



School of Environment and Natural Resources

Historical Resources Intern, ODNR

Misty Stephens— Natural Resource Management

CFAES

BACKGROUND/INTRODUCTION

I worked full-time as the Historical Resources Intern for The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) over Summer break of 2022 and I am currently working as a part-time Intern for the remainder of the 22/23 school year.



Me at my desk in my office at ODNR

I found this internship on Handshake and applied on the careers.ohio.gov website. I received an email informing me that I was selected for an interview and to pick a day and time. After the interview, it took a couple of months to get the call. They do warn you of this. I was so excited!

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources is a huge state agency. They currently manage 76 state parks, 24 state forests, 140 state nature preserves, and 150 wildlife areas.

ODNR's Mission Statement is—

To ensure a balance between the wise use and protection of our natural resources for the benefit of all.

JOB DUTIES

- Photographing historical artifacts at Ohio's State Parks, Forests, and Nature Preserves.
- Editing and uploading the pictures into Catalogit.
- Writing interpretive historical descriptions for each artifact.



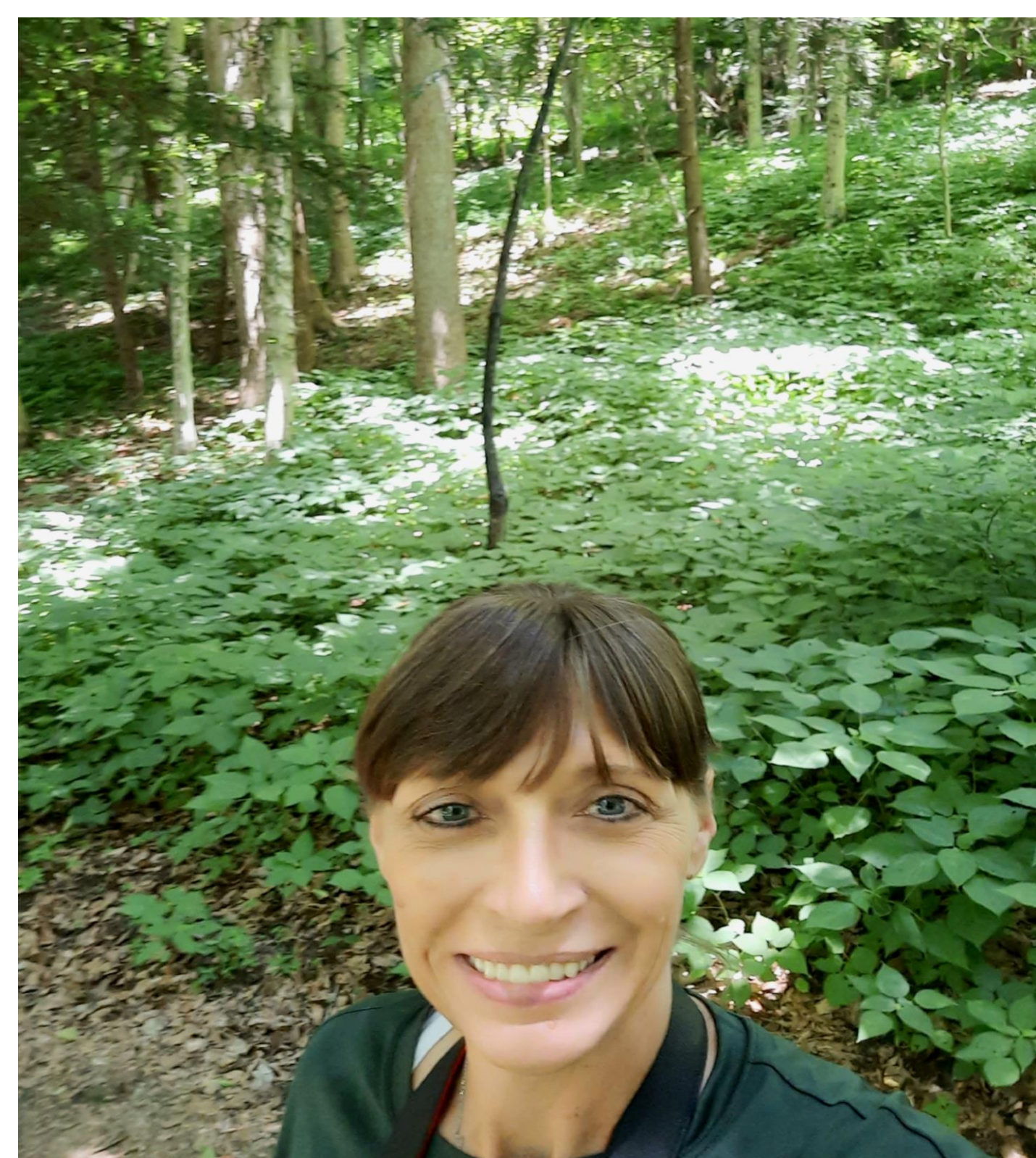
Me and a fellow intern at Salt Fork State Park



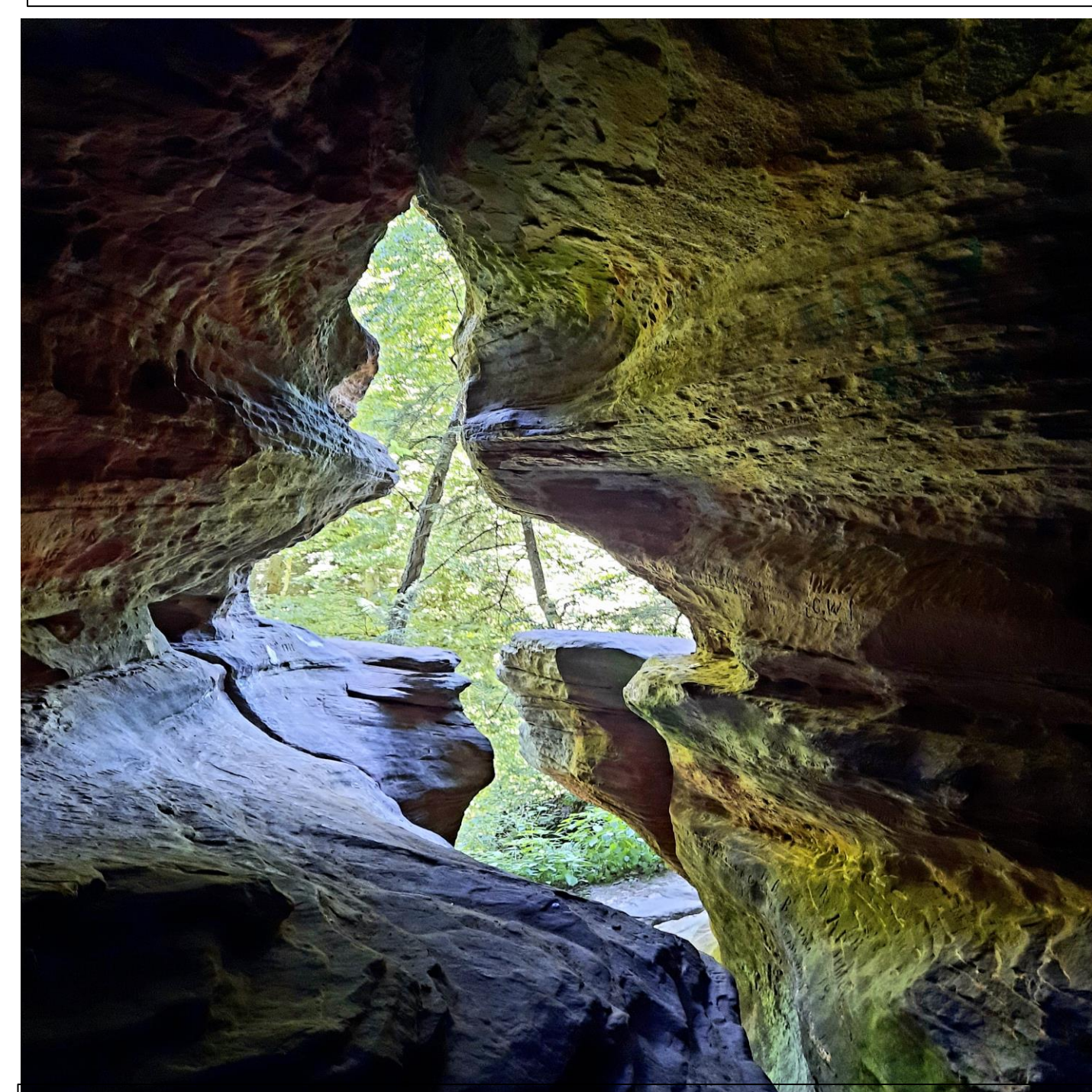
The remains of the Northside limestone crusher on Kelleys Island State Park. Kelleys Island Park management would like to see this crusher restored for its historical value.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Making professional connections
- Showing strong management skills in scheduling site visits, preparing equipment, and coordinating with ODNR property managers and other interns.
- Taking feedback constructively and applying suggestions to my work.



Me looking for historical treasures at Hocking Hills State Park



Picture from inside Rock House cave at Hocking Hills State Park

REFLECTION

This experience relates to my future aspirations because the Ohio Department of Natural Resources manages and protects Ohio's resources.

Broadly, I want a job that I care deeply about, and I want to spend my days helping our planet and the people living on it.

Moving forward, I keep doing what I am doing, continuing to learn and making connections.

I may stay at ODNR if they will have me. It is a great place to work and grow. I would love to explore positions in different divisions to find the best fit for me and this agency.

RECOMMENDATIONS

ODNR employs the best of the best. The hiring process can feel very slow but don't give up. The staff is amazing. The opportunities are endless.



Tombstones at Bigelow Historical Cemetery and State Nature Preserve



Marblehead Lighthouse State Park



This painting of Louis Bromfield, the Pulitzer-winning author, and his wife Mary was painted by Lillian Colton in France in 1930 and can be found at Malabar Farm State Park.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank my supervisor, Ann Schweitzer, and everyone working at the REALM division at ODNR for their leadership, confidence, and support. I would like to thank Chelsea Ratell and Lucia Hadella at OSU for their support, encouragement, and optimism.



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AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Don't forget to check out:
The Cardinal Collection—ODNR's Digital Museum:
[CatalogIt HUB](#)