



SCENIC
OHIO

AMERICA'S OLDEST
ADVOCATE OF
SCENIC HIGHWAYS

NEWS

SPRING 2017

Photo: Janice Radlove

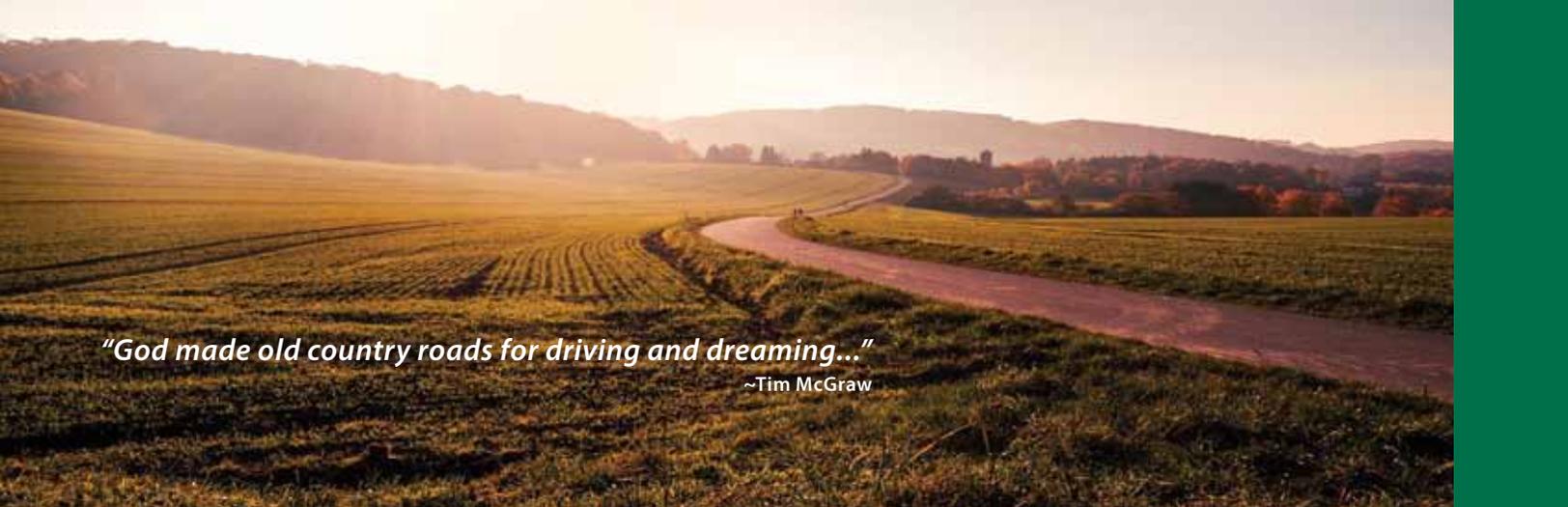
Scenic Ohio is a 501 (c) 3 Charitable Nonprofit Organization. It is the only not-for-profit in Ohio dedicated to protecting and enhancing the visual quality and scenic character of Ohio's towns and countrysides. Scenic Ohio is the longest standing nonprofit in America that advocates keeping our highway corridors beautiful and safe.

Donations are welcome. Send your tax deductible contributions to:

Scenic Ohio
P.O. Box 09816
Columbus, OH 43209

www.ScenicOH.org

Scenic Ohio has a unique history as the only organization dedicated to the sustained beautification of Ohio's byways and communities. Founded in 1933 as the Ohio Roadside Council, it has a distinguished heritage as the longest standing nonprofit organization in America dedicated to improving roadway environments and aesthetics. Scenic Ohio works with local and state agencies, communities, and individuals to achieve its goals to conserve and protect Ohio's many scenic byways, historic, prehistoric, ecological resources, and the appearance of gateways.



"God made old country roads for driving and dreaming..."

~Tim McGraw

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

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Yes, the Automobile Revolution did change the face of America. Wagon Trails over Buffalo Trace and American Indian footpaths became gravel roads, then paved highways and interstates. Many contemporary paths with historic and natural roots are honored today by becoming designated Scenic Byways.

