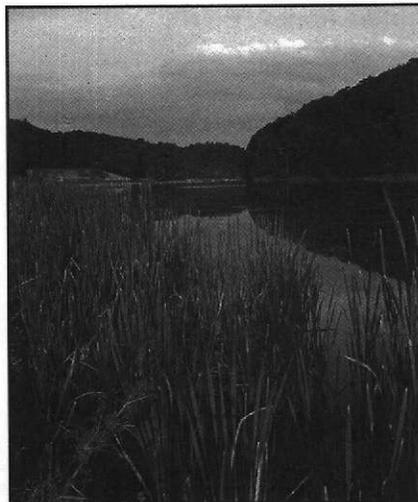


PART ONE

The Department

THE DEPARTMENT



As provided by the Constitution of the State of Ohio, Article II, Section 36, "Laws may be passed...to provide for the conservation of the natural resources of the state..."; and as provided by the founding legislation in 1949, Amended Senate Bill 13 of the 98th General Assembly, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources is the legally authorized executive and administrative agency of State government which "shall formulate and put into execution a long term comprehensive plan and program for the development and wise use of the natural resources of the state..."

INTRODUCTION

Joseph J. Sommer,
Director



Figure 1.1. Soil conservation is fundamental to prosperous agriculture, and contour strip-cropping is an effective technique to retard soil erosion on sloping farmland in Ohio. Photo by E. Cole, 1956.

Ohio is a state with an ideal geographical location and an abundance of natural resources. It enjoys the beauty and diversity of the four seasons. The state's fertile soil and plentiful supply of fresh water support a thriving agricultural community (Fig. 1.1). Industrial production prospers bringing economic well-being to the state. The many forests, parks, and waterways offer a wide variety of recreational opportunities to Ohio's citizens and to those who visit the state annually as tourists (Figs. 1.2 & 1.3). Indeed, Ohio is "Naturally the heart of it all!"

The activities of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources touch the lives of all Ohioans. Created in 1949 by Amended Senate Bill 13, the Department was designed to "formulate and put into execution a long term comprehensive plan and program for the development and wise use of the natural resources of the state, to the end that the health, happiness and wholesome enjoyment of life of the people of Ohio may be further encouraged; that increased recreational opportunities and advantages be made available to the people of Ohio and her

