



## FLORA-QUEST

### *EXPLORING OHIO'S WILDEST LANDSCAPE*

Established in 2007, Flora-Quest is a hands-on learning adventure focusing on wild plants. Centered at the beautiful Shawnee State Park resort in the middle of Ohio's largest contiguous forest, the 65,000-acre Shawnee State Forest, a mind-boggling array of plants is at our fingertips. Roughing it is hardly necessary; facilities at the lodge are top-notch and good hotels are within 25 minutes in the city of Portsmouth.

Just to the west of Shawnee is the sprawling Edge of Appalachia preserve. Filled with unusual habitats and possessing one of the state's highest concentrations of rare plants, the Edge is a botanical paradise. Flora-Quest trips are split between Shawnee and the Edge, and these packages offer participants the greatest botanical adventure to be had in Ohio, at the best time of year to explore this region. Upwards of 1,000 species of native plants are found in this area – there are only about 1,900 natives in all of Ohio.

In addition to learning about common plants, most of which we'll see in profusion, Flora-Quest participants will also have the opportunity to observe a number of great rarities. Particularly noteworthy are the Appalachian plants found no further north than Shawnee. Newcomers are often amazed to see southerners like umbrella magnolia, pinxter-flower azaleas, and early stoneroot in the forest. Each trip option includes two expeditions – one to Adams County and the Edge of Appalachia region on one day, and Shawnee State Forest and vicinity the other day. All trips will find an ENORMOUS array of flora, far beyond what brief descriptions can convey. Also, one trip from each of the five options will visit a locale for Wherry's Catchfly, Flora-Quest 2008's signature plant. This stunning rarity is worth the trip alone!

We are fortunate to have some of Ohio's most gifted botanists and naturalists leading Flora-Quest expeditions. All of them know the area well, and are very familiar with the plant life of the region. Their leadership is invaluable, as first-timers (even second, third, and fourth!) are often overwhelmed by the vastness of Shawnee and the Edge, and scarcely know where to begin. Most of our guides are also well-versed in other facets of natural history, such as birds, butterflies, mosses and lichens, geology, etc. which only adds to the enjoyment of the trips.

The center of activities is the beautiful Shawnee Lodge and Resort, and we have arranged a special discounted rate. The accommodations and food are outstanding, with 50 rooms in the lodge and 25 cabins available, or the alternate, nearby camping. Steve McKee and Martin McAllister will treat you to interesting keynote presentations. Steve is Director of Gorman Nature Center in Mansfield, and a veteran botanist. Martin is a field manager for the Ohio Division of Natural Areas, grew up near Shawnee, and is intimately familiar with the specialized natural history of the region. An added bonus, John Freudenstein, Director of the Ohio State University Herbarium, will present a program about orchids, the most sought after plant in Shawnee. There will also be special evening field trips, and local vendors. Discount rates are also available at the nearby Ramada Inn in Portsmouth.

May is a time of rebirth in the natural world, and there is no better place to be than in the wildlands of Adams and Scioto counties to experience spring. We hope to see you at Flora-Quest May 2-4, 2008!

Please, visit our website at [www.flora-quest.com](http://www.flora-quest.com) for more information.

\* Flora-Quest is supported in part by the Scioto-Foundation. Ohio State University Extension endorses the credit hours for participating in Flora-Quest for Master Gardeners and Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalists.