



ONAPA NEWS

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SUMMER — 2014

Daughmer Savanna—Photo by Ian Adams

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

Daughmer State Nature Preserve ONAPA Volunteers at Work

We were ecstatic in December of 2010 when ODNR, using private donations from the DNAP Income Tax Check-off Program, successfully purchased Daughmer Prairie Savanna located in Crawford County. Efforts to permanently protect this bur oak prairie savanna date back to the 1960s when the site was first reported by W. L. Muhlbach, a botanist from Crawford County. It was included in *The Natural*



Daughmer Savanna State Nature Preserve

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Daughmer State Nature Preserve	1
ONAPA Volunteers at Work	
ONAPA Upcoming Work Trips	3
Save the Date for our Annual	3
Upcoming Member Tours	4
Passing of A Natural Areas Giant	5
Flora-Quest Marblehead	5
Welcome New Members	6
Thank You to Our Donors	6
Great Garlic Mustard Pull	6
Bald Eagle Reproduction Shows	7
Membership Application	7
Support ONAPA with Kroger Rewards	8
You Shop. AmazonSmile Gives	8

Areas Project, A Summary of Data to Date, Dr. J. Arthur Herrick's 1974 inventory of the best known natural areas remaining in Ohio. Many of the sites listed in Herrick's publication have since been destroyed, but Daughmer, one of the very finest, has at last been protected after many years of effort by The Nature Conservancy, The Ohio Biological Survey, the Crawford County Park District, and ODNR's Division of Natural Areas & Preserves.

I had visited the savanna many times when it was owned by Frank and Hazel Daughmer, who used it to pasture sheep. By the time it was purchased by ODNR, the sheep had

been removed for several years. In the absence of grazing, many non-native plant species introduced to the site by sheep, but no longer kept in check by grazing, were quickly becoming a problem.

Upon pulling into the parking lot for my first visit to the preserve following its acquisition, I was dismayed to find extensive stands of the very invasive common teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*). Not only was this non-native in full flower, but many flower heads were just waiting to disperse hundreds of thousands of additional seeds. Between 1997 and 2002 when OSU graduate student John Mack was inventorying the plant species present at Daughmer for his Master of Science thesis, he did not encounter any teasel. It is essentially a

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

biennial that develops a winter rosette. When sheep were put on pasture in the spring, these rosettes would have been among the first greens grazed, thus keeping the plants under control. Only tiny seedlings



Teasel seed heads

originating from sheep dung would have been present and out of sight. When the sheep were removed, those seedlings were able to reach full size, competing with native prairie species for nutrients and space. It was clear on that visit in June of 2011 that something had to be done soon before these plants once again dispersed their seeds making the problem even worse.

Although ONAPA was just coming together as an organization, we put out a call for volunteers to help bring teasel under control at Daughmer, and about 20 people turned out. Since the seed heads were already developed, the volunteers had to cut off the heads and bag them so they could be removed from the preserve. By the end of a very long day, 30 large leaf bags were filled with seed heads. The following year, volunteers from Columbus Audubon joined the effort.

This time we were able to get a start before the seed heads were fully developed, which allowed volunteers to simply cut and pull plants out of the ground and then remove the undeveloped seed heads. This past summer, volunteers from Columbus Audubon, Mohican Native Plant Society, and Crawford County Parks joined ONAPA volunteers

to bring teasel under control. Significant progress is being made but it will take several more years to eradicate teasel since there is a seed bank remaining in the soil and thousands of teasel rosettes still present.

While cutting teasel, one individual asked why not just burn the savanna in spring and spray the teasel rosettes with herbicide. There are two problems with that. First, fire does not negatively impact teasel seedlings or rosettes. It would, however, expose the rosettes so they could be more easily sprayed with herbicide, and that brings us to the second concern. Although herbicides have their place and may be the only effective method for dealing with some invasive species, they should be the last resort for use in a nature preserve and even then, used judiciously. Daughmer Prairie Savanna has never been plowed or had chemicals applied, which means that its soil microorganisms are still intact. Science has recently learned just how important soil microorganisms are to plant growth

and health. Therefore, we need to protect them from chemical applications. The day may come when microorganism like those found at Daughmer will be critical for inoculating agricultural fields to increase

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crop yields. It would be totally irresponsible to compromise those soil microorganisms by the use of herbicides simply to more-easily control an invasive species that can be—and is being—brought under control manually.

In addition to efforts needed to eradicate invasive species, there are other serious challenges to be addressed at Daughmer. Being situated well east of the typical range for prairies, prescribed fire needs to be employed on a regular basis

to control invading woody species and keep them from crowding out the shade intolerant prairie plants. In Ohio where we average more than 40 inches of annual precipitation, prescribed fires need to be done more often than in western prairie states like Illinois and Iowa. But prescribed burns also pose a problem. Most of the trees at Daughmer are over 200 years old. Livestock grazing has prevented the growth of young bur oaks to replace parent trees



Jan Kennedy beheading teasel

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

as they succumb to old age and storm damage. Now that grazing has ceased, young bur oaks are once again becoming established. The problem is, too many seedlings can change the savanna into an open woodlot. Fire will top kill young bur oaks until they reach about 12 years of age. For replacement of the old trees to occur without the savanna turning into a woodlot, some, but not all, of these young trees need to be initially protected from fire as well as from buck deer girdling them by rubbing the velvet off their antlers. Here, too, ONAPA volunteers have stepped in by putting deer protectors around several young bur oaks and by mowing down vegetation around the trees so prescribed burns will not kill them. These are just some of the many challenges facing preserve managers who are charged with



Daughmer teasel squad

ONAPA Hosted the Heritage Garden Tour at the Governor's Residence for Ohio Members (Zone 10) of the Garden Clubs of America

This tour was led by Hope Taft and Guy Denny



SAVE THE DATE: Sept 20th—ONAPA ANNUAL Banquet Join us in Lakeside, Ohio for Botanical Tours, our Annual Banquet and Guest Speaker: Allison Cusick

Back by popular demand, an opportunity to learn more about the rare botany and geology of the Lake Erie Island region. Allison's program on THE NEW SANDUSKY FLORA will be an in-depth look at this botanically rich area of our state. In 1899, botanist E. L. Moseley published *Sandusky Flora*, a descriptive account of the plant life of the Lake Plain, Marblehead Peninsula and the Erie Islands near that Ohio city. Much has changed in the 115 years since Moseley's flora. Non-native species have invaded and natural habitats have been destroyed by agriculture, development and recreation. We will lament what has been lost, marvel at what has persisted and cheer what has been preserved. We will be arranging tours at local areas of interest. The Lake Erie Islands—Ohio's wine region—are at their very best in September! Come view them from the Lakeside dock, enjoy your botanical friends, and support ONAPA's efforts to protect our state's nature preserves. Tours will be held on both September 20 and 21. Visit www.onapa.org for details.

Upcoming Member Tours

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.

Saturday, July 12, 2014 at 10 a.m.

Tour of Chaparral Prairie State Nature Preserve

Adams County

Leader: Dick Moseley

This is an outstanding xeric limestone prairie with post and blackjack oak. It supports the most extensive population of rattlesnake-master in the state. Prairie dock and spiked blazing-star are also unusually abundant at this site. Eleven state-listed species have been recorded at the preserve including spider milkweed, prairie false indigo, pink milkwort and American bluehearts. Little bluestem is the dominant prairie grass.

Saturday, July 26, 2014 at 10 a.m.

Dragonflies & Damselflies of Darby Creek

Franklin County

Leaders: Dr. Jim Davidson, Cheryl Harner, and Guy Denny

We will be exploring both Little Darby Creek State Scenic River and a nearby wetland to learn how to identify the common odonates occurring in both stream and wetland habitats. Although typically small in size, these amazing insects are as colorful as any spring warbler. Learning how to identify them and the ecological niches they inhabit will expand your knowledge of and appreciation for the realm of the odonate.

Saturday, July 26, 2014 at 10 a.m. (Note date change)

Wetlands Walk at Sheldon Marsh State Nature Preserve

Erie County

**Leaders: Dean Sheldon and Ohio Wetlands Association President,
Ray Stewart**

Preservation of habitat is seen as the key to survival of wild plant and animal communities, and this preserve contains many types of habitats

such as old field, hardwood forest, woodland swamp, cattail marsh, barrier sand beach and open water-lake. All are relicts of the lake-marsh-forest ecosystem which originally encompassed thousands of acres along Lake Erie's western basin. Join Dean and Ray in exploring this marsh.

Saturday, August 9, 2014 at 9 a.m.

Wetland Walk at Tinker's Creek State Nature Preserve

Portage & Summit Counties

Leaders: Tinker's Creek Watershed Coordinator, Babette Oestreicher and Ohio Wetlands Association President, Ray Stewart

Tinker's Creek rises in northern Portage County and flows across a high plateau region of bays, swamps and marshes before cascading through a deep gorge and entering the lower Cuyahoga River. This preserve lies amid thousands of acres of rich peat, swamp and marshland. The nearly 786-acre preserve teems with a great diversity of plant and animal life.

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.

Visit www.onapa.org for driving directions. Please email info@onapa.org to let us know you are joining us.

Passing of a Natural Areas Giant

Bob McCance

Marilyn Ortt of Marietta Ohio, died on May 25 after a long battle with cancer. It is difficult to express how great an impact she had on Ohio natural area protection. I first met her in the late 1970's when searching for botanists to assist the Ohio Natural Heritage Program in DNAP. Her dedication and cheerfulness was an inspiration to all she knew, and many of our staff sought her out for field trips and discussions. Her work as a botanist in southeast Ohio led to the protection of many natural areas, and her involvement and leadership in general environmental activities in Marietta meant that she

was known to a large percentage of the local population. She identified and led efforts to save several areas that are now state nature preserves, created many local conservation and nature education organizations, taught children and public officials to appreciate nature, and meant so much to everyone who knew her. Her obituary is in the Marietta Times and the Friends of the Lower Muskingum River has a tribute to her on their website. To quote from her obituary, "she would like nothing better for you to recycle or pull garlic mustard in her memory." She has left a lasting

Flora-Quest Invades Marblehead

Cheryl Harner

This was our eighth year for Flora-Quest and it was time to change things up. Coincidentally, May 13th was also the 25th anniversary of the dedication of Marblehead Lakeside Daisy Preserve. Perfect timing for a pairing.

Back in 1988, the rarest flower in the United States, *Tetraneuris herbacea*, acquired its own preserve carved out from quarry land. This seemingly unpretentious yellow daisy is only found naturally occurring in Marblehead/Lakeside, Ohio, and in Ontario, Canada. It is a globally rare flower. For a few short weeks around Mother's Day, these daisies turn the preserve's rocky ground into a carpet of gold.

Flora-quest gets the most knowledgeable guides to lead our trips, and this year was no exception. The



Dick Moseley leads an Alvar tour. Photo by Paula Harper

daisy preserve had three excellent guides: Dick Moseley, retired Chief of the Ohio Division of Natural Areas and Preserves (DNAP), Allison Cusick, retired Ohio Heritage Botanist, and Rick Gardner, the current Ohio Heritage Botanist. Guy Denny, former Chief of the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves was also one of our guides. These leaders have a lifetime of



Questers at Marblehead Lighthouse. Photo by Ian Adams

experience in interpreting natural areas. People love to learn from them.

Our lunch time meals were a welcome retreat from Monday's rain and Tuesday's heat. On Monday, Allison Cusick kept us enthralled with his story-telling ability and tales from Marblehead's glacially impacted topography and a brief account of the very few other alvars in the world. So, how do the glacially scraped surfaces of an alvar differ from a parking lot? They are likely to have plants—very rare and stunted plants.

Most of our questers ended the workshop at the most photographed location in Ohio, the Marblehead Lighthouse. Built in 1821, the longest operating light on Lake Erie is a popular tourist site. It was a special occasion to have the lighthouse open for tours and Ian Adams giving photography tips to the eager questers. All-in-all, the event couldn't have been any more fun or successful, and we thank our partners, sponsors and patrons for making Flora-Quest the place to be in May.

