



Flora-Quest Trip Descriptions

Each Quest option includes two expeditions – all of our **Sunday trips will focus on Shawnee State Park's** fabulous flora (especially orchids), and the following descriptions are your choices for Saturday's trip/workshop. Every field trip and both special workshops 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 scheduled on a **first come first served** basis.

<p>Quest 1</p> <p>Introduction to Wildflower Identification</p> <p>Saturday 8:00am –4:00pm</p>	<p>1). Introduction to Wildflower Identification Bedel / Freudenstein</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: Easy Distance: Only moderate hiking Limit: 10</p>
<p>Quest 2</p> <p>Abner Hollow & Cedar Falls</p> <p>Saturday 8:00am –4:00pm</p>	<p>2) Abner Hollow & Cedar Falls Hike Whan /</p> <p>Explore two outstanding streamside flower displays with amazing dolomite cliffs and deep wooded gorges. Common spring flowers species abound, such as a blanket of dwarf crested iris and a boulder field of large flowered trillium, along with unusual species such as the rare wall rue and gray polopody fern and spotted mandarin. Also, 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. Together, both sites offer a window into the amazing breath of floristic diversity that Adams County has to offer.</p> <p>Difficulty Level: Difficult Distance: 3.5 mile Limit: 10</p>
<p>Quest 3</p> <p>Appalachia Preserve Sampler</p> <p>Saturday 8:00am –4:00pm</p>	<p>3). Edge of Appalachia Preserve Sampler McCarty / Decker</p> <p>Celebrate the preserve's 50-year anniversary 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 Length: 2 miles Limit: 10</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Quest 4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Coyote Hollow Hike</p> <p>Saturday 8:00am –4:00pm</p>	<p>4). Gung-ho Botany- Coyote Hollow Hike Gardner / McAllister</p> <p>This hike is off trail and a difficult trek into one of the preserve's remote hollows. If you are interested in a Gung-ho botanical foray, the rock strewn slopes of the hollow will harbor an amazing display of spring ephemerals. There will be no prisoners taken and no better way to get your exercise, as the display of spring flora in this site is hard to beat anywhere. You will see wildflowers such as large yellow lady's-slipper, wild columbine, hoary puccoon, grape honeysuckle, large-flowered trillium, and some rare species such as resurrection fern, wall-rue fern, and mountain-rice. In addition to seeing a beautiful, remote hollow, your trip leaders will make a couple short stops on the way to and from the hollow that will include additional rare plants and old-growth trees.</p> <p>Difficulty Level: Very difficult Distance: 1.5 miles (Feels a LOT longer!) Limit 10</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Quest 5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Spring Glen Private Preserve</p> <p>Saturday 8:00am –4:00pm</p>	<p>5). Spring Glen Preserve Knoop / 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 6/7</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Photography and Flora Workshop</p> <p>Saturday 8:00am –4:00pm</p>	<p>6 & 7). Photography and Flora Workshop Ian Adams/ John Howard / Dave Riepenhoff</p> <p>A half-day classroom seminar will provide participants with an understanding of basic tools and techniques for digital nature and garden photography. The afternoon field photography session will include personal coaching, demonstrations, and critiques of participants' photos by Ian Adams. Learn more about digital photography and photograph some of the most spectacular scenes and all the fabulous flora Shawnee has to offer!</p> <p>Difficulty Level: moderate Distance: short walks will be taken Limit: 20</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Quest 8/9</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Butterflies and Botany</p> <p>Saturday 8:00am –4:00pm</p>	<p>8 & 9). Butterflies and Botany Jaret Daniel/ Guy Denny / Bob Scott Placier/ Kevin Bradbury</p> <p>A morning seminar will cover the basics of conservation, habitat and identification of local butterflies. Then we will take our knowledge out in the field with Dr. Jaret Daniels, author of <i>Butterflies of Ohio</i>, and Guy Denny of the Ohio Leps. Finding fliers on the native Appalachian flora and identifying them is much easier when the experts are along! Be sure to bring your check-lists, as there will be too many species to remember!</p> <p>Difficulty Level: moderate Distance: short walks and time in the field Limit: 20</p>

<p align="center">Quest 10</p> <p align="center">Feathers and Foliage</p> <p>Saturday 8:00am –4:00pm</p>	<p align="center">10). Feathers and Foliage at Shawnee Minney and Fitton</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 align="center">Moonlight & Morning Field Trips (optional)</p>	<p>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 Friday night and 'Moonlight Moth Madness' will be held at the lower level of the hotel. Join us at the black-light sheet to see what is flying at Shawnee. Participants are encouraged to bring along flashlights, warm clothes, guidebooks, and cameras.</p> <p>Morning Early Birding and Fitness Walk are extra offerings for those who like to "get going" bright and early. Enjoy the morning air with a bonus trip or use this time for an extra hour of sleep. It is your choice</p>
<p align="center">'Sounds of the Night'</p> <p align="center">Friday after the Evening Program</p>	<p>Sounds of the Night: At Shawnee, birding isn't only 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. 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 align="center">'Moonlight Moth Madness'</p> <p align="center">Saturday after the Evening Program</p>	<p>After our Saturday evening banquet and program, we will recess to the back patio area of the lodge to investigate the night-time fliers of Shawnee Forest. We will draw them in with a black-light and look for diversity of species among these jewels of the night. This is your opportunity to spend time in the field with Dr. Jaret Daniels, and ask any of your butterfly and moth questions. We will arrange to have lepidoptera collections available, so even in the event of poor weather, we'll have moths and butterflies.</p>
<p align="center">Early Birding</p> <p align="center">Saturday 6:30 –7:30am</p>	<p>Early Birding: Some of 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 align="center">Fitness Walk</p> <p align="center">Saturday 6:30 –7:30am</p>	<p>Fitness Walking: An hour of early morning fitness walking might be just the ticket to counter-act those delicious all-you-care-to-eat banquets provided by our lodge. Fresh air, sunshine, and a brisk cardiac rate for no extra-charge. ☺</p>