



Flora-Quest Trip Descriptions 2012

Each Quest includes **Two Expeditions**—the following are **Your Choices for Saturday's Hike**.

ALL Sunday field trips will focus on Shawnee State Park's fabulous flora, especially orchids and rarities.

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! —

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| <p style="text-align: center;">Quest 1</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Raven Rock and the River</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Saturday 9:00am – 4:00pm</p> | <p><i>Extreme QUESTING: Raven Rock (closed preserve) and the River</i> Martin McAllister / Kevin Bradbury</p> <p>The view from the rock is not easy to attain; this is a difficult Quest. This Extreme Quest will follow the footsteps of the Shawnee Native people. Be prepared for a near vertical 500 ft. ascent from the Ohio River Valley to a cliff top aerie with a stunning view from atop Raven Rock, to be followed up with trip back down to the river's edge. Depending on water conditions, the final portion of the trip may be by canoe. Trip leaders will point rare plants- with the possible sighting of Small-flowered Phacelia. Wear sturdy hiking shoes and bring along a walking stick and binoculars if you have them. Combines the best river views with botany. Canoeing experience required.</p> <p>Difficulty level: Extreme Distance: 6 miles Limit: 10</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Quest 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Sunshine Mystery Tour</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Saturday 9:00am – 4:00pm</p> | <p><i>Sunshine Mystery Tour III</i> Pete Whan / Jason Larson</p> <p>It just keeps getting better and better, and this is one of our most requested trips. 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 we've had such past success- we'll try it again!! 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.</p> <p>Difficulty Level: Moderate Distance: 2.5 mile Limit: 10</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Quest 3</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Whipple Preserve & Lynx Prairie</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Saturday 9:00am – 4:00pm</p> | <p><i>Whipple Preserve & Lynx Prairie</i> Rich McCarty / Bob Scott Placier</p> <p>Celebrate the Ohio Division of Natural Areas and Preserve's botanical diversity on this day long exploration of dolomite cliffs of 10-30 feet in height adorned with wild columbine and an abundance of and ferns Spring flowers. This trip will stick to the trails of Whipple State Nature Preserve, which offers an excellent view of Adams County at its finest. Our guides are well acquainted with the region and its botany, and will make an additional side trip to Lynx Prairie to view Indian Paintbrush, Flora- Quest's featured flower for 2012.</p> <p>Difficulty Level: Moderately Difficult Distance: 2 miles Limit: 10</p> |

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| <p>Quest 8</p> <p><i>Davis Memorial and Plum Run</i></p> <p>Saturday 9:00am – 4:00pm</p> | <p><i>Davis Memorial and Plum Run</i> Guy Denny / Tim Snyder</p> <p>At Davis Memorial Peeble’s dolomite cliffs provide habitat for white cedar and sullivantia, while American aloe, dwarf hawthorn, side-oats gramma grass and purple coneflower are found in the prairie openings. A native bamboo is also found here. Other significant species include limestone Adder's-tongue fern, narrow-leaved bluecurls and Walter's violet. Plum Run is a tall grass prairie with lots of big bluestem and Indian grass, studded with Adams County’s native juniper. Nine state-listed species are found on the property, the most notable being <i>Plantago cordata</i>, or heart-leaved plantain. If time allows, we will even visit another nearby preserve with a natural arch wreathed by spring wildflowers.</p> <p>Difficulty Level: Easy – Moderate Distance: 1-2 mile Limit: 10</p> |
| <p>Quest 9</p> <p><i>Birding and Botany</i></p> <p>Saturday 9:00am – 4:00pm</p> | <p><i>Big Year Birding and Botany</i> Greg Miller / Andrew Gibson</p> <p>If you enjoyed the movie <i>The Big Year</i>, you’ll want to come to Shawnee to bird with the guy who inspired the book: Greg Miller. Greg will help you find an amazing assortment of Spring warblers, and a few forest specialties as well. And because it all happens in the most beautiful spot in Ohio we will send a botanist along to answer all those Spring flora questions as well. This trip is for birding enthusiasts who want to have it all!</p> <p>Difficulty Level: Easy – Moderate Distance: 1 mile Limit: 10</p> |
| <p>Quest 10</p> <p>Saturday 9:00am – 4:00pm</p> | <p>Will be added as an overflow trip- with the most popular offering from the above trips</p> <p>— <i>Guides and Field Trips could be subject to change to offer you the best experience</i> —</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Concerned About Rain?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Have no fear; we have plenty of great speakers and back-up programs in case of rain. Many of Ohio’s best naturalists are prepared to present indoor programs.</p> | |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Optional Field Trips & Programs</p> | |
| <p><i>Pre-Event Birding with Greg Miller</i></p> | <p>See our web site for the details and separate registration form for this special opportunity.</p> |

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| <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 this on your registration form.</p> |
| <p>Early Birding Saturday 6:30 –7:30am</p> | <p><i>Bird Banding- with Bob Scott Placier</i> Many of our guides are expert birders as well as outstanding botanists. Join our leader and bird bander, Bob Scott Placier as he checks his nets for early migrants. We may even catch a warbler, 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>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. Be sure to mark your interest on your registration form.</p> |
| <p>Moonlight Adventures Friday Only 9:00pm – 10:30pm</p> | <p><i>Sounds of the Night, Campfire, Canoeing or Birds of Prey (inside program)</i> Take your pick! At Shawnee, lots of interesting things are happening at night. Each year we offer a walk through the forests and hollows near the lodge, but this year we’re amping up the night programs to provide something for everyone. We’ll be lurking through woods in search of owls, particularly Eastern Screech-Owl and Barred Owl, and amphibians which can be especially vocal this time of year. We may even get a peek at the much more limited Mountain Chorus Frog. Hueston Woods naturalists will present Birds of Prey in the lodge lobby. Caesar Creek and Cowan Lake naturalists will be doing a moonlight canoe trip on Turkey Creek Lake, and Camp Oty’Okwa environmental educators will be entertaining around a campfire in the cabin area. It will be hard to choose! Sign-up sheets will be available at Check-In on Friday. Canoeing limited to 14, and Sounds of Night limited to 20. Moonlight trips fill on a first-come-first-served basis.</p> |

Flora-Quest Partners:

