

Ohio State Parks

Fall 2010 / Winter 2011





Chief's Perspective

Our state parks are great places to enjoy the beauty of Ohio, in any season. We offer more than a thousand miles of trails through the woods, where hikers can see the fall colors up close. A family outing to one of our new archery ranges or disc golf courses is a great way to get the kids active in the outdoors on a crisp afternoon. Dozens of fall campouts, festivals and hayrides are scheduled in October to make the season even more fun.

Most of our state park areas are open year-round, so visitors can get some fresh air and enjoy the winter scenery. Several parks host annual winter hikes in January and February to help fair-weather hikers get motivated to get outdoors and exercise. A number of our parks also have sledding hills and cross-country skiing trails that make for exciting snow days with the kids. A relaxing stay in a state park cottage or lodge is tremendous way to beat holiday stress or cure late winter cabin fever.

Our newest state park, Wingfoot Lake, is ready to welcome visitors with a variety of family friendly activities and outstanding day-use facilities. The transfer of the former Goodyear company retreat to our state park system has presented a unique opportunity to give the public access to an excellent recreation area with an interesting history. I encourage everyone living in or visiting northeast Ohio this fall and winter to pay a visit to Wingfoot Lake, and make plans for a family picnic or special gathering there next summer.

Our state parks are important to our quality of life, any time of year. They offer free access to nature and outdoor recreational facilities that are key to a healthy, active lifestyle for adults and children, alike. Our parks are also vital to the communities they serve, providing places for people to gather, attracting visitors whose purchases boost the local and state economies, and inspiring a renewed awareness and appreciation of the natural world.



John Hunter
Acting Chief, Ohio State Parks

Ohio State Parks

Fall 2010 / Winter 2011

Volume 16, Number 2

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Our Mission

To provide an outdoor recreational experience for Ohio State Park visitors that exceeds their expectations.

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Sandra Chiaramonte

EDITOR

Jean Backs

DESIGN & ILLUSTRATION

Jessi Lagergren

Cover photo,
"Flicker" by Tim Daniel

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Caught in the Fray

WILLIAM SMALLEY & THE STRUGGLE FOR THE OHIO FRONTIER

William Smalley didn't believe peace on the frontier was really possible, but he risked his life to help broker it, anyway. He knew from his own experience that his native neighbors and his own countrymen were capable of great kindness, but also great cruelty and treachery.

Outside their Pennsylvania cabin on Georges Creek, young William Smalley was keeping watch as his father, William, worked in the field. The Smalley family had come to the settlement at Fort Pitt from New Jersey several years earlier, when William junior was just five years old. It was the late 1770s, and the fierce battle for independence that had been consuming the old colonies seemed remote from these big, deep woods. True, the pioneers were spared the awful noise, smoke and confusion of the battlefield, but they faced a different kind of danger here.

Before young William could shout out a warning, the tomahawk struck the elder William Smalley with deadly force. Young William was snatched from the terrifying scene by the native American warriors who attacked his father, and torn away from his family and everything that was familiar.

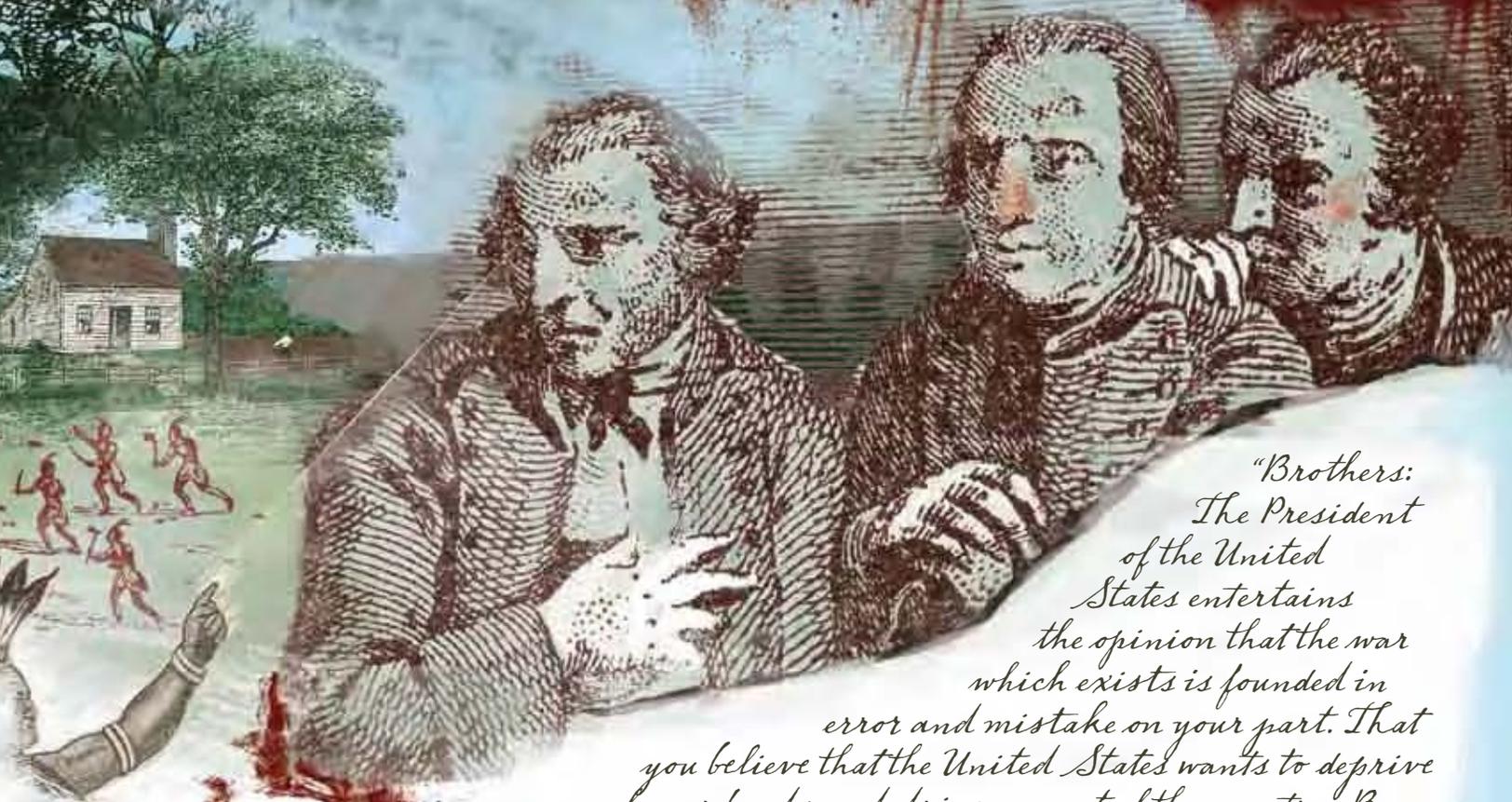
Frightened and broken-hearted, William was forced to march as a captive on the long and difficult wilderness trail through the Ohio territory to the Indian town on the Maumee River, some 200 miles from his home. Even though he had already endured an ordeal that would break the spirit of a grown man, more strange and painful trials awaited William at the town.

To prove his worthiness for adoption into the tribe, William was forced to run the gauntlet. The town's children, along with their

mothers and fathers, lined up to beat William with sticks and clubs, and taunt him as he stumbled past them, bruised and bleeding. William survived the awful torment, and after the last blow, he was no longer in constant danger from his captors. He had demonstrated his toughness through the cruel rite of passage, and was nursed back to health by his new Delaware family.

It must have been confusing to be treated with tenderness after such a rude welcome, but William quickly adapted to his new circumstances. The tribe had accepted William as one of its own, perhaps to replace a beloved son lost to some mishap. Despite the grief of losing his father and separation from his kin, William bonded with his Delaware foster family. According to the custom, the rims of William's ears were slit, creating a loosely hanging loop that could be ornamented with feathers or beads. It was a painful procedure, and a very visible and permanent reminder of the tribe's claim on his life. To complete his transformation, William was given the name "White Warrior."





*"Brothers:
The President
of the United
States entertains
the opinion that the war
which exists is founded in
error and mistake on your part. That
you believe that the United States wants to deprive
you of your lands and drive you out of the country. Be
assured that this is not so; on the contrary, that we should be greatly gratified with
the opportunity of imparting to you all the blessings of civilized life, of teaching
you to cultivate corn, to raise oxen, sheep and other domestic animals; to build com-
fortable houses; so as ever to dwell upon the land."*

Growing to manhood among the Delaware, William received a valuable frontier education that would serve him well. He learned to speak the Delaware and Shawnee languages, as well as French. He also gained insight into the native American ways, and the peculiar dynamic between the native people determined to preserve their heritage, and the pioneers attempting to build their new nation.

Historians believe that William Smalley witnessed some of the most momentous events in the Ohio territory during his captivity. He was believed to be present at the gruesome execution of Colonel William Crawford in 1782 outside the Wyandot town on the Sandusky River (north of today's Upper Sandusky in Wyandot County). Later that year, he was among the party of warriors whose siege of Fort Henry (at present day Wheeling, West Virginia) was cut short by the heroic teenager Betty Zane, who became a frontier legend by volunteering to leave the safety of the fort to retrieve gunpowder from her family's cabin nearby.

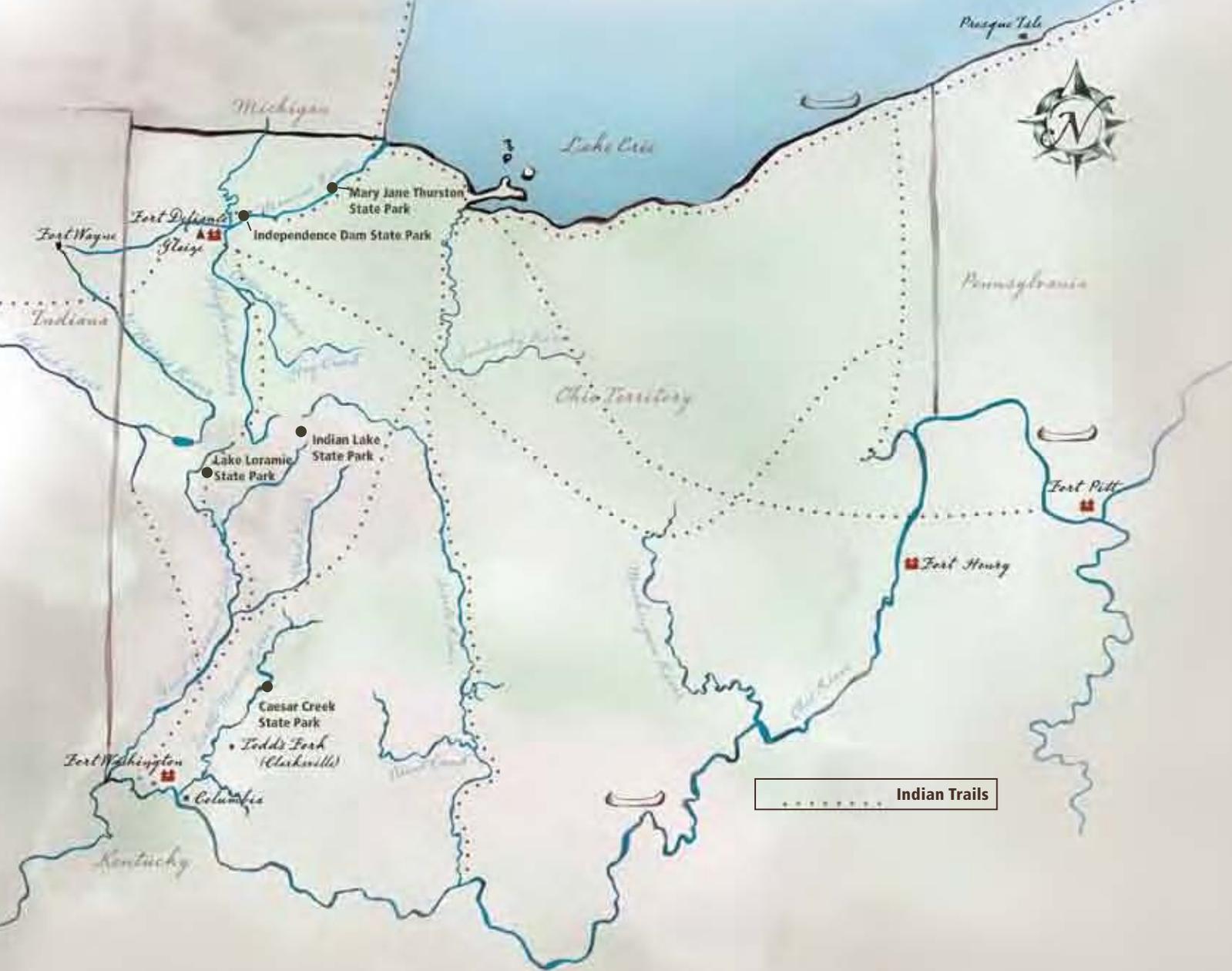
After living with the Delaware for more than five and a half years, William was given a job for which he was uniquely qualified. He was sent on a peace mission to Fort Pitt, near his former home. It was understood that William was now free to choose whether he would return to the tribe after the mission was accomplished.

William returned to his childhood home at Georges Creek in 1785, and was reunited with the family he had thought he may never see again. He courted Prudence Hoel, and within two years they married and started a family of their own. William put his hard earned skills to good use, hunting and serving as a wilderness guide for surveying parties.

Some historians believe that William accompanied the Pennsylvania militia on two ill-fated campaigns against the Ohio Indian towns William had visited during his captivity. The first was orchestrated in 1790 by General Josiah Harmar, who was stationed at Fort Washington (present day Cincinnati in Hamilton County). Harmar succeeded in destroying some of the towns along the Maumee River, but Little Turtle and his Miami warriors retaliated with an ambush that left Harmar soundly defeated. The second campaign was led by General Arthur St. Clair, governor of the Northwest Territory, in 1791. St. Clair moved slowly and deliberately through western Ohio, building additional forts along the route to protect settlers and soldiers. Once again, Little Turtle was alerted to the impending threat, and he bested St. Clair's militia, inflicting heavy casualties.

Despite the ongoing tension on the frontier, something about the Ohio landscape had captured William's imagination. He was determined to start the next chapter of his life as a free man in the territory where he had been a captive boy. He brought Prudence and their young children to Fort Washington, and settled in the nearby hamlet of Columbia, at the mouth of the Little Miami River.

On the heels of Harmar's and St. Clair's failed military initiatives, President George Washington decided to try diplomacy to calm the hostilities in the Ohio territory. His Secretary of War, Henry Knox, crafted a carefully worded message, and instructed General James Wilkinson to assemble a cohort of capable commanders and frontiersmen to deliver it to the Miami, Delaware and Shawnee. Colonel John Hardin of the Kentucky militia, Major Alexander Trueman of the Regular Army, and Dr. Isaac Freeman were selected to lead the



peace mission, with assistance from the finest guides and interpreters in the region. William may have hoped to settle into a quiet livelihood, but his compatriots – like his Indian captors - recognized his unique qualifications for the job.

Despite his misgivings, William was persuaded to accompany Major Trueman and his assistant, Thomas Lynch, on the risky mission to the Delaware. Colonel Hardin was paired with Thomas Flinn as his guide and interpreter to the Shawnee, and Dr. Freeman was accompanied by Joseph Gerrard, who would serve as interpreter with the Miami. The peace emissaries departed from Fort Washington in the spring of 1792.¹ They traveled together for a week along the route traced by Harmar and St. Clair. On the afternoon of the eighth day, the three peace parties parted ways to follow the trails to the respective towns they were instructed to visit.

Around sunset, William, Trueman and Lynch decided to rest for the night on the banks of Hog Creek (near Lima, north of Indian Lake State Park). As they prepared their camp, they encountered a trio of Indians, including an elderly man and a teenaged boy. William waved the white flag, and assured the Indians in their own tongue that he and his companions were not a threat. Trueman invited them to share their supper, and the Indians asked to share the camping spot.

After supper, the Indians engaged William in a friendly conversation, allowing him to practice Knox's speech in the natives' language. William explained his mission to them, and his sincere belief in the trade advantages and other benefits of a cooperative alliance with the United States. William was encouraged by the Indians' interest and apparent enthusiasm for the prospects for peace.

Meanwhile, Major Trueman was feeling fatigued from the long hike and a bad cold, and he signaled to William that they should retire for the evening. The elderly Indian seemed suddenly apprehensive, and requested that Major Trueman's burly assistant, Thomas Lynch, be bound during the night to ensure the Indians' safety. Trueman reluctantly agreed to humor the old Indian, and Lynch's arms were pinned loosely to his sides with strips of hickory bark. After Trueman and Lynch settled into their bedrolls across the campfire, William resumed his conversation with the old Indian.

Eventually, the topic turned to hunting, and the old Indian complained that his gun lock had not been working properly. He sat up, reached for his gun, and proceeded to show William the lock mechanism. Coincidentally, Major Trueman was seized by a fit of coughing. As Trueman lifted his head for relief, the old Indian cocked his rifle and shot Trueman through the back with lightning

speed and deadly accuracy. William bolted from his bed and ran for the woods, followed by the frightened teenaged Indian, as another shot rang out from the rifle of the third Indian. As Lynch struggled to stand up and break the hickory bindings, the old Indian lunged at him. The old Indian called to his companion for help, and the third Indian sunk a tomahawk into Lynch's skull.

William stood in stunned silence in the dark, weighing his chances of survival in the wilderness without a rifle or provisions against the likelihood of bargaining with this most unpredictable adversary. The old Indian called out to William repeatedly to assure him that he would not come to harm. All the while, William had been carefully studying the scene near the campfire, and he noted that neither of the Indians had reloaded their guns. He concealed his pocket knife in his hand, and stepped into the firelight, prepared to fight for his life. The Indians had laid down their weapons, and took their rest alongside William's dead companions.

William spent a miserable, sleepless night in the company of the Indians, turning over the shocking events in his mind, and considering strategies for escape. By dawn, he had decided to make a plea to be returned to his adoptive family among the Delaware. The conspicuous disfigurement of his ears could be a boon to him now. He would tell the Indians the true story of his life amid the tribe, and embellish it where necessary to convince them that he longed to return. He felt certain that his Delaware father and brother would vouch for him, and welcome him back.

The old Indian listened thoughtfully to William's story, and agreed to return him to the Delaware. Then he tossed Lynch's bloody scalp on William's lap, and suggested that he should clean and dress it as a present to the principal Delaware chief, Buckongahelas. William was sickened at the prospect of the gruesome task, but could not show his disdain for fear of exposing the clever deception that could save his life. Once again, William was an unwitting captive, subject to the savage whims of his captors.

At the same time William was experiencing this familiar nightmare, the other peace parties had met with eerily similar fates. Like Major Trueman, Colonel Hardin also encountered a trio of Shawnee Indians who made friendly overtures. Hardin agreed to camp with them on the banks of Turtle Creek (by present day Hardin, near Lake Loramie State Park) as a gesture of goodwill. Like Trueman, he was caught by surprise and shot dead with shocking disregard for the nature of his errand.

William was taken by his new captors to the town of Glaize on the Maumee River (present day Defiance, near Independence Dam State Park), and interrogated by Buckongahelas. William insisted that his friendship with the Indians was his sole motivation for joining Trueman and Lynch, and that his adoptive Delaware family were his only surviving relations. Buckongahelas sent for William's foster father and brother to verify William's story. As he waited for their arrival, William witnessed a hideous spectacle that hinted at the utter

hopelessness of the peace mission. The severed head of a white man, who William recognized as Joseph Gerrard, was paraded through town atop a pole. Once again, William hid his disgust and despair.

More captives were ushered into the town, including one of William's neighbors from Columbia, Patrick Moor. William was sympathetic to Moor's plight, but he grew suddenly afraid that Moor would recognize him and shout out a greeting. Surely, Moor would be interrogated, and if he merely mentioned William's family back home, he would never see his wife and children again. The very idea was torture, and William suffered unbearable anxiety until he was able to evade his own guards that night, slip past Moor's guards, and whisper a warning to Moor.

At last, William's kind and understanding foster father came to his rescue, like he had done more than ten years before. He played along with William's story and escorted him back to the Delaware town where he had been adopted into the tribe. William pretended to be content, but at the first opportunity, he confided his secret desire to return to Columbia. His Delaware father pledged to help, despite the likely consequences of abetting an escaping captive, and together they concocted a plan.

William had to maintain his pretense of cheerfulness through the summer, with the promise that fall would bring an opportunity to escape. William's Delaware father had persuaded the village's skeptical chief to allow William to accompany him and his biological son on an afternoon hunting foray. A few weeks later, they got permission for a three-day trip, as the game had moved further away from the town. By October, they were granted an eight-day pass with the expectation that they would return with food for the winter.

The scheme would have allowed William enough time to hike south directly to Columbia, while his adoptive father and

brother polished their alibi of chasing after William until he eluded them at the white settlement. Unfortunately, William's Delaware brother fell ill the first night of their trip, and was unable to travel for days. By the time he recovered, a new plan was hatched. The trio hiked north to Lake Erie, where they met a French trader who understood the delicacy of the situation. The trader allowed William to "steal" his canoe in exchange for a handcrafted yoke he commissioned from William. William gathered his provisions, said his goodbyes, and slipped away into the lake, skirting the shoreline to Presque Isle (present day Erie, Pennsylvania).

William took a long and circuitous route home, following the Allegheny River to the Ohio River, and winding back west along the Ohio to Fort Washington.² He finally arrived home some two months later, and celebrated a most joyous Christmas with his beloved wife and children.

William Smalley was the sole survivor of the ill-fated peace mission that ended before it began³. The bullets and blows of a few wily warriors had instantly killed the messengers, but any hope for a harmonious existence on the frontier gradually became a casualty of the

"I (consented to) accompany him on so hazardous a business, knowing, as I believe I did, and as I often told Major Trueman, that we should all be killed. But the fear of being called a coward spurred me on..."

*- from an interview with William Smalley
by Reverend Ezra Ferris, 1811*

WILLIAM SMALLEY

irreconcilable clash of cultures. There were many who wanted to give peace a chance, but in the long run, the promises sworn in Knox's letter would not have been kept, and the growing native American resistance movement adopted a stance of no compromise.

Three years after William's return, General "Mad Anthony" Wayne resumed the military offensive. He followed in the footsteps of Harmar and St. Clair, but Wayne's penchant for discipline, along with his gift for strategy eclipsed the half-hearted efforts that came before. Wayne claimed a pivotal victory at the Battle of Fallen Timbers. He established Fort Defiance near Glaize, where William had been detained and interrogated by Buckongahelas.

William is believed to have accompanied Wayne's entourage at the 1795 Treaty of Greenville to serve as a translator. As the Indians signed away their rights to roam most of the Ohio territory, both Buckongahelas and the Shawnee Chief Blackhoof expressed their dismay at the thoughtless murders of the peace emissaries.

Two years after the treaty, William moved away from the bustle around Fort Washington to a promising patch of ground along Todd's Fork (near present day Caesar Creek State Park). William built a grist mill, saw mill and distillery to serve the new settlement. Visitors, including the occasional band of Indians passing through, could count on hospitality at the Smalley farm. In 1803, William found a sick and wounded runaway slave hiding in the woods. He brought the man home and attempted to nurse him back to health. Unfortunately, the man died a short time later. The anonymous slave became the first person to be buried in what would become Washington Township in Warren County in the newly established state of Ohio.

William became an early advocate for the rights of all people to live as free men and women. He helped organize an anti-slavery Baptist church in his neighborhood (near present day Clarksville). For 30 years, as Ohio passed from frontier backwater to prosperous state, William and Prudence lived happily amongst their Todd's Fork neighbors, raising their ten children and building their community. William had learned a great deal during his interesting and often difficult life on the frontier, and he had a great deal to teach others.

Through his own experiences, William Smalley knew that the quality of one's character was far more important than the color of their skin or the identity of their tribe. That mercy and kindness could exist and flourish, even when surrounded by mistrust and hatred. That the bonds of family, whether by birth or by choice, cannot easily be torn by threats of punishment or the passage of time.

¹Exact dates and accounts vary.

²Accounts of William's escape vary. He shared this version in his informal interview with Rev. Ezra Ferris.

³Some historians believe that Thomas Flinn, who had also been taken captive by Indians as a child, also survived.

- Jean Backs, Editor

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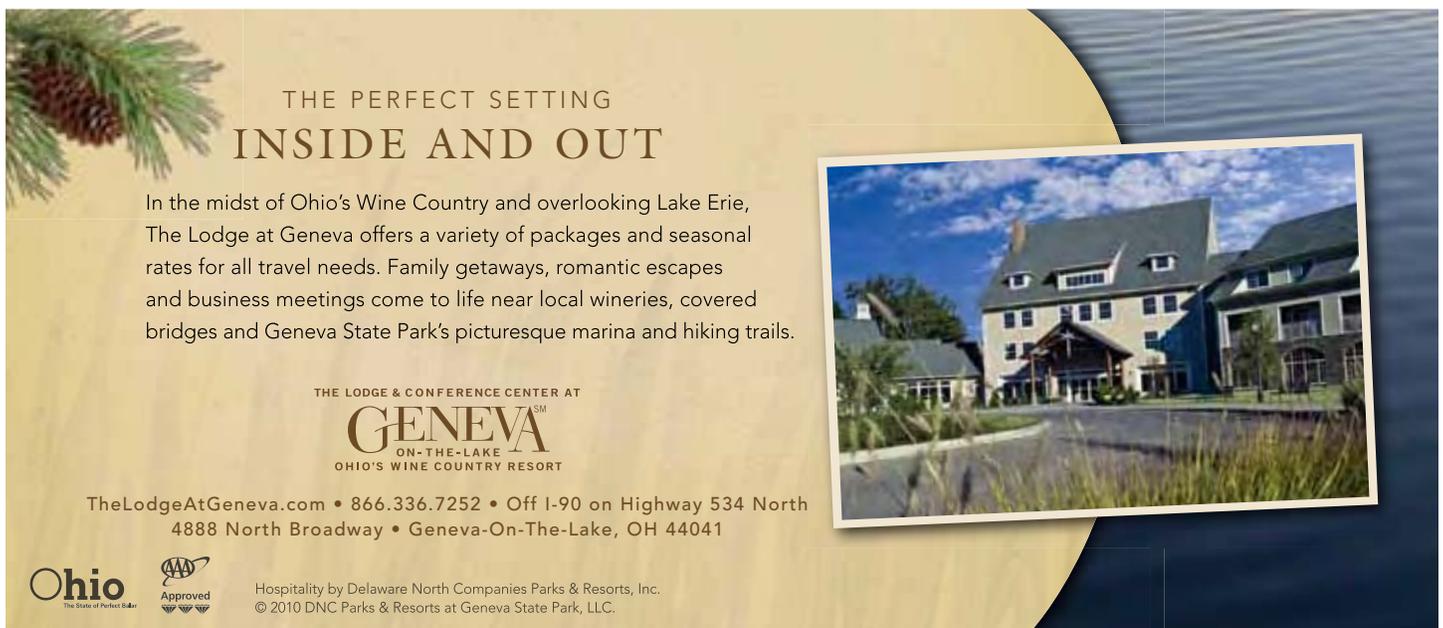
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Wilson, Paul C., *A forgotten mission to the Indians: William Smalley's adventures among the Delaware Indians of Ohio in 1792*, Galveston TX, 1965, courtesy of Ohio Historical Society

Online Resources

Bogan, Dallas, Warren County Local History, www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/

Shelby County Ohio Historical Society, www.shelbycountyhistory.org



THE PERFECT SETTING
INSIDE AND OUT

In the midst of Ohio's Wine Country and overlooking Lake Erie, The Lodge at Geneva offers a variety of packages and seasonal rates for all travel needs. Family getaways, romantic escapes and business meetings come to life near local wineries, covered bridges and Geneva State Park's picturesque marina and hiking trails.

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Wingfoot Lake State Park

Wingfoot Lake, Ohio's newest state park, opened to the public in August. The new-to-us park is actually an historic recreation area with an interesting back story and vintage facilities developed by the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company.

Goodyear's Wingfoot Lake Park, which served as a popular recreation destination for employee outings and company functions for decades, closed in 2006. In October 2009, Wingfoot Lake Park, including 121 acres on the north shore of Wingfoot Lake in southwest Portage County, was added to our state park system.

Our park staff and volunteers got busy right away, sprucing up the grounds and existing buildings to get Wingfoot Lake State Park ready for its eagerly anticipated public debut.



Some of the behind-the-scenes work involved bringing all of the buildings into code compliance, and brightening things up with electrical service upgrades, as well as a fresh coat of paint or stain. New floors were installed where needed, and the concrete walkways around the outsides of the buildings were replaced or repaired. Chimneys in the shelter houses have all been inspected and repaired as necessary to ensure safe and cozy fires for cool season gatherings. Roofs on most buildings will be replaced this winter.

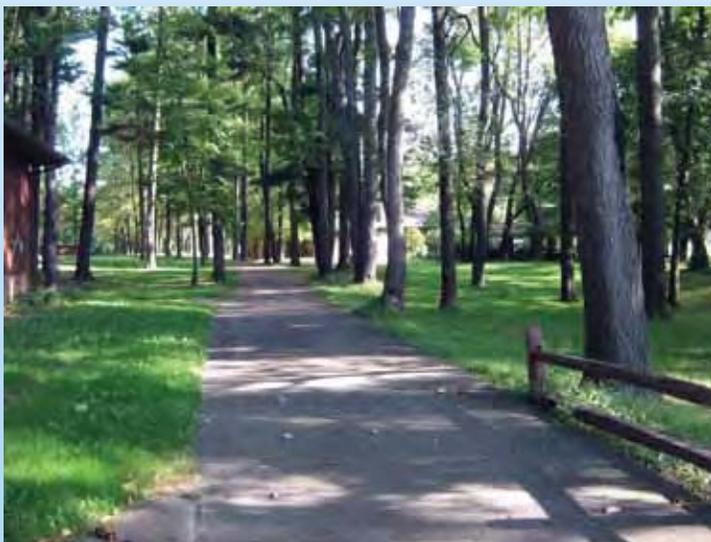
Restrooms throughout the park have been renovated, and repairs and improvements were made to the existing water and wastewater systems to make sure the comfort stations live up to their promise. Throughout the park, roads and walking paths were repaved and striped for smoother travel.



The tennis courts and the mini golf course have been refurbished for optimal play. New facilities have been added, including badminton and volleyball courts, and an 18-hole disc golf course. All around the park, playgrounds, benches and swings have been fixed up and touched up with fresh paint. Grills, picnic tables and informational kiosks have been installed to make it easy to get around, and get the picnic underway.

On the lakeshore, the old boat house was rehabilitated for its new use as a boat rental concession, and docks have been installed. Trimming and landscaping work throughout the park has resulted in an attractive backdrop for family gatherings, community events, and the many exciting recreational opportunities.

Many of these improvements have been made possible through the efforts of volunteers, as well as statewide crews and staff from around the state park system. A volunteer group is hard at work making preparations for a new dog park so the whole family can enjoy the day, and fall in love with **Wingfoot Lake!**



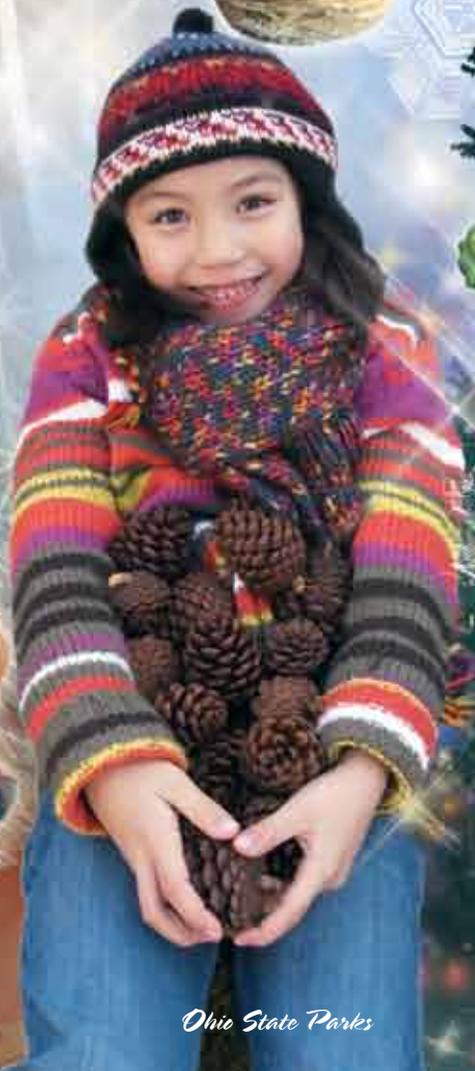


MAKING MERRY

Create some holiday cheer by bringing the outdoors in. You can deck the halls with crafts you make yourself with things you find in nature.

