

Welcome to the Wayne

This fully accessible 1/2 mile hiking trail is the newest trail on Athens District of the Wayne National Forest. The surfaced trail is built on an abandoned railroad bed.

The first portion of the trail lies between the wetland and the Monday Creek bottomland. Further down the trail, visitors will walk through a pine plantation, a hardwood forest, and along a pond.



To make your visit more enjoyable:

- Please stay on the trail.
- If you bring a dog, please keep it on a leash.
- Take only photographs; leave only footprints.
- Do not remove historic artifacts along the trail such as bricks: they are protected by law.
- Never approach too closely or feed wildlife.
- Use caution during hunting seasons. Blaze orange clothing is recommended during deer gun seasons.

Contact Us

The Athens District of the Wayne National Forest has an office in Nelsonville to serve visitors. Office hours are 8 - 4:30 Monday through Friday.

Athens Ranger District
13700 U.S. Hwy 33
Nelsonville, OH 45764
Phone: 740-753-0101

Federal relay system for the deaf and hearing impaired: 1-800-877-8339

website: www.fs.usda.gov/wayne

Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/waynenationalforest>



USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



United States Department of Agriculture

Wayne National Forest *Ora E. Anderson Nature Trail*

**Rutherford Wetland
Athens Ranger District**



**Forest
Service**

FS-R9-036
05/2015

Ora E. Anderson

Photograph by Michael Rubenstein



Ora E. Anderson 1911 - 2006

This nature trail is named for local conservationist, artist, nature writer, and poet Ora E. Anderson. Anderson spent a lifetime sharing his enthusiasm and keen observations about nature with friends and strangers alike. He especially loved to blend anecdotes from almost a century of living in or near the Appalachian foothills with informed opinions about how to nurture and protect natural areas in Ohio.

As a reporter and editor for the Jackson (Ohio) Herald in the 1930s, Anderson was an alert eyewitness to the Great Depression and the creation during that period of the Wayne National Forest. He relates these events as well as the subsequent 70 years of reforestation, with empathy, insight, and joy in the video documentary, "A Forest Returns: The Success Story of Ohio's Only National Forest as told by Ora E. Anderson."

Ora continued into his retirement years to be involved in various organizations, and was an active participant during more than fifty years of public meetings regarding Wayne National

Forest land management. Since 1961, his own homestead received Tree Farm designation by the American Tree Farm System. Ora served as President of the Ohio Forestry Association and Trustee and Chairman of The Nature Conservancy of Ohio. He was also inducted into the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Hall of Fame, the state's highest conservation honor.

Photograph by Deborah Griffith



Ora enjoying a good story.

Poetry and Art

Ora Anderson wrote the poetry that you will see on signs along the trail. His friend, local artist Barbara Sheriff Kostohryz of Athens, created the watercolor artwork which illustrates the poetry and signage as well as this brochure.

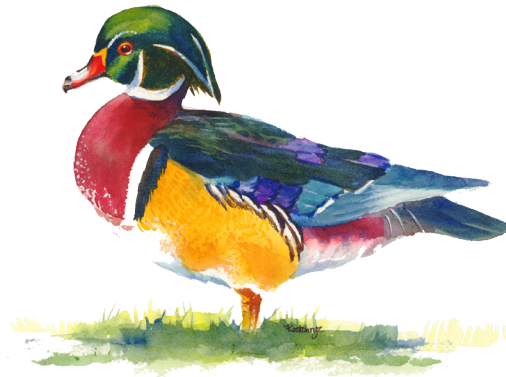


Photo by Paul W. Prescott.



C&O Engine No. 2956 in 1947. Engine is former Hocking Valley F-1 No. 136. Photo shows corner of coaling station.

The Mineral Railroad

This trail was once part of the Columbus and Hocking Valley Railroad and was also known as the Mineral Railroad. It was built in the late 1860s and followed the Hocking River Valley from Columbus to Athens.

In 1870 this Monday Creek branch spur was built through the upper reaches of the Monday Creek watershed from Logan and Nelsonville to a new town site named New Straitsville.

In 1910 the Chesapeake and Ohio (C&O) Railroad bought this railroad and shipped coal from West Virginia to the Great Lakes. In 1930 the Chesapeake and Ohio merged all the Hocking Valley Railroad into the C&O system. This spur remained in operation until the early 1950s.

The trail follows one of the most significant early railroads in the area, as its construction permitted a marked increase in the exploitation of coal, a key resource from our region's rich mineral wealth. If you look closely along the trail, you may find a railroad marker or two; remnants of the historic landscape.

The Rutherford Wetland

Rutherford Wetland, located in the Monday Creek floodplain, has an interesting history. The land is part of Ward Township, organized in 1836. The bottomlands along Monday Creek were cleared for farming.

As the Mineral Railroad expanded, and the railroad line built to haul timber and coal from New Straitsville, the hydrology of the floodplain began changing. The railroad bed caused water to backup onto the farm fields—not just during the spring floods, but throughout the year. Farmers could no longer use the fields to grow crops, and after a period of time, the fields were allowed to grow back into brush and trees.

