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2011 April 15-16 at Otterbein University, Westerville

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EDITORIAL

42 Ohio’s Academic Goals Humbled by P.A. Geis

ARTICLES

43 Impact of Lonicera maackii on Decomposition Rates of Native Leaf Litter in a Southwestern Ohio Woodland by B.C. Blair and A. Stowasser

48 Aesthete Canals in the Chiton Euleptochiton spatulatus (Polyplacophora, Mollusca) from the Pennsylvanian of Ohio by R.D. Hoare

52 Using Simulation to Estimate Vehicle Emissions in Response to Urban Sprawl within Geauga County, Ohio by T. J. Dolney

67 Mating Behavior in Male Territoriality in Enallagma vesperum (Odonata: Coenagrionidae) on Ponds in Ohio and Northern Michigan by D. Moody

BOOK REVIEW

71 Different Brains, Different Learners: How to Reach the Hard to Reach by Eric Janson. Reviewed by J. Mann

NEWS

72 Ohio EPA, Ohio Academy of Science Select Environmental Scholarship Awardees

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS — inside back cover

COVER PHOTO: Forest habitats in southwestern Ohio have been degraded by the exotic honeysuckle species, Lonicera maackii, a woody shrub native to Central and Northeastern China, Korea and Japan. The first North American discovery dates to the late 1890’s when specimens were brought to Ontario, Canada and New York and used for ornamental purposes and to reduce soil erosion on steep slopes. In 1961 E. Lucy Brown of the University of Cincinnati first documented the escape of the species in Hamilton County, Ohio. Currently L. maackii exists in at least 24 states on the East coast and Midwest as well as Ontario. In much of Hamilton County, the site of the present study by Brent Blair and Annette Stowasser, reported on pages 43-47, L. maackii dominates the forest understory, forming dense thickets in many areas. Studies show that L. maackii negatively affects diversity and abundance of native herbaceous annual plants, native tree seedling germination and survival, spider diversity and herpetological diversity, and may negatively affect bird species by causing increased predation of nesting birds by large mammals. Purchased photo is representative and not for scientific identification.