

Newspaper Articles about Cedar Bog 1960s

Resource: Champaign County Library

Newspaper Article:

Date: June 13, 1965

State Natural Areas Committee Forms Group To Study Cedar Swamp

(see Related Story, Pictures On Page 1, Section 2)

A subcommittee for Cedar Swamp was formed Saturday at a meeting of the Ohio Natural Areas Advisory Committee held at the Ohio State Museum in Columbus.

The swamp, said to be the southernmost white cedar-dominated bog in the U.S., lies across Clark-Champaign County line north of Springfield.

Among those attending the statewide session were representatives from Clark, Champaign, Greene, and Montgomery Counties. Dr. David H. Stansbery, curator of natural history at the museum, served as acting chairman for the meeting.

Subcommittee members named included John F. Gallagher of Springfield representing the Clark County Audubon Society at the session; Benjamin H. Richard, Wittenberg University geology professor; Louis J. Laux, Jr., Wittenberg University biology professor; Karl L. Braun, North High School biology teacher; Thomas Wiegel, South High School teacher; Mrs. Clara (V.R.) Frederick of Urbana; Charles B. English, Urbana attorney, and Carl Horst of Fairborn, an aeronautical engineer. A number of other area residents are to be added to the subcommittee in the future.

At the initial meeting of the Cedar Swamp subcommittee, it was decided that additional, more detailed studies would have to be made to determine the exact water source of the area. Protection of the swamp's rare vegetation and wildlife was stressed and the need for educating the public in helping to preserve the unique swamp and prevent destruction of the white cedars and other vegetation was emphasized.

Prof. Laux, asking for the public's help in preservation of the swamp, said visitors should exercise extreme care, even in walking through the sector. Natural scientists have come great distances to study the swamp, which is a valuable research site, attesting to its importance in the fields of geology and biology, he said.

The subcommittee is to reconvene in the near future to name a chairman and make additional plans for the future, Prof. Laux explained. All matters discussed at the statewide meeting and by the Cedar Swamp subcommittee will be reported to a meeting of the board of trustees of the Ohio Historical Society in Columbus Friday. Other reports on the meeting were to be made by representatives of various communities in attendance, such as the Dayton Museum of Natural History, it was pointed out.

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Newspaper Article:

Date: April 10, 1966

Cedar Swamp Subject Of Intensive Study

Cedar Swamp State Memorial in Champaign County is the subject of intensive research activities by graduate students and faculty members of the Ohio State University and Wittenberg University under the supervision of Dr. David H. Stansbery, The Ohio Historical Society's curator of natural history, it was reported Saturday.

An analysis of the bog meadow vegetation has recently been completed by Mrs. V. R. Frederick of 145 Tanglewood dr., Urbana, graduate student in the department of botany and plant pathology at Ohio State University. Mrs. Frederick has received a fellowship to continue her botanical studies of Cedar Swamp.

Jon Williams has completed a study of aquatic insects and Eugene Keferl has underway a study of the land snails of the area. Both are graduate students working toward advanced degrees.

Algae, crawfish and aquatic snails are among the subject of proposed research projects.

The studies will be invaluable in permitting the Ohio Historical Society, administrator of the nature preserve, to interpret the area's total significance for naturalist and the general public through publications and field trips, according to Dr. Stansbery. Cedar Swamp, Ohio's last remaining arbor vitae bog, is open by application only to qualified students of natural history. It is located near the Clark-Champaign County line.

