

CENTER FOR ECOLOGY & NATURAL RESOURCE SUSTAINABILITY



SITE 17

Lane Easton Conneaut Buttonbush Swamp

Conneaut Township
Ashtabula County, OH

Report Written By: Melissa Davis

Date of Site Visit: June 22, 2014 & August 16, 2014

Date Finalized: July 7, 2014 & August 18, 2014

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SECTION 1: NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

Introduction

Melissa Davis, Horticultural Facilities Director, Kent State University Department of Biological Sciences, visited the property for an initial review of the site. Some plant samples were taken for voucher specimens. Overall, the property is in natural state, with some small amounts of litter and invasive or potential noxious weeds.

Surrounding Land Use

Conneaut Buttonbush Swamp is a 23 acre property. The property is located approximately 2.3 miles South of I-90 East. Take the OH-7 exit, EXIT 241, toward Conneaut/Andover. Turn right onto OH-7; turn right onto S Ridge Rd West. The property is located on S. Ridge Road West which is a dirt road. The property is located on the left between Keefus and Horton Roads. This area is a rural, residential community setting. The southern portion of the site is surrounded by secondary successional forest habitat that is private property. The southwestern portion of the property is marked by a grass cut tree lined path. North of the property is a series of residential parcels with dogs unhappy to see visitors and the eastern and western boundaries of the property are also surrounded by residential private properties. Elevation is ~838 feet above sea level.

Land Cover and Habitats

Mixed Hardwood/Hemlock Forests

Approximately 20 acres of the property is hardwood and hemlock forest. maples, ash, oak, tulip trees, *Tsuga canadensis* and various shrubs were identified. The forest floor is rich with spring wildflowers such as wild geranium and Viola species as well as May Apple and Canadian Mayflowers, ground pines and morel mushrooms are also present.

Wetland Shrub Swamp

Discontinuous shrub swamps and vernal pools with various types of wetland indicator species including buttonbush exist on the property. Further identification of wetland species is needed.

Watershed

Pooling areas of water form an informal branch or stream-like drainage pattern that drains water south into Conneaut Creek, of the Conneaut Creek Watershed.

Land Cover Summary

Table 1: Land cover type and description. These figures are estimated values calculated from an aerial map of the area. The values are not exact measures of the land cover types.

| Land Cover Type | Description |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| Mixed Hardwood Forest | 16.38 acres |
| Hemlock Forest | 4.18 acres |
| Wetland | 2.44 acres |
| Stream-like drainage pattern to south | 797.44 feet |

SECTION 2: SITE HISTORY; VALUATION AND DESCRIPTION

Parcel No. 123190001700

13 Acers

Table 2: Valuation. Ashtabula County Auditor. www.ashtabulacountyauditor.org/

| | Appraised |
|----------------|----------------------------------|
| Land Value: | \$29,500.00 |
| Total Value: | \$29,500.00 |
| CAUV Value: | \$0.00 |
| Taxable Value: | \$10,330.00 (Assessed value 35%) |

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Map Number: | 319-00-017-00 |
| Legal Description: | T13-27N-EXEMPT #609 |

Valuation History

| Tax Year | Appraised Land Value | Appraised Total Value |
|----------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 2012 | \$29,500.00 | \$29,500.00 |
| 2011 | \$29,500.00 | \$29,500.00 |
| 2010 | \$32,800.00 | \$32,800.00 |
| 2009 | \$32,800.00 | \$32,800.00 |

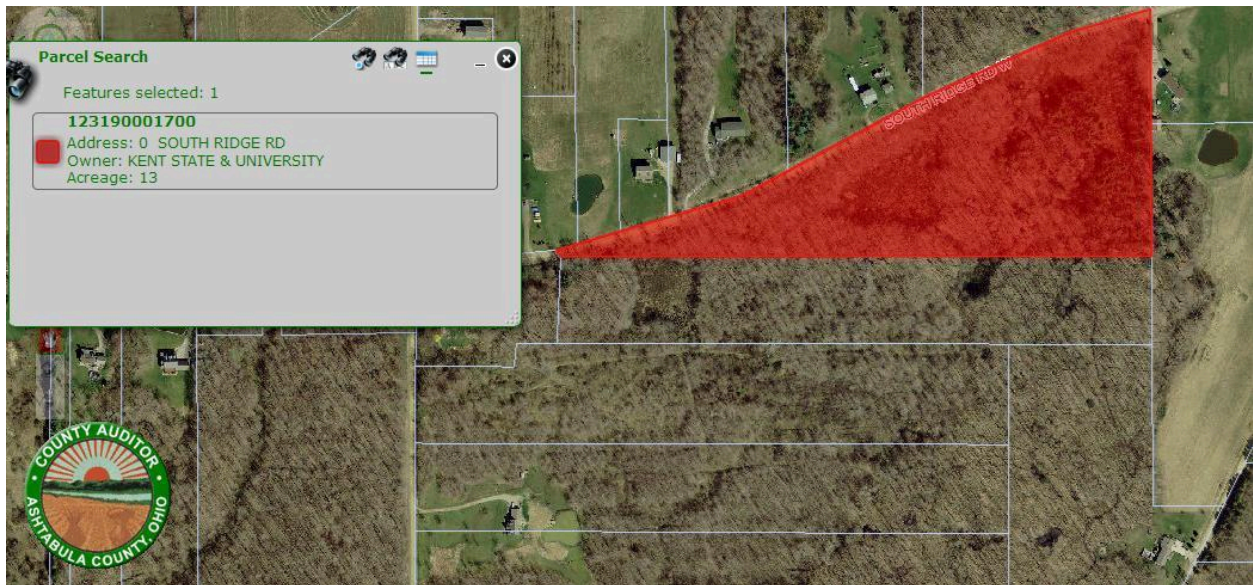


Figure 1: Parcel in Ashtabula County on South Ridge Road W, Conneaut, Ohio, 13 acres.

