



# ONAPA NEWS

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

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FALL — 2017

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## A Conkles Hollow Autumn

If you're looking for spectacular fall color displays, several of your state nature preserves offer unsurpassed opportunities. One of the best of these is Conkles Hollow State Nature Preserve in the rugged Hocking Hills region southwest of Logan. Although one of the shortest of the many rock-bound valleys cut into the rolling landscape here, it is the deepest. Rare is the calendar or "Scenic Ohio" book that does not contain at least one picture of its tawny sandstone and conglomerate cliffs. One sheer rock face that rises 210 feet is said to be Ohio's highest cliff.



Conkles Hollow State Nature Preserve  
Photo by Ian Adams

Watch for the three types of Birch found along the way: River, Sweet and Yellow. The Rim Trail requires an exhausting ascent at the beginning and an equally long descent at the end, but the views at the top are well worth the effort. From here, all you can see are rock and trees—a view of Ohio as it was

before farms and cities. The hot afternoon sun strikes the east rim directly, creating a very dry habitat that supports reindeer lichens and blueberry. Growth is thicker and trees are larger on the shadowed west rim.

At the upper end of the gorge, a wooden deck provides a clear (and safe) view of the upper falls. Although the creek which feeds it runs dry during most Autumns, the eroded face of the 85 foot high cliff is interesting in its own right. In this shaded place relics of the Ice Age such as Canada Yew and Red Elderberry survive.

In the spring, Conkles Hollow provides one of the state's better displays of wildflowers, including Downy Rattlesnake Plantain, trilliums, Mountain Laurel and the amazing Pink Lady's-slipper Orchid, as well as waterfalls running at full force. But it is in the Fall that the hollow comes into its own. Conkles Hollow State Nature Preserve is located 12 miles south of Logan, ¼ mile east of State Route 374 on Big Pine Road.

~ By Tim Snyder

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## The Very Aggressive and Invasive Teasel

Each summer since 2012, ONAPA has sponsored a teasel removal volunteer work project at Daughmer State Nature Preserve located in Crawford County. Prior to ODNR purchasing the property, this exceptionally fine bur oak native prairie savanna had been grazed for more than 150 years, but never plowed. The non-native teasel was never reported as occurring there.

However, once the sheep were taken off pasture a year or so before the property was sold, thousands of flowering wild teasel plants made a surprising and explosive appearance. The problem is that teasel multiplies very rapidly creating a carpet of rosettes that in time squeezes out desirable native species. Teasel is primarily a biennial which produces a hardy rosette its first year, followed by a characteristic two to six foot tall prickly stalk the second. Stem leaves often clasp the main stem forming a "leaf cup" that captures small amounts of rainwater. According to folklore, this water is an especially good thirst quencher, which accounts for the generic name *Dipsacus* from the Greek *dipsa* "thirst". It is also allegedly useful to cool inflamed eyes, to make maidens beautiful, and remove warts.

The progression of flowering is unique to members of the teasel family. Blooming begins in July with a belt of minute tubular flowers around the center of the flower head and then progresses daily in both directions, upward and downward, to eventually form two new bands of flowers around each end of the flower head.

Teasel is native to Europe and Asia. It has become established in North America only within the last 150 years or so. In southern Europe it has been cultivated for over 2,000 years for its spiny, pincushion-like flower heads that were used in manufacturing woolen goods. The dried flower heads were split and mounted on revolving belts or rollers and used to card wool and to raise or tease the nap of woolen cloth. Hence the origin of the "teasel". This manufacturing technique, as



Common Teasel, (*Dipsacus fullonum*)

Our most common species of teasel is the wild teasel, (*Dipsacus fullonum*) that occurs along roadsides and in abandoned fields throughout Ohio. This wild species closely resembles the



Cut-leaved Teasel (*Dipsacus laciniatus*)

well as the teasel plants themselves, was exported to North America and used by manufactures of woolen cloth until the invention of modern carding equipment that used steel hooks to replace teasel burrs. The Rolls-Royce Corporation continued to advertise that it uses teasel burrs to give a smooth, luxurious finish to their upholstery material, a superb finish which apparently cannot be achieved with steel hooks.

fuller's teasel (*D. sativus*), a cultivated species of the wild teasel. The main difference between the two is that the flower bractlets or spines subtending the flower head of fuller's teasel have recurving, hooked tips; those of the wild species are straight. The fuller's teasel is extremely rare in Ohio. Within the last 20 years or more, the cut-leaved teasel (*D. laciniatus*) has exploded across the Ohio landscape. This is an extremely invasive species which is larger than the common wild teasel, has deeply cut leaves and white rather than purple flowers.

Mowing does not eliminate teasel. In fact roadside mowing equipment is probably responsible for spreading teasel. Fortunately, both

invasive species of teasels are primarily biennials. The best way to control teasel is to cut off and remove the flower heads before they go to seed, but that in itself is not enough since the plants will produce additional flowers along their rooted stems. The surest way to eliminate the plants is, using a shovel, to cut the upper most part of the tap root off below ground level and pull the first year rosette out of the ground. The same technique can be used on second year flowering plants as long as the seed heads are cut off and removed before they can go to seed. The trick to controlling invasive species is to eliminate them just as soon as they show up before they can get a foothold.

~ Guy Denny

## Ohio's Beebalm

As every gardener knows, beebalm is aptly named. These handsome mints are pollinator magnets. Butterflies, hummingbirds and, of course, bees are drawn to the flowers in great numbers. And if that weren't enough to commend them, they also are tall, showy plants that grow vigorously.

Beebalm is a member of the genus *Monarda* in the mint family, Lamiaceae. The genus contains about 20 species, all restricted to North America and Mexico. The Ohio beebalms are perennials. The Swedish botanist Linnaeus created the name *Monarda* in 1753 to honor Nicolas Monardes, a 16<sup>th</sup> Century Spanish physician who wrote about plants sent to him from the New World. The origin of the name "beebalm" is obvious. More prosaically, they often are called horsemints. The name "bergamot" also is used for *Monarda*, though that's misleading. The true bergamot is a bitter orange from the Mediterranean region, the rind of which is used in perfumes and flavorings. The scent of *Monarda* suggests the fragrance of the orange peel. There's no botanical relationship between a mint and an orange, of course. "Bergamot" is derived from the city of Bergamo, Italy, where the orange is cultivated.

Four species of *Monarda* occur naturally in Ohio. The rarest is the state-endangered dotted horsemint, *Monarda punctata*, found primarily in northwest Ohio where it grows in sunny openings in sandy soils. Kitty Todd Preserve in Lucas County is a great place to see this beautiful plant. Dotted horsemint is the only Ohio *Monarda* with both axillary and terminal flowers. Our other three species bear their blooms in dense clusters at the tops of the leafy stalks.

Scarlet beebalm is also known as Oswego-tea after the Oswego Indian tribe of New York state and for its use as an herbal tea. Its brilliant red flowers are unmistakable. No other Ohio beebalm looks anything like it. Oswego-tea



Wild Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*)



Oswego-tea or Scarlet beebalm (*Monarda didyma*)

primarily grows in moist, sunny sites in eastern Ohio, with scattered populations elsewhere.

The most frequent beebalms in Ohio are *Monarda clinopodia*, white beebalm, and *M. fistulosa*, common beebalm. The flower color of these two species is quite variable. White beebalm flowers range from white to pale lavender, while those of the common beebalm may

be lavender, pink or, rarely, white. The two species accurately are distinguished by close examination of the upper lip of the flower.

That of the white beebalm bears a prominent tuft of long hairs at the summit, while the upper lip of common beebalm is hairless or has only a few short hairs at its tip. Common beebalm is widespread throughout the U. S. from New England to the southern states and west to the Rocky Mountains. This species is by far our most frequently seen beebalm, growing throughout Ohio. The white beebalm, however, primarily is found in the Appalachian region of the US. It's frequent in eastern Ohio. Both species bloom in July and August in sunny openings, woodland edges, fields and roadsides. White beebalm seems to tolerate drier sites than those favored by the common beebalm. Some authorities consider these two beebalms varieties, rather than species. Their taxonomic status, however, is still questionable. Molecular studies of these and other species of *Monarda* have yet to be done.

A striking hybrid between Oswego-tea and either common or white beebalm, *Monarda X media* occasionally is found in Ohio. Its flowers vary from deep purple to magenta. This fertile hybrid is sold as purple bergamot and is deservedly popular as a garden plant. Many cultivars of this plant, and other beebalms as well, have been developed, all of which grow vigorously. Cultivated beebalms may spread from their garden plots and become adventive in the wild. So we have the curious situation of wildflowers being tamed and then escaping back to their homes. ~ Allison Cusick

## Stewardship in Action for 2017

**May** - On a beautiful spring day, Wednesday, May 3rd, ONAPA volunteers worked with preserve manager, Josh Deemer to pull garlic mustard at **Miller Nature Sanctuary** in Highland County. We had 6 ONAPA volunteers and our two new ONAPA Stewardship Assistants, Emily Powell and William Bonner. We worked hard to scout and pull garlic mustard, bringing 7 medium bags of garlic mustard out of two different areas in the preserve. Many years of garlic mustard control has paid off and we did not find large areas of garlic mustard this time. Heroic efforts by volunteers and Josh were made to eradicate garlic mustard from precarious slump blocks in the preserve (see photos). We enjoyed a scenic hike to two waterfalls, an arch, impressive wildflowers, and rare plants such as *Sullivantia* growing on the dolomite cliffs. Then on Wednesday, May 17th, 19 volunteers worked at **Collier Preserve** to control garlic mustard. This group includes 12 from ONAPA, 3 from DNAP, and 4 from AgCredit (a local community service program). We worked in the floodplain area on both sides of the trail where the wildflowers are abundant and lush. We pulled many bags of garlic mustard, which were ferried back to the parking area by DNAP using an ATV and small trailer (see photo). The garlic mustard was then loaded on a trailer behind a truck (see photo), so it could be disposed of away from the preserve. It was a large load of garlic mustard, with more left to be controlled in the preserve. We were thankful for the extra help!



Collier Preserve volunteers. Photo by Jan Kennedy.

**June** - ONAPA and Crawford Co. Park District staff and volunteers worked at **Daughmer Savanna** on June 10th and July 8th to continue removal of invading common teasel and other invasive plants found in the savanna since the spring prescribed burn. Great progress is being made to improve the savanna and prairie habitat there. On Wednesday, June 21st, a hardy group of 11 ONAPA volunteers and DNAP preserve manager, Michelle Comer ventured to the scientific side of **Clifton Gorge** (permit-only) to work on controlling invasive shrubs such as Amur honeysuckle, Japanese barberry, and common privet. It was quite a hike, and climb for some to reach the lower regions, where we were able to cut and treat the stems of invasive shrubs which are threatening rare plants like red baneberry. We were fortunate to see some red baneberry in fruit. After working for several hours, we had a short hike on the interpretive side where Tim Snyder talked about the history and geology of the preserve. Although it was a warm, humid day, we accomplished a lot of management and had a great day in a spectacular preserve.



Tim Snyder sharing the history of Clifton Gorge with volunteers.

**August** - On Wednesday, August 9th, a small group of 4 volunteers along with preserve manager, Charlotte McCurdy and ONAPA stewardship assistants, Will and Emily worked at **Myersville Fen SNP** to remove woody invasives, purple loosestrife, and hairy willow-herb. There is much work to be done in the two small fen meadows, but we accomplished a lot during the 4 hours we worked in one of the meadows. Located in the backyards of a housing development in Uniontown, the preserve is also impacted by yard waste and invasives coming from residents' landscaping. Fortunately there were several impressive fen plants blooming which made the mucky work all the more worthwhile - shrubby cinquefoil, Canada burnet, joe-pye-weed, mountain-mint, Kalm's lobelia, and seaside arrowgrass (*Triglochin palustris*). Then six ONAPA volunteers and preserve manager, Charlotte McCurdy worked at **Jackson Bog SNP** on August 16th to

remove purple loosestrife, hairy willow-herb, and cattail in the fen meadows. It was a warm, humid day, but we removed 18 bags of purple loosestrife, which is extensive in the meadows. We also cut and treated some invasive cattails. Both Will and Emily, ONAPA's stewardship assistants, attended this project and worked hard to remove many flowering loosestrife. On the next project at Jackson Bog on September 30th, we will focus on woody species removal in these meadows. On August 23rd, 3 ONAPA volunteers and 3 DNAP staff including preserve manager, Adam Wohlever, worked at **Gott Fen SNP** to remove and treat invading woody species such as glossy buckthorn and dogwood. The high-quality boreal fen meadows support many rare plants including bayberry, showy lady's-slipper, and round-leaved sundew. The meadows should be kept open with few woody species to prevent shading of the fen species, so this stewardship is critical to the maintenance of the fen and its rarities.

## Member Field Trips for 2017

ONAPA members must preregister for each field trip.

Field trip details and registration can be found at [www.onapa.org](http://www.onapa.org) by selecting ONAPA FIELD TRIPS under ACTIVITIES.



Guy Denny's prairie. Photo by Ian Adams

**Saturday, September 23,  
10 a.m.**

### ***Prairie Seed Collecting Event at Denny's Tallgrass Prairie*** **Fredericktown, Ohio**

Host: Guy Denny, retired DNAP Chief & ONAPA president  
Meet at Guy Denny's at 6021 Mt. Gilead Road, Fredericktown, Ohio.

**Saturday September 30,  
10 a.m.**

### ***Lichens Identification Field Trip***

Leader: Ray Showman, Ohio's leading lichen expert.  
Limited to 12 preregistered members.

**Saturday, October 28, 10 a.m.**

### ***Clifton Gorge Geology Tour***

Leader: Tim Snyder, Retired Regional Preserve Manager and ONAPA Board Member.  
Limited to the first 25 members who register.

**Saturday, November 11,  
10 a.m.**

### ***Winter Twig Tour***

Leader: **Steve McKee, Naturalist and retired Director of the Gorman Nature Center.**

Limited to 20 preregistered members.  
A field trip to identify winter trees.

### ***Save This Date - The Week of June 11, 2018***

The ONAPA out-of-state field trip for 2018 will be to the Flint Hills of Kansas where the tallgrass prairies of North America begin. We will be visiting the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve located just west of Emporium, Kansas. On the second day of our visit we will head north to Manhattan, Kansas to visit Konza Prairie managed by Kansas State University. Travel details will be forth coming in early 2018 so watch for them on our website.

## ONAPA Members Visit West Virginia

ONAPA sponsored its second out-of-state trip (the first one was to Michigan in June 2015) on June 28-29<sup>th</sup> to Dolly Sods Wilderness Area (>17,000 acres) and Cranberry Glades Botanical Area (>750 acres) in southeastern West Virginia. Approximately 40 ONAPA members attended this amazing tour of some of West Virginia's finest natural areas, both of which are owned and managed by the U.S. Forest Service. Both areas are very large with much to explore, so the leaders chose portions with excellent botanical diversity, primarily peatlands, to show the group. There were 8 excellent leaders, including Guy Denny, Dick Moseley, Tim Snyder, Jennifer Windus, Lee Casebere, David Kuehner, Cheryl Harner, and Jason Larson, who helped guide the groups to the areas and identify various plants. Most people stayed overnight on Wednesday and Thursday nights in the Elkins area. We enjoyed seeing many unusual plants, some rare in Ohio and some not found in Ohio at all. Some of the most fascinating included white monkshood, large purple fringed orchid, round-leaved orchid, mountain laurel, grass pink orchid, rose pogonia, and great rhododendron.



