



Ohio Natural History Conference

OHIO'S LEGACY

CELEBRATING OUR CULTURAL, GEOLOGICAL & NATURAL HISTORY

February 28th 2026

Mohican Lodge & Conference Center Ballroom
& Zoom virtual

Conference Schedule

(Presenters are given in bold)

8:15 Registration and Refreshments (Coffee & Pastries) – Mohican Lodge Ballroom
Set up posters; OBS Book Sales; Silent Auction

9:00 Welcome Address: **Constance Hausman PhD**, OBS Executive Director

9:10 **Keynote Presentation**

No Reservations: Ohio's Challenge to Bridge Indigenous History to Contemporary Tribal Relations. **Karen Diver**, Senior Advisor to the President for Native American Affairs at the University of Minnesota

10:00 **OBS Awards Presentation**

Naturalist Award – Walt Sturgeon, Mycologist and Author

Herbert Osborn Award – Louis Iverson, Ph.D., Research Landscape Ecologist, USDA Forest Service, Northern Research Station.

10:15 Break

Paper Session I:

10:30 Depicting Life in Ancient Ohio: Creating Paleo Art for the Buckeye State.
Chuck Salmons, Publication & Outreach Supervisor, Ohio Geological Survey

11:00 How Ninetieth Century Discoveries Shaped the Study of Ohio's Natural History.
Gene Kritsky PhD, Chief Science Officer, Mount St. Joseph University.

11:30 A Naturalist's Guide to the Mussels of Ohio. **Michael Hoggarth, PhD**, Professor, Dept. of Biology and Earth Science, Otterbein University

12:00 Exploring Ohio's Old Growth Forests. **Andrew Gibson**, Botanist, ODNR Division of Natural Areas and Preserves

12:30 **Lunch Break & Virtual Break:** may review pdf of posters – shared with virtual attendees

1:00pm **Poster Session:** with authors in attendance

1:20pm **Silent Auction** – Final Call

Paper Session II:

2:00 Announcements (Jobs, Internships, Workshops, & Grants) – open call

2:10 Ice Age Mammals of Ohio. **David Dyer**, Curator of Natural History. Ohio History Connection.

2:40 Shared Stewardship: Collaboration and Resource Management at the Everett Knoll Archeological Site. **Maeve Marino, PhD**, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Archeology, University of Akron.

3:10 Sustainable Use and Appreciation by All: Sharing Ohio's Wildlife Milestones. **Brian Plasters**, Communication Manager Ohio Division of Wildlife

3:40 An Update on Ohio's Forgotten Landscapes: Rediscovering Ohio's Natural Landscapes through Original Surveyors' Notes. **Rick Gardner**, Chief Botanist, ODNR Division of Natural Areas and Preserves.

4:10 Closing Remarks

NOTES: