WHEREAS, in 2019, Governor Mike DeWine signed House Bill 59 designating April as Ohio Native Plant Month to increase public awareness of Ohio’s native plants and the many benefits they provide to pollinators, the economy, and the environment; and

WHEREAS, native plants are those that occur naturally in a region and have evolved or adapted to the local environment; and

WHEREAS, native plants are essential for healthy, diverse, and sustainable ecosystems and are critical for cleaning air, filtering water, and stabilizing soil; and

WHEREAS, native plants are well-adapted to Ohio’s soil, temperatures, precipitation, and environmental conditions, making them the best options for conserving and protecting the environment and adapting to its changes; and

WHEREAS, native plants provide food, such as nectar, pollen, seeds, and foliage, for native birds, caterpillars, butterflies, bees, and other wildlife; and

WHEREAS, Ohio is home to almost 2,000 native plant species, which include perennials, vines, grasses, wildflowers, trees, and shrubs; and

WHEREAS, Ohioans are encouraged to remove nonnative invasive plants and to choose native trees, shrubs, and flowers when making landscaping decisions; and

NOW, THEREFORE, We, Mike DeWine and Jon Husted, Governor and Lieutenant Governor of the State of Ohio, do hereby recognize

**OHIO NATIVE PLANT MONTH**

on this 1st day of April 2023.