

## **Griffin Preserve on site meeting minutes from 1/5/2006**

Griffin committee on site meeting went as follows. Heidi Devine (Ohio Department of Natural Resources), Joe Asbrock, Pat Casey, and Jim Owens were in attendance. The charter of the preserve was defined as 'Property to be maintained as a nature preserve encouraging native foliage and wildlife made accessible for the general public to enjoy'. We walked the lower wildflower trail, then up to the pond over to Horncastle up to the field on top and finally back down the hill to the parking lot. Some different methods of planting the wildflowers were discussed and the possible introduction of prairie grasses. Heidi said that some of the prairie grasses get quite tall and if we decided to plant some we might pick a small area in the background to try them out. Heidi agreed that the 'tree of heaven' and 'honeysuckle' were the most invasive species of foliage in the preserve. Both of these do offer some habitat for wildlife however they both are fast growing and do tend to choke out native species of plants and trees. Especially the honeysuckle since they green up so quickly in the spring and keep their leaves until late in the fall. Cutting down the honeysuckle and then immediately treating the remaining stump can be an effective remedial process. However this is quite labor intensive. There is a lot of honeysuckle along the creek but Heidi warned we might want to be careful removing these due to potentially increasing erosion there. The honeysuckle is fairly thick throughout the preserve and the 'tree of heaven' appeared mostly concentrated near the parking lot. It was agreed that removing those near the parking lot with a few being along Wyscarver then filling back in with maple type trees would be good. Heidi said that she would have Scot with the Ohio Division of Forestry contact us with more information regarding which types of trees we might want to plant. Heidi did comment that there was a lot of evidence of a large deer population in the preserve. There were a lot of birds including a hawk sighted during our walk. I believe we were a bit noisy for some of the other wildlife to be seen. Some old fencing is now easily visible up along the trail toward Horncastle and should be removed. There also was a downed tree across the trail leading up to the pond which needs to be cleared from the trail. The headwall has yet to be installed and some increased erosion was noticed there. It is becoming evident where some box type drains across the trail leading up toward the pond are needed and possibly on the Horncastle trail. All in all it was an informative meeting. Heidi indicated she would be following up with written suggestions and brochures that we could use as a resource.