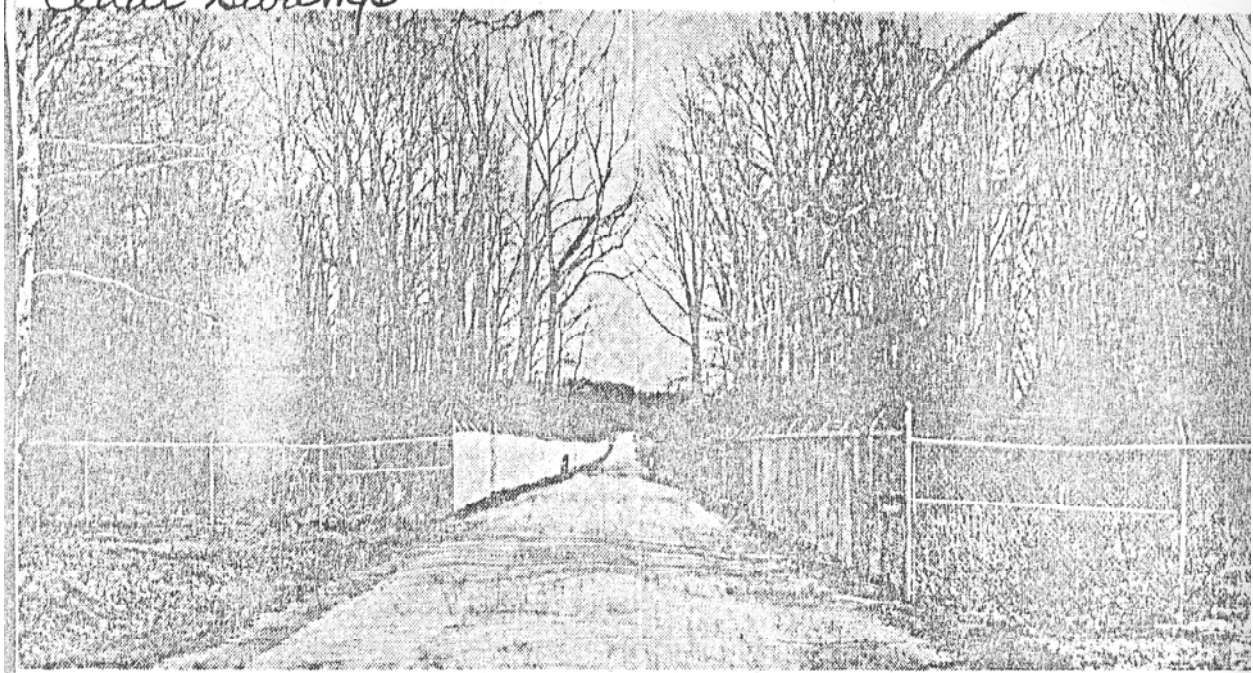
Resource: Champaign County Library

Newspaper Article:

Date: April 7, 1968

'Look Down...That Lonesome Road' At Cedar Bog

Urbana – “Look doan, look down that lonesome road” typifies this scene at Cedar Bog southwest of here in southern Champaign County. The view is to the east along Woodburn rd. and shows the steel mesh fence the State of Ohio erected to enclose the bog. Stark in its early-spring beauty, the bog soon will be lush and verdant. Geologists say the floras show a geologic stratum unique to this area and predating recorded history.



Resource: Champaign County Library

Newspaper Article:

Date: October 16, 1968

Audubon Society Credited By Fry With Helping Preserve Cedar Bog

The Clark County Audubon Society was credited Tuesday night by State Rep. Charles E. Fry with playing a major role in the preservation of Cedar Bog in Champaign County.

Speaking to a group meeting in the North High School Auditorium to hear Audubon lecturer Robert C. Hermes, Rep. Fry recounted that the danger of losing the unusual natural phenomenon to the north of Clark County was first brought to his attention by John F. Gallagher and Louis Laux, president and director, respectively, of the Clark County Audubon Society at the meeting in 1967.

Mr. Fry took the matter up with the Ohio Department of Highways, whose projections for relocating U. S. 68 threatened the future of the swamp.

He said he also initiated a study of the swamp by a Legislative Service Commission Study Committee on Scenic Areas. Mr. Gallagher accompanied the Study Committee when it made an inspection of Cedar Bog, explaining to the committee the natural values of and dangers to the bog's future.

Mr. Fry said the highway specifications have now been changed, and that it seems likely that the swamp will be preserved.

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Newspaper Article:

Date: March 15, 1969

Bog Safeguards Planned

By Richard D. Martin

Urbana – The Ohio Department of Highways is willing to include safeguards in the construction of relocated U.S. 68 to protect Cedar Bog Nature Preserve in southern Champaign County, it was indicated here in a meeting Friday.

But scientists and naturalists at the meeting said they were unable to give full approval to the plans since they were not able to determine with complete assurance that the safeguards would protect Cedar Bog, the only arbor vitae bog in Ohio.