FALL FUN AND WINTER CHEER

Fall is a great time to collect cool stuff from nature for holiday decorations. Take a hike in a nearby park or your backyard, and pick up interesting bits like acorns, walnuts, pine cones, colorful leaves and seed pods from summer's wildflowers. Visit your hiking spot every few weeks to see what's new and different!



CLEVER CONES

Pine trees and other conifers have a clever way to spread their seeds. In the spring, the new little cones on the tree are green and flexible. In the summer, the cones close up tight to protect the developing seed inside. When fall comes, the scales dry out and open up, like a blooming flower. Now the papery seeds can blow on the wind to start a new tree!

BE A WILD CHILD!

Make a treat for the birds in your backyard.

- Collect pine cones, or make popcorn balls (with help from a grown up).
- Spread peanut butter or shortening on the cones and balls with a butter knife.
- Sprinkle bird seed over the cones and balls.
- Glue or tie a pretty ribbon to each one.
- Hang the pinecone and popcorn ball feeders from the branch of a tree.

Watch the birds dig in!



CREATIVE CRAFTS

Make holiday decorations from the acorns, nuts, leaves and pinecones you collected. Sturdy cones from a scotch pine tree work best for the pinecone turkey and owl. The long cone of a white pine tree works well for the pinecone angel. Make the colorful songbirds and sparkly sailboats from the shells of walnuts.

To make the crafts shown here, you will also need pipe cleaners, pom poms, yellow felt, glue, acrylic paint (red, yellow, blue), spray paint (silver, gold), glitter, construction paper (red, yellow, blue), googly eyes, and feathers.

See the Park Pals pages on our website, ohiostateparks.org, for detailed craft instructions.

Use spray paint or glue and glitter to decorate a basket full of seed pods, leaves, and nuts you collect on your hikes.

CAROLING ACORNS



PARK POINTS

Do you have your Ohio State Parks Rewards Card?

If so, you may be eligible for a 25% discount on the daily room rate at one of Ohio's beautiful state park lodges! If you don't, make sure to ask for your free Rewards Card the next time you visit a state park office, or make a reservation on-line or through our call center, 1-866-OHIOPARKS (1-866-644-6727). Then, you can earn reward points for every dollar you spend on an overnight stay at an Ohio State Park campground, or in select cottages. Collect enough points, and you can get a free night's stay! See our website, www.ohiostateparks.org, for program details.

Looking for more good deals?

Camping rates at our state parks drop by \$2 per night after November 1, and the cottages at Buck Creek, Cowan Lake, Dillon, Hocking Hills, Mohican, Pike Lake and Pymatuning are also discounted during the winter months. Remember to use your Rewards Card, so you can earn points while you save cash!

Here's another one!

Get 50% off camping and shelterhouse rental rates at Grand Lake St. Marys through the end of 2010. This deep discount is available for campers with advance reservations, as well as "walk-in" campers without reservations.

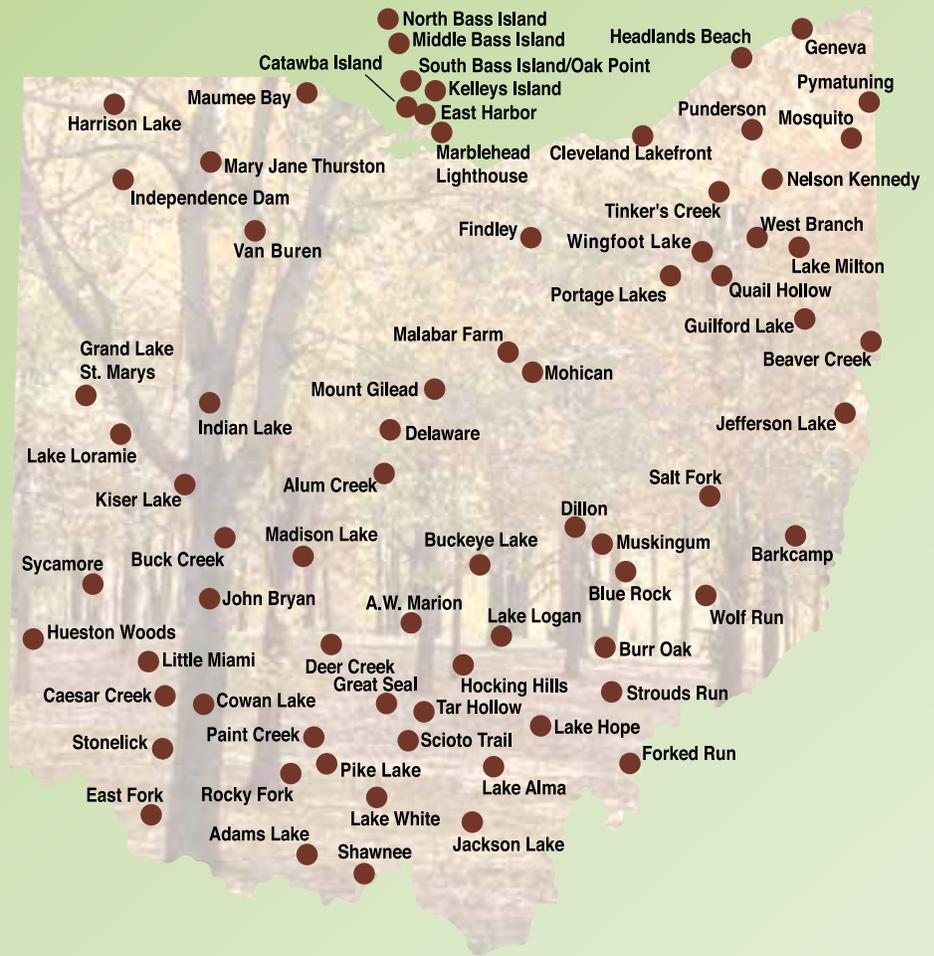
Ohio boasts 90 state nature preserves that are open to the public, plus 44 more that are available by permit only, to protect sensitive ecosystems.

To visit a permit-only nature preserve, download an access permit application from the Nature Preserves pages on www.ohiostateparks.org. Return the completed application via mail, fax or e-mail.

Make plans now for an unforgettable get-together at Ohio's newest state park!

Reservations can be made up to one year in advance for the big and beautiful shelterhouses at Wingfoot Lake State Park. Six shelters are available, with capacities ranging from 50 people to large groups up to 390. Each offers picnic tables, grills and electrical hookups, with restrooms and parking nearby. Some also offer fireplaces and have doors that may be closed in inclement weather. Reserve on-line at www.ohiostateparks.org or through the call center at 1-866-OHIOPARKS.

So Many Parks to Enjoy...



Make your holiday gift giving a snap with an Ohio State Parks gift card.

The gift cards come in two attractive designs, and any denomination that suits your budget. They can be used for overnight stays in our lodges, cottages and campgrounds, or for rounds of golf at our state park courses. Gift cards can now be purchased online at www.ohiostateparks.org, at most state park offices, by phone at (614) 265-6550, or by mail.



Green Tip

Make your own suet feeder to attract birds to your backyard. Warm up some shortening or leftover cooking grease, and mix in a variety of nuts and grains. This is a great way to make good use of that little bit of cereal at the bottom of the box, or not-quite-a-serving of oats. Spoon the mixture into a mesh bag (you can reuse an onion bag) to harden, then hang it from a tree. See the Naturalist Corner feature for more bird friendly advice.

Show your support for your nature preserves and state park nature programs!

Next time you renew your license plates, pick a nature preserve or state park plate design. A portion of the license plate fee goes to support these worthwhile programs. See our website for more information.

Calendar of Events

Note – Some events listed in this calendar are tentative.
Please check the calendar of events pages on our website, www.ohiostateparks.org, or call the park for updates.

We offer a wide variety of special events for the entire family to enjoy. Color key:

Epecially for Kids

Basic Nature

Friendly Gatherings

Heritage Celebrations

Holiday Fun

Fun & Fitness

SEASONAL EVENTS

Fall Photo Contest, Quail Hollow (NE) - Entries accepted Oct. 2-3.

Categories include animals, plants, people, architecture, scenic, Quail Hollow & nature. Entry fee per photo is \$4 for adults, students are free. Winners are on display in the Carriage House Oct. 9-10, 1-5 PM. (330) 877-6652 or www.quailhollowpark.org/camera/htm.

Fantasy of Lights, Alum Creek (C) - Nov. 19-Jan. 2, 5:30-9:30 PM Sun. thru Thurs. and 5:30-10:30 PM Fri. & Sat. A million lights in 130 holiday displays, plus visits with Santa & refreshments. A fee is charged per car. (740) 369-2900 or (740) 548-6056, or www.alumcreek.com.

Holiday Trail of Lights, Lake Hope (SE) - Dec. 1-31, 6-10:30 PM at the nature center. Hike forest trails aglow with light displays, decorated trees & landscape lighting. Extra activities offered on weekends. (740) 596-3030.

OCTOBER 2010

Fall Festival & Campout, Alum Creek (C) - Oct. 1-2. Campsite decorating and costume contests, pumpkin carving, treats & crafts. (740) 548-4631.

Fall Campout, Buck Creek (SW) - Oct. 1-3. Crafts, nature programs, games, contests, trick or treat & hayrides. (937) 322-5284

Indian Summer Campout, Caesar Creek (SW) - Oct. 1-3. Seasonal crafts, games & family fun. (513) 897-2437.

Halloween Campout #1, East Harbor (NW) - Oct. 1-2. Scarecrow & decorated campsite contests, kids' crafts and games, hayrides, haunted house, dance & bonfire. (419) 734-4424 ext. 2.

Fall Campout, Findley (NE) - Oct. 1-2. Hayrides, nature programs, crafts, games & trick or treat. (440) 647-5749.

Halloween Campout, Grand Lake St. Marys (NW) - Oct. 1-3. Apple bobbing, pumpkin carving, hayrides, costume & campsite decorating. (419) 394-3611.

Halloween Festival #2, Hueston Woods (SW) - Oct. 1-2. Campsite decorating, games, Halloween treats & a haunted trail. (513) 523-6347.

Halloween Bash, Mosquito Lake (NE) - Oct. 1-2. Trick or Treat, movies, games, campsite & costume decorating contests, & a potluck dinner. (330) 637-2856.

Apple Butter Festival, Mt. Gilead (C) - Oct. 1-2. Apple butter making, campsite decorating, fall hikes, entertainment, ham & bean soup and much more. (419) 946-1961.

Harvest Moon Campout, Pike Lake (SW) - Oct. 1-2. Campsite and cottage decorating, pumpkin carving, hayrides, kids' games, a craft show & bean supper. (740) 493-2212.