## Another Champion for ONAPA Steps Forward

For decades in Ohio, newly elected governors and legislators have garnered political favor by embracing the reduction of funding for state agencies feeding the fallacy that state government is chronically wasteful and overfunded. To add insult to injury, they frequently espoused cute clichés such as “Doing more with less” or “Working smarter and harder.” Certainly, costs for operating state government do increase annually just as does the number of citizens for whom services and facilities must be provided continues to grow. The increasing costs in the private sector we all have to pay for goods and services, including the state of Ohio, also continues to grow as the economy prospers.



Senator Frank LaRose (R) Ohio Senate District 27

This past June, the Ohio Generally Assembly passed, and the Governor signed into law, the biennium FY18-19 operating budget for the State of Ohio. So here we go again with another significant budget cut for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR). I can't speak for other state agencies, but having worked in ODNR for more than 30 years, I can attest that in my experience ODNR has never been overfunded or wasteful with tax dollars, quite the contrary. Yet, over the years from administration to administration, the operating budget for ODNR has continually been alarmingly whittled down.

The annual operating budget process typically begins with the Administration (Office of Budget & Management) submitting their budget request to the Ohio House of Representatives for their input. In addition to a number of other ODNR budget cuts, the Administration proposed a 20% cut to the General Revenue Fund (GRF) operating budget of the Division of Natural Areas & Preserves (DNAP) amounting to \$245,162 for FY18 (Fiscal Year 2018). Then in FY19, GRF funds were to return back to FY17 funding levels. To their credit, they said this 20% cut in GRF could be made up with public donations from the Natural Areas Income Tax Checkoff Program as well as donations from Natural Areas Auto License sales. At least, that is what they thought could happen.

When the Ohio House of Representatives got the budget, they further reduced DNAP funding in FY18 by an additional \$15,250, for a total 21.2% cut for FY18 over FY17 funding levels. For FY19, the Ohio House version of the budget went further than the Governor's budget. Instead of returning back to FY17 funding levels, the House proposed reducing GRF funding for FY19 by an additional \$19,062.

The problem is that the non-GRF revenue projections by both the Administration's and the House's budget proposals were unrealistically exaggerated. Neither annual tax checkoff donations nor auto license sales realized over the last few years come close to making up for these proposed budget cuts. More importantly, these private donations from the public who support the Natural Areas Program are restricted. By state law, tax checkoff donations "shall not be used to fund salaries of permanent employees or administrative costs". Checkoff funds are critically needed to hire seasonal employees to help maintain

the state nature preserves and for the maintenance and construction of visitor use facilities on the preserves; not to replace GRF funding.

Before the Ohio House's version of the proposed operating budget was sent on to the Ohio Senate for their input, ONAPA quickly went to work meeting with and explaining to several State Senators who have state nature preserves in their Senate Districts, how the proposed budget would seriously impact the already financially beleaguered Natural Areas Program. In 1999 when I retired as Chief of the Division of Natural Areas & Preserves, we had 14 full time preserve managers taking care of well over 100 state nature preserves scattered throughout Ohio. At that time, we could barely keep our heads above water. Currently, there are only 6 full time preserve managers responsible for 130 preserves throughout the state. They are not able to keep up with all the work that needs to be done which is why ONAPA was created in the first place.

