers.

When this program began two years ago, preserve monitors encountered a number of problems, especially vandalism, maintenance issues, and invasive species. Now that the monitoring program is up and running, the results have been very rewarding. Preserve managers can now immediately focus on

and respond to the most pressing issues, and they do. By having those extra eyes out there to aid preserve managers, much more is being done and in an efficient manner. Problems such as vandalism and litter can be addressed immediately by the managers and their seasonal staff.

Other issues, such as invasive species, can be ongoing for years. However, the sooner a new invasive species can be detected, the easier and less costly it is to eradicate.

We are very proud of the efforts of our preserve managers and especially pleased to aid them in their effort. Taking good care of our nature preserves is important, for these sites are the legacy we pass on to the next generation of Ohioans.

A Brief Overview of Ohio's Alvar Communities

Tim Snyder

In preparation for ONAPA's annual banquet on September 20, the following article might be of interest. For more information on the banquet, see page 5 in this issue of the ONAPA News, or visit our website at onapa.com.

Alvars are defined as natural communities occurring on glaciated flat limestone or dolostone bedrock where soil is thin or absent, and subject to seasonal drought (although some may also experience seasonal flooding). They are naturally open landscapes (less than 60% tree cover) maintained by geologic, hydrologic and other landscape processes, and have a distinctive flora and fauna. Many associated species are rare in the Great Lakes basin and some are endemic to it.

Alvars are named after structurally similar systems found in Sweden and Estonia. Great Lakes alvars occur in an arc reaching from northern Lake Michigan to eastern Lake Ontario, with outliers in New York (Lake Champlain) and western Lake Erie. The mix of floristic affinities found in them (southern, western, northern, endemic) varies with location. The western Lake Erie alvars, being the southernmost outlier of the group, naturally contain a higher percentage of southern plants.

The major alvar remnants in western Lake Erie are found on Pelee Island (Stone Road Alvar), Kelleys Island (Central Quarry, North Quarry and North Shore) and Marblehead Peninsula (Lakeside Plain/Marblehead Quarry). All are found on glaciated Columbus Limestone bedrock of Devonian Age. Glacial modification has been extreme, ranging from polishing and striating (scratching) to grooving, most famously the deep glacial grooves found on Kelleys Island. Ohio's largest alvar once occupied much of the eastern "nose" of Marblehead



Lakeside Daisy
Photo by Tim Snyder.

peninsula. Formerly called the Lakeside Plain, this alvar has been categorized as an "alvar nonvascular pavement" and originally occupied 750 acres. Most of it has been destroyed by quarrying, although many of the plants comprising the community have been able to colonize previously worked sites. Most notable of these is the Lakeside Daisy (*Hymenoxys herbacea*), a globally rare species (G2) which occurs here, on Manitoulin Island and the Bruce Peninsula in Ontario, and nowhere else in the world. Unfortunately, increased quarrying activity threatens to destroy most, if not all, of the

Marblehead population except for those found in the 14 acre Lakeside Daisy State Nature Preserve and in three transplanted populations on Kelleys Island.

The three Kelleys Island alvars are within Kelleys Island State Park and so have a measure of protection. The Central Quarry Alvar is considered to be an alvar nonvascular pavement, while the North Quarry is designated a Juniper Alvar Shrubland. The North Shore Alvar is a Great Lakes Limestone Bedrock Lakeshore alvar. All of Ohio's alvars except for the Central Quarry Alvar are considered to have high to very high significance within the Great Lakes system. Although the area of compatible bedrock exposed along Lake Erie in Ohio is limited, the possibility of finding other alvar remnants does exist. There are also several similar, but distinct communities which have not received as much attention, one of which is the River Ledge Limestone Pavement which may exist (or have existed) along the Maumee river.

Join or Renew Your Membership Today!

Membership Levels

- \$ 15 - Student
- \$ 15 - Senior
- \$ 25 - Individual
- \$ 30 - Family

- \$ 40 - Organization
- \$ 100 - Business
- \$ 100 - Patron
- \$ 500 - Benefactor
- \$1000 - Life

- \$5 - For mail delivery of our newsletter

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Mail to: ONAPA, PO Box 415, Johnston, OH 43031

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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 Winter 2014—2015 Issue of ONAPA News is October 15th



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.***



You Shop Amazon Gives to ONAPA

- Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice.
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Support ONAPA by starting your shopping at smile.amazon.com today!



Ohio Natural Areas & Preserves Association

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