Harvest Days, Beaver Creek (NE) - Oct. 2-3 at the pioneer village & Gaston's Mill. Craft displays & demonstrations of pioneer life, including the working grist mill. (330) 382-9227. Beaver Creek Wildlife Education Center

open 10 AM-5 PM, duck race at 3 PM Sun. (330) 385-3091 or www.beavercreekwildlife.org.

6th Annual Barkcamp Race, Barkcamp (SE) - Oct. 2. Choose from a trail ½ marathon (7:30 AM), 5-mile trail walk (8 AM), 10K trail run (8:30 AM), 5K road walk (9 AM) or kids' race (10:30 AM). Fee for racers benefits American Cancer Society. www.thebarkcamprace.net or (740) 484-1872 to register.

Fall Campout, Hog Roast & Cast-Iron Cookoff, Blue Rock (SE) - Oct. 2. Plus antique tractors & a kiddie tractor pull. (740) 453-4377.

Apple Butter Festival, Hueston Woods (SW) - Oct. 2-3 at the pioneer farm. Arts, crafts & traditional apple butter making. (513) 524-4250.

Spin-In Gathering, Malabar Farm (NE) - Oct. 2, 10 AM-4 PM. Spinning & weaving skills and workshops. (419) 892-2784.

Festival at the Grist Mill, Mohican (NE) - Oct. 2. Oktoberfest celebration with authentic food, refreshments & entertainment. (419) 668-2497 or wolfcreekmill.org.

Smokey Bear Fire Awareness Weekend, Shawnee (SW) - Oct. 2 at the campground. Fire safety tips from Smokey Bear & friends. (740) 858-6652.

Traditional Music, Quail Hollow (NE) - Oct 7, 7-10 PM at the manor house. Bring an instrument or just listen. (330) 877-6652.

Halloween Campout #2, East Harbor (NW) - Oct. 8-9. Scarecrow & decorated campsite contests, kids' crafts and games, hayrides, a haunted house, dance & bonfire. (419) 734-4424 ext. 2.

Halloween Campout, Guilford Lake (NE) - Oct. 8-9. Campsite decorating, cornhole tournament, kids' activities, trick or treat, a haunted trail & potluck dinner. (330) 222-1712.

Halloween Campout, Harrison Lake (NW) - Oct. 8-9. Costume parade, trick or treat, pumpkin carving, a silent auction & chili and vegetable soup lunch. (419) 237-2593.

Halloween Festival #3, Hueston Woods (SW) - Oct. 8-9. Campsite decorating, games, Halloween treats & a haunted trail. (513) 523-6347.

Halloween Campout, Kiser Lake (NW) - Oct. 8-10. Hayrides, nature & haunted hikes, and the potato head launch. (937) 362-3822 or (937) 362-3565.

Halloween Campout, Lake Loramie (NW) - Oct. 8-10. Pumpkin carving, campsite decorating, trick or treat, movies, games & a potluck supper. (937) 295-2011.

"Louie" Historical Drama, Malabar Farm (NE) - Oct. 8-10. Package includes a house tour, BBQ dinner, and theatrical production of Louis Bromfield's life story. Fri. & Sat. performances start at 7 PM; dinner at 6 PM; self-guided house tours 4-6 PM. Sun. performances start at 3 PM; dinner at 2 PM; self-guided house tours Noon-2 PM. Tickets are \$30 per person. (419) 892-2784.

Halloween Campout, Paint Creek (SW) - Oct. 8-9. Campsite decorating and costume contests, hay rides & trick or treat. (937) 981-7061 or (937) 393-4284.

Fall Festival, Portage Lakes (NE) - Oct. 8-10 at Nimisila campground. Trick or treat, campfires stories, games & activities for kids. (330) 644-2220.

Cast Iron Cooking, Caesar Creek (SW) - Oct. 9. Cast iron pots provided. Pre-registration by Oct. 2 and a \$10 fee required. (513) 897-2437.

Horse-Drawn Wagon Rides, Lake Hope (SE) - Oct. 9, 2-5 PM, at the nature center. Continuous 20 minute rides. (740) 596-3030.

Fall Color Walk, Malabar Farm (NE) - Oct. 9, 10 AM-Noon. Meet at the visitor center. 2-mile hike. (419) 892-2784.

Autumn Lighthouse Festival, Marblehead Lighthouse (NW) - Oct. 9, 10 AM-5 PM. Historic displays, entertainment, crafts, food & lighthouse tours. (419) 734-4424 ext. 2 or www.lake-erie.com

Fall Festival, Punderson (NE) - Oct. 9. Costume and pumpkin contests, trick or treat, hayrides, games & a campfire. (440) 564-2279 or www.friendsofpunderson.com.

A Day in the Country, Salt Fork (SE) - Oct. 9-10 at the lodge. Activities & items for sale by local vendors. (740) 439-3521 or (740) 439-2751.

Halloween Campout, Shawnee (SW) - Oct. 9. Pumpkin carving, trick or treat & a costume parade. (740) 858-6652.

Pancake Breakfast, Stonelick (SW) - Oct. 9, 8-10 AM at the campground. Fundraiser for the Friends of Stonelick State Park. (513) 734-4323 or www.friendsofstonelick.org.

Fall Color Canoe Tour, Van Buren (NW) - Oct. 10, 2-3:30 PM. \$10 donation per canoe benefits the friends of Van Buren State Park. Pre-registration required by Oct. 8. (419) 348-7679.

Halloween Fall Campout, Beaver Creek (NE) - Oct. 15-16. Kids' activities, cornhole tournament costume contest, trick or treat & a potluck dinner. (330) 385-3091.

Fall Campout, Cowan Lake (SW) - Oct. 15-17. Trick or treat, games & fall-themed activities. (937) 382-1096.

Not-Quite-Halloween Campout, East Fork (SW) - Oct. 15-16. Hayrides, stew, trick or treat & movies. (513) 734-4323.

Halloween Campout, Indian Lake (NW) - Oct. 15-16. Pumpkin carving, site decorating and costume contests, pet costume contest, trick or treat, hayrides, movies, games, a night hike & soup supper. (937) 843-2717.

Halloween Campout, Jackson Lake (SE) - Oct. 15-16. Campsite decorating, costume party & trick or treat. (740) 682-6197.

Haunted Trail, Lake Milton (NE) - Oct. 15-16, 7-10:30 PM. Spooky scenes along the accessible paved trail. (330) 654-4989.

"Louie" Historical Drama, Malabar Farm (NE) - Oct. 15-17. Package includes a house tour, BBQ dinner, and theatrical production of Louis Bromfield's life story. Fri. & Sat. performances start at 7 PM; dinner at 6 PM; self-guided house tours 4-6 PM. Sun. performances start at 3 PM; dinner at 2 PM; self-guided house tours Noon-2 PM. Tickets are \$30 per person. (419) 892-2784.

Trail of Lost Souls, Maumee Bay (NW) - Oct. 15-16, 7-10 PM at the Big Hill in the meadow area. A small fee is charged. (419) 836-8828.

Halloween Campout, Maumee Bay (NW) - Oct. 15-17. Campsite decorating, hayrides, trick or treat, crafts, kite building, a Halloween dance & games. (419) 836-8828.

Halloween Campout #1, Mobicam (NE) - Oct. 15-17. Pet & campsite decorating contests, trick or treat, nature programs & crafts for campers & cottage guests. (419) 994-4290.

Halloween Campout, Rocky Fork (SW) - Oct. 15-16. Campsite decorating and costume contests, movies, silent auction, games and a haunted trail. (937) 393-4284.

Halloween Campout, Stonelick (SW) - Oct. 15-16. Hayrides, costume, pumpkin and campsite decorating contests, trick or treat & hobo stew. (513) 734-4323.

Halloween Campout, West Branch (NE) - Oct. 15-16. Trick or treat, movies, games, pumpkin carving & a haunted trail. (330) 296-3239.

Halloween Treats, Wolf Run (SE) - Oct. 16 at the campground. Costume contest & trick or treat courtesy of the Cast Iron Cooking Club. (740) 629-2959 or (740) 630-4825.

Fall Festival, Cleveland Lakefront (NE) - Oct. 16, 7-10 PM at Euclid Beach. Family friendly haunted hayride, storyteller, games & crafts. (216) 881-8141 ext. 3001.

Halloween Campout, Forked Run (SE) - Oct. 16. Campsite decorating contest, games, trick or treat, & spooky hayrides. (740) 767-3570.

Grandma Gatewood's Fall Colors Hike, Hocking Hills (SE) - Oct. 16, 1 PM at the Old Man's Cave Visitor Center. 6-mile strenuous hike. (740) 385-6841.

31st Annual Fall Hike, Lake Hope (SE) - Oct. 16, 10 AM. Meet at the beach shelter house. 3-mile hike. Sassafras tea, bean & cornbread lunch offered. (740) 596-3030.

Horse-Drawn Wagon Rides, Lake Hope (SE) - Oct. 16, 2-5 PM, at the nature center. Continuous 20 minute rides. (740) 596-3030.

Spooky Carnival of Fun, Maumee Bay (NW) - Oct. 16-17, Noon-4 PM at the nature center. Spooky games, crafts, refreshments & videos. \$5 per child fee. (419) 836-9117.



Ohio State Parks

Fall Hike, Shawnee (SW) - Oct. 16, 9 AM. 5-mile hike with refreshments available at the half-way point. Evening entertainment and a bean dinner are also offered. (740) 858-6652.

Fall Hike, Sycamore (SW) - Oct. 16, 1 PM at the Overlook Picnic Area off Providence Road. (513) 523-6347.

Howl-o-Ween Dog Walk & Costume Parade, Mosquito Lake (NE) - Oct. 17, 2-4 PM at the Dog Park. Food, vendors & contests for people and pets. (330) 637-2856.

Traditional Music, Quail Hollow (NE) - Oct. 21, 7-10 PM at the manor house. Bring an instrument or just listen. (330) 877-6652.

Halloween Campout, East Fork (SW) - Oct. 22-23. Games, contests, hayrides & trick or treat. (513) 734-4323.

Halloween Campout, Lake Alma (SE) - Oct. 22-23. Campsite decorating & trick or treat. (740) 384-4474.

Haunted Trail, Lake Milton (NE) - Oct. 22-23, 7-10:30 PM. Spooky scenes along the accessible paved trail. (330) 654-4989.

Halloween Campout #2, Mohican (NE) - Oct. 22-24. Pet & campsite decorating contests, trick or treat, nature programs & crafts for campers & cottage guests. (419) 994-4290.

Horse-Drawn Wagon Rides, Lake Hope (SE) - Oct. 23, 2-5 PM, at the nature center. Continuous 20 minute rides. (740) 596-3030.

"Hollow"een Fest, Quail Hollow (NE) - Oct. 23, 4-8 PM. Haunted Manor House tours, hayrides & a bonfire. A fee is charged for the haunted house. (330) 877-6652.

Halloween Party, Sycamore (SW) - Oct. 23. Games & seasonal activities. (937) 854-4452.

Owl Prowl, Van Buren (NW) - Oct. 23, 7 PM at shelterhouse #3. Live owl program & a guided hike. (419) 348-7679.

