



Flora-Quest Trip Descriptions

Each Quest includes two expeditions—the following are your choices for Saturday's hike. Sunday field trips will focus on Shawnee State Park's fabulous flora, especially orchids, and every field trip will find an ENORMOUS array of flora, far beyond what the descriptions convey.

Participants are encouraged to bring along rain gear, extra walking shoes, guidebooks, binoculars, and cameras.

— Trips will be filled on a First Come First Serve basis, so be sure to register early! —

<p>Quest 1</p> <p><i>Introduction to Wildflower Identification</i></p> <p>Saturday 9:00am – 4:00pm</p>	<p><i>Introduction to Wildflower Identification</i> Chris Bedel / Tricia West</p> <p>Learn wildflower identification at The Edge of Appalachia Preserve's new Eulett Center education and research facility overlooking the beautiful Ohio Brush Creek Valley. Participants will become proficient at using Newcomb's Wildflower Guide and learn why this systematic plant guide is the absolute best wildflower guide for this area. After lunch take an easy hike through arguably the "county's-best" spring wildflower display at Tiffin Cliffs to apply your newfound skills.</p> <p>Difficulty level: Low Impact/ High learning Distance: only moderate hiking Limit: 10</p>
<p>Quest 2</p> <p><i>Sunshine Mystery Tour</i></p> <p>Saturday 9:00am – 4:00pm</p>	<p><i>Sunshine Mystery Tour</i> Pete Whan /Jason Larson</p> <p>A Sunshine Mystery Tour - Enough hippy references here for you baby boomers? Join Pete Whan, Mr. Sunshine himself, and Jason Larson, the other sunny guy, on this tour we know not where. We <u>do</u> know the birding will be great, and the botany will be in bloom. An exclusive trip exploring latest acquisitions that The Nature Conservancy has made in the new Sunshine Corridor project. We can't tell right now where we will be going or what we will see, but it has never been seen before! Pete will be scouting right up to the day of the walk to find the best experience he can in this new untraveled land. If you like mystery and new things, this is the walk for you. Promise no flash-backs!</p> <p>Difficulty Level: Moderate Distance: 2.5 mile Limit: 10</p>
<p>Quest 3</p> <p><i>Appalachia Preserve Sampler</i></p> <p>Saturday 9:00am –4:00pm</p>	<p><i>Edge of Appalachia Preserve Sampler</i> Rich McCarty / Bob Scott Placier</p> <p>Celebrate the preserve's botanical diversity on this day long exploration of several important floristic areas that document the history of the preserve's formation. The focus will be spring flowers which may include areas with house-sized, flower-covered boulders to the rich-soiled flats below towering limestone cliffs or even globally-rare prairie areas often overlooked in the spring. With the wide breath of sites visited, participants might see anything: prairie blooming hoary puccoon, displays of rock loving plants like columbine, rue anemone and sicklepod, or large areas of common species such as blue cohosh and black snakeroot.</p> <p>Difficulty Level: Moderately Difficult Distance: 2 miles Limit: 10</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Quest 4</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Cedar Falls Hike</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Saturday 9:00am –4:00pm</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Cedar Falls with the Ohio Heritage Botanist</i> Rick Gardner / Janet Creamer</p> <p>Visit the globally rare <i>White Cedar Bluff Woodland</i> plant community perched along the rim of the Cedar Run Gorge, normally closed to public visitation. In addition to seeing a beautiful, remote hollow, your trip leaders will make a couple short stops on the way to and from the falls that will include additional rare plants and old-growth trees. Together, both sites offer a window into the amazing breadth of floristic diversity that Adams County has to offer.</p> <p>Difficulty Level: Difficult Distance: 1.5 miles Limit: 10</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Quest 5</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Spring Glen Private Preserve</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Saturday 9:00am –4:00pm</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Spring Glen Preserve</i> Paul Knoop / Steve McKee</p> <p>The Adams County cedar glades, which include the Spring Glen Preserve, are unique in the state. Here in these small, dry, limestone prairies one can experience a bit of original Ohio. The spring season brings forth new prairie grasses, spectacular wildflowers including the showy Indian paintbrush, hog nose snakes, prairie warblers and cob web skippers. This is a rare opportunity for an intimate view of this private preserve.</p> <p>Difficulty Level: Moderate Distance: ½ mile walks will be taken Limit: 10</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Quest 6</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Photography and Flora</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Saturday 9:00am –4:00pm</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Photography and Flora</i> (not just for photographers) Tom Arbour / Dave Riepenhoff</p> <p>If you enjoy a more relaxed pace, with time to photograph the flora, you'll want to accompany Tom and Dave for a venture into the forest. You'll see all the rarities and have a little more time to spend with them, ensuring the best shots possible. As an added bonus both guides really understand the tools and techniques of nature photography. You can get all your questions about photography answered and visit some of the most spectacular scenes and flora Shawnee has to offer! Or, just come along for the relaxed trip and enjoyable commentary!</p> <p>Difficulty Level: Slower Paced Distance: short walks will be taken Limit: 10</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Quest 7</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Botany and "Bugs"</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Saturday 9:00am –4:00pm</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Botany and "Bugs"</i> Harvey Ballard/ John Howard -Sat. / Jenny Richards- Sun.</p> <p>The botany of Adams County offers some of Ohio's most unique flora, and often rare flora supports even rarer fauna. If you are interested in the botany and the amazing "bugs" of this region, this is the trip for you! Dr. Ballard, our violet expert is also an expert on orthoptera- crickets and katydids! And John Howard and Jenny Richards know all the rare butterflies and the best places to find them. This trip could end up anywhere the most desirable botany and bugs are being seen.</p> <p>Difficulty Level: Moderate Distance: short walks will be taken Limit: 10</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Quest 8</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Creek Quest</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Saturday 9:00am –4:00pm</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Martin McAllister / Kevin Bradbury</p> <p>Creek Quest</p> <p>Exploring the natural history of Scioto Brush Creek by kayak. Guided float trip on one of Ohio’s most wild and diverse waterways. Geology, flora, fauna, history – we’ll touch on it all as we explore a piece of southern Ohio from the perspective of a wood duck – low and slow. If water levels are just right, we’ll paddle the most scenic stretch of the creek: dolomite cliffs, fern-covered slump blocks, and even an extraordinary natural arch make this a paddle trip of a lifetime. Participants must provide their own kayaks, PFD’s and transportation. (Kayaks recommended over canoes due to low water levels and tight turns.)</p> <p>Water levels will dictate exact float locations with Saturday’s trip being several miles and Sunday’s much shorter on a different stretch of creek. Participants should provide phone numbers and/or e-mail addresses where they can be reached on Thursday for last minute changes. If creek conditions warrant, participants may be reassigned to land-based trips.</p> <p>Difficulty Level: Moderate Distance: short walks and time in the field Limit: 10</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Quest 9</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Feathers and Foliage</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Saturday 9:00am – 4:00pm</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Dave Minney / Amy Fitton</p> <p>Feathers and Foliage at Shawnee</p> <p>In addition to being dazzled by one of the most spectacular displays of flowering plants at Shawnee, we’ll make an effort to find some of the one hundred plus species of birds that will be there. Gorgeous and showy species like Scarlet Tanager, Hooded Warbler, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak abound, and our expert leaders know the tricks for luring them in. Offering plenty of flowers too, this trip has always been very highly rated by our past patrons!</p> <p>Difficulty Level: Easy – Moderate Distance: 1/2 mile Limit: 10</p>
<p>— <i>Guides and Field Trips could be subject to change to offer you the best experience</i> —</p>	
<p>Optional Field Trips & Programs</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Eulett Center Dinner & Program</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Extra Charge Event</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Friday 5:00pm (bus departure time)</p>	<p>For those of you arriving early on Friday, get a head start on your Flora-Quest experience, and let us take you to the edge—The Edge of Appalachia that is! This extra-charge program will introduce <i>Questers</i> to the incredible diversity found at the Eulett Center, operated by the Cincinnati Museum Center. For an additional \$25.00 you can catch a 5:00pm bus from the Shawnee Lodge to enjoy an evening meal at the Eulett Center. Tour this state of the art facility and take in an evening program about the preserve’s amazing diversity and with any luck, some of Ohio's rarest avian species: Chuck-will's Widows and Blue Grosbeaks! Only early birds get this worm . . . trip limited to the first 40.</p>

<p>Morning Field Trips:</p>	<p>Are extra offerings for those who like to “get going” bright and early. Enjoy the morning air with a bonus field trip or use this time for an extra hour of sleep. Be sure to mark which of these two you are interested in on your registration form.</p>
<p>Early Birding Saturday 6:30 –7:30am</p>	<p>Early Birding Our guides are expert birders as well as outstanding botanists. Join our leaders in the lobby to form groups to seek out spring warblers, the neo-tropical jewels migrating from their winter visit to southern climes. You’ll be amazed at the species we will find right outside the Shawnee Lodge’s front doors.</p>
<p>Fitness Walk Saturday 6:30 –7:30am</p>	<p>Fitness Walk An hour of early morning fitness walking might be just the ticket to counter-act those delicious all-you-care-to-eat meals provided by our lodge over the weekend. Fresh air, sunshine, and a brisk cardiac rate for no extra-charge.</p>
<p>Moonlight Field Trips:</p>	<p>Will be a late night foray, after the evening program—casual and easy trips either on foot or by bus. Participants are encouraged to bring along flashlights, warm clothes, guidebooks, and cameras.</p>
<p>Sounds of the Night Friday 9:00pm – 10:30pm</p>	<p>Sounds of the Night At Shawnee, birding isn’t only good during the day—lots of interesting birds are out at 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. It’s surprising what 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 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.</p>
<p>Night Sky Saturday 9:00pm – 10:30pm</p>	<p>Night Sky A fun astronomy experience with a local expert who will be offering a tutorial on the night sky. We have the perfect location without the light pollution of the city for a wonderful night under the stars.</p>

Flora-Quest Sponsors:

