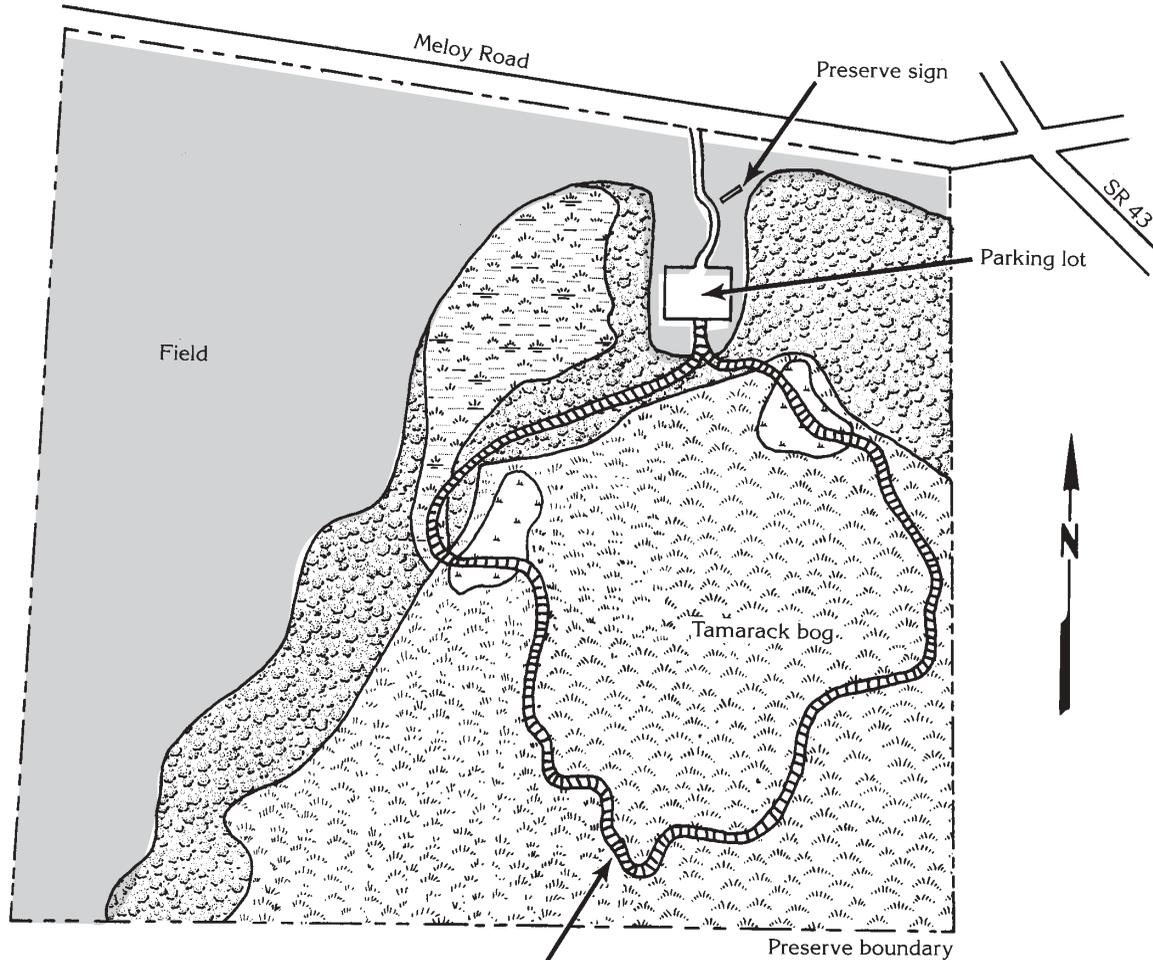
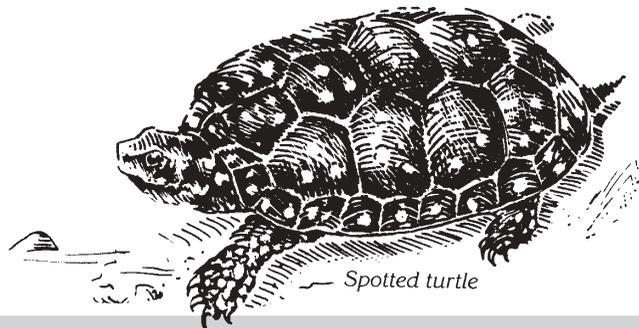


Tom S. Cooperrider-Kent Bog State Nature Preserve



-  Sedge meadow
-  Marsh
-  Bog
-  Woods



INVITATION

We invite you to become involved in the protection of Ohio's natural areas and scenic rivers.

✓ **Raise your awareness.** Visit other state nature preserves and scenic rivers in Ohio. To find one near you, contact the division or visit our website at www.ohiodnr.com/dnap.

✓ **Speak out.** Let others know how you feel about state nature preserves and scenic rivers. Let public leaders know that natural preservation is one of your priorities.

✓ **Check us!** Use your Ohio State Income Tax form to donate a portion of your refund to Nature Preserves, Scenic Rivers and Endangered Species. This program provides important funding for the division.

✓ **Call.** We want to hear from you. Call with your questions or comments about state nature preserves and scenic rivers.

Your personal and active support plays a vital role in the continued protection of Ohio's natural landscape.

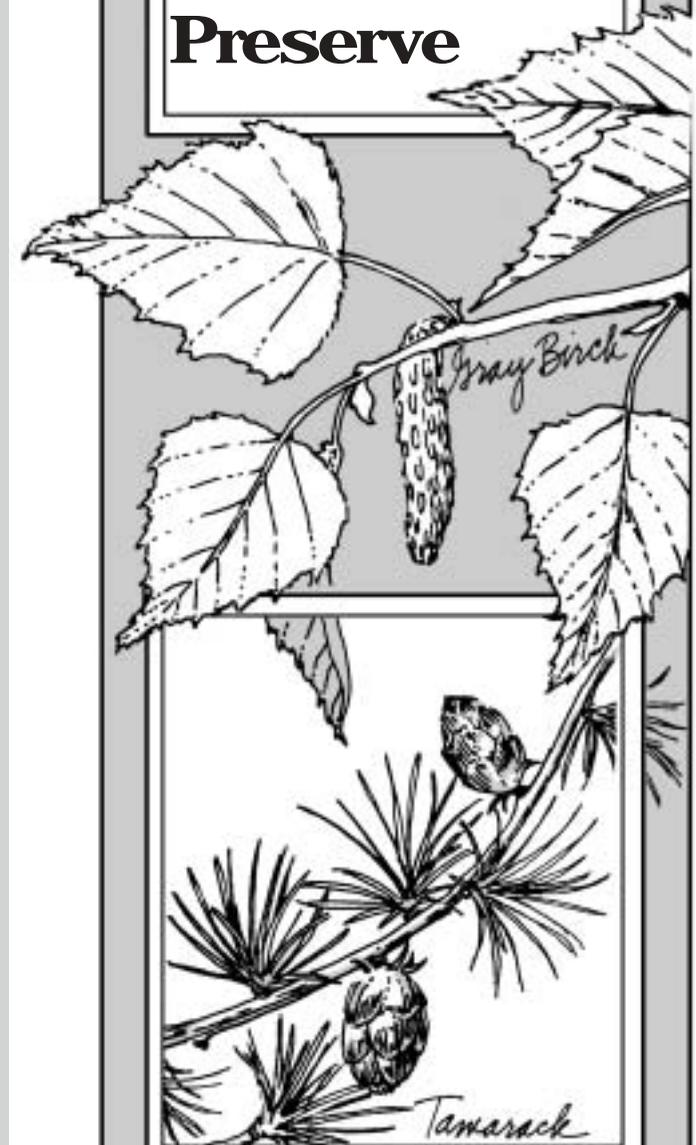
This brochure was made possible through your donations to the Natural Areas Income Tax Checkoff Program. Thank you for your support!



Division of Natural Areas and Preserves
 1889 Fountain Square Court
 Columbus, OH 43224
 (614) 265-6453
 Visit our website at www.ohiodnr.com/dnap

An equal opportunity employer - M/F/H

Tom S. Cooperrider-Kent Bog State Nature Preserve



A LIVING RELICT

Tom S. Cooperrider-Kent Bog State Nature Preserve is a living postcard from the Ice Age. In 1985, the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves purchased nearly 42 acres in Portage County, just south of Kent and west of S.R. 43. It was the first state nature preserve purchased with funds donated by the citizens of Ohio through the Ohio Income Tax Refund Checkoff Program.

