



# ONAPA NEWS

Wild Geranium—Photo by Tim Snyder

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VOLUME 2 ISSUE 1

SPRING — 2014

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

## A Brief History of the Struggle to Preserve Ohio's Finest Remaining Natural Areas

Guy Denny, ONAPA President

In 1958, community leaders from across the state, alarmed by the loss of Ohio's finest remaining natural areas, established the Ohio Chapter of the Nature Conservancy. In its beginning years, TNC was able to protect several outstanding natural areas, but by the mid-1960's

it became apparent that private efforts alone were not enough to adequately protect the dwindling number of significant areas remaining in Ohio. Consequently, in 1966 The Ohio Chapter of the Nature Conservancy called for the creation of a state nature preserve system. As a result of their efforts, Senator Clara Weisenborn (R) Dayton introduced Senate Bill 113, the "Ohio Natural Areas Act" in 1969. The Ohio General Assembly passed the bill which was then signed into law by Governor James A. Rhodes. The Natural Areas Act authorized ODNR to acquire, dedicate, and administer a system of state nature preserves for scientific and educational purposes. Richard E. Moseley, Jr., previously Chief Naturalist for the Division of Parks & Recreation, was charged with building Ohio's Natural Areas Program.

By 1973 the program had grown to the extent that Moseley and his limited staff could no longer manage the preserves by themselves. William B. Nye, Director of ODNR under the Gilligan Administration, addressed the situation by assigning the Division of Forestry (renamed the Division of Forestry and Preserves) the responsibility for managing all



Triangle Lake Bog. Photo by Guy Denny

state nature preserves except those contiguous to lands held by the Division of Parks & Recreation and the Division of Wildlife which they would manage. Each of these divisions had their traditional missions and their own sites to maintain, and possessed little expertise in managing nature preserves which were, understandably, a low priority for them.

By 1975, Dr. Robert W. Teater, ODNR Director during Governor Rhodes' second double term in office, realized that, to achieve professionally consistent management of these special, fragile areas, they had to be placed under one entity with expertise in natural areas management and the commitment to focus on that mission alone. Accordingly, by Executive Order of the Governor, Director Teater created the ODNR Division of Natural Areas & Preserves. Richard E. Moseley, Jr. was appointed its first Chief and Guy L. Denny, former Chief Naturalist and Executive Assistant to the Chief of Parks & Recreation, was selected

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## Preserving Ohio's Finest Natural Areas

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its first Assistant Chief. In 1976, the 111<sup>th</sup> General Assembly permanently established the division. Over the next 25 years the Division of Natural Areas &



Conkles Hollow. Photo by Ian Adams.

Preserves, (DNAP) continued to flourish, becoming recognized as one of the finest natural areas programs in the nation.

In 2010, during the Strickland Administration, DNAP was dealt a devastating blow. To address drastic funding cuts to ODNR, Director Sean Logan disbanded DNAP. Its offices in Building F, Fountain Square, were emptied. The Scenic Rivers Program was transferred to the Division of Watercraft. The Ohio Natural Heritage Program and its staff moved to the Division of Wildlife. The nine remaining preserve managers and the responsibility for managing natural areas were transferred to the Division of Parks & Recreation. While the Scenic Rivers Program has done well under the Division of Watercraft, the Natural Heritage Program and its database of rare species and natural features is suffering from inattention, and the quality of the data is declining.

In 2011, the incoming Kasich Administration required its new ODNR Director David Mustine to submit a FY12-13 Biennium Operating Budget—a task which fell primarily to career administrators held over from previous administrations. Contained within the budget bill was language to permanently abolish the statute that established DNAP (ORC Chapter 1517) and place the statutory responsibility for managing natural areas solely in the hands of the Division of Parks & Recreation. There was also a provision for placing the Natural Areas Income Tax Check-off

Program under the control of the Division of Parks & Recreation which could then also use those monies to fund park projects.

Alarmed by this turn of events, retired DNAP administrators Richard E. Moseley, Guy Denny, and Jim McGregor attempted to prevent this language in the budget bill from being adopted. They knew that park professionals did not have the ecological expertise to adequately run the Natural Areas Program and that their

*The role of ONAPA is to protect Ohio's rich natural heritage of exceptional ecological and geological diversity.*

focus was and understandably continues to be on operating the financially beleaguered State Park System. With support from key legislative leaders in both the Ohio House and Senate, they were able to get the provision abolishing DNAP and reassigning its income tax check-off funds removed from the budget bill. When ODNR Director Mustine objected that ODNR did not have the funding to keep DNAP in existence, the General Assembly allocated an additional \$2.4 million to the

Division of Natural Areas & Preserves (not the Division of Parks) for the FY12-13 biennium to keep the Division in existence. In spite of the intent of the General Assembly, ODNR continues to operate the Natural Areas Program as a sub-unit of the Division of Parks & Recreation, with the Chief of Parks also acting as Chief of DNAP. The five District Managers responsible for overseeing the state parks also directly supervise the preserve managers and nature preserves within their districts. While these management professionals do an excellent job with the parks, most of them have little or no experience or expertise managing nature preserves.

It was ODNR's decision not to reestablish DNAP as a stand-alone division administered by experienced natural areas management professionals that led to a strategic planning meeting of invited natural areas stakeholders at Gorman Nature Center in February of 2012. Among the 50 attendees were two former ODNR Directors, representatives from major conservation organizations, retired DNAP staff as well as other natural areas professionals from throughout the state. The most commonly repeated proposal for keeping Ohio's Natural Areas Program viable, was that of creating a new state-wide, 501(c)(3) organization to deal exclusively with natural areas management issues. This led to the creation of the Ohio Natural Areas & Preserves Association (ONAPA).

(Continued on Page 4)

## State Representative David Hall, a fellow traveler

State Representative Dave Hall has been a good friend of the Ohio Natural Areas and Preserves Association (ONAPA). Dave serves the 70<sup>th</sup> House District which includes Ashland County and its environs in Northeast Ohio. Representative Hall is Chair of the Agricultural and Natural Resources Committee, a pivotal position in conserving Ohio's few remaining and best natural areas. He also serves on the Finance and appropriation committee which holds the purse strings of the State. Endorsed by the *Plain Dealer*, Dave Hall has earned the support of many and diverse voters.



REPRESENTATIVE DAVID HALL (R)  
OHIO HOUSE DISTRICT 70

Prior to being elected to the House, Dave was Park Director for the Holmes County Park

*"We, in ONAPA, have a long struggle ahead of us to return adequate management and financial resources to the Division."*

District. He also served as Holmes County Commissioner. Dave's love of park land and the outdoors brings an important perspective to the legislature. His love of, "all things wild and

wonderful," is shared by his wife, Anita.

A committee chair is especially busy, yet Representative Hall was always available to Guy Denny and Dick Moseley as they toiled mightily to save the Division from being dissolved. The Division of Natural Areas and Preserves was disbanded during the Strickland years and its fate seemed sealed as the new administration took office. David Hall, in his position as Chair, fought a lonely battle to prevent the permanent interment of the Division. In the end,

and against the odds, he prevailed.

We, in ONAPA, have a long struggle ahead of us to return adequate management and financial resources to the Division. Because of Dave Hall, we have a Division that legally exists, even if in practicality it does not. Without that legal recognition, we would be "without form and void". With it, we have hope and a vision.

Dave's home page is [hallforohio.com](http://hallforohio.com). Please tell Representative Hall how much you appreciate his support for Ohio's Natural Areas and Preserves.

Jim McGregor

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Saturday, September 20,**  
**2014**  
**ONAPA Annual Banquet**  
**& Meeting**

**Details TBA**



## Preserving Ohio's Finest Natural Areas

*(Continued from page 2)*

In April of 2012 ONAPA officially began operating as a non-profit, state-wide organization focused solely on addressing natural areas issues. It is not a "friends group" for DNAP or ODNR, but rather a "friends group" for the state's nature preserves. The board of directors consist of 16 natural resources professionals. Its officers are President, Guy L. Denny, Vice President; Robert McCance Jr. (retired DNAP Administrator who developed the Ohio Natural Heritage Program), Secretary, Richard E. Moseley Jr., Treasurer, Kenyon College biology professor Dr. Raymond Heithaus, and Government Affairs Officer, James F. McGregor (the first Field Operations Administrator for DNAP as well as former Mayor of Gahanna and State Representative of the 20<sup>th</sup> Ohio House District).

At the urging of the founders of ONAPA, the Ohio Senate re-established the Ohio Natural Areas Council within the language of the FY 12-13 Biennium Budget Bill. ONAPA provided a list of several highly qualified applicants three years ago at the request of the Division of Parks and Recreation as required by law. The legally-binding Articles of Dedication for most preserves require input and approval by the Natural Areas Council for management activities. The ONAPA Board of Directors felt it essential to have outside experts available to make the recommendations to the

*They knew that park professionals did not have the ecological expertise to adequately run the Natural Areas Program and that their focus was and continues to be on operating the financially beleaguered State Park system.*

Director of ODNR for natural areas management which the Natural Areas Council had once provided, and established the ONAPA Scientific Advisory Committee to do so. This committee consists of 12 highly qualified Ph.Ds. who have worked extensively with state listed species and rare ecosystems. The Board of ONAPA also created the Resource Protection Committee to offer consultation and advice to current preserve managers. The committee is composed of current and retired natural areas managers with extensive natural areas management experience and expertise, including several former DNAP staffers. The chair of this committee, Timothy Snyder, is the retired West-Central Ohio District Preserve Manager for DNAP and Past President of the Outdoor Writers of Ohio.