Halloween Campout, Deer Creek (C) - Oct. 29-31. Hayrides, trick or treat, crafts, games & campsite decorating. (740) 869-3124.

Halloween Campout, Dillon (SE) - Oct. 29-30. Costume and campsite decorating contests, pumpkin decorating & trick or treat. (740) 453-4377.

Haunted Hocking, Hocking Hills (SE) - Oct. 29-30 at the Old Man's Cave campground. Campsite & pumpkin decorating, hayrides, trick or treat & movies. (740) 385-6841.

Haunted Trail, Lake Milton (NE) - Oct. 29-30, 7-10:30 PM. Spooky scenes along the accessible paved trail. (330) 654-4989.

Venison Chili Cook-Off, Findley (NE) - Oct. 30, 1 PM at the nature center. Bring your favorite recipe, venison is provided by the park. Pre-registration required. (440) 647-5749 or (440) 647-4490.

ROAR Day, Lake Hope (SE) - Oct. 30, 9 AM-5 PM at the shelterhouse and Hope School. Appalachian crafts, food & entertainment plus Halloween treats. (740) 596-3030.

Horse-Drawn Wagon Rides, Lake Hope (SE) - Oct. 30, 2-5 PM, at the nature center. Continuous 20 minute rides. (740) 596-3030.

Hayride & Moonlight Tour, Malabar Farm (NE) - Oct. 30-31, Noon-8 PM. Continuous 30-minute hayride tours include hot cider and a bonfire. Hayrides are \$3/person. Bromfield "Big House" tours are offered at 6 PM and 7 PM at the regular fee. (419) 892-2784.

Halloween Fun, Salt Fork (SE) - Oct. 30 at the cottage area. Trick or treat for kids. (740) 439-3521 or (740) 439-2751.

NOVEMBER 2010

Traditional Music, Quail Hollow (NE) - Nov. 4, 7-10 PM at the manor house. Bring an instrument or just listen. (330) 877-6652.

Snowflake Festival, Mt. Gilead (C) - Nov. 5-6. Campsite decorating, nature programs & crafts. (419) 946-1961 or (740) 548-4631.

Frontier Trail Hike, Hocking Hills (SE) - Nov. 6, Noon-4 PM at Ash Cave. Explore the history of the Hocking Hills region with a walk back through time dramatized by costumed interpreters along Ash Cave trail. (740) 385-6841.

Veterans Day Celebration, Hueston Woods (SW) - Nov. 6 in the campground. Veterans will be honored with a parade, recognition ceremony and fun family activities including a cookout. (513) 523-6347.

Winter Bird Buffet, Van Buren (NW) - Nov. 6, 2 PM at the nature center shelterhouse. Learn how to feed birds all winter & basic bird ID. Dress warmly for a short hike. (419) 348-7679.

Hearthside Cookery Workshop, Malabar Farm (NE) - Nov. 6-7 & 13-14, 10 AM-5 PM. Help prepare a Thanksgiving feast over an open fire, then enjoy a sit-down dinner. Each day is a complete workshop. Pre-registration and a \$30 fee required. Space is limited, so register early. (419) 892-2784.

Bobcat Trail Marathon, Burr Oak (SE) - Nov. 7. Meet at the lodge. A fee is required to compete & racers must pre-register. www.bobcattrailmarathon.org.

Traditional Music, Quail Hollow (NE) - Nov. 18, 7-10 PM at the manor house. Bring an instrument or just listen. (330) 877-6652.

Fantasy of Lights, Alum Creek (C) - starts Nov. 19, 5:30-9:30 PM Sun. thru Thurs. and 5:30-10:30 PM Fri. & Sat. A million lights in 130 holiday displays, plus visits with Santa & refreshments. A fee is charged per car. (740) 369-2900 or (740) 548-6056, or www.alumcreek.com.

Craft Show, Salt Fork (SE) - Nov. 26-27 at the lodge. (740) 439-3521 or (740) 439-2751.

DECEMBER 2010

Fantasy of Lights, Alum Creek (C) - runs thru Jan. 2, 5:30-9:30 PM Sun. thru Thurs. and 5:30-10:30 PM Fri. & Sat. A fee is charged per car. (740) 369-2900 or (740) 548-6056, or www.alumcreek.com.

Holiday Trail of Lights, Lake Hope (SE) - Dec. 1-31, 6-10:30 PM at the nature center. Hike forest trails aglow with light displays, decorated trees & landscape lighting. Extra activities offered on weekends. (740) 596-3030.

Salt Fork Trail Challenge, Salt Fork (SE) - Dec. 4, 9:30 AM. Meet at the lodge to try the 10.4 mile loop. A fee is required to compete & racers must pre-register. www.ohiooutside.com/salt-fork/index.html.

Bigfoot 50K & 3-Person Relay, Salt Fork (SE) - Dec. 5, 7 AM. Meet at the lodge. Share the 10.4 mile loop with a relay team or run the loop 3 times solo. A fee is required to compete & racers must pre-register. www.ohiooutside.com/bigfoot50k/index.html.

Candlelight Holiday Tours, Malabar Farm (NE) - Dec. 9-11, 5-9 PM. Tour the decorated home of Louis Bromfield & enjoy yuletide crafts, refreshments, caroling and holiday shopping at the gift shop. Stop by the Pugh Cabin for a holiday story & visit from Santa at 6 PM Thurs. & Fri. \$5/adult; \$3/child fee for the mansion tour. Reservations are required for story time at Pugh Cabin. (419) 892-2784 or www.malabarfarm.org.

Christmas at the Hollow, Quail Hollow (NE) - Dec. 9-11. Tour the historic Stewart Manor, decorated for an old-fashioned holiday. Enjoy refreshments, holiday crafts and entertainment, and visits with Santa. (330) 877-6652.

Christmas in Ash Cave, Hocking Hills (SE) - Dec 11, 5-7 PM. Celebrate the season with a candle-lit stroll to Ash Cave, refreshments, a bonfire, carolers, Santa and a tree decorated for wildlife. (740) 385-6841.

Holiday Traditions Workshops, Cowan Lake (SW) - Dec. 11, sessions start at 10 AM and 2 PM at the commissary. Create holiday decorations & ornaments from natural materials. Pre-registration and a \$10 fee required. (513) 897-2437.

Candlelight Holiday Tours, Malabar Farm (NE) - Dec. 12, 11 AM-5 PM. Yuletide activities & shopping. \$5/adult;\$3/child for tours of Louis Bromfield's home, decorate for the holidays. (419) 892-2784 or www.malabarfarm.org.

Holiday Traditions Workshops, Caesar Creek (SW) - Dec. 18, sessions start at 10 AM and 2 PM at the nature center. Create holiday decorations & ornaments from natural materials. Pre-registration and a \$10 fee required. (513) 897-2437.

Holiday Raptor Invasion, Hueston Woods (SW) - Dec. 18, 11 AM at the Hueston Woods Lodge. Educational raptor program with local birds of prey. (513) 524-4250.

JANUARY 2011

Basic Maple Producers Workshop, Malabar Farm (NE) - Jan. 8, 10 AM at the Visitor Center. Learn the basics of making your own maple syrup. A \$10 fee covers materials. Pre-registration required. (419) 892-2784.

Sled Dog Classic, Punderson (NE) - Date TBA. Pre-registration and a fee are required for racers. Spectators are admitted free. (440) 564-2279 or www.siberiancleveland.org.

Appalachian Weekend, Burr Oak (SE) - Jan. 14-16 at the lodge. Entertainment & exhibits celebrate the region's heritage. (740) 767-2112.

46th Annual Winter Hike, Hocking Hills (SE) - Jan. 15, continuous starts from 9-11 AM. Rugged 6-mile trek from Old Man's Cave to Ash Cave. Wear layered clothing & good footwear. Refreshments available for a donation. A shuttle bus returns hikers to Old Man's Cave. (740) 385-6841.

Cross-Country Ski Workshops, Malabar Farm (NE) - Jan. 15 (weather permitting), 10 AM at the Visitor Center. Learn basic cross-country skiing skills. \$30 fee includes equipment rental. Pre-registration required. (419) 892-2784.

Winter Hike, Mohican (NE) - Jan. 16, 1 PM. Meet at the camp store/commissary. Experience winter's beauty while watching for the elusive bald eagle. After the hike enjoy warm soup & refreshments (419) 994-5125.

Cross-Country Ski Workshops, Malabar Farm (NE) - Jan. 22 (weather permitting), 10 AM at the Visitor Center. \$30 fee includes equipment rental. Pre-registration required. (419) 892-2784.

Winter Bird Hike, Hueston Woods (SW) - Jan 22, 10 AM at the nature center. Hike park trails & learn the art of birding from an expert. (513) 524-4250.

Cross-Country Ski Workshops, Malabar Farm (NE) - Jan. 29 (weather permitting), 10 AM at the Visitor Center. \$30 fee includes equipment rental. Pre-registration required. (419) 892-2784.

Can You Name a Tree By its Bark?, Van Buren (NW) - Jan. 30, 2 PM at the nature center shelterhouse. Learn how to identify a tree in the winter by its bark, then head out on a trail to test your skills. (419) 348-7679.

FEBRUARY 2011

31st Annual Buckeye Trail Winter Hike, Findley (NE) - Feb. 5, 10 AM. Moderate 5-k, 10-k or interpretive hikes. Followed by bean soup & cornbread. (440) 647-5749.

Winterfest, Geneva (NE) - Feb. 5. Activities at the park and in the town of Geneva during this community winter carnival include snowmobile rides, a chili cookoff & more. (440) 466-8400.

Owl Walk, Malabar Farm (NE) - Feb. 6, 7:30-9 PM at the Visitor Center. Learn about Ohio's owls & take a guided walk to call them. Pre-registration required. (419) 892-2784.

Sweethearts Hike, Hocking Hills (SE) - Feb. 12, 5-7 PM at the Ash Cave parking lot. Take a romantic stroll to Ash Cave and enjoy a cozy fire & refreshments. (740) 385-6841.

Owl Walk, Malabar Farm (NE) - Feb. 13, 7:30-9 PM at the Visitor Center. Learn about Ohio's owls & take a guided walk to call them. Pre-registration required. (419) 892-2784.

Winter Hike, Caesar Creek (SW) - Feb.19, continuous starts from 10 AM - noon from the Wellman Meadows boat ramp off Oregonia Road. 4-mile self-guided trek through meadows and valleys. (513) 897-2437.

Winter Hike, Hueston Woods (SW) - Feb. 19, 11 AM. Meet at the nature center & car caravan to the Big Woods for a guided hike through old growth forest. (513) 524-4250.

Maple Syrup Weekend, Caesar Creek (SW) - Feb. 26-27, at the Pioneer Village. Brunch available from 11 AM to 2 PM for a fee; free walking tours at 10 AM, 11 AM, Noon & 1 PM. Warm up with a woodland walk & learn how sap is collected to make syrup. (513) 897-2437.