Sitting quietly during the meeting was Daniel Porter, curator of the Ohio Historical Society. The historical society in January wrote into its minutes a resolution objecting to the planned route of relocated U.S. 68 because of the danger to the bog.

Mr. Porter said that if the group of scientists and naturalists at the meeting would agree that the planned safeguards were sufficient to protect Cedar Bog, then he would recommend to the Historical Society's board of trustees that the objection be removed from the minutes. If they still felt the planned route of the four-lane highway was a danger to the bog, then he said the Historical Society would fight to have the highway construction delayed and a new route planned.

The third alternative, he said, would be for the board to let its objection stand but not to actively fight against the highway. This would probably be the course followed, he said, if the scientists and naturalists could not come to a consensus.

At the close of the meeting this seemed to be the course that would be followed.

The meeting was held in the office of Attorney Charles B. English in Urbana. Mr. English is project chairman of Nature Conservancy, Inc., of Ohio and is involved in several conservation projects. He has maintained an interest in Cedar Bog for several years.

Others at the meeting included: Dr. David Stansvery, of the Ohio Historical Society; Dr. Clara M. Frederick, professor of biology at Urbana College; Dr. Louis Laux, professor of biology at Wittenberg University; E. J. Koestner, president of the Ohio chapter of Nature Conservancy, Inc.; and W. G. Knasel, from Division Seven (Sidney) of the Ohio Department of Highways.

The meeting was called by Mr. English following an exchange of correspondence between Mr. Knasel and R. Jane L. Forsyth, a member of the Geology Department at Bowling Green State University, who has expressed concern about what construction of the new highway will do to the bog.

Mr. Knasel pointed out that the highway department is aware of the historic and biological significance of the bog, one of the few such in the United States and that the department is willing to go to lengths to protect the bog, because "it is in the public interest.

Specific safeguards would include:

-- Elimination of all deep drains and roadside ditches that would interfere with the flow of water in the gravel aquifer that feeds the bog;

- Construction of a five-foot levee to prevent highway runoff water from flowing into the bog. This levee would be planted and vegetation would be growing before further construction work would be permitted;
- Minimum "scalping" of the actual highway site and minimum packing of the roadway;
- Restrictions on the contractor prohibiting discharge of surface water or mud into the bog;
- Construction of planted runoff ditches to carry surface water around and away from the bog
- Relocation of turnaround for Woodburn rd. to south side of the road so as to be located further from the critical margin of the swamp.

During the discussion it was brought out that the department had planned installation of gravel-filtered drains to filter runoff water and remove some contaminants before the water soaks into the soil and drains into the bog. But members of the group Friday advised against such filter drains and urged instead the surface runoff water be carried away from the bog.

During the meeting it was pointed out that studies have indicated that the water which feeds the bog comes from northeast of the bog. The cold temperature of the water has a casual effect on the unusual plantlife in the bog.

It was pointed out that anything that interrupted that cold water flow would undoubtedly affect the delicate balance which is present in the bog. This would include an influence of warm surface water.

Despite the planned safeguards, members of the group felt that they could not recommend to Mr. Porter that the Historical Society's objection be lifted. "This is too much responsibility on us," said Dr. Frederick. "No one knows the answer."

Dr. Laux added, "I hope the trees would think we have made the right decision."

Several members of the group said they opposed the site of the road and wished that objections had been made more strenuously when hearings were first held by the highway department.

Mr. Koestner added "you (Mr. Knasel) really should go back and ask the engineers to study the whole problem in light of the present evidence. I'm not sure it isn't important enough for a new study."

But Mrs. Frederick added, "there are advantages to having the road where it is planned. But I can't take a stand on this, one way or another. We just don't know and there is no way to find out."

And Dr. Stansbery noted: "It seems that with the precautions you are taking the damage to the bog will be minimal. I think that is the best we can do with a bad situation."

Mr. Koestner summed it up, "I am impressed with your (the highway department's) cooperation. I think we're saddled with the road. Since we can't make a decision we must make best of a bad experience and get something set up in the state to get together on the beginnings of such things."

Letting of the contract for the section of relocated U.S. 68 is scheduled for this year.