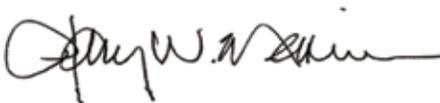
In the early 1900's, after-church carriage rides evolved gradually to weekend recreational motor drives and day trips through Ohio country-sides; perhaps peaking in the late 1940's – 60's. These included drives to picnics, hiking, fishing, sports, and sightseeing to historic and natural places. Country roads with "Tree Tunnels" were abundant. Scenic roads were well travelled; with views of lakes, rivers, hills, forests and orchards. Farmland roads through "amber waves of grain" and 7' cornfields seemed magical. Winding roads to quaint villages brought a sense of adventure and exploration.

To respond to this recreational wave of exploration and serve the motoring public, The Ohio Guides were written during the Great Depression and created in the 1940's. They charted paths to historic places, out-of-way small towns while weaving learning experiences into family trips. Ohio Humanities with help from talented historians and grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and Ohio Department of Transportation refreshed 13 of the 40 original guides in "The New Ohio Guide". These narrated guides can be played as you travel these historical paths; see the Ohio Humanities website.

So, how do we today better connect the public to this nostalgia for Ohio Country-sides, "Norman Rockwell Hamlets", places of nature, invention, industry, history and archaeology; Ohio's Scenic Places. The answer is simple; preserve more corridors of history, nature and culture as Ohio Scenic Byways.

In 1991 the National Scenic Byways Program was launched by the Federal Highway Administration. This program recognizes roads having outstanding scenic, historic, cultural, natural, recreational and archaeological qualities. Categories include: National Scenic Byways, All-American Roads or America's Byways. We have 27 Ohio Scenic Byways, five of which are "America's Byways". We recently added two; Granville Byway and Johnny Appleseed Byway. Congratulations!

Our highway corridors are like your front yard; they create the images remembered. When we conserve these scenic highway corridors and manage them as we would our front yards, we add value to the cultures to follow, honor natural places, enhance safety and connect the thread of Ohio's history to future generations.



Gary W. Meisner, FASLA Chairman, Scenic Ohio

FOR MORE INFO VISIT:

www.seeohiofirst.org/new-ohio-guide

www.ohiohumanities.org

www.dot.state.oh.us/OhioByways



*"I think that I shall never see
a billboard lovely as a tree.
Perhaps, unless the billboards fall,
I'll never see a tree at all." ~Ogden Nash*

Photos Source: ODOT

Know Illegal Billboards in Ohio

by Pat Meade

Can you identify the illegal billboard device above? At one time, both were illegal until remedied. By law, signs on parked semi-trailers and signs extending beyond a highway's right-of-way fence are noncompliant with Ohio laws.

It's important to note that the content of a billboard sign, its message, is not illegal; a partial list of problems can include any of the following scenarios:

- Damaged or deteriorated advertising messages
- Homemade, obsolete, discontinued or heavily damaged devices
- Its location does not fully comply to Ohio's 1968 state-federal agreement under the Highway Beautification Act (HBA), ODOT regulations and permitting by local authorities
- Zoning does not permit on site business signs to sell fee-paid advertising to off site businesses or promote free public service messaging
- The advertiser erects an illegal billboard device
- Billboard devices must adhere to proper permitting procedures and zoning laws
- Local sign laws are contrary to state laws
- Billboards lack a visible outdoor advertising company nameplate and identifying number on the device/structure

Pat Meade, chair of Scenic Ohio's Highway Signs & Outdoor Advertising Committee said, "Removing illegal billboards supports Scenic Ohio's mission and by working together with the Outdoor Advertising Association of Ohio, documented complaints of legitimate violations could then generate action taken by ODOT or local municipalities to enforce device removals and fines." Additionally, a database of legal locations and owners would help local/state inspectors more easily identify and dispute potentially illegal billboards. While limited resources may prevent regular inspections, drivers and passengers can help rid Ohio of illegal billboards and it's as easy as 1-2-3:

1. Safely take one or more photos of the potentially illegal billboard (don't attempt this while driving)
2. Document its location by highway mile marker, exit/entrance ramp or by nearest city/town/village intersection or street address
3. Submit the information to the most appropriate source below:
 - For local roads, send a copy to the community's local building inspector, zoning/planning board or council/mayor/city manager.
 - For interstates, highways or scenic byways, contact ODOT's ADC department at ADC@dot.ohio.gov.

Outdoor Advertising Association of Ohio's Executive Director Kevin Futryk explained, "Illegal advertising devices are a deep concern to our members as we biennially pay close to \$1 million in permit fees to have a strong regulatory framework in Ohio. Illegal devices pay nothing in permit fees and take revenue from legitimate outdoor advertising companies who abide by the rules. This is unfair which is why we work with ODOT to try and rid Ohio's landscape of these devices." He elaborated any help members of Scenic Ohio can provide to educate the public to identify and report illegal devices would be helpful to curbing these devices from Ohio's landscape. OAAO has partnered with ODOT's Advertising Device Control department for years to ensure that Ohio has a strong program that complies with Ohio's HBA, to maintain effective control over outdoor advertising.

To learn more about billboard devices and sign regulations, try these sources:

- ODOT's Advertising Device Control Manual (online)
- Ohio Revised Code (5516) and Ohio Administrative Code (5501:2-2-01-10)
- Request local government's public records pertaining to its zoning and sign ordinances



Photos courtesy of Gary Chisolm, Chisolm Studios

Getaway to Feel-Good Granville: Ohio's Newest Scenic Byway

by Pat Meade

Last September, Granville proudly became Ohio's 26th scenic byway.

Located in Licking County, east of Columbus toward Newark, this jaunty New England-style village is home to Denison University. This family-friendly small town is blanketed by woodlands and wildflowers, cherished for its historic haunts and treasured for its feel-good friendliness.

ODOT State Byways Coordinator Tom Barrett explained, "A scenic byway is a road that may feature historical, cultural, archeological, recreational, natural and/or scenic resources, which enhance the traveling experience." The 10-mile scenic byway route starts at State Route 37, intersects with James Road and continues north onto State Route 661 through Granville Village, passing Denison's east campus, and ends just north of Cambria Road. In her new role, Granville Township Trustee Melanie Schott inherited the byways project from a committed group of Granvillians that wanted to preserve Granville's history. She credits Barrett for reaching out to her; the original application was revised and resubmitted for Scenic Byways Advisory Committee's consideration and ultimate approval. Schott beamed, "Granville is a quaint and special kind of place."

Schott also mentioned moviegoers might recognize the small town featured in the upcoming crime thriller *First Kill*, starring Bruce Willis and Hayden Christensen, as Granville. Filming took place along the byway in downtown Granville and surrounding area for several weeks last fall.

On her short list of must-see places along or near Granville's Scenic Byway, Schott suggests:

Alligator Mound, an effigy earthwork, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and measures approximately 250' long, 76' wide and about 4' tall. Recent carbon dating suggests the Fort Ancient culture constructed the mound and it may symbolize the Native American animal spirit underwater panther.

Bryn Du Mansion hosts summer Sunday afternoon polo matches played on its Great Lawn. Near the byway, the 1865 Italianate-style Villa took five years to renovate into a Georgian-Federal style mansion, circa 1905, by John Sutphin Jones who made his fortune in the railroad and coal businesses. The 52-acre estate received voter support and the Village purchased the now-public event venue from the Longaberger Company in 2002.

Buxton Inn, built in 1812, is steeped in history that permeates the renovated guest room walls and the food is good and good for you. Famous guests included Presidents Lincoln, Harrison and McKinley, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Henry Ford, Yo-Yo Ma, Cameron Diaz and Jennifer Garner.

Dawes Arboretum, founded in 1929, sprawls 2,000 acres with 8 miles of walking trails, a 4-mile driving tour, observation tower and more than 15,000 living plants which are featured in special collections such as Azalea Glen, Ohio Buckeye Collection, an auspicious Japanese garden and Cypress Swamp. Off the beaten byway by about 8 miles, its scenic beauty is worth the trip.

