



ONAPA NEWS

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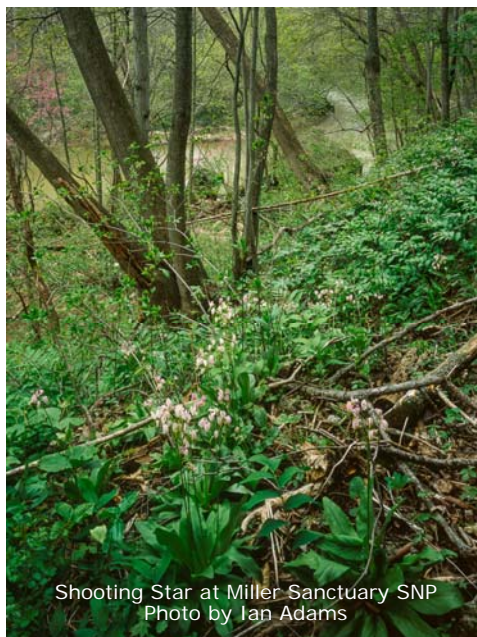
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Eugene and Henrietta Miller Nature Sanctuary, An Outstanding Spring Wildflower Preserve

The story of this State Nature Preserve began as a result of the love of its owners who purchased the property specifically to enjoy the flora of this beautiful area along the gorge of the Rocky Fork Creek. Over thousands of years the creek has carved a narrow gorge through the Silurian dolomite of the Niagara series forming high cliffs, natural arches, and towering bluffs along the stream. The spectacular geology and great spring flora are what enticed the Millers to purchase this area.



Shooting Star at Miller Sanctuary SNP
 Photo by Ian Adams

According to Bill Miller, their son, his dad, Eugene (nicknamed "Gener") bought the weekly newspaper in Loudonville and published it for 16 years until the early '50's. His mother, Henrietta, was also an integral part of the operation and among other things wrote a prize-winning weekly column about people and events in Loudonville. While living there, they spent a lot of time in Mohican State Park, where his dad gained a deep appreciation and knowledge of wildflowers.

After they sold the newspaper they moved to Columbus where his dad became a public relations man and his mother a teacher and later a

librarian at an elementary school in Upper Arlington. They were looking for a weekend retreat in the woods away from Columbus and began the process of finding just the right place that had the wildflowers Gener was seeking. On one of their trips they were shown this small farm along Rocky Fork Creek by a real estate agent in Hillsboro in late winter-early spring in 1965. As they were tramping the property, Bill noted that his dad spotted a Snow Trillium. That did it! The sale was made

immediately, he said.

Gener's intuition was correct as this property abounded in a variety of spring wildflowers which he and Henrietta enjoyed immensely. As you visit the preserve now in mid-April to early May you can also enjoy spectacle of Large-flowered Trillium, Virginia Bluebells, Swamp Buttercup, Shooting-star, Columbine, Wood Poppy, Miterwort, Dutchman's-Breeches, Wild Blue Phlox, and many others in the gorge area and floodplain. The more unusual and rare flowers include Sullivantia with its tiny white flowers, the Walter's Violet, and American Columbo which are found on the rim of the gorge overlooking Rocky Fork Creek.

Gener and Henrietta spent most of their weekends on the property, living in a small house that has since been removed. Their love for this unique wildflower sanctuary that they so

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Eugene and Henrietta Miller Nature Sanctuary, An Outstanding Spring Wildflower Preserve

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enjoyed led them to protect this property from any other use. So they decided to become a part of the State Nature Preserve System by dedicating a portion of their property as a preserve.

This property was originally known as "Rocky Fork Gorge Nature Preserve" and was the first preserve dedicated by private citizens while retaining ownership. The Millers dedicated 24.78 acres of the Rocky Fork Gorge portion of their farm as a State Nature Preserve while retaining ownership of the property. The Millers signed the Articles of Dedication on June 21, 1982 and the Director accepted and signed the Articles on June 25, 1982. A dedication ceremony was later held on September 30, 1982 and marked the dedication of the 60th preserve in the state preserve system. Director Robert W. Teater was the keynote speaker at this event and he unveiled the sign that named the preserve after them to honor their foresight in preserving this unique area for future generations to use and enjoy its flora and geologic treasures.



