



## Flora-Quest Field Trips & Programs

Morning Field Trips: You will participate in one each on Saturday and Sunday. As group sizes are limited, please rank, by preference order, your first, second, third choices for each day. Select **3** Quests for Saturday and Sunday. Trips will be scheduled on a first come first served basis.

### Extreme-Quest

**Features more hiking and more time in the field than Moderate & Lite-Quests. Trails may be muddy and slick. All participants are encouraged to bring along rain gear, extra walking shoes, guidebooks, binoculars and cameras.**

\*All Extreme-Quest **Saturday** field trips need to select a box lunch on the registration.

### Extreme-Quest 1\* 'Raven Rock'

Saturday 7:00am –1:00pm  
Sunday 7:00am –12pm

**Rare flora and fascinating history:** Our most difficult quest. Be prepared for a steep 500ft. ascent from the Ohio River Valley to a cliff-top sandstone outcrop with a magnificent rock arch and a stunning view. You'll be looking down on the Turkey Vultures, and gazing over the same vista that the Shawnee Indians had as they plotted ambushes on settlers floating down the Ohio River. Trip leaders will point out interesting birds and rare plants, including Ohio's only population of the beautiful Small-flowered Scorpion-weed. Wear sturdy hiking shoes with good tread. Bring along a walking stick and binoculars if you can. Not suggested for those with heart, lung, or joint problems.

**Guides: Rick Gardner/Martin McAllister**

### Extreme-Quest 2\* 'Harry Knighton Trail'

Saturday 7:00am –1:00pm  
Sunday 7:00am –12pm

**Trees galore and Orchids too:** Hike a 2.5 mile trail in Shawnee State Park along the shore of Turkey Creek Lake and through a mature mixed mesophytic forest with diverse topography. You will encounter numerous tree species including the rare Umbrella Magnolia with its gargantuan leaves, and stunning flowers such as Yellow Lady-slippers and Nodding Mandarins. Afterwards, enjoy a scenic drive through the forest to Snake Hollow where you will hike a hemlock gorge bejeweled with Pink Lady-slippers.

**Guides: Daniel Boone/Jim Decker**

### Extreme-Quest 3\* 'Shawnee Park & Forest'

Saturday 7:00am –1:00pm  
Sunday 7:00am –12pm

**Flora and birds:** This quest features a 3 mile hike over interesting terrain to seek out Appalachian rarities such as Vernal Iris, Early Stoneroot, and Pinxter-flower azaleas. We'll take a careful look at many of the forest's interesting groups of plants, like violets. The biggest and most beautiful North American species is the Birdfoot Violet, and we'll learn about that one along with some dozen other violets. Along the way we will see many of the 100+ species of birds that breed in Shawnee, including Scarlet Tanager, Cerulean and Hooded warblers, and Broad-winged Hawk.