Denison University Biological Preserve, established in 1966 by Professor Robert Alrutz, the reserve is a 350-acre refuge for numerous amphibians, turtles, white-tailed deer, red fox and hundreds of bird species throughout the grounds, four ponds and seven natural springs.

Granville Inn, Jacobethan Revival style, was developed by John Sutphin Jones. Former VIPs included Presidents Taft, Harding and Coolidge and Lillian Gish. Enjoy locally-sourced food at The Oak Room, Tavern at the Inn, Sunday brunch—what a great weekend getaway.

Robbins Hunter Museum, National Register of Historic Places, this Greek Revival landmark opened as a museum in 1981 for the legacies of those that lived there, including landscaped gardens with elements required for a sanctioned American Daffodil Society (ADS) display garden.

Official Ohio Byway signs will be installed along the byway and future state maps, Ohio Scenic Byways maps and scenic byways marketing materials will include Granville. More information is available online: www.dot.state.oh.us/OhioByways and www.visitgranvilleohio.com. Congratulations Granville!

2016 Scenic Ohio Awards Event



Scenic Ohio Board Member Sandra Smith and Scenic America Executive Director Mary Tracy

The 2016 Scenic Ohio Awards took place at Chillicothe's Adena Mansion Museum and Visitor Center. The National Park Service, Ohio History Connection, Dayton Society of Natural History, Explore Licking County, Newark Earthworks Center, and Arc of Appalachia were each presented with awards for managing, preserving and conserving extraordinary archaeological sites that have been nominated for World Heritage inscription.

Special guests Glenna J. Wallace, chief of the Eastern Shawnee Tribe, and Kerry Holton, president of the Delaware Nation, shined light on Native Americans' forced migration from Ohio to Oklahoma and how their cultures are overcoming adversity.

View the program on The Ohio Channel's website:
<http://www.ohiochannel.org/video/ohio-channel-presents-scenic-ohio-awards>



Scenic Ohio Vice Chair Jim McGregor with Board Chair Gary Meisner



Fort Ancient Site Manager Jack Blosser



Award Recipient: Arc of Appalachia with Executive Director Nancy Stranahan and Scenic Ohio presenters



Award Recipient: Dayton Society of Natural History with President and CEO Mark J. Meister and Scenic Ohio presenters



Award Recipient: National Park Service with Superintendent at Dayton Aviation Heritage NHP and Hopewell Culture NHP Dean Alexander and Chief of Resource Management Dr. Bret Ruby and Scenic Ohio presenters



Award Recipient: Ohio State University at Newark Earthworks with Director Marti Chaatsmith and Director Emeritus Dr. Dick Shiels and Scenic Ohio presenters



Director Stacey Halfmoon of Ohio History Connection American Indian Relations; and from Explore Licking County, Executive Director Dan Moder and Director of Sales & Marketing Carol Thress



Director Stacey Halfmoon, of Ohio History Connection American Indian Relations; Scenic Ohio Board member Andy Kesselem; and Chief Glenna J. Wallace, Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma



Special Guests: President Kerry Holton, Delaware Nation in Anadarko, OK; and Chief Glenna J. Wallace, Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma

Photos courtesy of Pat Meade, cre8veworks.com

Scenic Ohio's Changing Landscape

by Pat Meade

The only constant is change and Scenic Ohio's board is challenging itself to develop its potential within Ohio's ever changing landscape. Scenic America's Executive Director Mary Tracy provided guidance and shared best practices from other scenic affiliates. She noted the best affiliates tend to be inclusionary, collaborative and innovative. "Board decisions need to be strategic, clearly defined and consistent with its mission," Tracy advised. In addition, she presented *Scenic America's Taking the Long View: A Proposal for Realizing America the Beautiful*, highlighting five big bold initiatives.

Scenic Ohio stands for: greening roadways for sustainable beautification, advocating highway safety without distracting billboards, preserving community character, promoting scenic beauty, byways and gateways, enhancing scenic resources, educating and convening various publics for events, programs and activities. Scenic Ohio Board Chair Gary Meisner added, "Realizing Scenic Ohio's full potential boils down to answering one question--what is Scenic Ohio's intended impact and lasting imprint for Ohioans and Americans?"

Currently, Scenic Ohio's volunteer board operates in a low-key manner and plans to expand its collective influence by:

- Hiring a part-time executive director for capacity building
- Revisiting and refining the mission and vision
- Securing finances for bigger self-sustaining initiatives
- Connecting, interacting and growing

We welcome your energy and talent; you decide a little or a lot. Contact us at: neil.mccormick@scenicoh.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

2017 Scenic Awards Will Be Part of Heritage Ohio's Oct. 17 Conference

In 2017, the Scenic Ohio Awards will honor Ohio's Scenic Villages and Cities. The event will take place Oct. 17 in partnership with Heritage Ohio's Awards program in downtown Columbus as part of Heritage Ohio's annual educational conference. Location to be determined.



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<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/index.php?curid=49059037>

SCENIC OHIO TECHNICAL SERIES

Identification of Common Ohio Roadside Weeds | Part Two

Poison-Hemlock (*Conium maculatum*)

by Hannah Mathers, PhD | Mathers Environmental Science Services, LLC

Poison-hemlock can be found all over Ohio and is especially prevalent in counties located in the central, south central, and southwestern portions of the state. Poison-hemlock can often be seen along Ohio roadsides, ditches, waste areas, marshy areas, stream banks, and it has begun to appear as a weed in no-tillage fields. The species prefers rich soils and frequently grows in low or poorly drained areas (Fig.1) surrounded by three or more fleshy, thickened, tuber-like roots which taper into long strands. Poison-hemlock by contrast has a single thick whitish taproot (Fig. 2).

Poison-hemlock can also be confused with wild carrot (*Daucus carota*) a very common Ohio weed also known as Queen Anne's lace; however, poison-hemlock has purple-spotting and mottling on the stems that characterizes it from wild carrot, wild parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*) and other members of the carrot family (Fig. 3A and B) the leaves are also compound (Fig. 3C). Leaves are 1 to 16 inches long, alternate (1 leaf per node), finely dissected, and fern-like in appearance (Fig. 3C). Leaflets are minute, lance shaped, glossy green, darker on the upper side, and have serrated edges (Fig. 3C).

Leaves attach to stems by way of leaf stalks (petioles) marked with purplish spots or blotches. Petioles broaden at their base and encircle the stem at each node (Fig. 3D).

Poison-hemlock is a biennial reproducing from seed and is native to Eurasia. In the second year of life it flowers, and produces up to 38,000 seeds per plant. It was introduced into North America as an ornamental but escaped cultivation and became naturalized. It is a Prohibited Noxious Weed in Ohio according to the Ohio Administrative Code 901:5-37-01.

In Ontario, Canada, its spread was increased, in the early 80's, via an infested seedlot of alfalfa. Similar events probably occurred in Ohio areas. In some areas, solid mats of poison-hemlock can be seen along Ohio roadsides. It is a noxious weed in seven US states (including Ohio as indicated above) and two Canadian provinces (Ontario and Quebec). The primary reason for its being a noxious weed is because all parts of the plant are poisonous.



Fig. 1

Poison-hemlock (*Conium maculatum*) growing along a country road near a culvert outlet (indicated by red arrow) with standing water around the planting.



Fig. 2

Poison-hemlock (*Conium maculatum*) has a single whitish taproot distinguishing it from the highly toxic poison water-hemlock (*Cicuta* sp.)

Various poison alerts are listed below:

Northeast Weeds - Plant parts have a disagreeable odor when crushed. All parts of the plant contain toxic alkaloids, including coniine, that cause respiratory failure in humans and other animals when ingested.

Canadian Poison Plant - Cattle, goats, horses, swine, sheep, rabbits, poultry, deer and humans have been poisoned after ingesting poison-hemlock. Animal species vary in their susceptibility to acute toxicity.

