



SCENIC
OHIO

AMERICA'S OLDEST
ADVOCATE OF
SCENIC HIGHWAYS



NEWS

AUTUMN 2016

Scenic Ohio is a 501 (c) 3 Charitable Non-profit 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 non-profit 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 non-profit 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.



LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

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Ohio's Ancient Earthworks are certainly Scenic Treasures. Moreover they hold great mysteries of Native American Culture and represent some of the most sacred places on Earth. Over 170 years of survey, documentation, archaeological work, science and Native American lore and oral history have illuminated only part of this great story. The inscription of the Hopewell and Serpent Mound sites as World Heritage Sites will elevate the visibility of these treasures and expand research to better understand these stories.

As we understand more we will enrich our contemporary culture and improve the publics' understanding of these advanced ancient cultures of Ohio's past. One of the most challenging tasks of a culture is connecting key threads of the past into the future. The true measure of any civilization is how past cultures are understood, respected and honored for their contribution to the advancement of humankind.

The character of our highway corridors to Ohio's Monumental Earthworks and the surrounding countryside and urban areas are key to conserving their sense of place. Although today's urbanized landscape has changed over the last 2,000+ years, protecting their Outstanding Universal Value today and into the future is critical to preserving the impact on the public. Good planning and "Context Sensitive Design Solutions" are essential to maintaining character and sense of place.

The six recipients of the Scenic Ohio 2016 awards have served as outstanding stewards of Ohio's archaeological resources. The leadership of the University of Cincinnati's CERHAS center is also to be commended. Their challenges will continue to protect, expand research, connect with contemporary American Indian culture and elevate the interpretive stories of these sites and Ancient Cultures. Many other organizations, individuals, archaeologists, concerned citizens and local government jurisdictions are to be commended for their parallel efforts to assist in this great ongoing endeavor.

We all look forward to World Heritage Inscription and continued advancement of this inspiring effort. Congratulations!

Sincerely,

Gary W. Meisner, FASLA Chairman, Scenic Ohio

"The people who built these mounds were brilliant. Their genius lies in combining complexity and simplicity simultaneously. Their mathematical and astronomical complexities challenge our mental capacity while simultaneously their simplistic structures evoke a calming, soothing and in some instances a spiritual effect. These people have for the most part been overlooked, unrecognized, and unappreciated. Today we have an opportunity to change that and it is our responsibility to do so."

-Chief Glenna Wallace, Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma

Ancient American Indian Earthworks

For four hundred years, American Indian people of what we call today the Hopewell Culture built huge, beautiful geometric earthen enclosures, now thought to have served as both community gathering places and pilgrimage centers. As masterpieces of human creative genius, these ancient Ohio earthworks are cultural treasures whose relevance is worldwide. These sites continue to be meaningful to Native peoples and are considered sacred to those whose tribes who were forced from Ohio long ago. These monumental works of landscape architecture bear remarkable testimony to the multifaceted genius of aboriginal North Americans in the Ohio Valley, and to an artistic and cultural flowering that had significant impacts all across the continent between 900 and 2600 years ago.

The Ohio History Connection has been working to foster meaningful collaborative relationships with the federally recognized tribes in Oklahoma that are historically connected to Ohio.

Mound City Group at Hopewell Culture National Historical Park

The continued goal of these existing and future collaborations is to share, and reintroduce in some cases, American Indian Tribal Nations to their Ohio heritage and history. Their input is invited in the current and future management of these significant cultural resources and their perspective is included in the interpretation of these cultural places, thus ensuring that their voice is heard.

Chief Glenna Wallace of the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma has said, "The people who built these mounds were brilliant. Their genius lies in combining complexity and simplicity simultaneously. Their mathematical and astronomical complexities challenge our mental capacity while simultaneously their simplistic structures evoke a calming, soothing and in some instances a spiritual effect. These people have for the most part been overlooked, unrecognized, unappreciated. Today we have an opportunity to change that and it is our responsibility to do so."

The World Heritage Program and Ohio

Built by ancient American Indians, Ohio's earthworks are a wonder of the Ancient World. Equally significant are the sites in Dayton where the pioneers of flight, Orville and Wilbur Wright, conducted their work. These Ohio treasures are poised to join such cultural icons as the Pyramids of Giza, the Great Wall of China, Stonehenge and the Acropolis as World Heritage Sites through the nomination process of UNESCO- the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

UNESCO's World Heritage Program was established to recognize and encourage the protection of the world's most important cultural and natural treasures. Over 1,000 sites have been inscribed, with only 23 of them in the United States.

World Heritage inscription is based on stringent criteria and signifies that the sites possess outstanding universal value to humanity. Inscription on the list helps ensure a site's preservation and introduces it to travelers from around the globe.

Ohioans are working hard to have Ohio's first World Heritage Site inscribed. Inscription of all three Ohio sites currently on the U.S. Tentative List would give Ohio more World Heritage Sites than any other state. Ohio has three nominations on the tentative list: the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks, Serpent Mound, and Dayton Aviation sites. Efforts are being focused on one nomination at a time.

For further info visit worldheritageohio.org



2016 SCENIC OHIO AWARD RECIPIENT

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Hopewell Culture National Historical Park

Hopewell Culture National Historical Park preserves, interprets, and researches the archeological record of a distinctive and influential American Indian culture known today as Hopewell. The park is comprised of six earthwork units, four of which are open to the public: Mound City Group, Hopewell Mound Group, Seip Earthworks, and Hopeton Earthworks. Each site contains self-guided hiking trails which are easy to moderate treks.

The park and related sites represent some of the most elaborate of the Hopewell culture, as well as the biggest and densest concentrations of Hopewellian earthworks in the country. Park units were among the first places in North America where the practice of scientific archeology was used and described in scientific publications. The park contains the type-site for the culture; the site where the Hopewell culture was first defined by archeologists.

Mound City Group at dawn

The park's only visitor center at Mound City Group is open seven days a week from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. It is closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Visitors can enjoy a 17-minute orientation film, a museum containing artifacts excavated in the early 1900's from the Mound City Group and an interactive video kiosk that takes visitors on a virtual tour of Hopewellian sites. The grounds at all park units are open dawn until dusk, every day. There are no entrance fees to the park.

2016 SCENIC OHIO AWARD RECIPIENT

OHIO HISTORY CONNECTION

Newark and Fort Ancient Hopewell Sites, Located in Newark and Warren County / Great Serpent Mound, Adams County

The Ohio History Connection is a private nonprofit organization created in 1885 to identify, collect, preserve and interpret records, objects and places related to Ohio history. Our mission is to spark discovery of Ohio's stories. We embrace the present, share the past and transform the future. We partner with the state of Ohio to carry out dozens of history services for Ohio and its citizens.

The Ohio History Connection manages the operations of more than 50 historic sites across the state, including presidential homes, nature preserves and American Indian sites like Fort Ancient, Serpent Mound and Newark Earthworks.

Connecting people to the stories of Ohio is part of our daily work and it's accomplished in part through educational efforts such as sponsoring National History Day in Ohio and Ohio As America, an online textbook for teaching the history of our state.

We also serve as the State Historic Preservation Office for Ohio. We nominate properties to the National Register of Historic Places, review rehabilitation work to historic buildings for tax credits and more.

Our collections document both the ordinary and extraordinary stories of Ohioans. We collect and make available to the public a vast collection of nearly two million objects in our museums across Ohio, and in our flagship museum in the Ohio History Center.



Historic Map of The Great Serpent Mound

"The earth has music for those who listen"

~William Shakespeare

2016 SCENIC OHIO AWARD RECIPIENT

DAYTON SOCIETY OF NATURAL HISTORY

Site Managers of Fort Ancient

The Dayton Society of Natural History (DSNH) entered into management of Fort Ancient Earthworks and Nature Preserve in partnership with the Ohio History Connection in 2009. Fort Ancient is a 2000 year old human-made hilltop enclosure situated along a wooded bluff, high atop the Little Miami River Valley. The natural beauty of Fort Ancient's setting is compelling, and offers visitors opportunities to explore southwestern Ohio's flora and fauna through 2-1/2 miles of hiking trails, overlooks, and picnic opportunities.

The DSNH offers educational programming at Fort Ancient to interpret the pre-Contact American Indian cultures that inhabited southwestern Ohio, particularly the Middle Woodland peoples who built this space. Current-day theories about the use of the site indicate that the embankment walls delineate ceremonial space utilized by the site's original builders and occupants.



Connector Trail at Fort Ancient

The DSNH is honored to work with the Ohio History Connection, the National Park Service, the Arc of Appalachia, Encounter Licking County, and the Newark Earthworks Center to forward the World Heritage nomination of the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks to UNESCO. We look forward to welcoming cultural tourists from across the globe to explore the wonderful sites included in the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthwork nomination.

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ARC OF APPALACHIA

Site Managers of The Great Serpent Mound

The Arc of Appalachia Preserve System has been buying and protecting Ohio's wildlands and creating large natural areas around complexes of ancient earthworks since 1995, -saving roughly 5000 acres of land in 17 preserve regions. The Arc's goal is to not only save the memory and artistry of Ohio's ancient peoples, but to preserve the natural landscapes and ecosystems which inspired and supported American Indian cultures. The Arc of Appalachia has helped save two earthworks off the auction block: Spruce Hill and Junction Earthworks; and manages two earthworks on behalf of the Ohio History Connection: Fort Hill and Serpent Mound.

The Arc is currently conducting a campaign to help fund the protection of two splendid earthworks: Glenford Fort in Perry County and Steel Earthworks, adjacent to Junction Works in Ross County.

Junction Earthworks next to Paint Creek



Photo: Tim Anderson Jr.



"There is a serene and settled majesty to woodland scenery that enters into the soul and delights and elevates it, and fills it with noble inclinations."

