

Important Field Trip Information!

We hope to make this an enjoyable event! We have made efforts to have a variety of field trips to accommodate various levels of physical activity and interests for our attendees. The trip ratings are listed below. Please contact us if you need special accommodations at midwestnativeplants@gmail.com. Most trips are located in or near Shawnee State Forest unless specified. Carpooling is encouraged because of limited parking and narrow roads.

- Field trips meet in the parking lot at 8:30 am sharp to pick up lunches and meet their leaders. Depart by 8:45 am.
- Trips are filled on a first-come, first-serve basis. All Field Trips will leave from Shawnee Lodge Saturday morning. If you ordered a box lunch during registration, *please pick up your lunch outside the lodge before leaving for your trip*. Coolers with ice will be provided for each trip. Drinks are not provided with lunches, so be sure to bring drinks and water with you for the trip. We also highly recommend the use of tick repellent.
- Trip Ratings:
 - EASY: Low level of exertion, short walking distance. Mostly in vehicles with frequent stops at select locations.
 - MODERATE: Reasonable level of exertion. Some hiking off-trail for a moderate distance (30 minutes).
 - DIFFICULT: High Trip Rating concerning exertion. Longer hiking distances are expected with possible steep trails. You should be in good physical condition for these!

Trip 1 - Botany and Geology: Prairies to Woods - Meg Riestenberg, Adams County

Dolostone cliffs, steep ravines, mature woods and a prairie make the Wilderness Preserve in Adams County a diverse place to find native wildflowers and their pollinators. The landscape in this region provides a fascinating lesson in geological history revealed through the rocks, topography, streams, animal life and vegetation. You'll come away from this trek with a much better understanding of why this part of southern Ohio is the unique place that it is. The Wilderness, managed by Cincinnati Museum Center and Nature Conservancy, is an excellent spot that protects ecological sites ranging from pine forest, deciduous forest and prairie, to a forested ridge-top complete with mature chestnut oaks and blueberry shrubs. As we walk along the edge of a dolostone cliff we will be surrounded by a xeric northern white cedar forest, *Thuja occidentalis*, a rare ecosystem in Ohio. The hike will include some hills and good, but sometimes uneven trails, and is approximately three miles long.

Trip Rating: Moderate. Team Lead: Debi Wolterman.

Trip 2a – Birdsong: Learning to Listen - Lisa Rainsong and Wendy Partridge, Shawnee Lodge and Forest. *Optional Field Sketching after the hike with Wendy, Trip 2b.

The songs and calls of birds are essential for communication, and many species have multiple songs in their repertoire. It can initially seem overwhelming, but we'll focus on how to listen and what is being communicated. We'll also learn what makes a meadow sound different from a forest and how knowing each avian singer's habitat helps refine our identification choices. Birds that we may hear include the Hooded Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Ovenbird, Scarlet and Summer Tanagers, and Baltimore and Orchard Orioles. This will be a slow-paced walking exploration that will take us to the edge of Turkey Creek Lake.

Trip Rating: Easy. Team Lead: Teri Gilligan. (Following this walk, there is an opportunity to join Wendy, see Trip 2b, at the Shawnee lodge for some field sketching on the back deck. We will lunch as we sketch!)

Trip 2b – *Field Sketching - Wendy Partridge 10:30 am. Shawnee Lodge

When you sketch in nature, you slow down and fully pay attention to your surroundings. In this relaxed workshop, we will spend time observing, sketching, and discussing nature journaling techniques. No experience is necessary. Supplies will be provided. If you keep a sketchbook, feel free to bring it along with your favorite drawing materials. Sketching will be held on the overlook patio at the lodge on the first floor. Bring along your lunch too! You do not have to do the birdsong walk to take the field sketching workshop, and you can join Wendy at the spur of the moment. All are welcome! Location will be announced Friday night.

Trip 3- Raven Rock State Nature Preserve - Dave Todt and Don Cipollini, Shawnee Forest

Raven Rock is a promontory of Mississippian-age sandstone overlooking the Ohio River Valley. While various legends exist as to how the hill received its name, from the air, it takes on the shape of a bird with outstretched wings. The preserve offers a panoramic view of the Ohio River valley. Weathering of the sandstone has resulted in three natural arches, the largest with a 10 foot span. The preserve is home to the potentially threatened Blackjack Oak, *Quercus marilandica* and the state endangered Small-flowered Scorpion Weed, *Phacelia dubia*. Access is by permit only from the DNAP.

