



# Mile by MILE

By Rich Warren

SCENIC BYWAY: JIM CROTTY

MOTORCYCLISTS ON THE SCENIC BYWAY: CHRIS CASELLA

Hocking Hills Scenic Byway



**D**on't risk missing an inch of the region — take in the beauty mile by mile on the **Hocking Hills Scenic Byway**. The 26-mile thoroughfare traverses hilly roads with overarching canopies of greenery above and beside you that lead to hilltop ridges with vistas of open pastures and wooded hills in the distance.

Along the way, you'll pass massive rock outcroppings that hint at the carved gorges and recess caves sprinkled throughout this natural wonderland. Expect to see goldfinches or bluebirds and other wildlife such as raccoons, white-tailed deer and wild turkeys. Note wildflowers like trillium and bluebells in the spring or towering patches of purplish-pink Joe Pye Weed in the fall.

Especially sharp-eyed passengers might spot Mail Pouch barns and a mound erected by ancestors of many modern American Indian tribes. Best of all, the route passes all the major non-contiguous sites in Hocking Hills State Park — Cantwell Cliffs, Rock House, Old Man's Cave, Cedar Falls and Ash Cave, as well as other highlights like John

Glenn Astronomy Park, Butterfly Ridge Conservation Center and Conkles Hollow State Nature Preserve.

Drives along the byway can serve as quick introductions to the area or full-day explorations filled with intriguing stops. ▲