Cornell Poison Plant - All plant parts are poisonous. However, the seeds contain the highest concentration of poison. The conium alkaloids are volatile and can even cause toxic reactions when inhaled.

Indiana Toxic Plants -

- **Toxicity Ratings:** Moderate to high.
- **Animals Affected:** All animals may be affected. Grazing animals, swine and animals that may eat the seeds (especially poultry) are more at risk than pets.
- **Dangerous Parts Of Plant:** All parts, especially young leaves and seeds.
- **Class Of Signs:** Nervousness, trembling, incoordination, depression, coma, death and birth defects.

As a member of the carrot family (*Umbelliferae*), poison-hemlock has typical umbel flowers. Although this is a serious poisonous plant, it is not the most poisonous plant in North America. This title is reserved for Poison water-hemlock (*Cicuta sp.*). Poison water-hemlock can be distinguished from poison-hemlock by its swollen base that is surrounded by three or more fleshy, thickened, tuber-like roots which taper into long strands.



The juice of Poison-hemlock was used in ancient Greece as a means of executing criminals and other state prisoners including Socrates.



Fig. 3A



Fig. 3B



Fig. 3C



Fig. 3D

Figures 3 A, B, C, D

(A) Poison-hemlock (*Conium maculatum*) has purple spotting on the stems unlike wild carrot also known as Queen-Anne's lace. However, water hemlock (*Cicuta maculata*) shares many characteristics with poison-hemlock including, (B) [an enlarged view of (A)] hairless stems that have purple mottling and (C) compound leaves with (D) broadened petioles at their base that encircle the stem at each node. Unlike poison-hemlock which has a single taproot (Fig. 2), water hemlock has a cluster of fleshy taproots.

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Photos courtesy of H. Mathers, 2016, New Carlisle area



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JOIN US!

MISSION AND GOALS

Preserve and expand Scenic Byways. Conserve Ohio's scenic, historic, cultural, ecological resources.

Educate the importance of Scenic values in relationship to cultural / historic tourism and the economic growth and well-being of small villages and cities.

Elevate the importance of Scenic values in relationship to Ohio's gateways, portals and "views from the road" for millions of travellers in and through Ohio.

Advance context sensitive design. Work with local jurisdictions, villages, cities, counties, and townships to knit transportation improvements with land use, gateways and other local needs.

Reduce proliferation of off-site signage and billboards that degrade property values and create unsafe distractions and public welfare issues along state and federal highway systems.

Advance "Green" solutions like vegetative sound walls and storm water bio-retention to modernize and make highway corridors more sustainable.

Educate ODOT Districts on how to better manage the "greensward" of our highway corridors.

Give back to local jurisdictions in our Home Rule State the ability to control their visual resources by providing amortization legislation.

Work with local jurisdictions and State agencies including ODOT, Ohio History Connection, Ohio Humanities Council, ODNR, Ohio Division of Travel and Tourism, Ohio Department of Commerce, Garden Clubs and Historical Societies to preserve and conserve scenic resources.

CURRENT PROGRAMS

Working with ODOT to improve roadways, including promotion of living sound walls and improving vegetative management practices. Continue Scenic Ohio "Green Highways" educational workshops with each of the 12 ODOT District offices.

Working with the Ohio Humanities Council, Ohio History Connection, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, ODOT, and The Ohio Department of Development/Division of Tourism to advance a unified online Scenic Resource map and improved Ohio tourism website.

Meeting with Ohio Garden Clubs of America to coordinate advocacy of issues of mutual interest.

Recognizing agencies, organizations and individuals who have significantly contributed to preserving, conserving and enhancing the visual resources of Ohio with the annual Scenic Ohio Awards program. Conducting the awards program to maximize public education on the importance of Scenic Resources.

Continuing to advocate for safe and beautiful highway corridors that minimize distractions that reduce safety to the driving public. This includes distracting lighting, on-premise signs, off-premise signs, billboards and digital billboards.

DONATIONS ARE WELCOME!

Send your tax deductible contributions to:

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