

# The Resource

Employee Newsletter of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources

September 2002



## THIS LIBRARY ROCKS!

### Ron Rea and the Geologic Repository



If you want to know what Ohio's really made of, go to the Horace R. Collins Laboratory near Alum Creek State Park in Delaware County. Operated by the Division of Geological Survey, it's a repository for thousands of rock cores and cuttings — and geologist Ron Rea is the curator.

"The repository is like a big research library," Ron observed, "only with rocks instead of books." Indeed, it's an encyclopedia revealing Ohio's geological structure and history.

Built in 1999, the repository has 27,512 square feet of storage. Inside, racks hold more than 12,000 boxes of oil and gas cuttings, nearly 34,000 boxes of rock core, and nearly 400 boxes of glacial-deposit samples. And more samples arrive every year.

**Cores and cuttings are both rock samples**, but they take different

forms. **Cores are cylinders** of solid stone, drilled out of bedrock in sections for hundreds of feet into the Earth. Sections are stored in flat boxes, some of which weigh as much as 140-150 pounds. **Cuttings are ground-up rocks** typically removed during the drilling of gas and oil wells. They're stored in small envelopes inside boxes.

The Division of Geological Survey used to collect its own core samples, but these days it relies on industry, academia, engineering firms, and the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) to supply them.

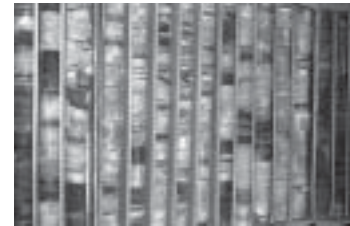
Each core and cutting sample is labeled with source information, which in turn is fed into a database. The database can be searched in a number of ways — by county, township, geological formation, or core/cutting number.

**The samples are extremely important** to a number of agencies and businesses for a variety of activities.

"For example," Ron explained, "they provide details about the thickness, physical properties, chemical properties, and geographical distribution of natural resources such as coal, limestone, and other industrial minerals. The engineering properties of the formation can be analyzed as well as the potential for oil, natural gas, and water."

He opened a box of Devonian black shale. "Someday, this rock will be used as a source of fuel, when the technology evolves to a point that makes it economical. Since the cores

*(Continued on page three)*



## ROCKS IN OHIO

Underneath it all, Ohio is rock. Geology is the science and study of the Earth and its history, especially as recorded in rocks. Every rock has a story to tell.

There are three kinds of rock — sedimentary, igneous, and metamorphic.

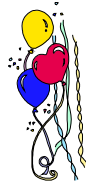
Sedimentary rock is formed when small particles of sand, clay, or pebbles, deposited in layers by water or wind, fuse together over time. Igneous rock forms when hot molten lava cools to a solid state. Metamorphic rock is sedimentary or igneous rock that has been transformed by enormous pressure and heat.

An important aspect of rock is its "permeability," the ability to transmit fluids. Permeable rocks, like sandstone, have grains separated by air spaces that make it easy for water to percolate through it. Impermeable rocks, such as shale, are made up of finer grained flakes cemented closely together, inhibiting the movement of fluids.

In Ohio, most of our rock is sedimentary, and includes dolomite, limestone, shale, sandstone, conglomerate, coal, and halite (rock salt). About 70 percent of the state is covered by a blanket of glacial sediments, burying the bedrock that is exposed in the southeastern part of the state.



# NATURAL RESOURCES PARK 2002

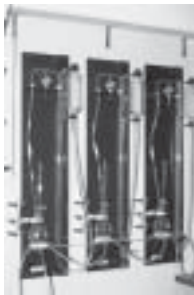


(Continued from page one)

already exist, the locations of this potentially useful rock are already known.”

Cores also pinpoint sites suitable for landfills, where the rock would naturally prevent seeping fluids from contaminating ground water. Rock samples are also used in the planning of highways, bridges, and large buildings.

Ron said that occasionally part of a sample is subjected to testing. “The decision for ‘destructive testing’ is done on a case by case basis,” he reported, “because these rock samples have to be preserved for posterity.” The repository has laboratories where rock can be examined through microscopes or chemically treated and measured.