Polar Bear Plunge, Geneva (NE) - Feb. 27, at Breakwater Beach. Spectators are welcome. "Plungers" must pre-register. Proceeds benefit Special Olympics. (440) 466-8400.

MARCH 2011

Maple Syrup Festival, Hueston Woods (SW) - Mar. 5-6 & 12-13 at the main beach parking area. Explore the process of maple sugaring from the methods used by Indians to modern methods. Pancake breakfast offered from 7 AM-1 PM for a fee. Tour the sugar bush from Noon-4 PM. (513) 523-6347.

35th Annual Maple Syrup Festival, Malabar Farm (NE) - Mar. 5-6 & 12-13, Noon-4 PM. Take a horse-drawn wagon ride to the sugar camp for demonstrations of sugar making, pioneer life and entertainment. Food is available, and maple products are for sale. (419) 892-2784.

Maple Sugaring in the Hills, Hocking Hills (SE) - Mar. 12-13, Noon-4 PM at the naturalist cabin behind the Old Man's Cave visitor center. Discover how syrup is made, and try a sample. Pancake breakfast offered at the dining lodge for a fee. (740) 385-6841.

"Just For Kids" Fishing Day, Stonelick (SW) - Mar. 26, 11 AM-3 PM. Meet at the public beach to register. Kids can try for newly stocked trout. Refreshments available. (513) 734-4323.

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Caesar Creek

Caesar Creek State Park lies along the historic Bullskin Trace, an ancient path that makes a beeline from the salt licks of Kentucky, up the Little Miami River valley, to the Lake Erie shore near present day Detroit. The well-worn trail was first plotted by Ice Age animals plodding across Bullskin Creek at the newly formed Ohio River. As time marched on, Native Americans traveled back and forth along the efficient route from the remote hunting grounds below the Ohio River to the sacred sites and towns sandwiched between the beautiful river and the great lake.

To the Hopewell Indians who inhabited the Little Miami valley more than 2,000 years ago, this was a powerful place. They created a ceremonial center on the bluffs above the river and the trail, where they observed the workings of the universe and honored their ancestors. For some 400 years, generations of Hopewell people dug the soil with sticks and bones, and carried it in baskets to construct the mounds and earthen walls that stretch for three and a half miles across the landscape. Today, the impressive earthworks complex is an archaeological treasure known as Fort Ancient, the largest prehistoric hilltop enclosure on the continent.

When pioneer William Smalley first became acquainted with the Bullskin Trace around 1780, he was a frightened boy marching up the trail with his Indian captors. Still, he must have been impressed by the beauty and promise of the area. After being released by the Delaware and reunited with his kin, he returned to

the Little Miami valley and the familiar trail in 1797 to make his home and raise his family.

Frontier legends Daniel Boone and Simon Kenton followed in William Smalley's footsteps along the Bullskin Trace. Like Smalley, both Kenton and Boone were taken prisoner on different occasions, and prodded along the trail as captives. Each one was taken to the Shawnee village of Old Chillicothe, where he faced certain torture and likely execution, but each managed to escape. Some historical accounts claim that it was a runaway slave named Caesar who helped Kenton sneak away from Old Chillicothe. They say that Caesar showed Kenton the way to his hiding place on "Caesar's Creek" and the escape route along the Little Miami.

Most historians agree that a former slave is the namesake of Caesar Creek, but the details of Caesar's story vary. Some say that Caesar escaped from a southern plantation, followed the Bullskin Trace into Ohio, and lived a hermit's life along the banks of the creek that bears his name. Some say that he was taken captive in a raid by the Shawnee Indians, and adopted into the tribe to fight alongside the great war chief Blue Jacket. Still others believe that Caesar was an officer's slave on General Benjamin Logan's 1786 campaign against Old Chillicothe, and that he sabotaged the planned attack by tipping off the Indians and fleeing with them along the creek.

For many besides the enigmatic Caesar, the Bullskin Trace was a path to freedom. As pioneering Quakers trekked up the trail

into the heart of Ohio, they brought their nonviolent philosophy to the frontier. The communities they built, such as the historic village of Harveysburg, served as busy stations on the Underground Railroad. The compassionate citizens in town and countryside risked their lives and livelihoods to provide safe haven and assistance for escaped slaves on the trail to freedom. Several homes in



Harveysburg were equipped with hidden rooms, and a network of tunnels provided a secret passage from the town to the banks of Caesar's Creek. The first free black school in the Northwest Territory was established here in 1831 by Dr. Jesse Harvey, whose wife, Elizabeth, served as the first teacher. The school offered a rare opportunity for an excellent education and a bright future for minority students until it closed in 1909. Today, the school building serves as the home of the local historical society.

In the mid 1800s, one of Ohio's great progressive thinkers found his inspiration in the countryside in the Little Miami valley, south of Caesar Creek. Edward Deering Mansfield (1801-1880) was an accomplished scholar, philosopher and writer. He practiced law and served as a respected professor in Cincinnati, worked as a journalist and newspaper editor, and served as the Commissioner of Statistics for Ohio. Mansfield was also an influential philosopher who advocated for the rights of women and the abolition of slavery, and held a deep respect for native Americans.



Yamoyden

As editor of the Cincinnati Chronicle, Mansfield published essays by Harriet Beecher Stowe, whose 1852 book *Uncle Tom's Cabin* is credited for inflaming anti-slavery passions leading up to the Civil War. In addition to encouraging the career of a promising young woman writer, Mansfield authored the *Legal Rights, Liabilities and Duties of Women* to provide a single source of accurate information and sound legal advice for women.

In 1850, Mansfield moved away from the bustling city to the serenity of a country retreat on a lush hillside overlooking the Little Miami. He named the place "Yamoyden" after a popular poem of the day that romanticized the noble Indian warriors of the frontier.

Today, Caesar Creek State Park still offers history buffs and dreamy romantics a glimpse of Ohio's fascinating frontier. The pioneer village features



Free black school in Harveysburg

15 authentic log buildings that bring the past to life, including the home of one of Harveysburg's early residents, Levi Lukens, plus a school house, blacksmith shop, carpenter's shop, and Quaker meeting house. The park's excellent nature center also celebrates the area's heritage with educational and entertaining displays and programs. At Fort Ancient State Memorial, about seven miles south of the park, visitors can walk amid the prehistoric earthworks and tour the museum.

Caesar Creek lies along the crest of a geologic feature known as the Cincinnati Arch, where the 500 million-year-old limestone bedrock has been uplifted over time and exposed at the surface. As a result, the rocks here are studded with fossils of the primitive creatures that swam the Ordovician sea that once covered

Ohio. One of the best places to find fossils is near the spillway of the dam. A permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Visitor Center is required for fossil hunting.



Photo by Mandy Smith



Like history, nature is also abundant at Caesar Creek. The park spans more than 6,500 acres, and is bordered by a 483-acre state nature preserve and a 1,500-acre state wildlife area. The Caesar Creek Gorge State Nature Preserve offers more than two miles of nature trail along the lovely creek that Caesar and others found enchanting, with its gentle falls and dramatic outcroppings of ancient limestone.

Throughout the park, more than 43 miles of hiking trails, including a 14-mile backpacking trail, wind through the woods and along the lakeshore. There are 31 miles of bridle trail, along with a 25-site equestrian camp and an equestrian group camp for up to 40 tucked-out trail riders. Mountain biking opportunities include a challenging 5.5 mile trail near the campground, and a pleasant 3.5 mile loop for novices at the Fifty Springs picnic area. The Little Miami Scenic Trail staging area at Corwin is just a few miles from the park.

The Caesar Creek valley was impounded in 1978 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to help ease flooding in the Little Miami River watershed. The resulting 2,830 acre lake provides a variety of fun on the water, including quiet coves for paddling and fishing, a refreshing swimming beach, and plenty of launch ramps around the lake for motor boating.

For overnight stays, the bustling campground offers 283 campsites with electricity, modern restroom and shower facilities, and convenient getaway rentals including comfortable cedar cabins and rustic camper cabins.



PEOPLE IN THE PARKS

Natural Allies - Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalists

Just about any grown up who still enjoys poking around in the woods, turning over rocks in a creek, and investigating critters up close would count “state park naturalist” among their dream jobs. And just about any state park naturalist would confess that they love their work because they get to share the fun and wonder of the outdoors while hanging out in a park.

For dozens of nature enthusiasts across the state, the Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist (OCVN) Program has been a kind of dream come true. The OCVN program gives folks from all walks of life a chance to experience the satisfaction of bringing people and nature together at our parks.

Of course, park naturalists do far more than play outside. They make it look easy, but naturalists are members of a serious profession that demands a diverse set of skills, with rigorous academic requirements. The OCVN curriculum combines 40 hours of college-level classroom and field work with 40 hours of hands-on service projects to give participants the basic science background and practical know-how they need to help our professional naturalists.



At Caesar Creek and neighboring Cowan Lake state parks, the certified volunteer naturalists contribute more than 500 hours a year to the parks’ educational facilities and programs in a variety of ways. Behind the scenes, the volunteer naturalists help improve the nature center displays, tend to the landscaping, and help develop and organize interpretive program materials. The volunteer naturalists also interact with park visitors, sharing their knowledge of the natural world during school field trips, nature- and heritage-oriented special events, and the ever popular summer naturalist programs in the campground.

Over the last few years, the projects required as part of the OCVN certification have resulted in a lasting legacy at Caesar Creek. One such project is the 2-mile self-guided interpretive trail connecting the Caesar Creek Nature Center and Pioneer Village to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Visitor Center. Another OCVN class project is the informational kiosk at the 50 Springs Picnic Area.

Since the OCVN program was officially launched statewide in 2008, it has been a productive partnership between The Ohio State University Extension, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, and other enthusiastic partners. Several of Ohio State Parks’ professional naturalists, including Caesar Creek’s own Erin Shaw, serve as instructors for the regional OCVN classes. The helping hands of the well-trained volunteers have made it possible for naturalists to extend their outreach to the community, and give park visitors even more of what they came for – a fun and unforgettable encounter with nature.



A Feast for Fine Feathered Friends

Few sights in winter are more stunning than the gorgeous scarlet plumage of a cardinal against a backdrop of pristine snow. On chilly gray days, colorful birds and their cheerful chatter provide a feast for our senses.

We can return the favor by providing a feast for the birds in our own backyards. Ohio's year-round resident songbirds get as much as 20 percent of their winter diet from feeders. A traditional hopper style feeder filled with an economical bird seed mix is a great way to get started. To attract the widest variety of birds, though, it helps to offer a variety of favorite foods in different locations.

Millet is a treat for juncos, towhees, mourning doves, and white throated sparrows who prefer to eat seeds scattered on the ground. A ground feeding tray helps keep the seed clean and dry. A simple design consists of wire mesh stretched across a rectangular frame with legs to keep the table top several inches above the ground. The tray should be placed in an open location,



away from shrubs where hungry predators could be lurking and ready to pounce.

Birds that typically find their meals in trees during the rest of the year will flock to an elevated feeder hanging from the eaves or dangling from a pole. Affixing some small tree branches to the sides of a hopper feeder (nail them or hang them from sturdy wire) will provide extra perch space.