The arch in Miller Sanctuary State Nature Preserve

The Millers continued to visit their beloved preserve until Gener died unexpectedly following a stroke he suffered while clearing wood on one of his visits in 1985. Following the death of Eugene Miller, on May 10, 1985, the Division acquired the rest of the Miller farm as an addition to the preserve. The option to purchase was signed October 3, 1985 for \$68,700.00 and the property was closed on January 21, 1986. The total acreage for the preserve now is 88.46 acres.

Henrietta Miller continued to be involved in the preserve and donated funds to purchase the

½ acre property from Keith Brown who owned land adjacent to the sanctuary entrance to provide off-road parking for preserve visitors. She sent a check for \$5,000.00 dollars on November 20, 1996 to the Income Tax Check-off Account (Fund 522) to be used to purchase the Brown property with the remainder to construct the much needed staircase at the north end of the preserve to provide easy access to the rim of the gorge from the lower gorge trail. The Brown property was purchased on August 20, 1997 for \$500.00 and amounted to .0597 acres. A small parking area was soon built thereafter to provide for visitor use.

Henrietta not only continued in her support of Miller Sanctuary she also wanted to see the rest of Rocky Fork Gorge preserved and in that endeavor she supported the Arc of Appalachia in helping to purchase the lands between 7 Caves (Highlands Nature Sanctuary) and Miller Sanctuary. Her \$20,000 check in 1995 was to be applied toward the Arc's first purchase of the perimeter property to 7 Caves along the gorge. In her mind, the check was an investment for the future believing in the Arc's long-term growth and that someday the two preserves would connect along the river corridor. Her dream came true when the Arc purchased the 310 acre Cedar Run Farm which was closed on August 24, 1999 and was the first, but not the last to connecting Highland Sanctuary with her beloved Miller Sanctuary. Later at Christmas of that year, she wrote another check for \$10,000 to Highlands Nature Sanctuary stating that "she had so much pleasure in doing this realizing how important it is that we will have all this land" preserved. "My check will give you a boost, Love, Love, Love, Henrietta Miller." Unfortunately, this great lover of nature passed from this life in 2006 but left behind a mighty legacy for all to enjoy.

Now that you know the history of this preserve and the people that made it possible and their willingness to share this special place with us all, plan to visit Miller Nature Sanctuary this fall or next spring and enjoy the gifts of this unique site. The preserve is located in Highland County and is 2 miles south of Rainsboro and can be reached from U. S. 50 by turning South on Cave Road to Barrett Mill Road. Turn right on Barrett Mill Road and the preserve entrance is in on the right up the hill past the Rocky Fork Creek Bridge.

Dick Moseley
ONAPA Secretary

Fun, Food, and Field Trips!

ONAPA's 4th Annual Celebration & Banquet Saturday, September 17, 2016 Cincinnati Area

Explore Southwestern Ohio's Natural Heritage, Art, and History of Native Peoples, by joining us at ONAPA's annual celebration and banquet. This year's field trip activities will be held at several locations and provide participants with unique opportunities to explore Ohio's natural history. Each field trip location will provide multiple activities for you to explore. The banquet keynote, "The Natural Heritage of the Cincinnati Region", will be given by Dr. Stanley Hedeem. Our banquet location will feature an art exhibit by Masterworks for Nature.



By Ann E. Geise Masterworks for Nature Artist

Preview of Activities:

Saturday Morning at 9 a.m.: Back by popular demand, our Volunteer Training Workshop will be held at the **Cincinnati Nature Center** and include invasive species management and nature preserve site monitoring. The workshop will be followed by a hands-on invasive species identification hike.

Saturday Morning at 10 a.m.: Field trip #1: Come out to Fort Ancient Earthworks and Nature Preserve for archeological tours of the museum and earthworks and a botanical tour of the old growth forest. Field Trip #2: Join us at **Caesar Creek Gorge State Nature Preserve, Caesar Creek Lake, and Visitor Center** to explore the excellent fossil-rich layers in the area and a botanical tour of the forested areas of the nature preserve. Field Trip #3 The Cincinnati Nature Center featuring over 16 miles of trails that wind through natural habitats of grasslands, uplands, ridge tops, and old growth eastern deciduous forest.

Saturday Afternoon at 3 p.m.:

Join the ONAPA board members, advisors and supporters for a Meet and Greet Social Event at the **Heritage Banquet Center** in Goshen, Ohio. Enjoy appetizers and local Cincinnati brewed beer to hear about the successes of the last five years and our plans for the future.