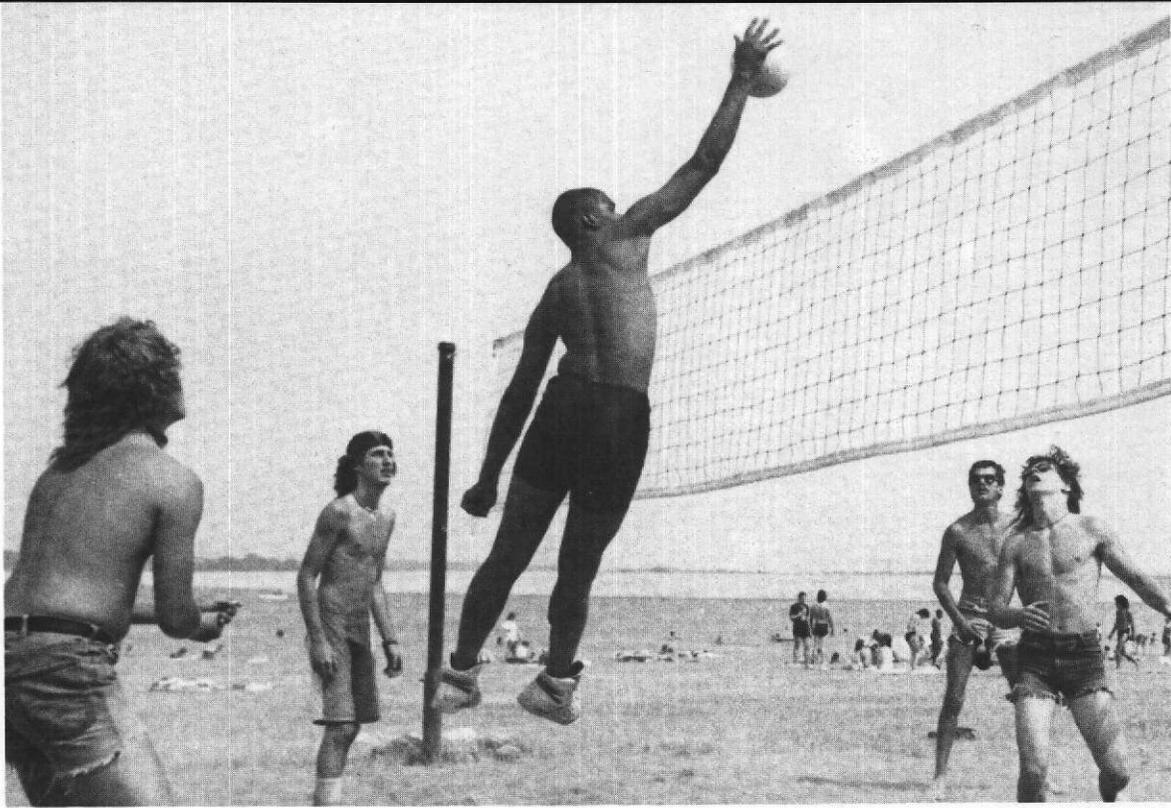


Figure 1.3. Canoeing with proper safety equipment is a great way to experience scenic Ohio. Photo by Mark Kenny.

Figure 1.2. Alum Creek State Park in Delaware County provides excellent recreational opportunities. Photo by Bill Foreman, 1988.

Figure 1.4. Headquarters of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, the Fountain Square Complex, which was purchased in 1988, is located in north Columbus.

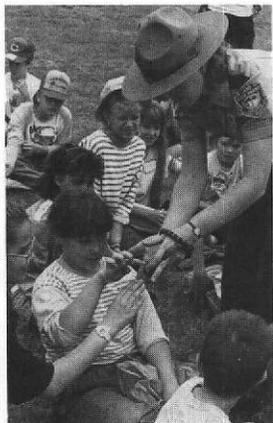


Figure 1.5. Departmental personnel provide public service throughout the state. Nancy Strayer, Naturalist, shows that snakes are really dry-to-the-touch at Dillon State Park in Muskingum County. Photo by Michael D. Williams, May 1989.

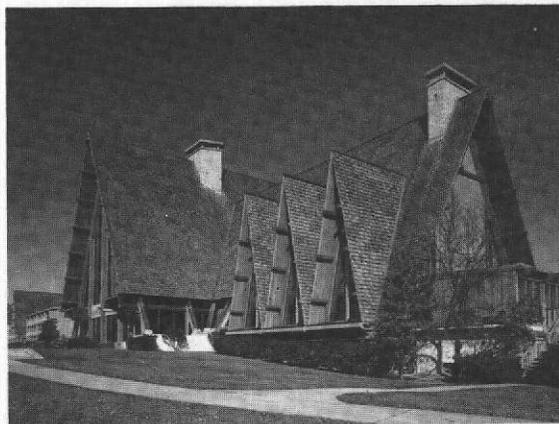


Figure 1.6. The majesty of Ohio's natural diversity and history is captured in the elegance of ODNR's nine lodges. Each provides year-round facilities in a unique natural setting. Hueston Woods Lodge in Preble County is dedicated to the area's Indian heritage.

visitors; that industry, agriculture, employment, investment, and other economic interests may be assisted and encouraged." In essence, ODNR is the steward of Ohio's abundant natural resources, developing as well as preserving the legacy for future generations.

Operating with an annual budget of approximately \$187 million for fiscal year 1989/1990, the Department contributes significantly to the quality of life in Ohio. Through the efforts of thousands of dedicated and qualified staff members in twelve Divisions and five Offices (see Figure 3.27 on page 33), ODNR strives to protect and manage the resources of Ohio through legislation, cooperative agreements, special programs, land acquisition, land development, research, and financial assistance. The Department operates under the executive branch of State government and receives advice and consent from 15 statutory councils and commissions (see Figure 4.2 on page 36).

ODNR Headquarters is housed in eight modern office buildings located on a 19-acre site in north Columbus that was purchased in the summer of 1988 (Fig. 1.4). However, the majority of departmental personnel are scattered throughout the state serving the needs of the public (Fig. 1.5). ODNR owns and manages approximately 400,000 acres of land including 72 State Parks and 9 resort lodges (Fig. 1.6), 19 State Forests, 93 State Nature Preserves of which 34 are open to the public (Fig. 1.7), and 85 State Wildlife Areas. The Department leases, manages, or has use agreements with other public and private entities for approximately 350,000 additional acres. Also, the Department has jurisdiction over more than 100,000 acres of inland waters as well as Ohio's portions of Lake Erie and the Ohio River (Fig. 1.8). These lands and waters are managed to provide recreational activities such as hiking (Fig. 1.9), fishing (Fig. 1.10), hunting, and camping for all Ohioans, and to preserve our forests and unique natural areas. Regulatory services protect the land from pollution while assisting the oil and gas, and mining industries. Technical services map the ground water (Fig. 1.11), geology (Fig. 1.12), and the soils of the state for use by private industry and individuals. At all times, the Department strives to serve the public need.



Figure 1.7. Plant life at Irwin Prairie State Nature Preserve in Lucas County is interpreted by Allison Cusick, Chief Botanist. Photo by Guy Denny, July 1987.



Figure 1.8. The Cincinnati Riverfront Park area, developed in part with more than \$3.4 million in Land and Water Conservation Fund assistance administered by ODNR, provides many opportunities to enjoy the grandeur of the Ohio River in combination with the dynamics of downtown Cincinnati. Office of Outdoor Recreation Services file photo.



Figure 1.9. ODNR Deputy Director Anne Wickham pauses on her hike in Fowler Woods State Nature Preserve in Richland County to observe ODNR Artist Jim Glover doing some nature photography. Photo by Guy Denny, July 1986.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources has played a major role in helping to maintain the economic vitality of the state and has contributed substantially to the recreational opportunities available to its citizens. The resource management professionals in the Department have consis-

tently exhibited a sincere concern for the welfare of our natural resources and the people who use them. This book is a tribute to their many years of devoted service.

Sincere thanks and gratitude are owed to all who have worked so diligently to compile this story of resource

Figure 1.10. Linda Wilhelm Osterman of Columbus shows why Lake Erie is the "Walleye Capital of the World." Photo by Steven A. Gray, 1980.



management in Ohio. As the Department celebrated its 40th Anniversary on 11 August 1989 (Fig. 1.13), our hope is that this document will serve as a reference to students, conservationists, and the thousands involved in advocacy pursuits. As for the Department, our goal for the future is to build on the outstanding accomplishments of the last 40 years.

Figure 1.11. Essential information concerning Ohio's water is acquired and maintained for public and private uses. Dave Cashell, Hydrologist, measures and records the level of ground water in an observation well, August 1985.

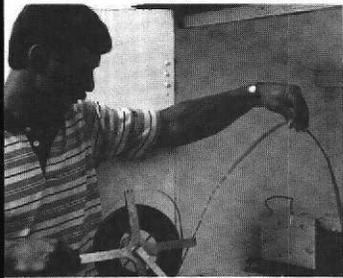


Figure 1.12. The depths and mysteries of Ohio's bedrock are being explored by the Department's Longyear Hydro-44 core-drilling rig near Lytle in Warren County. The deepest continuous core of rock in eastern United States (5380 feet) was extracted in 1989. Photo by Michael Hansen, April 1989.



Figure 1.13. Governor Richard F. Celeste (left) joined ODNR Director Joseph J. Sommer (back center) in welcoming Mrs. Myrl H. Shoemaker, widow of former Director Shoemaker, and former Directors Robert W. Teater (back right) and Fred E. Morr to ODNR's 40th Anniversary Party on 11 August 1989 at the Ohio State Fairgrounds. Photo by Michael D. Williams.