The role of ONAPA is to protect Ohio's rich natural heritage of exceptional ecological and geological diversity. It does this by bringing

together individuals and organizations to help promote, monitor, maintain, and enhance Ohio's most significant natural areas for educational and scientific purposes. ONAPA also works to insure that these areas are adequately protected,



Grass Pink. Photo by Guy Denny.

appropriately managed, and continually supported for the benefit of all Ohioans.

Additional information about membership, volunteer opportunities, field trips, work trips and the ONAPA newsletter can be accessed on the organization's website at [www.onapa.org](http://www.onapa.org). As the organization continues to grow, it can and will play a major role in helping return Ohio's Natural Areas Program to the nationally recognized Division it once was, should be, and can become again.

## Upcoming Member Tours

**Saturday, April 19, 2014 at 10 a.m.**



*Spring Wildflower Walk at Fowler Woods State Nature Preserve, Richland County*

**Leader: Dick Moseley**

Join us to visit one of the best sites in Ohio for viewing spring wildflowers. Especially notable are the spectacular displays of marsh marigolds in April.

**Directions:** Located in Richland County, 13 miles north of Mansfield. From the north or south take SR-13 to Noble Rd, go east on Noble Rd approximately 1- 1/4 miles to Olivesburg-Fitchville Rd, then south to the preserve's parking lot, which is located on the west side of the road.

**Saturday, May 3, 2014 at 10 a.m.**

*Wildflowers & Geology Walk at Clifton Gorge State Nature Preserve, Greene County*

**Leader: Tim Snyder**



Clifton Gorge. Photo by Tim Snyder.

As Ohio's premier example of a glacially-cut canyon, Clifton Gorge has attracted its share of interesting characters, from entrepreneurs to hermits. It also hosts a spectacular display of spring wildflowers which will provide the backdrop for this approximately two mile walk exploring the geological and human history of the gorge.

**Directions:** From I-70 at Springfield, take State Route 72 south to State Route 343 in the village of Clifton. Go right (west) on S.R. 343 1/2 mile to the preserve parking lot on the left (south) side of the road where the hike will begin.

**Saturday, May 3, 2014 from 8 a.m. to Noon**

*Bird Walk at Clear Creek Metro Park, Fairfield & Hocking Counties*

**Leader: Columbus & Franklin County MetroParks Resource Manager, John Watts**

Clear Creek Metro Park represents the largest dedicated nature preserve in Ohio. Named in honor of the Beck, Benau and Barnebey families who were early conservationists in the valley, the 4,700 acre preserve is considered one of the best birding locations in Ohio, hosting over 100 breeding species annually including over 20 species of wood warblers. The morning walk should produce nearly

70 species of birds and may include some moderately difficult hiking.

**What to Bring:** Dress for the weather. Bring water to drink, bird guide and binoculars.

**Directions:** Located approximately 7 miles south of Lancaster just north of Rockbridge, OH. Follow U.S. Route 33 south just below the Fairfield/Hocking County line to Clear Creek Road (Hocking County Road 116). Turn right (west) onto Clear Creek Road at the Sunoco Gas Station. Go 1/2 mile to the first parking lot on the right at Neotoma Valley where we will meet. The preserve includes land on both sides of Clear Creek and the adjacent Clear Creek Rd.

**Saturday, May 24, 2014 at 10 a.m.**

*Oak Openings Tour*

**Leader: Guy Denny**

More state-listed plants occur in the Oak Openings of Northwestern Ohio than in any other geographic area of Ohio due to the great diversity of habitats occurring here. Covering more than 150 square miles, the Oak Openings region consists of fascinating ecosystems including active sand dunes, open oak sand barrens, prairies, and sedge meadows. Participants will explore several of these ecosystems, learn how they function, and be introduced to the many plants and animals characteristic of the Oak Openings.

**What to Bring:** Dress for the weather, rain or shine. Wear a hat to protect you from deer flies and sun. Bring a sack lunch and water to drink. Camera and binoculars desirable.

**Directions:** Oak Openings Preserve Metropark is located at the end of Wilkins Road situated just west of Toledo Express Airport. Meet at the north end of the Mallard Lake parking lot.

**Saturday, June 28, 2014, 10 a.m. to Noon**

*Ecology of Lake Erie Beaches, Lake County*

**Leader: Curator of Botany, Coordinator of Natural Areas, Director of the Center for Conservation & Biodiversity at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Dr. James K. Bissell**  
Mentor Headlands Dunes is one of the best beach grass dunes along the Ohio shoreline of Lake Erie. The state-threatened beach grass and beach pea should be in flower. Many other rare plants will be shown to those who attend the field trip including coastal little bluestem, Baltic rush, seaside spurge, alpine rush and sea rocket.