**Guides: Jim McCormac/Kevin Bradbury**

Moderate-Quest	<b>These field trips are of a shorter duration, featuring frequent stops and short hikes to take in an abundance of flowers and natural features.</b>
<b>Moderate-Quest 4</b> <b>'Flowers &amp; Feathers'</b> Saturday & Sunday 7:00am –11:30am	<b>Flowers and Feathers:</b> Focusing on flowers and birds, this expedition will cover a lot of ground with frequent stops for walking along forest roads, streams, and ridges. You'll see a wide array of the forest's botanical treasures, including many of the Appalachian rarities like Pinxter-flower azaleas, Umbrella Magnolias, and Vernal Iris. There will be dozens of species of interesting birds and with luck we'll get looks at species of big woodlands like Ruffed Grouse and Sharp-shinned Hawk. <b>Guides: Dave Minney/Amy Fitton</b>
<b>Moderate-Quest 5</b> <b>'Orchids'</b> Saturday & Sunday 8:00am –11:45am	<b>Orchids and other flora:</b> Enjoy a scenic ride through Shawnee Forest including a stop at lovely Sheepgut Hollow to experience the burgeoning life of a vernal pool. We will see uncommon orchids like Yellow and Pink Lady-slippers, Showy Orchid, and hopefully Whorled Pogonia along the way. Shawnee is one of only two locales in Ohio where the extremely rare, Federally threatened Small Whorled Pogonia orchid has been found, and who knows, there is always a chance that we'll rediscover it! <b>Guides: John Freudenstein/Pete Whan</b>
<b>Moderate-Quest 6</b> <b>'Trees &amp; Flowers'</b> Saturday & Sunday 8:00am –12:00pm	<b>Trees, flowers and much more:</b> Take an easy stroll in Shawnee State Park along a woodland stream through Hemlocks, Umbrella Magnolias, Lady-slippers, Showy Orchid, Nodding Mandarins and much more. We'll really take a close look at the amazing variety of tree species in the forest, and come away with not only a greater appreciation of the pieces that make up the forest, but an enhanced ability to identify them. As with all trips, you can expect to see a dazzling array of other flora and fauna. <b>Guides: Bob Scott Placier/Chris Bedel</b>
Lite-Quest	<b>Light-Quests are shorter at three hours, but feature lots of stops at wildflower hotspots and scenic overlooks.</b>
<b>Lite-Quest 7</b> <b>'Flora and Orchids'</b> Saturday & Sunday 8:00am –11:30am	<b>Flora and Fauna:</b> We'll traverse two scenic drives, focusing on orchids, but both will wind through the forest roads taking in countless flowering flora and beautiful views. As with the rest of our guides, your leaders are expert in other facets of natural history, and participants will be treated to all manner of birds and other wildlife – with luck, maybe you'll even spot one of the Gray Foxes that call the forest home. <b>Guides: Jenny Richards/Dave Riepenhoff</b>

<p><b>Lite-Quest 8</b> <b>'Flora &amp; Mosses'</b> Saturday &amp; Sunday 9:00am –11:45am</p>	<p><b>Flora – even mosses!</b> Shawnee is filled incredible flora, and you can expect to see a huge chunk of it on this trip. Of particular interest are all of the Appalachian plants – in many cases, Shawnee supports the only known populations of these southern plants found north of the Ohio River. Lesser known because of their Lilliputian stature are the mosses, but they rival the showiest wildflowers in beauty – one just has to look more closely! Shawnee is filled with wonderful mosses, and participants will certainly get an eyeful of those, and introduction to the important role that mosses play in the environment. <b>Guides: Barb Andreas</b></p>
<p><b>Lite-Quest 9</b> <b>'Flora &amp; Butterflies'</b> Saturday &amp; Sunday 9:00am –12:00pm</p>	<p><b>Flora and Butterflies:</b> Butterflies and flowers go hand in hand, and because of the rich flora that Shawnee supports, the butterflies are nothing short of dazzling. If the weather is right, a couple of dozen species might be found, and often in staggering numbers. These will include the stunning Zebra Swallowtail, the unbelievably colored Falcate Orangetip, and the tiny Henry's Elfin. We'll also learn about the host plants that Shawnee's butterflies depend upon, and of course, enjoy many of the forest's fantastic array of rare and interesting plants. <b>Guides: Rich McCarty/John Howard</b></p>
<p><b>Lite-Quest 10</b> <b>'Fabulous Ferns'</b> Saturday &amp; Sunday 9:00am –12:00pm</p>	<p><b>Fabulous Ferns:</b> Just about everyone knows and appreciates ferns, but not all realize just how many species grow wild in a place like Shawnee. We'll discover many of the couple of dozen species of ferns that grow in the forest, and learn how to tell them apart. Some of the forest coves are nearly tropical in appearance, so lush are the fern beds that reside in them. There is everything from striking Maidenhair Spleenworts to dense growths of Christmas Ferns to robust Interrupted Ferns. As with everywhere, the ferns are surrounded by a huge diversity of other amazing flora, and we'll look at it all. <b>Guides: Paul Knoop /Steve McKee</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Flora-Quest Afternoon Programs and Moonlight Field Trips These are optional. You may choose 1 or 2 in each category</p>	
<p>Saturday Afternoon Programs</p>	<p><b>These Afternoon programs are 45 minutes each and will be given twice each, allowing you to pick two that interest you. Many garden clubs and Master Gardeners have enjoyed these programs in the past. You may also select an optional self-guided field trip in the natural areas adjacent to The Lodge.</b></p>
<p><b>'Butterflies'</b> <b>Cheryl Harner</b> Saturday 3:00 &amp; 4:00pm</p>	<p><b>Butterflies:</b> The interest and passion in butterflies is growing by leaps and bounds, and with good reason. These amazing insects are not only ornately marked and incredibly colored, but they have fascinating roles in nature. Intimately linked to plants, each species of butterfly requires the right host plants to survive. Thus, not only are they fun to watch and learn to identify, but also butterflies are important barometers of environmental health. The knowledgeable butterfly enthusiast can also attract an impressive diversity of these interesting insects to the backyard with a bit of knowledge about the plants that they seek, and these are the things that we'll learn about in this program.</p>

<p><b>'Trees'</b>  <b>Bob Scott Placier</b>  Saturday  3:00 &amp; 4:00 pm</p>	<p><b>Trees:</b> Dendrology is the study of trees, and its trees that we'll learn about in this program. There are around 100 species of native trees in Ohio; some well known, others much more obscure. Learn about what we have, and how to identify them, along with a host of other interesting information. There couldn't be a better site to study them, as all one has to do is step out the door of the lodge and see a huge variety of Ohio's trees.</p>
<p><b>'Warblers'</b>  <b>Jim McCormac</b>  Saturday  3:00 &amp; 4:00 pm</p>	<p><b>Warblers:</b> are the canaries of northern forests, and the group is amongst the most colorful of any in the Americas. Ohio – and Shawnee – support most of the species found in eastern North America. Thirty-seven species occur annually in Ohio, and nearly all make incredible journeys between here and winter haunts in Central and South America. We'll learn about these colorful woodland sprites with the aid of many stunning photos – many taken right in Shawnee forest.</p>
<p><b>'Self-Guided Walk'</b></p>	<p><b>Self-guided Walk:</b> The beauty of Shawnee Park and Forest is quite evident, as soon as you walk out of the doors. The patio in back of the lodge features a stunning overlook and the front lawn leads down to a short trail through the woodlands. Participants are encouraged to spend this time discovering Shawnee on their own. Plenty of fresh air, birds, flowers, trees, mosses and even lichens await you! Anyone could happen upon a rarity, and with experts along, experienced in nearly every field, almost anything could be identified!</p>
<p>Moonlight  Field Trips</p>	<p><b>Moonlight trips will be a late night foray, after the Evening Program; casual and easy trips either on foot or by bus. A 'Sounds of the Night' trip will be offered both Friday and Saturday night. The Chuck-will's-widow trip requires a half hour bus ride to the only reliable location in Ohio where these fascinating birds of the Goatsucker family may be found. Participants are encouraged to bring along flashlights, warm clothes, guidebooks, binoculars and cameras.</b></p>
<p><b>'Sounds of the Night'</b>  Friday or Saturday after the  Evening Banquet</p>	<p><b>Sounds of the Night:</b> At Shawnee, birding isn't just good during the day – lots of interesting birds are out and about by night, too. This walk will be through the forests and hollows near the lodge, where many noteworthy nocturnal species lurk. We'll be trying primarily for owls, particularly Eastern Screech-Owl and Barred Owl, which should be no problem to lure in for observation. But, it's surprising what else can be found in the dark, and no creature will be ignored. Amphibians can be especially vocal this time of year, and can often be found and viewed under the beam of a flashlight as they sing away. In addition to the common frogs, we'll try and find the much more limited Mountain Chorus Frog. <b>Guides: Richards / Placier / Knoop</b></p>
<p><b>'Chuck-will's-widow'</b>  Saturday following the  Evening Banquet</p>	<p><b>Chuck-will's-widow:</b> This is an opportunity to look for our largest and rarest goatsucker, the Chuck-will's-widow. For this trip, we'll take a bus to the neighboring county of Adams, home of the sprawling Edge of Appalachia mega-preserve, owned by The Nature Conservancy and the Cincinnati Museum. This is a long-famous locale for finding the Chuck, and indeed, is the first place they were ever found in Ohio, back in 1932. No birder's Ohio experience is truly complete without making this pilgrimage. The birds are certainly easy to hear, but definitely not so easy to see, but we'll try. Whether they're seen or not, though, hearing Chuck-will's-widows in the gorgeous Ohio Brush Creek valley is a must-do, and we're fortunate to have the most knowledgeable guides there are along to show us Chucks and other evening sights and sounds in one of the most significant eco-regions of Ohio.  <b>Guides: Bedel / Whan / McCarty</b></p>