

ODNR Director Commends Stage's Pond Drive *May 20, 1976.*



STAGE'S POND — The balance of the Save Stage's Pond Fund was presented to Ohio Department of Natural Resources officials Wednesday morning. The money, \$3,000, will be used to construct a waterfowl observation blind. From the left are, Dick Mosher, director of the division of natural preserves, Joan Morrison, president of the Columbus Regional Council of Garden Clubs, Pauline Savey and Miriam Weaver of Pickaway Garden Club; and Robert Teaters, director of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

"This is one of the finest examples we have where a community has worked to preserve a natural area," Robert Teaters said Wednesday when he accepted a \$3,000 check for construction of a waterfowl observation blind at Stage's Pond.

The check was presented to Teaters, director of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, by Pauline Savey and Miriam Weaver of Pickaway Garden Club and Joan Morrison, Columbus Regional Council president.

It was the balance of the Save Stage's Pond campaign fund initiated by the Pickaway Garden Club. Funds came from all over the state in the effort to raise money to purchase the natural pond gouged out thousands of years ago by the Great Glacier.

Because of the efforts of the Pickaway Garden Club, the community and other interested persons around the state, 178 acres have now been acquired for \$126,000 of community, state and federal matching funds.

The initial goal of the garden club was \$20,000 to purchase the pond for a natural preserve.

Dick Mosher, director of the division

of natural preserves of ODNR, said when the state was first approached about purchasing the land, officials were not too interested.

But when the Save Stage's Pond Drive was begun, officials in ODNR saw they would be able to obtain \$80,000 worth of real estate for an investment of only \$20,000 of state money they began to take a serious look at the project.

The groundwork for the campaign by the garden club was laid by Mrs. Savey and Miriam Barnhart. Miriam Weaver was then named chairman of the drive for the garden club and they went state-wide in the effort to raise the money. The drive was so successful they were able not only to purchase the original tract containing the pond but also were able to add some wooded acreage to the preserve.

"It is so natural anymore for a community to look to government to do these things," Teaters said. In commending the local garden club and the regional council "It is encouraging to us to see that people of all ages are as interested in preserving their natural heritage as they are in preserving their cultural heritage."