Ashtabula County Auditor. www.ashtabulacountyauditor.org/
(<http://gis2.ashtabulacounty.us/AshtabulaGIS/>) 2014.

Parcel No. 123190001800

10 Acers

Table 3: Valuation. Current and historical records.

Ashtabula County Auditor. www.ashtabulacountyauditor.org/

| | Appraised |
|----------------|---------------------------------|
| Land Value: | \$24,800.00 |
| Total Value: | \$24,800.00 |
| CAUV Value: | \$0.00 |
| Taxable Value: | \$8,680.00 (Assessed value 35%) |

| | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Map Number: | 319-00-018-00 |
| Legal Description: | 27 EXEMPT #733 |

Valuation History

| Tax Year | Appraised Land Value | Appraised Total Value |
|----------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 2012 | \$24,800.00 | \$24,800.00 |
| 2011 | \$24,800.00 | \$24,800.00 |
| 2010 | \$27,600.00 | \$27,600.00 |
| 2009 | \$27,600.00 | \$27,600.00 |

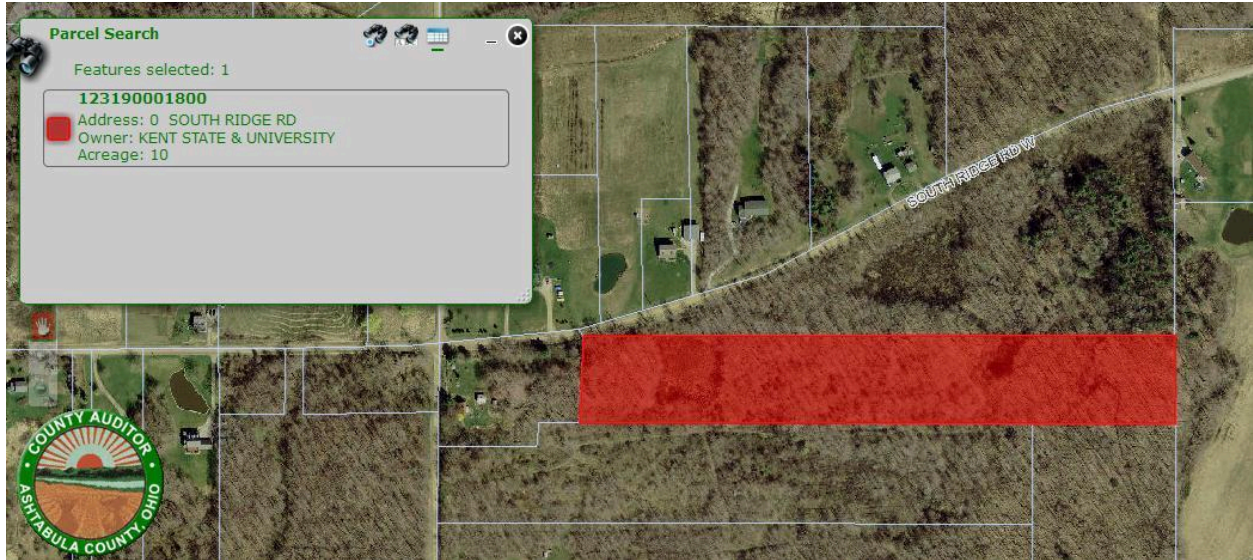


Figure 2: Property in Ashtabula County on South Ridge Road W, Conneaut, Ohio, 10 acres. Ashtabula County Auditor. www.ashtabulacountyauditor.org/ (<http://gis2.ashtabulacounty.us/AshtabulaGIS/>) 2014.

Land Cover Summary Map



Figure 3: Summary of land cover showing approximately 16.38 acres of mixed hardwood forest (light green), ~4.18 acres of hemlock forest (dark green), ~2.44 acres of wetland areas (dark blue), and ~797.44 feet of unorganized stream (light blue). Ashtabula County Auditor. www.ashtabulacountyauditor.org/ (<http://gis2.ashtabulacounty.us/AshtabulaGIS/>) 2014.

Watershed Map



Figure 4: The property is located in the Conneaut Creek at Conneaut Watershed of northeast Ohio. This watershed drains a total of 63 square miles (Ohio Environmental protection Agency, <http://epa.ohio.gov/dsw/tmdl/ConneautCreek.aspx>); Map from Ashtabula County Auditor. [www.ashtabulacountyauditor.org/](http://gis2.ashtabulacounty.us/AshtabulaGIS/) (<http://gis2.ashtabulacounty.us/AshtabulaGIS/>) 2014.

SECTION 3: SOILS INFORMATION AND MAPS

Table 4: Soil series for AOI. Web Soil Survey, provided by the USDA NRCS and the Soil Survey of Ashtabula County, provided by the USDA NCRS Web Soil Survey. <http://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov>

| AREA OF INTREST (AOI) | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|--------------|----------------|
| Map Unit Symbol | Map Unit Name | Acres in AOI | Percent of AOI |
| DeC | Darien and Platea silt loams, 6 to 12 percent slopes | 18.8 | 47.9% |
| MhA | Mill silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes | 10.4 | 26.4% |
| PrB | Platea-Darien silt loams, 2 to 6 percent slopes | 9.3 | 23.6% |
| W | Water | 0.8 | 2.1% |
| Totals for Area of Interest | | 39.3 | 100.0% |

PART 3A: SOILS MAPS



Figure 5: Area of Interest (AOI). Including approximately 40 acers total of soils data for Ashtabula County, Ohio. USDA NRCS Soil Survey of Ashtabula County, provided by the USDA NCRS <http://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov>



Figure 6: Area of Interest (AOI) with buffer zone. Approximately 380 acers of surrounding land soils data for Ashtabula County, Ohio (OH007). USDA NRCS Soil Survey of Ashtabula County, provided by the USDA NCRS <http://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov>

TABLE 5: Area of Interest (AOI) soil series for Ashtabula County, Ohio (OH007). USDA NRCS Soil Survey of Ashtabula County, provided by the USDA NCRS <http://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov>

| Map Unit Symbol | Map Unit Name | Acres in AOI | Percent of AOI |
|------------------------------------|--|---------------------|-----------------------|
| BkB | Blakeslee silt loam 2 to 6 percent slopes | 5.8 | 1.5% |
| BkC | Blakeslee silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes | 4.7 | 1.2% |
| CkB | Chenango gravelly loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes | 4.4 | 1.2% |
| CkC | Chenango gravelly loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes | 0.6 | 0.2% |
| DeC | Darien and Platea silt loams, 6 to 12 percent slopes | 168.7 | 43.9% |
| GaF | Gageville silt loam, 18 to 50 percent slopes | 0.3 | 0.1% |
| MhA | Mill silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes | 48.2 | 12.5% |
| PeC2 | Pierpont silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded | 5.4 | 1.4% |
| PeD | Pierpont silt loam, 12 to 18 percent slopes | 11.8 | 3.1% |
| PrB | Platea-Darien silt loams, 2 to 6 percent slopes | 125.8 | 32.7% |
| W | Water | 3.3 | 0.9% |
| WcA | Wick silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, frequently flooded | 5.5 | 1.4% |
| Totals for Area of Interest | | 384.4 | 100.0% |

PART 3B: SOILS MAPS



Figure 7: Areas of interest soils maps with parcel definitions. Map 3B:1 shows the soil profile within the two parcels. Map 3B:2 shows the soil profile of the two parcels with surrounding parcel definitions. Ashtabula County Auditor. www.ashtabulacountyauditor.org/ (<http://gis2.ashtabulacounty.us/AshtabulaGIS/>) 2014.

SECTION 4: PROPERTY COORDINATES AND INVENTORY

Noted Features

- **Photo Point 1** (PP1): GPS COORDINATES 41°53'51.75"N 80°36'05.49"W
Elevation 843 ft.
- Photo Point S17-PP1-02 designates the western most wetland area.
- Northwestern Corner – Photo Point S17-PP1-4 – is not clearly marked. Maple trees and an open forest floor are present and can be used to infer the approximate boundary line.
- Wetland with standing water surrounded by scrub-shrub at the north and other herbaceous wetland plant indicator species on the south Photo Points S17-PP1-8 through S17-PP6-11.
- **Photo Point 2** (PP2): GPS COORDINATES 41°53'46.79"N 80°36'03.54"W
Elevation 841 ft.
- Wetland area S17-PP2-28– Scrub-shrub-woody vegetation accounts for at least 30% and is less than 20 feet tall. Photo Point S17-PP2-29 – Buttonbush indicates semipermanently flooded conditions.
- Forested Area S17-PP2-30 and S17-PP2-35 – is natural and uneven aged. The age range is Early/Mid-Successional with DBH ranging from 3"-10". This forest is dominated by a mix of Maples, Tulip Trees and Oaks. The understory is open with wildflowers in spring, ground pines, and poison ivy.
- Hunting stands were observed at this Photo Point S17-PP2-35.
- **Photo Point 3** (PP3): GPS COORDINATES 41°53'47.16"N 80°35'55.89"W
Elevation 824 ft.
- Northeastern boundary – Photo Point S17-PP3-50– is clearly marked with orange ribbon around tree. A private property with house is visible and can be used to infer the boundary along the east of the property.
- Some litter and few invasive plants noted mostly roadside Photo Point S17-PP3-51 & 52.
- **Photo Point 4** (PP4): GPS COORDINATES 41°53'52.75"N 80°35'47.68"W
Elevation 831 ft.
- Hemlock forest and areas of mixed hardwoods– Photo Point S17-PP4-53 through S17-PP4-56– was observed at this point and areas of drainage may be connected to the Conneaut Creek located south of the property.
- **Photo Point 5** (PP5): GPS COORDINATES 41°53'50.92"N 80°35'52.71"W
Elevation 826 ft.
- Pooling water, vernal pools or depressions, located in the wooded area with areas of hemlocks– Photo Points S17-PP5-36 through S17-PP5-42.
- Undefined stream-like drainage may connect the assortment of vernal pools and standing water areas to the Conneaut Creek located south of the property – Photo Point S17-PP5-43 and S17-PP5-45.
- **Photo Point 6** (PP6): GPS COORDINATES 41°53'50.12"N 80°36'03.96"W
Elevation 842 ft.
- Boundary Line at the southwestern portion of the property – Photo Point S17-PP6-15 through S17-PP6-18 – is defined by a once mowed grass path located to the south of the wetland in Photo Point S17-PP6-11.
- A wooded area separates the mowed path and the back of the northwestern most wetland area S17-PP6-12.

SECTION 5: LIST OF PHOTO POINTS

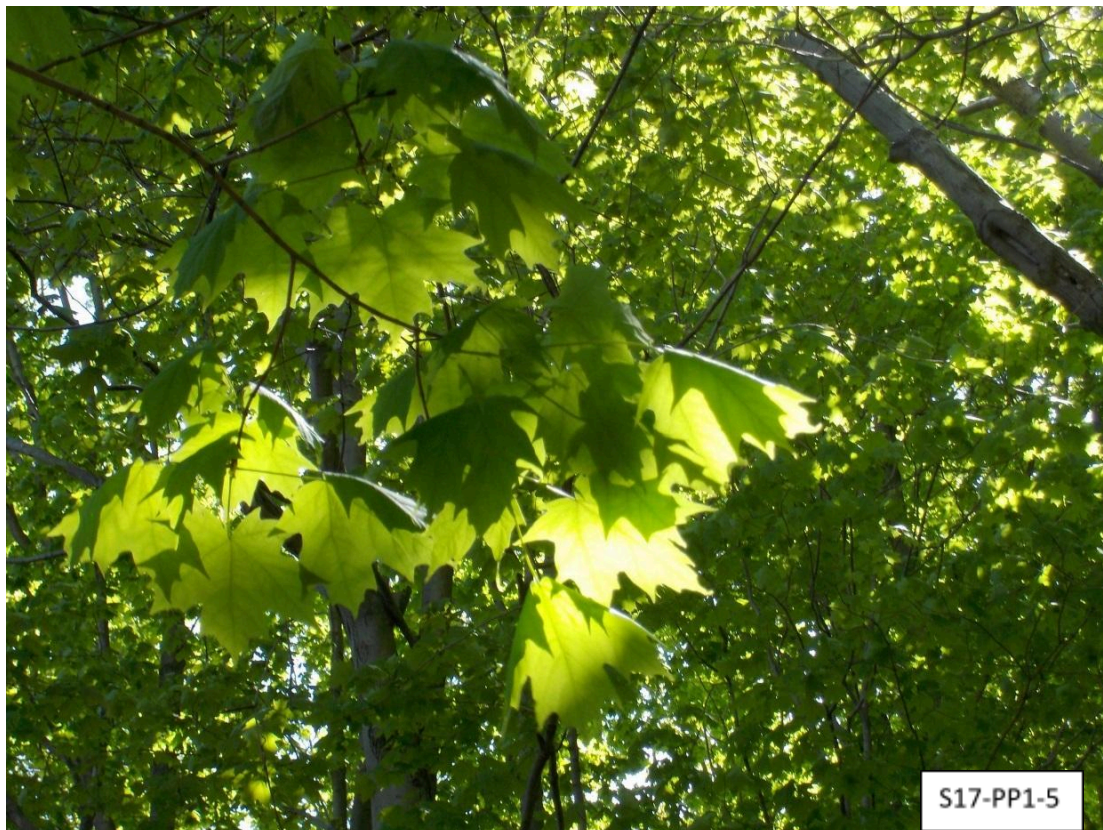
- S17-PP1-01: *Boundary of Property (Road –side at western edge)*
- S17-PP1-02: *Northwestern wetland view from road*
- S17-PP1-03: *Forest, sub-shrub area facing east toward wetland*
- S17-PP1-04: *Woodland to the west of wetland*
- S17-PP1-05: *Maple trees in woodland*
- S17-PP1-06: *Wood fern*
- S17-PP1-07: *Rusted barrel in woodland transitional area*
- S17-PP1-08: *Tussocks of sedges in wetland*
- S17-PP1-09: *Sphagnum moss by wetland*
- S17-PP6-10: *Open water area of wetland*
- S17-PP6-11: *Southern view of wetland*
- S17-PP6-12: *Woodland south of wetland facing north*
- S17-PP6-13: *Ash tree (Fraxinus)*
- S17-PP6-14: *Woodland floor south of wetland*
- S17-PP6-15: *Southern boundary 1 mowed path facing east*
- S17-PP6-16: *Southern boundary 2 mowed path facing east*
- S17-PP6-17: *Southern boundary 1 mowed path facing west*
- S17-PP6-18: *Southern boundary 2 mowed path facing west*
- S17-PP6-19: *Tulip tree on boundary edge*
- S17-PP6-20: *Red Maple on boundary edge*
- S17-PP6-21: *Rubus sp. (brambles)*
- S17-PP6-22: *Impatens sp. seedlings*
- S17-PP1-23: *Open woodland – extreme western boundary facing west*
- S17-PP1-24: *Open woodland – extreme western boundary facing north*
- S17-PP1-25: *Rock with poison ivy in forest floor*
- S17-PP1-26: *Cornus sp.*
- S17-PP2-27: *Road view at midpoint of property looking west*
- S17-PP2-28: *Midpoint shrub-scrub wetland*
- S17-PP2-29: *Buttonbush (Cephalanthus occidentalis)*
- S17-PP2-30: *Open forest floor*
- S17-PP2-31: *Wildflowers (Viola sp. and Canadian mayflowers)*
- S17-PP2-32: *Wildflowers (Geranium maculatum)*
- S17-PP2-33: *Ground pines (Diphasiastrum digitatum and Lycopodium obscurum)*
- S17-PP2-34: *Shelf fungus*
- S17-PP2-35: *Hunting stands located at hardwood to hemlock forest edge*
- S17-PP5-36: *Pooling water with hemlocks (Tsuga Canadensis)*
- S17-PP5-37: *Marsh Ferns Thelypteris*
- S17-PP5-38: *Area of pooling water with hemlock trees - facing north*
- S17-PP5-39: *Pileated woodpecker (Dryocopus pileatus) signs of forage*
- S17-PP5-40: *Vernal pool with wetland vegetation; skunk cabbage (Symplocarpus foetidus)*
- S17-PP5-41: *Areas of stagnate pooling water*
- S17-PP5-42: *Wet areas with cinnamon ferns (Osmunda cinnamomea)*
- S17-PP5-43: *Area of stream-like drainage pattern to south (spring)*
- S17-PP5-44: *Area of stream-like drainage pattern to south (summer)*
- S17-PP5-45: *Mixed hardwood/hemlock forest with areas of water*
- S17-PP5-46: *Hemlock forest edge*
- S17-PP3-47: *Fungus*
- S17-PP3-48: *Morel mushrooms*
- S17-PP3-49: *Road view of eastern boundary*
- S17-PP3-50: *Eastern property marker*
- S17-PP3-51: *Some litter – mostly tires and bottles*
- S17-PP4-52: *Garlic mustard (Alliaria petiolata)*
- S17-PP4-53: *Hemlock (Tsuga Canadensis)*
- S17-PP4-54: *Mixed hardwood/hemlock forest*
- S17-PP4-55: *Eastern boundary - leading to neighboring property*
- S17-PP4-56: *Southern border of hemlock forest*

All photos © Melissa Davis, Kent State University, CENRS 2014.

SECTION 6: LIST OF PHOTO POINTS







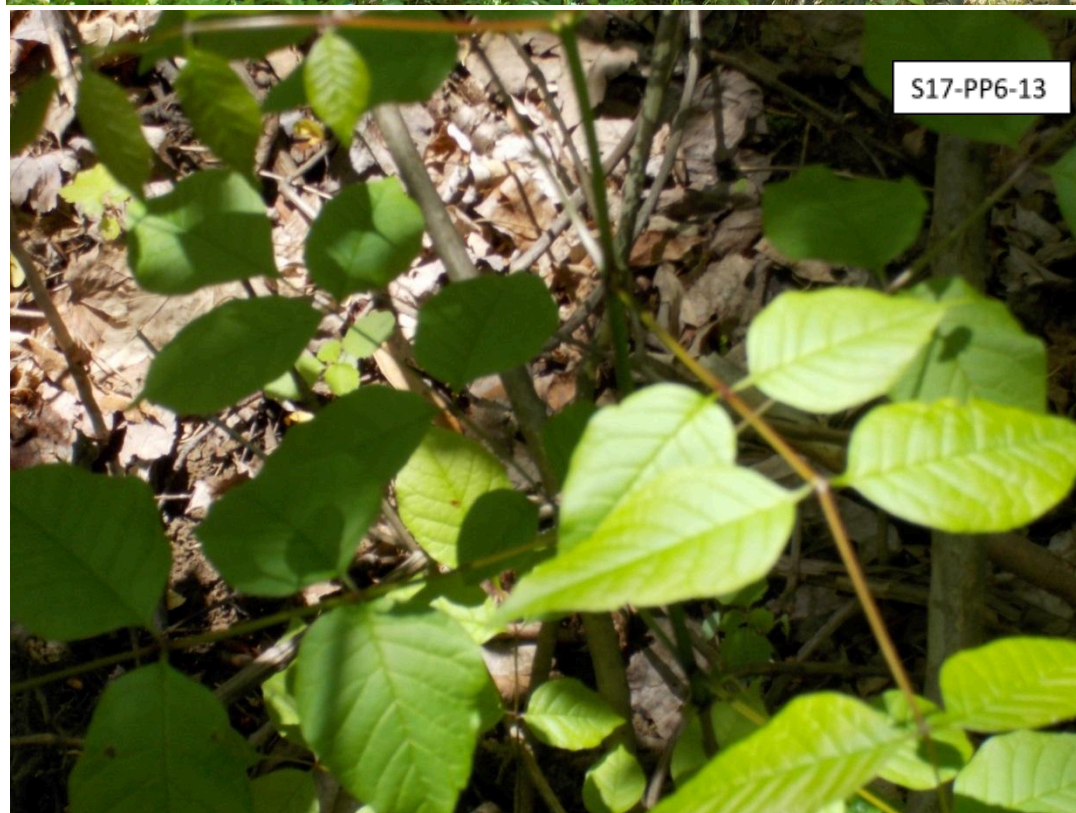








S17-PP6-12

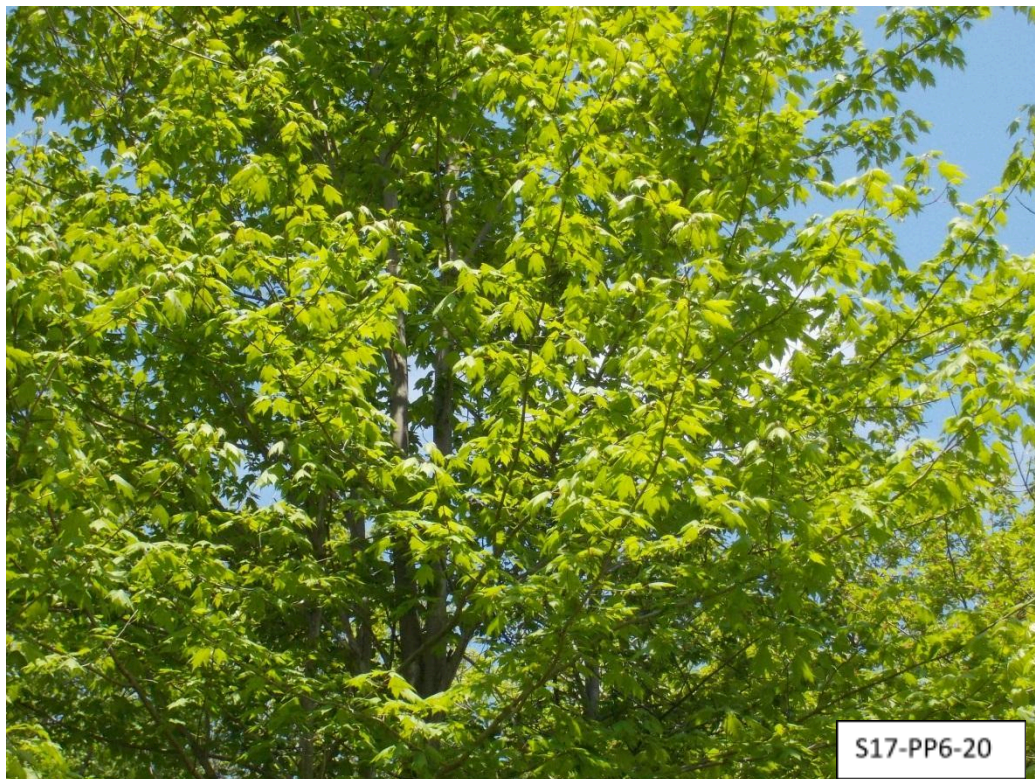


S17-PP6-13



















S17-PP2-29



S17-PP2-30









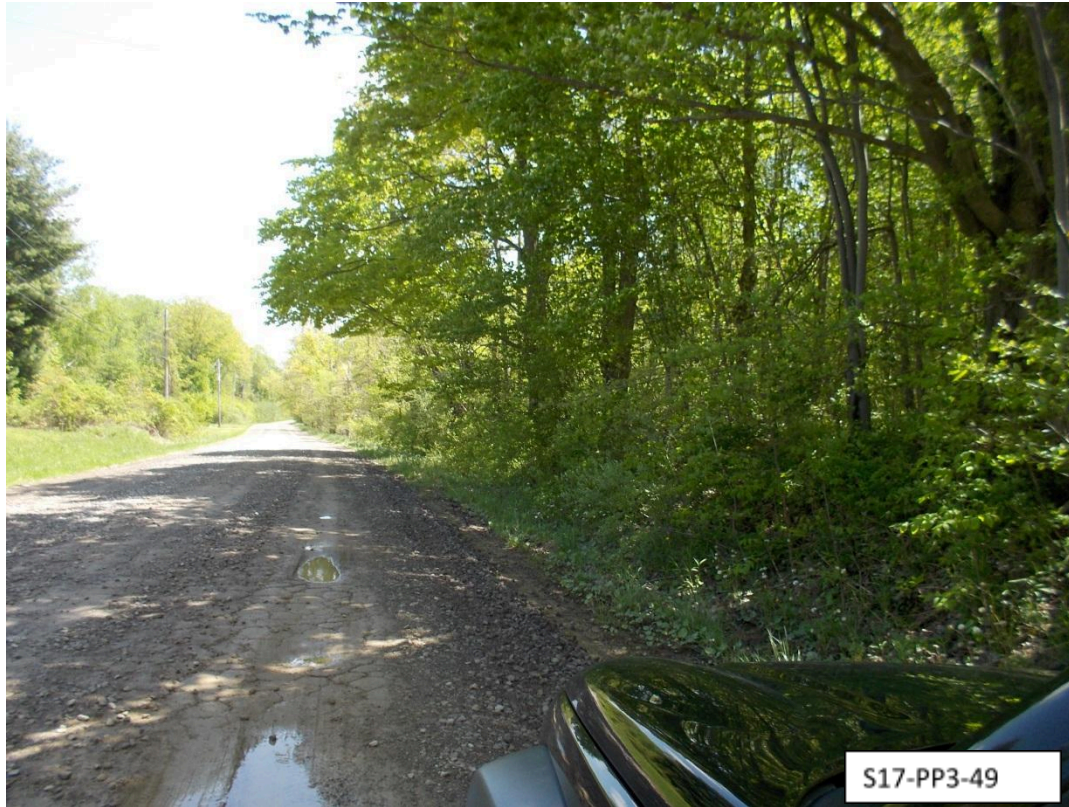




















SECTION 7: MAP OF AERIAL VIEW AND PHOTO POINTS

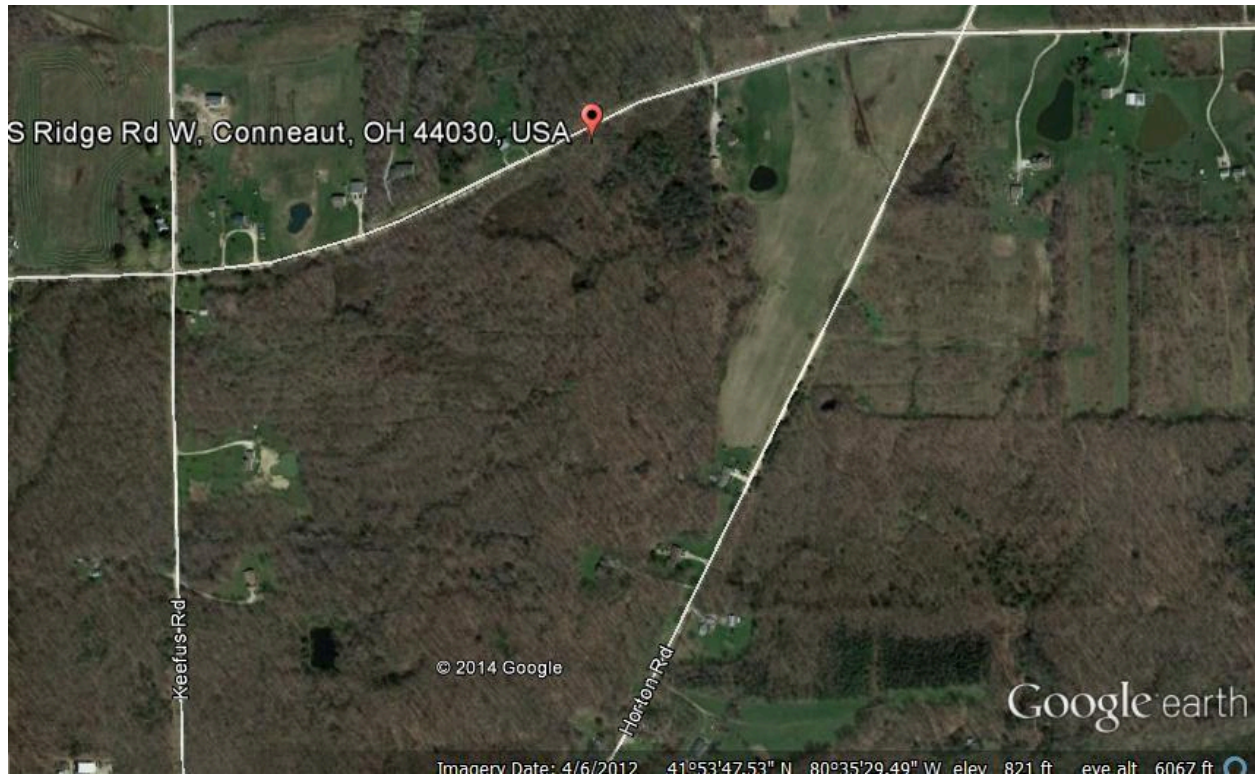


Figure 8: Aerial view of property located at S. Ridge Road W. Conneaut, Ohio 44030, USA. Red marker, roadside ($41^{\circ}53'47.56.05''N$ $80^{\circ}35'52.95''W$) Elevation 840 ft. Google Earth, 2014.

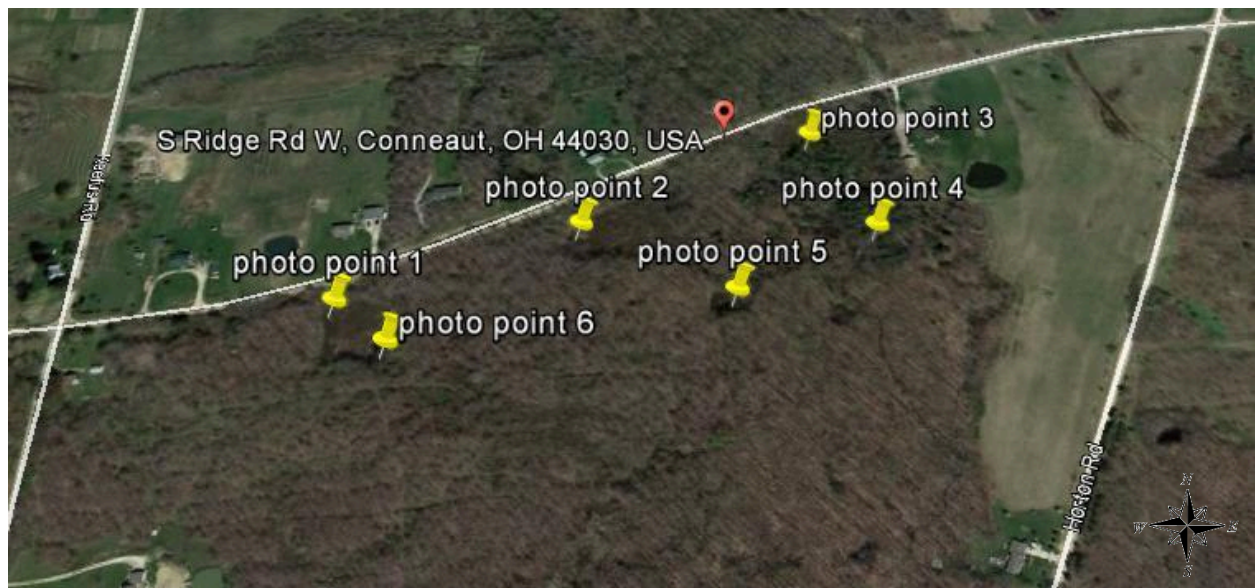


Figure 9: Photo point (PP) approximations at S17-PP1 – S17-PP6. Google Earth, 2014.

APPENDIX: MAPS AND COUNTY DESCRIPTION

Topography Map



Figure 10: USDA NRCS topography of Ashtabula County, provided by the USDA NCRS <http://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov>

COUNTY DESCRIPTION:

“Ashtabula County is the northeastern most county in the state of Ohio. The county is named for a Native American word meaning ‘river of many fish’.

The county is probably best known for having seventeen covered bridges within the county limits. Grapes are a popular crop and there are several wineries in the region owing to the favorable microclimate created by the nearby Lake Erie.

During the winter, Ashtabula County and neighboring Geauga and Lake Counties receive frequent lake effect snow and is part of the Southeastern Lake Erie Snowbelt.”
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ashtabula_County,_Ohio 2014.

County Map

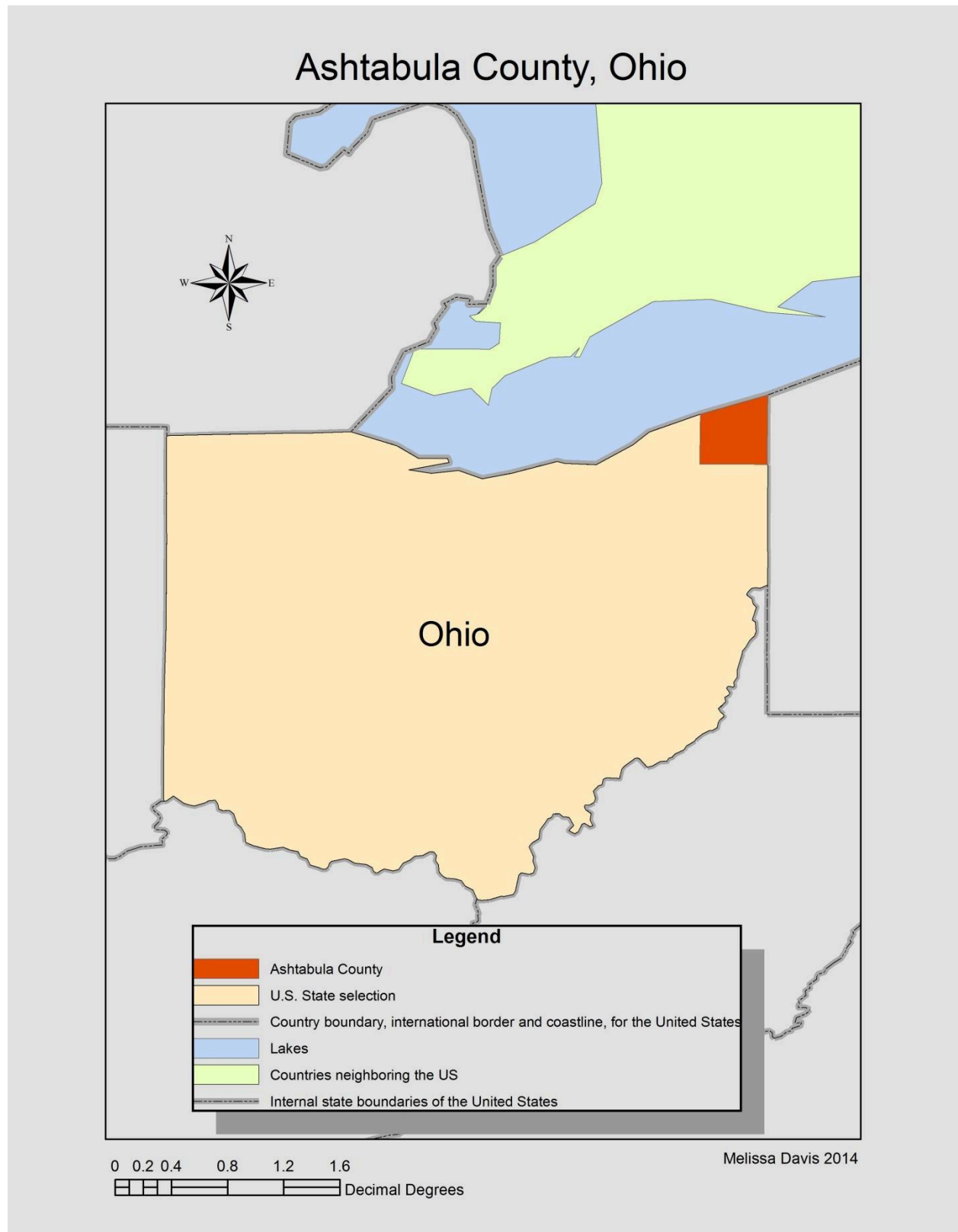


Figure 11: Map designating Ashtabula County located in the northeastern most portion of Ohio.

Township Map

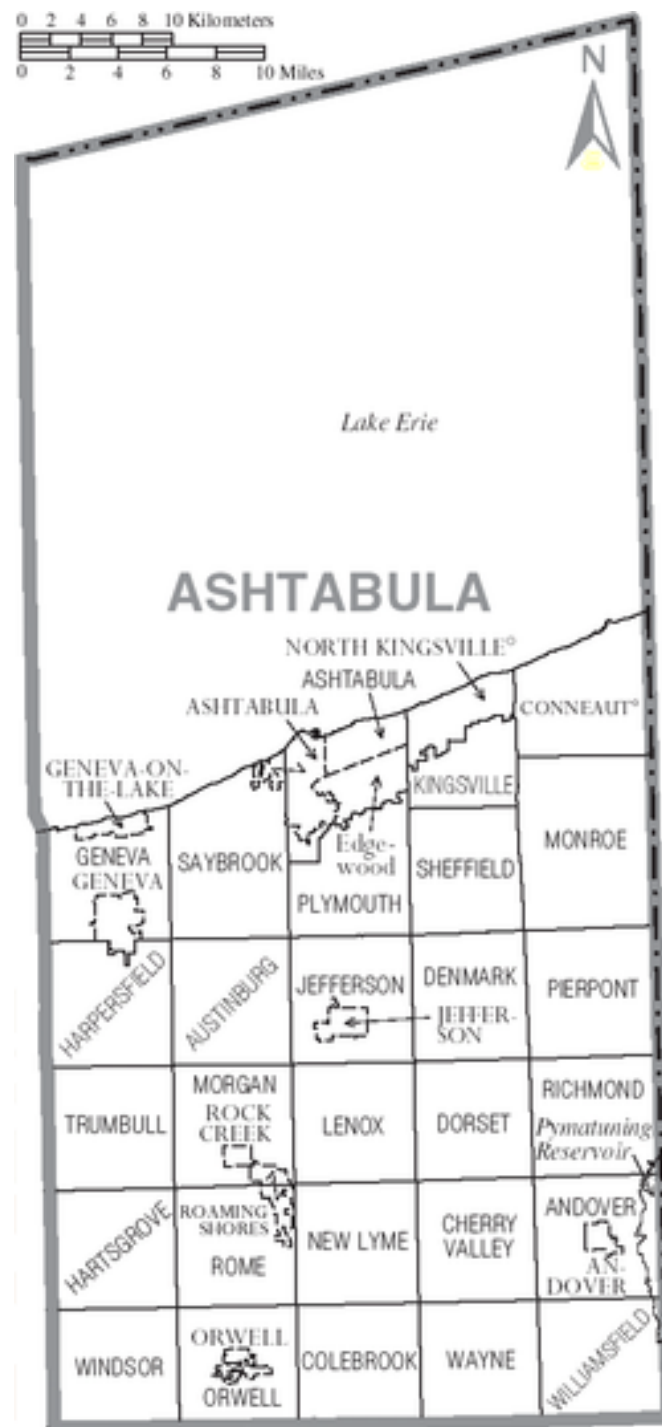


Figure 12: Map designating Ashtabula County Townships. Conneaut Township is located in the extreme northeast corner of Ashtabula County.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ashtabula_County,_Ohio 2014.