**The repository is also used for training workshops.** Limestone rock quarries often have their own labs. ODOT buys most of the state’s limestone for roads, and wants quarry technicians to “all be on the same page.” So training sessions are held to teach them consistent testing and grading methods. The training is a partnership of the Ohio Aggregates & Industrial Minerals trade association, and ODOT.

The repository is also visited regularly by school kids and scouts on field trips. Ron shares his wonderful collection of fossils — intricate trilobites, delicate crinoids, fern imprints, and other ancient marvels. “Ohio is a good state for finding fossils,” he confided. His collection also includes rock and mineral specimens such as granite, marble, mica, and even a few flakes of gold he panned from an Ohio stream.

Ron obviously enjoys his work, as reflected in the collection of dinosaur models, fossils, minerals, and souvenirs in his office. One of the

most satisfying aspects of his job is the variety of people who come through the door. He said, “the students that come here range from pre-kindergarten to post-doctorate. I have a different approach for each group. Every day is different.”

**Ron Rea is from Ross County** near Frankfort. He received his bachelor’s degree in geology and biology from Morehead State University and a master’s degree in geology from Eastern Kentucky University. He taught high school biology and general science for awhile, was a petroleum geologist for a few years, and then joined the Division of Geological Survey 18 years ago. He and wife, Robin, sons, Cully and Drew, live near the city of Delaware. His hobbies are collecting fossils, hunting, and fishing.

### Observe Earth Science Week October 13-19

This year’s theme is  
“Water Is All Around You.”  
Visit the web site at  
[www.earthsciweek.org](http://www.earthsciweek.org)



### EAGLE’S NESTERS

One of the new attractions inside the Natural Resources pavilion at this year’s Fair was a handmade eagle’s nest. The authentic replica (minus the real-world odors) was built by **Steve Douglas, Rick Dorn, and Karen Norris**, from the Division of Wildlife, Delaware Wildlife Management Work Unit. The crew joked that they wove the nest together “with our beaks!” The exhibit was very popular with the park’s visitors.

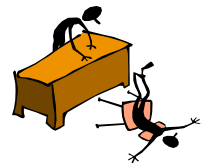
## NEW COASTAL CHIEF

In July, **David B. Mackey** joined ODNR as chief of the new Office of Coastal Management. The Coastal Management program was reorganized in May, consolidating staff from several ODNR sections and moving the office from Columbus to Sandusky in order to provide better service to Lake Erie shoreline property owners and local governments.

David is a professional engineer with more than 25 years experience managing public projects. He holds degrees in civil engineering, English literature, and psychology from The Ohio State University. Most recently, he was vice president of Columbus Engineering Consultants, where he was senior executive for all environmentally related activities. He was also the federal and state projects section manager for the City of Columbus, has worked on oceanic engineering projects in California, and assisted on a wetlands inventory study of the Great Lakes region. He is an avid sailor and former U.S. Navy officer.

## SAFETY

### Give Falls the Slip!



Falls are the third leading cause of U.S. workplace injuries.

- Use a ladder or step stool to reach high objects — never a chair or a box.
- Never carry a load that blocks your vision.
- Close file drawers after use.
- Wear shoes with slip-resistant soles.

*This message brought to you by the ODNR-OCSEA Health & Safety Committee.*

## ANNIVERSARIES

### 5 Years

Travis Abele, Officer, Wildlife #4  
Rusty Orben, Legislative Services, Administration  
Jocelyn Henderson, NRA1, Soil/Findlay  
Mark Seger, NR Engineer, Soil/Findlay

### 10 Years

Ken Pendley, GIMS Database Administrator, Water

### 15 Years

Emily Mitchem, Office Assistant, Forestry  
Jon Holtzman, Fish Mgmt. Unit Leader, Wildlife #3  
Dorothy Farris, NRA2, Soil/Findlay  
Dan Mecklenburg, Ecological Engineer, Soil

### 20 Years

Dan Wade, Public Info Specialist, Recycling  
Loretta Rector, Fiscal Officer, Soil

### 25 Years

James Schuler, Investigator, Wildlife #3  
David Bright, Fish Mgmt. Supervisor, Wildlife #4  
Douglas Maloney, Fish Mgmt. Supervisor, Wildlife #5  
Donna Stusek, Deputy Chief, Recycling  
Mark Feusner, NRA1, Soil/Findlay  
Ed Crawford, NRA2, Soil/Findlay  
Ed Everman, NRA2, Soil/Brookville

### 30 Years

Terry Lucht, NRA1, Soil/Wilmington

### 35 Years

Patty Barklow, Executive Secretary, Recycling

## MILESTONES

### Retirements

Gloria Ballay, Administrative Assistant, Forestry, 25+ years  
Carl Webb, Investigator, Wildlife #2, 34+ years

### Transfers

Vicki Smith, Fiscal Officer, from DNAP to Wildlife

Dianne King, AA4, from Human Resources to Recycling

### Promotions

Bryan Postlethwait, Officer Supervisor, Wildlife #4  
Heath Horn, Investigator, Wildlife #4  
Don Swatzel, Fish Mgmt. Unit Leader, Wildlife #4

### New Hires

Matthew Wolfe, Fisheries Biologist, Wildlife #3

## OHIO'S FIREFIGHTERS

The Division of Forestry participates in a national effort to combat the nation's wildfires. In late July, two more ODNR fire crews fought fires in the western U.S.

Crew #2 was stationed at the Tool Box fire in Oregon (Fremont National Forest): **William Serbonich** (Athens), **Mark Hassel** (Blue Rock), **Ron Demmy** (DNAP), **Cory Kerr** (Zaleski), **Tim Wilson** (Georgetown), **Brian Kelly** (Chillicothe), **Joshua Deemer** (Shawnee), and **Pat Williams** (Shawnee).

Crew #3 was at the Garden Valley complex in Idaho (Boise National Forest) and the Tool Box fire: **Gary Vollrath** (Athens), **Charles Lee** (Scioto Trail), **Josh Shepherd** (Shawnee), **Scott Costello** (Lebanon), **Greg Guess** (Findlay), **Greg Maxfield** (Findlay), **Clayton Acord** (Zaleski), **Brian Porter** (Zaleski), **Ron Collins** (Zaleski), and **Chris Kerr** (Zaleski).

## MAUMEE BAY LIFESAVER

Maumee Bay State Park officer **Kelly Clark** and her dog, Iwel, were recently honored with a Lifesaving Award from Ohio State Parks for their participation at Ground Zero in New York City after the terrorist attack. They were part of the 62-member task force entering areas of rubble to locate survivors. At one point, Kelly was trapped under the rubble when a structure shifted.



## ANCHORS AWAY



**Jeff Hoedt**, chief of the Division of Watercraft, has set sail for Washington, D.C. He is now chief of the Program Management Division, Office of Boating Safety, at U.S. Coast Guard headquarters.

In his new position, Jeff will have responsibilities for legislative and regulatory issues relating to recreational boating and boating law enforcement, supervision of the National Boating Accident Reporting System, and fiscal management of the Office of Boating Safety. He'll also serve as executive director of the National Boating Safety Advisory Council.

As chief of the Division of Watercraft, Jeff helped implement a number of important customer-focused improvements, including the introduction of mandatory boater education, a new on-line boat registration system, and an increased enforcement presence on Ohio's waterways.

A native of Euclid, Jeff first joined ODNR in 1979 as a watercraft officer and later as assistant district supervisor in Cleveland. He moved on to the Idaho Department of Parks and worked at Coast Guard headquarters before returning to Ohio as chief of Watercraft in 1996.

Ken Alvey, a deputy chief with Watercraft, is currently serving as acting chief of the division.

### THE RESOURCE

*The ODNR employee newsletter is published by the Office of Communications, 1952 Belcher Dr., Bldg. C1, Columbus OH 43224. Phone 614-265-6834.*

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