In glacial times, the boreal forest dominated the landscape far south of northern Ohio. Today, Kent Bog supports the largest, southernmost stand of tamarack (*Larix laricina*) in the continental United States. There are more than 3,500 tamaracks in the preserve, with many robust seedlings growing among the older and larger trees. There is also a fine population of gray birch (*Betula populifolia*), another tree of more northern distribution. Both the tamarack and gray birch are potentially threatened species in Ohio.

Ten species of sphagnum moss have been identified in the preserve; its entire basin is blanketed with a lush carpet of it. Dense thickets of bog shrubs are abundant here as well, including catberry (*Nemopanthus mucronata*), highbush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*) and winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*). Scattered among the trees and shrub thickets are small openings dominated by leatherleaf (*Chamaedaphne calyculata*). You'll also find several rare species including small cranberry (*Vaccinium oxycoccos*) and few-seeded sedge (*Carex oligosperma*), both state endangered species.

Other significant bog species include: three-seeded sedge (*Carex trisperma*), tawny cottongrass (*Eriophorum virginicum*), yellow bartonia (*Bartonia virginica*) and Virginia chainfern (*Woodwardia virginica*).

GEOLOGIC

For thousands of years, northeast Ohio lay buried beneath a thick mantle of ice. The continental ice sheet was hundreds of feet thick and covered an enormous area of eastern North America. About 12,000 years ago, the glacier began to melt and shrink northwards. Braided streams of melt water, choked with pebbles and boulders, laced their way across a nearly barren landscape. There was a chill in the air and the land was inhospitable. Yet a few hardy plant species sprang up along the streams, colonizing the freshly exposed earth. Mastodons and musk oxen grazed upon the plants and drank from the cold streams which flowed into a newly-formed lake from melt water.

FORMATION OF THE BOG

As the glacier melted, a huge block of ice was gradually buried by silt, sands and gravel which continued to wash out of the retreating glacier. Eventually the ice block melted and the resulting depression filled with water. Thus, a deep, 50-acre kettle-hole lake formed, surrounded by a coniferous forest dominated by spruce, fir and tamaracks.

As the climate warmed, plants colonized the shoreline encroaching upon the open waters. A floating mat of sphagnum moss and other bog plants began to cover the lake. Although it would take thousands of years, that was the beginning of a natural process by which the basin would eventually fill in with peat until the glacial lake was replaced by bog meadow.

Twelve thousand summers have come and gone since the close of the Ice Age. The huge glacier has long since disappeared and gone are the Ice Age animals who roamed the shorelines of the lake. The boreal forest has been replaced by hardwood forest.

STEPPING BACK IN TIME

Walking through Tom S. Cooperider-Kent Bog State Nature Preserve is like stepping back 10,000 years to visit a landscape that is more commonly found hundreds of miles north of Ohio. It is a remarkable and timeless place. Eventually, the bog will disappear as did the glacier that created it. Yet today and for generations to come, it will remain a part of our living natural heritage to protect, study and enjoy.

Dedicated state nature preserves represent the finest examples of Ohio's natural features. Public visitation is encouraged but is closely regulated to protect the natural integrity of the preserves for future generations.

The preserve is open daily from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half

hour after sunset throughout the year. If the gate is closed, please park in the space provided outside, leaving room for emergency access.

Please help us protect this special place by observing the rules and regulations posted near the entrance. ***Please hike only on the boardwalk.***

VISITING THE PRESERVE

In 1993, a half-mile, wheelchair-accessible boardwalk was built in Kent Bog with the support of ODNR's Division of Recycling and Litter Prevention. Not only has it made this unique preserve accessible to all visitors, but the recycled plastic lumber boardwalk demonstrates the utility of using recycled-content materials. The boardwalk meets all requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Naturalist-led tours are conducted throughout the year. Guided tours are also available upon request. For tour information, please call (330) 527-5118.