**Directions:** Take Ohio Route 44 north from Ohio Route 2 to the entrance to Mentor Headlands State Park. Travel east to the easternmost parking lot.

**Please RSVP for each field trip you plan on attending to [info@onapa.org](mailto:info@onapa.org) with your name, phone number and email address so we will know who is coming and be able to contact you if any one of these field trips has to be cancelled**

## Registration now open for a special edition of Flora-Quest

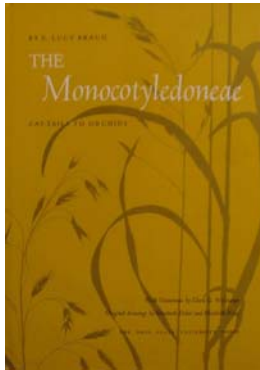
ONAPA has teamed up with Flora-Quest to offer a special edition of its popular botanical field symposium on Marblehead Peninsula May 12-13, 2014. The program and field trips led by expert botanists will explore the rare Great Lakes alvar habitats of the area, with the highlight being an opportunity to view a spectacular display of the globally rare Lakeside Daisy. Only 60 seats are available and will fill up fast. For more information and to register, visit the Flora-Quest website at <http://www.flora-quest.com> or call 419-683-8952.



Lakeside Daisy. Photo by Tim Snyder

## Book Nook

### *The Monocotyledoneae: Cat-tails to Orchids*



E. Lucy Braun's *Monocotyledoneae* has been a staple reference work for Ohio botanists since its publication in 1967 as Volume 1 of a projected vascular flora of the state. With a section on Graminaeae by Clara Weishaupt and illustrations by Elizabeth Dalve and Elizabeth King, the manual is also a tribute to the contributions Ohio's women researchers have made. Braun's objectives as described in the Preface were completeness, accuracy and usability by botanists, students, amateurs and fieldworkers in the natural sciences. Given the march of progress, the book may not be as complete today as when first published, but it remains every bit as useful. Extensive keys and 124 full-page drawings illustrating most of the listed plants make this a necessary addition to any serious botany bookshelf. Still available from The Ohio State University Press, copies are also available on-line through several book-sellers.

## 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 anything and it will help ONAPA achieve its mission.

## ONAPA Spring 2014 Work Trips

**Saturday, April 26**

*Prairie Wildflower Transplant*  
State Fairgrounds  
Columbus, OH



Clifton Gorge. Photo by Tim Snyder.



Daughmer Savanna. Photo by Guy Denny.

**Saturday, May 31**

*Teasel Control*  
Daughmer Prairie  
Savanna SNP

**Saturday, June 21**

*Woody Removal*  
Compass Plant SNP  
Lawrence County

Please RSVP to [info@onapa.org](mailto:info@onapa.org) so we will know in advance who is coming. Include the name of the work project in the subject line of your email.

For more information, visit [ONAPA.org](http://ONAPA.org)

**Thank you to our new members and donors:**

Richard Baron  
Marjorie Becus  
Daniel Cary  
Robert E. & Albert A. Hanes  
E. Dale Inkley  
Frank B. Knapke, Jr.  
Aaron Kwolek  
Adam Lehmann  
Mike & Dorothy Mainhart  
Gwen Marshall  
Nancy Ambers Massar  
A. David Morrow  
Oak Openings Conservancy  
Marilyn Ortt  
David M. Ditullio & Kate M. Pilacky  
Gary Popotnik  
James & Janice Reed  
The Holden Arboretum  
Richard Bradley & Amy Tovar

Memberships and donations gladly accepted via our PayPal friendly web site!

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Please visit [www.ohiodnr.com/dnap](http://www.ohiodnr.com/dnap)

## ONAPA Executive Committee

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Robert McCance, Vice-President  
Dr. Ray Heithaus, Treasurer  
Richard E. Moseley, Secretary  
James F. McGregor, Governmental Affairs Officer  
Tim Snyder (Newsletter Editor)  
Cheryl Harner

## ONAPA Directors

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Mary Christensen  
Delores Cole (Webmaster)  
Robin Green  
Dewey Hollister  
Jim Mason  
Katrjn Renard  
Dr. David Todt

Contact Us—  
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Johnstown, OH 43031

*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](mailto:info@onapa.org)*



## Shop using AmazonSmile to Help ONAPA

Through the new [AmazonSmile](http://www.smile.amazon.com) 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](http://www.smile.amazon.com) (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!**

## Join or Renew Your Membership Today!

### Membership Levels

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