The Forest Service acquired this bottomland area in the early 1990s. Today, a shrub-scrub wetland can be found alongside a second-growth floodplain forest.

Beaver soon moved into the area and dammed the culvert that once drained part of the field. Water further backed up into the area creating a diverse wetland.



Snags within the Rutherford Wetland provide roosting and nesting habitat for several bird species.



Bird Checklist for Rutherford Wetland

The following birds have been observed at the Rutherford Wetland during our springtime breeding bird survey. Let us know if you see or hear other species.

Herons

- *Great Blue Heron
- *Green Heron

Ducks, Geese & Swans

- *Canada Goose
- *Wood Duck
- *Mallard

Pigeons & Doves

- *Mourning Dove

Cuckoos

- *Yellow-billed Cuckoo

Goatsuckers

- *Whip-poor-will

Woodpeckers

- *Downy Woodpecker
- *Hairy Woodpecker
- *Northern Flicker
- *Pileated Woodpecker
- *Red-bellied Woodpecker

Wrens

- *Carolina Wren
- *House wren

Gnatcatchers

- *Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

Thrushes

- *American Robin
- *Eastern Bluebird
- *Gray Catbird
- *Wood Thrush

Waxwings

- *Cedar Waxwing

Starlings

- *European Starling

Tanagers

- *Scarlet Tanager

Swifts & Hummingbirds

- *Chimney Swift
- *Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Vernal pools can be found on either side of the old railroad bed. These depressions or low areas fill with water seasonally and provide habitat for frogs, toads, and salamanders.

The list of frogs and toads that have been heard at Rutherford are: spring peeper, pickerel frog, green frog, common gray tree frog, bull frog, northern leopard frog, wood frog, Cope's gray tree frog, and American toad.



Cedar waxwing

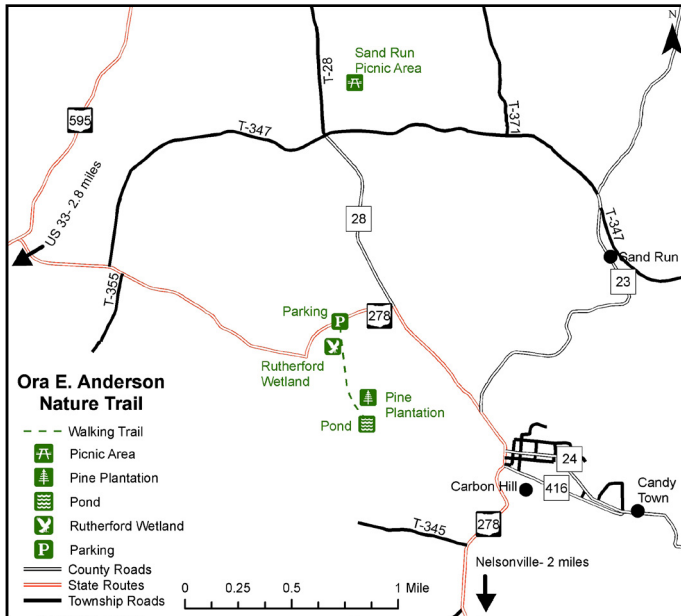


Green heron



Nature Watch

Wildlife watching opportunities abound at Rutherford Wetland and along the Ora E. Anderson Nature Trail. Plan to bring your binoculars.



How to Get There?

Rutherford Wetland is located on the western part of the Athens Unit. From U. S. Highway 33 (near Haydenville, Ohio) take State Route 595 north for 2.8 miles. Turn onto State Route 278 and travel for 1.8 miles. Follow the sign to the parking area for the wetland and nature trail.



Beaver are responsible for building and maintaining the Rutherford Wetland.

Flycatchers

- *Acadian Flycatcher
- *Eastern Kingbird
- *Eastern Phoebe
- *Eastern Wood Pewee
- *Willow Flycatcher

Vireos

- *Red-eyed Vireo
- *Warbling Vireo
- *White-eyed Vireo
- *Yellow-throated Vireo

Crows & Jays

- *American Crow
- *Blue Jay

Swallows

- *Tree Swallow

Chickadees, Titmice & Nuthatches

- *Carolina Chickadee
- *Tufted Titmouse
- *White-breasted Nuthatch

Wood Warblers

- *American Redstart
- *Blue-winged Warbler
- *Cerulean Warbler
- *Common Yellowthroat
- *Hooded Warbler
- *Kentucky Warbler
- *Northern Parula
- *Ovenbird
- *Prothonotary Warbler
- *Yellow-breasted Chat
- *Yellow-throated Warbler
- *Yellow Warbler

Sparrows & Finches

- *American Goldfinch
- *Eastern Towhee
- *Indigo Bunting
- *Northern Cardinal
- *Song Sparrow

Blackbirds

- *Baltimore Oriole
- *Brown-headed Cowbird
- *Common Grackle
- *Orchard Oriole
- *Red-winged Blackbird

Canada geese



Hairy woodpecker



Great blue heron

