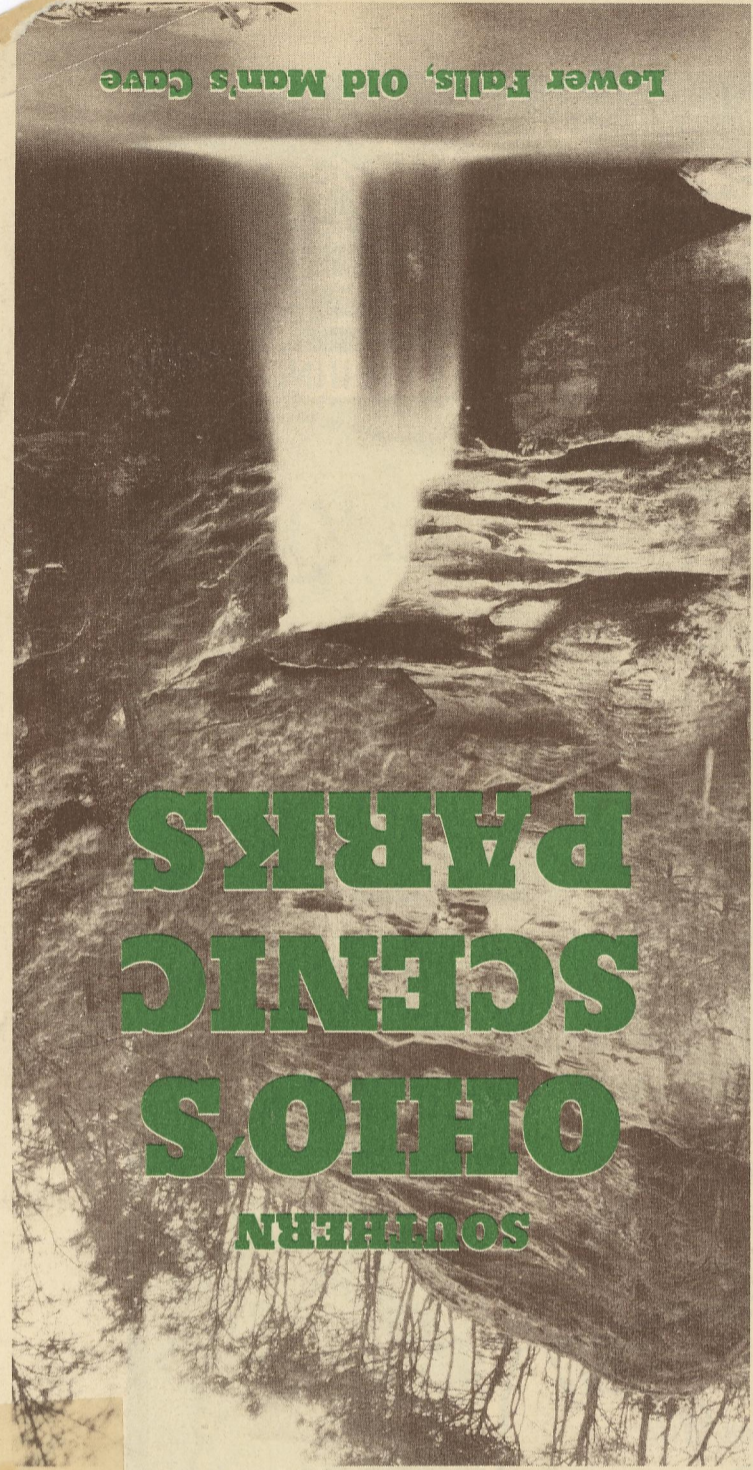


TOUR SOUTHERN OHIO

Lower Falls, Old Man's Cave



OHIO'S SCENIC PARKS SOUTHERN

Geology Hocking Park Area

The picturesque scenery of this area is due to an outstanding rock formation known as the Blackhand Conglomerate, one of the members of the Mississippian system of rocks.

Under deep covering in eastern Ohio the blackhand formation is known by oil drillers as the "Big Injun Sand", and it is the source of brines from which salt is made at Pomeroy. This rock is also used as building stone and molding sand.

The Blackhand Conglomerate is of marine origin laid down along the shore of an ancient sea from materials carried in by streams. The sand grains and small pebbles composing it are largely mineral quartz and were derived from older rocks of the past. This rock formation varies from 50 to 250 feet in thickness and it outcrops from South Bloomingville northward to Mansfield.

In the gradual wearing away of the land by natural agencies through ages of time, this massive rock stratum was more resistant than the shaly materials above or below it, hence the formation was left in bold relief, and in this manner formed into great projecting ledges, deep gorge-like valleys, and wide overhanging shelters. The so-called caves are known as box caverns and were formed either by the cutting away of the soft underlying shale or by the slow disintegration of soft places in the stone itself.



OLD MAN'S CAVE—HOCKING STATE PARK

Vegetation Hocking Park Area

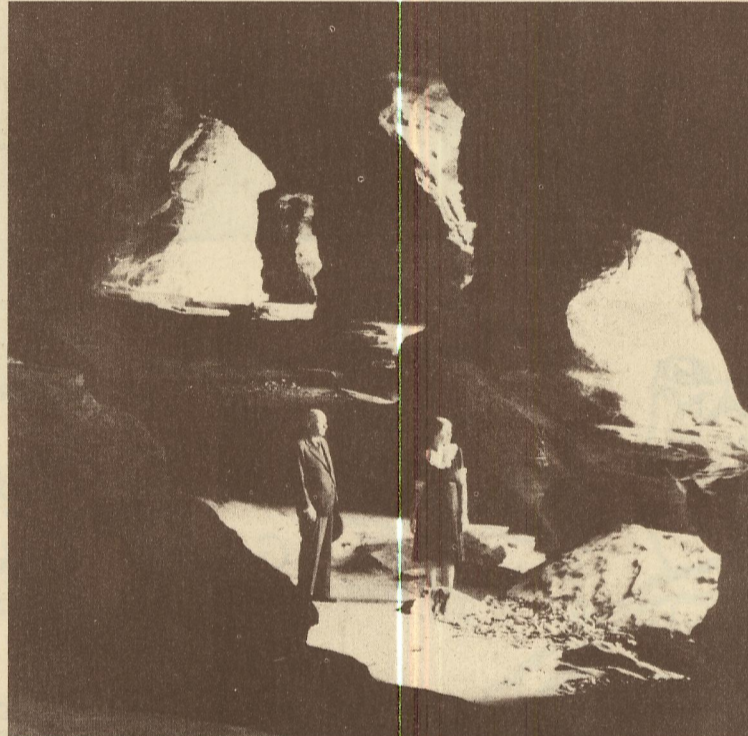
Climate and soil determine the kinds of vegetation that are found in any particular locality. Due to the unusual conditions existing in the Hocking region, the widest variety of trees and plants in any Ohio landscape are to be found here.

Thousands of years ago the great glaciers came to rest on the very edge of this area. They pushed ahead of them countless species of plants from the subarctic forests, such as the hemlock, the Canadian yew, the black birch, the reindeer moss, and many others. These have remained, finding suitable habitat in the deep cool gorges carved out by the melting glaciers.

High on the dry sandstone ridges above the canyon are such distinctly southern types of plants as the shortleaf pine, the hercules club, the laurel and rhododendron. Oak, hickory, elm, maple, tulip poplar—these too, make up the forest of the Hocking region, along with many other common and uncommon Ohio species.

Few places in America have as wide a variety of ferns and mosses as this area. In many places along the rugged cliffs and overhanging ledges, colorful lichens and deep green liverwort almost blanket the rock surface.

As might well be expected, the Hocking region is a paradise for wildflower lovers. Over 230 species have been cataloged in the Ash Cave area alone. Many of the rare woods orchids are found here, as well as trailing arbutus, wild phlox, trilliums, violets—common and rare, and a host of others. Each season offers its full share of beauty and color.



INTERIOR ROCK HOUSE CAVERN



TRAIL SIDE SHELTER—CANTWELL CLIFFS



ONE OF COUNTLESS PICNIC SPOTS IN HOCKING AREA



CEDAR FALLS—HOCKING STATE FOREST PARK

Place Stamp Here

To

From



VAST EXPANSE OF FOREST AREA IN SOUTHERN OHIO



CANOEING ON PINE LAKE—TAR HOLLOW STATE FOREST



90 FOOT WATER FALL—ASH CAVE

Birdlife Hocking Park Area

The Hocking scenic region is a mecca for bird students because it includes so many diverse habitats—cool, hemlock-filled gorges; dry, pine-covered ridges; cultivated fields; mixed forests and brushy pastures. One hundred and ten kinds of birds are known to nest, about 50 spend the winter, and many others pass through during the two migrations. Thus, it would be possible to record more than 200 species during a year of bird study in the region.

The Hemlocks attract many nesting Parula Warblers. Other noteworthy summer birds are: Pileated Woodpecker, Cliff Swallow, Worm-eating Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Bachman Sparrow, and Black Vulture. Seventeen kinds of tiny wood warblers nest here. Some rarities are: Sycamore, Pine, Black-throated Green and Brewster's Warblers. The winter season is no less interesting. One often encounters Ruffed Grouse, Golden-crowned Kinglets, Bluebirds, and other more common species. Hermit Thrushes, Purple Finches, and Black Vultures occasionally winter here, and the White-winged Crossbill, Red Crossbill, or Pine Siskin, which are rare visitors from the North.

Wildlife Hocking Park Area

Nature has provided a perfect haven for many types of fish and game in this great unspoiled wonderland of the Hocking Valley. The forest shelters nearly every species of game that is native to the midwest, and the swift currents of the streams and the placid waters of the lakes are well populated with fish.

Squirrel, raccoon and opossum are attracted by the natural food and shelter provided by the wide variety of trees found here. Other species of wildlife found in the Hocking Park Area include: rabbit, fox, skunk, weasel, mink, muskrat, chipmunk, and groundhog. Grouse are plentiful in the wooded sections and pheasants are occasionally found.

Year after year this area becomes more famous as a fisherman's paradise. The well-stocked lakes and streams are easily accessible and boats and tackle may be rented. Large and small mouth bass, crappies, bluegills, and catfish are plentiful along with countless species of less popular fish.



BEACH AND BATH HOUSE—LAKE HOPE, ZALESKI STATE FOREST



VACATION CASINS—ZALESKI STATE FOREST

