

Ohio Biological Survey
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For Immediate Release:

Ohio Biological Survey appoints new Executive Director

Columbus, OH – November 1, 2017 – The Ohio Biological Survey (OBS) is pleased to announce that Dr. Constance (Connie) Hausman has been appointed as its new Executive Director. OBS has been documenting and disseminating information about the biodiversity in the State of Ohio for over 105 years. Dr. Hausman is the first female to serve as Executive Director. Connie is passionate about the mission of OBS and has previously served on the OBS Board of Trustees, where she has been heavily involved in the planning for the annual Ohio Natural History Conference. She plans to lead by facilitating communication between the Survey, its members and the general public, and by continuing to build on OBS's success in producing and disseminating objective scientific and technical information concerning the flora and fauna of Ohio.

Her academic pursuit of science began at Bowling Green State University (BGSU), where she completed a Bachelors of Science in Biology, studying the effect of flowering phenology on reproduction in the potentially threatened perennial herb *Lupinus perennis*. She also went on to get a Master of Science in Ecology at BGSU, researching the effects of a light gradient on the establishment of an Oak Savanna plant community. From there, she went on to earn her Doctorate of Philosophy in Plant Ecology at Kent State University. Her dissertation was titled "The ecological impacts of the emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*): Identification of conservation and forest management strategies."

Connie currently works as Plant and Restoration Ecologist at Cleveland Metroparks, focusing on the development and implementation of ecosystem assessment, natural recovery, and habitat restoration projects related to plant communities. She has also served as Vegetation Research Coordinator with the Cleveland Metroparks. In this role, she evaluated long-term vegetation monitoring projects and collaborated with regional, state, federal, and academic partners. She is professionally affiliated with Case Western Reserve University, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Lake Erie Allegheny Partnership (LEAP), Ecological Society of America, and the Society for Ecological Restoration, among others.

Connie is excited to contribute to the organization's efforts to conserve our region's biodiversity, remarking that "OBS is a significant resource that provides access to scientific data documenting our state's rich biodiversity. I am honored to serve OBS and proud to be the first female Executive Director. We will embrace the legacy work of OBS and look forward to developing new partnerships as we expand our service for documenting and conserving our state's natural history." Between her work experience, professional network, and her desire to serve and grow OBS, Connie is expected to excel in this part-time position. Please join the Board of Trustees in welcoming Dr. Connie Hausman as our new OBS Executive Director!