Saturday Afternoon at 4:30

p.m.: Brief business meeting followed by the **Banquet, Keynote, and Silent Auction** at Heritage Banquet Hall 1705 State Route 28 Goshen, Ohio 45122 (near Cincinnati). Enjoy the artistic works of The Masterworks for Nature on display at Heritage Hall. This group of Cincinnati area artists is dedicated to raising awareness for conservation and nature education. **Reserve your seat today at www.onapa.org!**

Dr. Stanley Hedeem, Keynote: *The Natural Heritage of the Cincinnati Region*

Dr. Stanley Hedeem will feature the geological region of the Cincinnati Arch, its relationship and effect on Big Bone Lick, and the glacial influences on the biological aspects of the region.



Growing up Dr. Hedeem was an active member in the Evanston North Shore Bird Club. He received a B.A. in Biology from Augustana University in Illinois. He was inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa fraternity and continued his education at the University of Minnesota where he obtained his Ph.D. in Zoology. He was a board member of WGUC and Cincinnati public radio; he also was a member of the Ohio Biological Survey Steering Committee. He was a professor at both Xavier University and the University of Cincinnati teaching biology, anthropology, ecology, and many other subjects. At Xavier University he was a member of the biology faculty and was the dean of Arts and Science. Working as an Ecologist at Groundwork Cincinnati he was a board of trustees member at the Mill Creek Restoration Project. Throughout his life he has written and published many books about the Mill Creek, the Little Miami River, Big Bone Lick, and the natural history of the Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky areas. He has published many papers on population ecology, animal behavior, animal disease, water pollution and many more that are held in high regard. Stanley currently lives in Cincinnati, Ohio and still spreads his vast knowledge of biology history, and art.

Stewardship in Action

The ONAPA **Chaparral Prairie** stewardship project on June 15th was very successful - 9 ONAPA volunteers and 2 Parks employees pulled or dug sweet-clover and common teasel for 4 hours in the main prairie near the office. As the photos show, there was plenty of sweet-clover to remove! Despite a short thunderstorm mid-day, volunteers continued to work and the rain helped the ease of pulling. After working, the group took a short field trip to the new parcel of Chaparral Prairie and observed the recent management there.



ONAPA held another stewardship project at **Daughmer Savannah** in Crawford County on June 18, 2016 in cooperation with Crawford County Park District. There were 12 ONAPA volunteers and 7 Park District volunteers who worked to pull or dig common teasel and Canada thistle in the savanna. This combined with the recent prescribed burns has helped the savanna to look spectacular this year, with many new prairie plants emerging! Volunteers got a tour of the savanna at the end of the day, including a walk back to the "Council" burr oak tree. The purple milkweeds were truly impressive.

A hardy crew of 17 including ONAPA volunteers, Dawes Arboretum Residents, and DNAP staff worked at **Clifton Gorge** on July 13th to control invasive woody shrubs on the scientific side of the preserve. It was a long walk to this section of the preserve on a hot, humid day. They were able to remove and treat invasive shrubs such as Amur bush honeysuckle, privet, and burning bush. This habitat management is important as many rare plants occur on the scientific side such as red baneberry. Volunteers got a tour of the preserve by preserve manager, Michelle Comer after working for several hours.

On Saturday, July 20th, nine ONAPA volunteers and two DNAP staff worked on another hot, humid day at **Johnson Woods** to control invasive shrubs, including burning-bush (also known as winged euonymus), Japanese barberry, and multiflora rose. A small patch of Japanese knotweed was also cut and treated with herbicide. Johnson Woods is a high-quality mature oak-hickory woods, so controlling invasive shrubs in the understory is critical to maintaining spring and other herbaceous wildflowers. Many large burning-bush were cut and treated on the south edge of the north woods along Fox Lake Road. Volunteers enjoyed an awe-inspiring hike along the boardwalk in the southern section after lunch, amazed by the size of the large red and white oaks.



Photo by Beth Sanderson

Join Us this Fall for a Stewardship Project

For project details, what to bring, locations and sign-up instructions, visit www.onapa.org.
When applicable, herbicide treatment will be done by DNAP staff or trained ONAPA volunteers.

Wednesday, August 10, 2016, 10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Invasive Species Control at Myersville Fen State Nature Preserve, Summit County

We will be removing invasive plant species, such as narrow-leaved and hybrid cattail and glossy buckthorn, which are encroaching upon the fen meadows.

Saturday, August 20, 2016, 10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Invasive Species Control at Jackson Bog State Nature Preserve, Stark County

We will be removing invasive plant species, such as narrow-leaved and hybrid cattail, glossy buckthorn, privet, and purple loosestrife, which are encroaching upon the fen meadows.

Wednesday, August 24, 2016, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Bush Honeysuckle Removal at Gallagher Fen State Nature Preserve, Clark County

We will focus on the secondary preserve management goals. We will be cutting and treating the stumps of bush honeysuckle (primarily Amur), as well as any other invasive shrubs in these communities.

Wednesday, September 7, 2016, 10:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Invasive Species Control at Springville Marsh State Nature Preserve, Seneca County

Our project includes hand-wicking (applying herbicide with gloves & old socks) narrow-leaved cattail and cutting woody species in the sedge meadows. Herbicide treatment will be done by DNAP staff or trained ONAPA volunteers.

Tuesday, September 20, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Invasive Species Removal at Prairie Road Fen State Nature Preserve, Clark County

The goal of this project is to remove woody vegetation in the fen meadow, which by means of succession, are invading the fen meadows. We will target all woody species, but glossy buckthorn will be the primary species of concern.

Ohio Recreational User Statute (Tort Liability of the State of Ohio)

The Doctrine of Sovereign Immunity is thought to have originated back to an early English principle that the king was supreme and no court can have jurisdiction over him. Accordingly, the king could not be sued in his own courts without his consent. Ultimately, the concept of sovereign immunity made its way into American law and became the basis in law that the federal and state governments, like the king of England, did not have to answer for their torts. A tort is a wrongful act, injury, or damage for which a civil action, as opposed to a criminal action, can be brought. Instead of sovereign immunity for the king, in America, this became federal and state governmental sovereign immunity.

In 1946, out of public dissatisfaction with the inequities of governmental immunity especially in cases of the federal government's negligent conduct, Congress enacted the Federal Tort Claims Act. Among other things, but perhaps most importantly, this act allowed recovery in tort against the federal government "in the same manner and to the same extent as a private individual under like circumstances . . ." This landmark piece of legislation served as a model for the states as they, in turn, began to draft their own waiver of immunity statutes.

In 1912, the Ohio Constitution was amended to abolish the state's governmental immunity. However, in 1917, the Ohio Supreme Court ruled that the constitutional amendment adopted in 1912, was only an authorization for subsequent statutes in which the Ohio General Assembly could grant its consent to be sued. In 1975, the Ohio General Assembly expressly consented to allow the state to be sued by creating the Court of Claims that was given authority to hear and decide virtually all cases against the state. Most significantly, the Court of Claims Act (ORC Chapter 2743) states: "The State hereby waives its immunity from liability and consents to be sued, and have its liability determined in the court of claims created in this chapter in accordance with the same rules of law applicable to suits between private parties." This is a key component of the Act having a bearing upon the Ohio Recreational User Statute.

Recreational User's Statutes were created on the premise that there is a greater demand for outdoor recreational use than there are governmental lands to accommodate such demands. These recreational user's statutes encourage private landowners to open their non-residential lands to public recreational activities, while providing limiting liability to those private landowners who open their land free of charge for public recreational use. Most states, including Ohio, have enacted recreational user's statutes. For the most part, these statutes are based on model legislation developed in 1965 by the Council of State Governments. Ohio's Recreational User Statutes are found in Ohio Revised Code 1533.18 and 1533.181 and are stated as follows:

1533.18 Recreational user definitions.

As used in sections 1533.18 and 1533.181 of the Revised Code:

"Premises" means all privately owned lands, ways, and waters, and any buildings and structures thereon, and all privately owned and state-owned



Because of the State's concerns for safety and liability at Fowler Woods SNP, in 2013 they took down a large number of dead, dying, as well as healthy ash trees.

lands, ways, and waters leased to a private person, firm, or organization, including any buildings and structures thereon.

"Recreational user" means a person to whom permission has been granted, without payment of a fee or consideration to the owner, or occupant of premises, other than a fee or consideration paid to the state or any agency of the state, or a lease payment or fee paid to the owner of privately owned lands, to enter upon premises to hunt, fish, trap, camp, hike, or swim, or to operate a snowmobile, all-purpose vehicle, or four-wheel drive motor vehicle, or to engage in other recreational pursuits.

"All-purpose vehicles" has the same meaning as in section 4519.01 of the Revised Code.

Effective Date: 04-09-2003; 04-07-2005; 2007 HB67 07-03-2007

1533.181 Immunity.

No owner, lessee, or occupant of premises:

Owes any duty to a recreational user to keep the premises safe for entry or use;

Extends any assurance to a recreational user, through the act of giving permission, that the premises are safe for entry or use;

Assumes responsibility for or incurs liability for any injury to persons or property caused by an act of a recreational user.