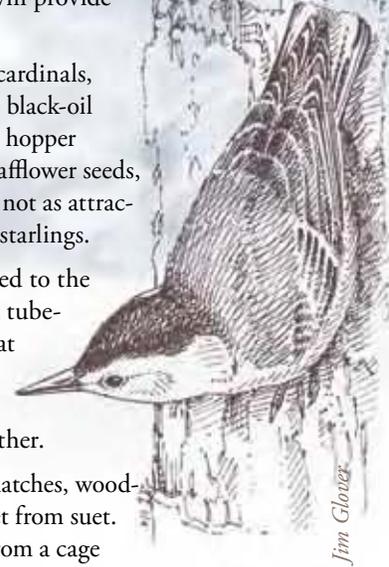
Birds with powerful beaks, like cardinals, blue jays and nuthatches, adore black-oil sunflower seeds offered from a hopper feeder. These birds also love safflower seeds, which cost a bit more, but are not as attractive to disruptive grackles and starlings.

The small beaks of finches are suited to the dainty nyger thistle seeds they favor. A tube-shaped feeder hung from a pole is a great dispenser for the small seeds. The feeder should have plenty of perches so these social birds can enjoy a meal together.

Insect eating birds, like chickadees, nuthatches, woodpeckers and titmice, crave the fat they get from suet. Store-bought suet cakes can be offered from a cage feeder hung from a tree, at least five feet up and near the trunk.

In addition to plenty of food, birds also need a reliable source of clean fresh water to stay healthy through the winter. For prolonged spells of sub-freezing weather, a bird bath heater is a good investment.

For serious bird fanciers, the best approach for creating a bird friendly backyard is to improve the habitat for the long term. Native Ohio shrubs and small trees, like dogwood, hawthorn, serviceberry, sumac, viburnum, or winterberry, are great choices for fruit eating birds. Beech, hickory and oak trees offer nuts in the fall, while conifers, like white pine, red cedar and juniper, provide cozy cover all winter long.



Jim Glover



"Seed Art" by Tim Daniel

Strategies for Squirrely Visitors

Acrobatic squirrels with the munchies can wreak havoc on bird feeders that provide treats they love, too. Leaping squirrels may be stumped by wire baffles circling the feeder, and a length of slippery pvc pipe circling the post can foil most attempts at climbing. An even better strategy is to provide a squirrel feeding station, away from the bird feeders. Delicacies like peanuts or cracked corn can be presented on a feeding tray, or dispensed from a squirrel feeder designed to ration the nuts, and make the most of the squirrels' comical antics.



Make Feeding a Family Affair

Gather the kids or grandkids to help make homemade feeders and decorate a favorite tree for the holidays. Take a brisk walk together and collect pinecones. Spread peanut butter or shortening between the scales and sprinkle birdseed over top. Attach colorful ribbons to the pinecone feeders and hang them from the branches. Make a festive garland with fresh cranberries and stale popcorn strung on thread. See the Park Pals Pages for more ideas.



OHIO STATE PARKS MERCHANDISE

Embroidered Designs

- 1. Low Profile Ballcap \$12.00** Solid cotton twill w/ adjustable strap. Specify; Emblem: A, B, C / Color: black, green, blue, khaki (not shown). One size fits all.
- 2. T-shirt \$17.00** 100% cotton knit, short sleeve. Specify; Emblem/Shirt Color: A. cardinals/blue; B. trees/green; C. eagle/brown; Size: Adult S, M, L, XL, XXL.
- 3. Golf Shirt \$19.00** 100% cotton pique, short sleeve. Specify; Emblem/Shirt Color: A. cardinals/blue; B. trees/green; C. eagle/light brown; Size: Adult S, M, L, XL, XXL.
- 4. Hooded Pullover Sweatshirt \$26.00** Heavyweight poly/cotton blend fleece, long sleeve with hood. Emblem/Color: D. midnight/white. Specify; Size: Adult S, M, L, XL, XXL.

Printed designs

- 5. Printed T-shirt, panorama designs, adult \$17.00**
100% cotton knit. Specify; Design/Color: E. butterflies/pink; F. hummers/blue; G. "Camping"/blue; H. "Hiking"/green; Size: S, M, L, XL, XXL
- 6. Printed T-shirt, vertical designs, adult \$17.00** 100% cotton knit. Specify; Design/Color: I. eagle/tan; J. "Ohio"/red; Size: S, M, L, XL, XXL.
- 7. Printed T-shirt, adult \$17.00/ youth \$13.00**
100% cotton knit. Design: K. backyard herps/sand. Specify; Adult Size: S, M, L, XL, XXL, or Youth Size: S/6-8, M/10-12, L/14-16.
- 8. Printed T-shirt, front & back design, adult \$17.00**
100% cotton knit. Specify; Design: L. butterfly nectar/purple; M. backyard birds/brown; Size: S, M, L, XL, XXL.
- 9. Printed T-Shirt, for kids only, youth \$13.00** 100% cotton knit. Specify; Design: N. bug glow/black; O. raccoon/black; Size: XS, S(6-8), M(10-12), L(14-16).

Books and Other Souvenirs

10. Books

- a. *Fish of Ohio* \$13.95 192 waterproof pages w/detailed illustrations for field ID
- b. *The Ohio Fishing Guide* \$9.50 Maps & tips on fishing hot spots, camping, etc.

- c. *Biking Ohio's Rail Trails* \$10.95 Revised edition w/ maps of 43 trails
- d. *Trees of Ohio Field Guide* \$12.95 Color photos of 115 Ohio species
- e. *Birds of Ohio Field Guide* \$12.95 Color photos & range maps of 111 species
- f. *Butterflies of Ohio Field Guide* \$16.95 Color photos of 133 species
- g. *Wildflowers of Ohio Field Guide* \$16.95 Color photos of 200 species
- h. *Ohio Trails and Greenways Edition IV* \$15.00 Info on 80 Rails-to-Trails
- 11. Wild Bird Feeder \$2.00** Converts & recycles plastic beverage bottles into bird feeders (bottle not included).
- 12. Crossing Signs \$12.00** Screen printed on 12"x12" caution yellow aluminum w/ rounded corners and hole drilled in top. Specify; Design: a. deer, b. wild bird, c. butterfly
- 13. Smokey Bear Plush Dolls**
 - a. 15.5" tall Smokey w/ plastic shovel \$27.00
 - b. 13" tall Smokey hand puppet \$15.00
 - c. 5.5" tall Smokey key chain \$7.00
 - d. 8" tall Little Smokey \$9.00
 - e. 12.5" tall Smokey w/ plastic shovel \$22.00 (not shown)
- 14. Tuffy Turtle Doll \$5.95** Mascot for Ohio State Parks and "Hike for Health"
- 15. Hiking Stick Medallion \$3.50**
- 16. Frisbee \$3.50**
- 17. Ohio State Parks Magnet \$2.50**
- 18. Can Cozy \$2.50**
- 19. 14 oz. Insulated Mug \$5.95** Specify; Color: a. maroon, b. green
- 20. Ceramic Coffee Mug \$7.00** Specify; Design: a. hummingbirds/yellow, b. butterflies/pink, c. insects/brown, d. nightlife/black
- 21. Jumbo Canvas Tote Bag \$16.00** 17" wide x 13" high, heavyweight canvas w/woven straps. Specify; Design: a. butterflies of the world/natural; b. backyard birds/black.

Please send this order form with your check or money order (*do not send cash*) made payable to "State of Ohio" to: **Ohio State Parks Merchandise Program**
2045 Morse Rd., C-2
Columbus OH 43229-6693

Allow 2-3 weeks for delivery.
To use a credit card, call (614) 265-6550

F/W 2010-2011

Ohio State Parks Merchandise Order Form

Name			City/State/Zip				
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Item #	Description	Design #	Color #	Size	Quantity	Price Each	Total Sale



SHIPPING & HANDLING

Purchase Amount:	Add:
up to \$25.00	\$4.00
From \$25.01 to \$50.00	\$5.50
From \$50.01 to \$80.00	\$6.50
From \$80.01 to \$110.00	\$7.50

Total Merchandise
Shipping & Handling
Total Due

All items include sales tax

embroidered designs caps • t-shirts • golf shirts • sweatshirts

1. Low Profile Ballcaps



A.



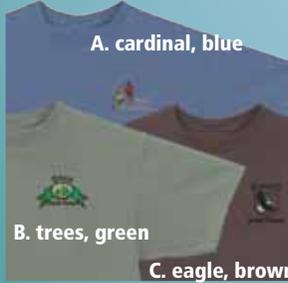
B.



C.



2. T-Shirts



A. cardinal, blue

B. trees, green

C. eagle, brown

3. Golf Shirts



A. cardinal, blue

B. trees, green

C. eagle, light brown

4. Hooded Sweatshirt



D.

printed t-shirt designs

5. adult sizes designs E - H



E. butterflies, pink
F. hummers, blue

G. Camping, blue
H. hiking, green

6. vertical designs, adult sizes I - J
I. eagle, tan
J. "Ohio," red



8. front and back designs L - M

L. butterfly nectar, purple



(Front)



(Back)

M. backyard birds, brown



(Front)



(Back)



7. adult and youth sizes design K, backyard herps, sand

KIDS ONLY N-O



N. raccoon, black



O. bug glow, black

books



10a



10b



10c



10d



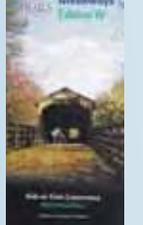
10e



10f



10g



10h

other souvenirs



11

12a

12b

12c



13a

13b

13c

13d

18

19

17

15

16



20a

20b

20c

20d

19

21.a

21.b





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FROM OUR READERS

Trees of Love By Danny Paul Madden

*It was once said some time long ago
I think that I will never see anything as lovely as a tree*

*Yet in the hills of southern Ohio
I think lovelier than one are all the trees*

*The history, the stories all can be read
From the living, the green, the brown and the dead*

*In all four seasons, on valleys and hills
The calm, their beauty, the excitement and thrills*

*Along the rivers and creeks, the brooks and streams
The trees are everywhere as though it seems*

*Their colors, their smells, their shapes and size
Are uplifting and invigorating to these old eyes*

*From that fallen monster at Dysart Woods
To the cypress swamp knobs in Dawes Arboretum's goods*

*The burley giant entering Burr Oak on the right
The gigantic sycamores along Scioto in the moonlight*

*The pawpaws sparsely scattered in the hills of Muskingum
The buckeyes on campus every fall I will see them*

*The red cedars on my grandpa's down in Adams County
Now the Amish produce hand made beauty from their bounty*

*The hemlocks and laurels along the ridges of Conkle's Hollow
Those hickories and walnuts throughout Zaleski we know*

*With my love, my Patty, we hike and go see
All the blissful beauty in these Ohio trees*

*A tender sapling from a simple seed
We plant in our yard a tree that we need*

*So when we can't go any more, due to reasons unknown
You can find us both under a tree that long ago was sown*