A champion stepped forward. He was State Senator Frank LaRose from Akron who has a reputation for being sensitive to natural resources issues. Senator LaRose introduced an amendment to the budget bill that would prevent any cuts to the DNAP operating budget and instead would keep funding in FY18-19 at the same levels as FY17. Unfortunately, in spite of Senator LaRose's best efforts, his budget amendment lost out to funding needs for addressing the opioid crisis and was eliminated in Republican caucus. Consequently, the propose cuts to DNAP's operating budget for FY18-19 as proposed by the Ohio House, were approved by the Senate, passed the Ohio General Assembly, and were signed into law by the Governor. Nevertheless, we are very grateful to, and applaud, Senator LaRose for his valiant efforts to champion Ohio's Natural Areas Program.

~ Guy Denny

## Thank You for Your Support! Newest Members & Donors

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As of 08/25/2017

### Your Grocery Shopping Makes a Difference

Grocery shopping is an activity that all of us are involved with, that is, if we want to eat. This activity can generate funds for non-profit organizations if you shop at Kroger Supermarkets. Kroger is committed to helping communities grow and prosper by supporting schools, churches, and non-profit organizations like ONAPA through their Community Rewards Program.

Kroger Community Rewards makes fund-raising easy. All you have to do is shop at Kroger and swipe your Plus Card before purchasing groceries! You also must enroll for the Kroger Community Rewards Program and designate ONAPA as your charity for support. You can do this by going to the [krogercommunityrewards.com](http://krogercommunityrewards.com). If you are a Kroger customer but have not enrolled in the program, I urge you to do so since your purchases can make a difference in the amount of funds ONAPA receives. So if you are a Kroger customer that has a Plus Card and have registered for the Kroger Community Rewards Program supporting ONAPA then you helped make a difference by generating **\$1,191.34** to date from the Kroger Rewards Program to help fund our activities and projects. Give yourself a hand for what you have accomplished!

Lastly, remember that all participants **must re-enroll each year** to continue earning rewards for ONAPA. Kroger will not automatically renew your participation in this program at the end of the year.



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Visit <http://www.onapa.org/amazon-smile.html> for signing up instructions.

**Don't forget to renew your ONAPA membership today!**

## Thinking of Volunteering? Here is our Fall Schedule

**Saturday, September 9**  
**Bush Honeysuckle Removal**  
**at Gallagher Fen State Nature**  
**Preserve**  
10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
4709 Old Columbus Rd,  
Springfield  
Clark County



**Wednesday, September 20**  
**Invasive Species Control at**  
**Springville Marsh State**  
**Nature Preserve**  
10:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Township Road 24, Carey  
Seneca County

**Saturday, September 30**  
**Invasive Species Control at**  
**Jackson Bog State Nature**  
**Preserve**  
10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
7984 Fulton Drive NW, Massillon  
Stark County

**Wednesday, September 27**  
**Glossy Buckthorn Removal at**  
**Cooperrider - Kent Bog State**  
**Nature Preserve**  
10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
1028 Meloy Road, Kent  
Portage County

**Wednesday, October 11**  
**Removal of Woody Species**  
**Sprouts in Savanna at**  
**Meilke Rd Savanna Wildlife**  
**Area**  
10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
Lucas County

**Saturday, October 21**  
**Invasive Woody Species**  
**Control**  
**At Brinkhaven Barrens**  
10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
Holmes County

**Wednesday, October 25**  
**Invasive Woody Species**  
**Control at Kiser Lake**  
**Wetlands**  
10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
Champaign County

**Wednesday, November 8**  
**Invasive Woody Species**  
**Control at Medway PFO Site**  
10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
Clark County

**Saturday, November 18**  
**Invasive Woody Species**  
**Control at Bonnett Pond Bog**  
10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
Holmes County

Project details can be found at [www.onapa.org/stewardship-projects.html](http://www.onapa.org/stewardship-projects.html).  
Please sign-up in advance so we know you are coming and can communicate last minute details or changes.



### Ohio Natural Areas & Preserves Association

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*Protecting Ohio's Natural Legacy*  
[www.onapa.org](http://www.onapa.org)