~Washington Irving

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NEWARK EARTHWORKS CENTER

Site Managers of Newark Earthworks

The Newark Earthworks Center (NEC) is an interdisciplinary academic center of the Ohio State University that develops projects and research about the Indigenous cultures that produced the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks in order to promote understanding of the cultural and scientific achievements of American Indians to humankind. The NEC's projects emphasize Indigenous knowledge of the earthworks landscape in the Ohio River Valley, from before settler contact until the present.

Since 2008, the NEC initiated strategies to reach out to tribal governments for the purpose of developing reciprocal, sustainable relationships, and to promote the idea that contemporary American Indian governments should have a key role in the preservation, interpretation, and stewardship of the Ohio earthworks and historic indigenous sites.

The Newark Earthworks: Enduring Monuments, Contested Meanings (edited by Lindsay Jones and Richard Shiels, U of Va. Press, 2016) came from the first-ever symposium where leading scholars of ancient sites turned their expertise to the Newark Earthworks demonstrates the NEC's commitment to bringing multiple perspectives to Ohio's history. The introduction is by Chief Glenna Wallace of the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, who articulates the perspectives of tribes forced out of their lands in the 19th century and who are returning to their ancestral lands.

The NEC has a social media presence through Facebook and a blog: <https://newarkearthworkscenter.blogspot.com/>



Deer on the northernmost barrier mound at the Octagon

2016 SCENIC OHIO AWARD RECIPIENT

EXPLORE LICKING COUNTY

Site Managers of Newark Earthworks

By staying true to their vision of collaborating with community partners to provide unique, educational and fun experiences for visitors and residents alike, Explore Licking County has become an active participant and vocal champion of the preservation and worldwide marketing of The Newark Earthworks. Through a long term site management agreement with The Ohio History Connection, Explore Licking County has been able to provide consistent hours of site operation, continuity of message and interpretation, daily property management and collaborative marketing and public relations to this one of a kind piece of Ohio's ancient past. This boots on the ground partnership has allowed the teams of The Ohio History Connection and Explore Licking County the ability to deliver the message of preservation, as well as the archeological significance of the Newark sites to an annual audience of nearly 9,000 unique visitors and 2,000 school aged children.



Aerial View: Newark Great Circle Earthworks



Identification of Common Ohio Roadside Weeds | Part One (*Dipsacus laciniatus* and *Dipsacus fullonum*)

by Hannah Mathers, PhD
Mathers Environmental Science Services, LLC

Cut-leaved (*D. laciniatus*) and common teasel (*D. fullonum*) are considered two of the most invasive species in Ohio's natural areas. As invasive species, teasels reduce diversification of native plant populations, diminish visibility for traffic and increase soil erosion by reducing penetration of water into soil. Both species thrive in open disturbed areas and prefer moist, coarse soils. Teasels are simple perennials reproducing only by seed. However, some cut-leaved teasels can produce up to 33,527 seeds per plant. First year plants form large rosettes and second year plants form flowers. Common teasel is found throughout Ohio, and although cut-leaved teasel was not as widespread in Ohio in 2010, its rapid dispersal and tremendous seed production has caused occurrence to spread throughout most of Ohio by 2016.

Cut-leaved teasel can be distinguished from common teasel, in the reproductive phase, as the cut-leaved teasel has white flowers (Fig. 1A). Common teasel has pink or purple flowers. The flowers of both species are individual, small and have tubular corollas that are 10-15 mm long. The corolla ends are four-lobed, 3-4 mm wide and have four protruding stamens from the corolla tube. This flower typifies the Dipsacaceae or Teasel Family. After flowering, the densely spiny heads or capitulum borne on the end of branches, take on an oval or egg-shape with long slender, stiff bracts below the head (Fig. 1B). Numerous, short stiff bristles occur in the head of both species.



FIG. 1A
The white tubular flowers of cut-leaved teasel are shown, distinguishing it from common teasel's pink – purple flowers.



FIG. 1B
After the tubular white flowers fade, the flower heads look more oval or egg-shaped.

Photos by: H. Mathers, July 20, 2015,
Morrow County, OH

In its vegetative phase, cut-leaved teasels have deeply lobed upper leaves (see below, Fig. 2A and 2B) with opposite arrangement, two per node. The leaf bases unite to form a cup where rain-water can collect (Fig. 2B). The leaves of common teasel are wrinkled and spineless on the margins. Both species have spines on the under leaf surfaces especially along the mid-rib (Fig. 2B). The common teasel has no-lobes or non-cut-leaves. Although the leaves of common teasel may be somewhat toothed. The stem of the second-year plants are erect, angled, usually branched toward the top and have many down-turned prickles, increasing in density as they advance up the stem (Fig. 2C).



FIG. 2A
Leaves of cut-leaved teasel are deeply lobed in the upper regions of the plant.



FIG. 2B
Cut-leaved teasel leaves unite at their bases forming a cup. Down-turned spines are shown on the stem and along the midrib of the leaf's undersurface.



FIG. 2C
Cut-leaved and common teasel have down-turned spines on the stem.



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October is Ohio Archaeology Month! For details visit www.ohioarchaeology.org

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!

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