Division (A) of this section applies to the owner, lessee, or occupant of privately owned, nonresidential premises, whether or not the premises are kept open for public use and whether or not the owner, lessee, or occupant denies entry to certain individuals.

Effective Date: 09-29-1995

Although Ohio's Recreational User Statute was initially created to provide limited liability for private land owners, in the case of *McCord v. Ohio Division of Parks & Recreation*, 54 Ohio St.2d 72, 375 N.E.2d 50 (1978), the Ohio Supreme Court took under consideration the following wording in the Court of Claims Act, "**The state hereby waives its immunity and consents to be sued, and have its liability, determined ... in accordance with the**

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Japanese Knotweed or Mexican Bamboo

At this time of year, Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*, formerly known as *Polygonum cuspidatum*) is one of the more conspicuous invasive plants in Ohio, particularly in eastern Ohio along waterways. On a recent trip to New York and New England, I was appalled to see how much more abundant and prevalent this species is in these states, along roadsides, streams, and rivers - reminding me of what we do not want in Ohio. Japanese knotweed was introduced from East Asia in the late 1880s, first as an ornamental and also for erosion control and landscape screening. It occurs in a wide variety of habitats in many soil types with a range of moisture conditions. It poses a significant threat to riparian areas where it monopolizes stream and river banks, surviving severe flooding events.

Japanese knotweed, also known as Mexican bamboo for its bamboo-like stems, is an upright, shrub-like, herbaceous perennial that can grow to over 10 feet in height. The stout, hollow stems are reddish-brown and nodes are swollen, typical of the Polygonaceae or knotweed/buckwheat family. Leaves are alternate and egg-shaped, narrowing to a point at the tip. The minute greenish-white flowers are borne in plume-like clusters in the upper leaf axils in late summer, followed by small, shiny, black-winged fruits. There is an ornamental variety with pink flowers.

This aggressive non-native, invasive plant spreads primarily by seed as well as extensive rhizomes, forming dense thickets. It is often



Japanese Knotweed



Japanese Knotweed

transported to new sites by flooding and as rhizome and seed contaminants in fill dirt. It is difficult to control mechanically due to the extensive rhizome system, thus pulling and digging are usually unsuccessful. Systemic herbicides can be applied to the foliage or cut stems, but effective control often requires several treatments. If the population is growing near water, care must be taken with herbicide use or an aquatic-approved herbicide should be used, such as Accord, Glypro, or AquaNeat.

Japanese knotweed is present in many state nature preserves and it requires diligence to control or remove it from sensitive habitats. A recent ONAPA Stewardship Project at Johnson Woods State Nature Preserve included control of Japanese knotweed along the edge of the woods. This species is on the Ohio Department of Agriculture's Noxious Weed List and has been determined to be invasive by the Ohio Invasive Plant Council's (OIPC) Assessment Team. If you

find it on your property, we recommend that you implement control measures as soon as possible. More information on this species can be found in the OIPC factsheet at www.oipc.info.

Jennifer Windus
ONAPA Board Member
OIPC President

When you purchase the Nature Preserves plate, your \$15 donation will support facility and trail improvements, as well as provide new educational opportunities for visitors. Let Ohio know you support your nature preserves! Visit www.oplates.com.





It's time to re-enroll for the new year of Kroger Community Rewards. Those of you supporting ONAPA will need to re-enroll now in order to continue contributing to us through the May 1st 2016 to April 30th 2017 year. Follow the information to re-enroll at www.onapa.org under SUPPORT ONAPA/KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS

Thank You for Your Support! Newest Members & Donors

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Carol Culbertson
Timothy Edwards
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Steve Herminghausen
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Jana Robbins
Mary C. Rogers
Katalin Czuba & Tom Ryther
Elizabeth Sanderson
Robert H. Sanford
John Schuster
John & Elizabeth Sidorenko
Virginia Tornes

Ohio Recreational User Statute

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same rules of law applicable to suits between private parties...

"The Supreme Court ruled that one such rule applicable to suits between private parties was the state Recreational User Statute, and therefore the state of Ohio, when viewed as if a private party, owes no duty to a recreational user of its land, such as appellee's son who paid no fee or valuable consideration to swim in a lake within a state park where he drowned. This decision by the Ohio Supreme Court placed the state upon the same level as a private party making the Recreational User Statute applicable to all state recreational lands. Therefore, the overall impact of this decision was that the Recreational User Statute grants recreational immunity to governmental as well as private landowners.

In 2013, *Pauley v. Circleville*, 2013-Ohio-4541, the Supreme Court of Ohio heard a case involving an 18 year old boy sledding in a park owned by the City of Circleville who upon hitting a railroad tie embedded in a mound of dirt, which the city had dumped in the park along with other construction materials, broke his neck making him a paraplegic. The city planned to temporarily store the construction materials at the park because no storage space was available at its maintenance facility. The question before the court was whether the city's action of placing the railroad ties and other construction materials in the park created an exception from immunity provided by the Recreation User Statute. The Supreme Court ruled, although not in complete agreement on the issue, that when recreational property is modified in some way creating a hazardous condition that causes an injury, the



Hocking Hills State Park warning signs.

Recreational User Statute, if applicable, still provides the owner liability protection since according to statute, a property owner owes no duty to a recreational user to keep the property safe for entry or use.

In 2015, the Supreme Court of Ohio heard, *Combs v. Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks & Recreation, 2014-1891*. In this case, a state park employee was mowing grass with a boom mower along the shoreline of Indian Lake State Park when his mower hit a piece of rock, part of the riprap along the shore, and the rock was jettisoned approximately 100 yards, striking fisherman Richard Combs in the eye. Combs sued for damages and ODNR's defense was that the Recreational User Statute barred Combs' negligence claim. In this case, the Supreme Court ruled that the Recreational User Statute does not bar Combs' negligence claim even though he was a recreational user because his suit was based on the negligent action of the state park employee, not premises liability.

The Recreational User Statute makes it very clear that on its non-residential, recreational lands, ODNR does not owe "any duty to a recreational user to keep the premises safe for entry or use; extends any assurance to a recreational user, through the act of giving permission, that the premises are safe for entry or use; assumes responsibility for or incurs liability for any injury to a person or property caused by any act of a recreational user." (Ohio Revised Code 1533.181). The Recreational User Statute does not prohibit a person from bringing a lawsuit against the state. However, if the state uses the Recreational User Statute as its defense and can prove that it applies to the situation in question, the court will

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Ohio Recreational User Statute

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dismiss the lawsuit.

Knowing that state nature preserves fall under the Recreational User Statute, we were surprised in April of 2013, to learn that a very large number of dead, dying as well as healthy ash trees had been cut down along the boardwalk at Fowler Woods State Nature Preserve in Richland County in the name of public safety and in order to avert the threat of any lawsuits from a falling tree or branch. We also learned ODNR was planning to cut down an additional 200 trees in Fowlers Woods during the winter of 2013-2014. While the ONAPA Board believes it is reasonable public policy to remove dead trees from areas of high public use such as campgrounds, picnic areas, and along busy roadsides, or where structures are threatened, the position of the ONAPA Board is that the removal of trees in state nature preserves, natural areas set aside to allow natural processes to be relatively undisturbed, is inappropriate and unwarranted. Standing dead trees are an essential component of a woodland ecosystem. They provide shelter and food for numerous birds, mammals, reptiles and insects. In any old growth woods, dead as well as seemingly healthy mature trees of all species, can fall at any time, especially during high winds. This is the inherent nature of old growth woodlands. Although a visitor could be injured from a falling branch or dead tree while visiting a

nature preserve, the probability of that happening is extremely remote. It has never happened in an Ohio state nature preserve where visitors tend to be spread out along trails in low numbers, and constantly on the move. Visitors probably have a greater chance of being struck by lightning.

In October of 2013, at the request of the ONAPA Board, the Chair of the ONAPA Scientific Advisory Committee wrote a letter to the Director of ODNR expressing the Association's concerns and requesting that ODNR, rather than cutting down more trees in the nature preserves, thus aesthetically and ecologically destroying the very features preserve visitors come to see, instead, take the same approach as ODNR uses at Hocking Hills State Park; that is to erect conspicuous signs warning visitors about the inherent dangers along the trails. Over the years, many park visitors have been injured or have died falling over cliffs in this state park. Unfortunately, instead of responding to the letter, ODNR chose to barricade and close down the Fowler Woods boardwalk trail at the point where they had stopped cutting trees in 2013. Sadly, this wheelchair accessible trail that offers some of the finest spring wildflower viewing in Ohio, has remained closed to the public ever since.

Guy Denny
ONAPA President



Ohio Natural Areas & Preserves Association

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