Editor's note: ONAPA partnered with Flora-Quest in presenting this northern version of the popular program. This article is adapted from Weedpicke's Journal, Cheryl Harner's blog. Cheryl is also an ONAPA board member. ONAPA's

Welcome New ONAPA Members!

Akron Garden Club	Barbara Gelderloos	Leah W. Miller
Thomas Arbour		Ed Moody
Christine L. Barnett	Michelle Shinew &	James F. O'Boyle
Pamela J. Bennett	Mark Gresham	
Barbara S. Berg	Randall Haar	Friends of Old Woman Creek
Virginia Blasingame	Pamela Haywood-Imbrogno	Association
Jim Bostic	Andrew Heckler	Diane K. O'Neil
Lisa Brohl	Karen Ann Jennings	Caroline Pritchett
Frances S. Buchholzer	Daniel Jones	Jennifer Kleinrichert
Scott Carpenter	Lynna Kiracofe	& Steve Ross
Daniel Cary	Michael Kohr	Dick Schmitz
Carol Shelton & Allison Cusick	Kenneth Lammers	Eleanor Stottlemeyer
Tom and Laura Evans	Richard Leiss	Kathleen Stout
Linda Feix	Robert & Linda Loewendick	Cinda Stutzman
David M. Findley	Bruce Loomis	Lucy Tyrrell
Hazel & Ellis Freeman	Robert Malone	Cheryl Vargas
Dr. James A. & Margaret Frost	Jerrie Metz	Cindy Witker

Donations in Memory of Gretta Pallister

Andrews Osborne Academy
 Lois C. Armington
 Margot Baldwin
 Paul L. & Susan D. Belanger

Thank You to our Member Organizations

Akron Garden Club	Conservation District	Mohican Native Plant Society
Black Swamp Observatory	Friends of Big Walnut Creek	Native Plant Society of NE Ohio
Blackbrook Audubon Society	Friends of Old Woman Creek	Oak Openings Conservancy
Canton Audubon Society	Association	Ohio Environmental Council
Cincinnati Wildflower Preservation	Wild Ones, Greater Cincinnati	Protect Biodiversity in Public Forests
Society	Chapter	Save Our Shawnee Forest
Crane Hollow Preserve	Hamilton County Green Party	Organization
Cuyahoga Soil & Water	Keystone Flora, LLC	Sierra Club Ohio Chapter

Great Garlic Mustard Pull!

The Cincinnati Wildflower Preservation founded in 1917 had another Great Garlic Mustard pull at Caesar Creek State Nature Preserve on May 17. Pictured are ONAPA members Jim Mason, Christine Hadley, Bob Bergstein, Margi Becus, Brian Harriott, and Debbi Wolterman. Photo by DNAP manager Jill Kasai.



Bald Eagles, a Success Story!

David, Sherman, ODOW Wildlife Biologist, reports that the Bald Eagles had a banner year in Ohio. At the completion of the annual eagle production survey, it was estimated that approximately 200 eagle nests successfully produced about 350 chicks this year.

As a side note, the number of bald eagles around Sandusky Bay is incredible right now. At one point 20 Bald Eagles were seen in the air with another 15-20 sitting in dead trees just near the Lodge at Pickerel Creek Wildlife Area. The area surround Sandusky Bay has to be one of the densest populations of eagles in the lower 48.



Bald Eagle

ONAPA's May 28th Oak Openings Tour Ablaze in Lupine

Twenty-seven participants from all over Ohio joined Guy Denny for a tour of the globally rare Oak Openings region with visits to Toledo MetroParks Oak Openings Preserve and the Irwin Prairie State Nature Preserve. A variety of habitats were experienced including sand barrens, wet meadow, oak savanna, and tallgrass prairie. Highlights of the trip included fields of Lupine in bloom and seeing the resident ground-nesting Lark Sparrow.



Irwin Prairie State Nature Preserve



Lupine

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Jim Mason

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 Fall 2014 Issue of ONAPA News is August 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**



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