Trip Rating: Difficult. Team Leads: Nikki and Norah Tempus.

Trip 4 - Creek Bend Overlook - Dave Helm and Ann Oliver, Adams County

This trip will focus on roadside botany and birding by exploring diverse areas in Adams County. The George Rieveschl Jr. Creek Bend Overlook is the first stop in exploring the 20,000-acre Edge of Appalachia Preserve—Ohio's largest privately owned protected natural area. With its forests and prairies, streams, and waterfalls, the preserve is one of the most biologically diverse areas in the Midwest. More than 100 rare plant and animal species call this preserve home. Some interesting nesting bird species that you will likely encounter are Blue Grosbeak, Henslow Sparrow, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Prairie Warbler, to name a few. **Trip Rating: Easy. Team Lead: Cathy Plum.**

Trip 5 - The Butterflies of Shawnee and Lynx Prairie - Deb Marsh, Adams County

We start our trip in the Shawnee State Forest and then, weather and time permitting, travel to Lynx Prairie in Adams County. Specifically, we will be focusing on butterflies. At this time, a rich diversity of wildflowers will be in bloom, attracting many butterflies. All the swallowtail butterflies should be in force, and we will be sure to look for Tiger, Spicebush, Pipevine, Black, and Zebra Swallowtails. We will sort those tricky to identify Duskywings to find all the local species. Falcate Orangetip butterflies will be on the decrease, but some could be found. Three species of Elfins might still be on the wing - Brown, Pine, and Henry's. We'll also be on the lookout for three uncommon species - Cobweb Skipper, Silvery Blue, and Appalachian Blue. **Trip Rating: Easy. Team Lead: Michele Martin Hisney.**

Trip 6 - Snake Hollow - Ann Geise and Kim Banks, Shawnee Forest

In the northernmost section of Shawnee Forest is Snake Hollow Trail, which, when combined with a section of Forest Road #6, forms a 2.5-mile loop hike. Near the trailhead, we'll see a scattering of ruins of the historic Old Forest Experiment Station built in the 1930s. It was from this location that the first published studies of the flora and fauna of Shawnee Forest were conducted. The trail follows the stream for a while before heading up into the forest, cutting through a variety of habitats with a diversity of plant species. This area includes a Hemlock Gorge. On this easy-paced hike, we will look at everything -- trees, flowers, ferns, birds, insects, and whatever surprises Snake Hollow presents us. **Trip rating: Moderate with some elevation gain. Team Leads: Jennie Hefren and Cheryl Vargas.**

Trip 7 - Botany and Birds - Jim McCormac and Shauna Weyrauch, Shawnee Forest

This trip will focus on flora great and small, rare and common. We'll specifically seek out area specialties such as the gorgeous and endangered Early Stoneroot, *Collinsonia verticillata*, Umbrella Magnolia, *Magnolia tripetala* and White Milkweed, *Asclepias variegata*. Along the way, we'll see scads of other interesting plants. There are about 1,000 species of native plants in Shawnee, so there are lots to choose from. This rich diversity of plants hosts about 100 species of breeding birds, and we won't turn a blind eye to those, either. Warblers should be especially plentiful, and most of the resident breeders will be back in territory. **Trip Rating: Easy.**

Trip 8 - Aquatic Adventures in Shawnee - Kelly Capuzzi and Laura Hughes, Shawnee Forest.

Join us for a trip to Odell Creek to look for Rosyside Dace, *Clinostomus funduloides*, which is a remnant fish of the ancient glacial Lake Tight formed by the damming of the Teays River. We'll also try to find the elusive Bigeye Shiner, *Notropis boops*, in Turkey Creek, last documented by Dan Rice in the 90s!! Fish tanks will be set up to show our 'catch' before they are returned to the waters to help us view and take pictures of these beauties up close. Seining will be demonstrated as well, and you'll have a great time learning about the history and habitats of the many fish, aquatic insects and salamanders commonly found in many roadside streams. Waders or boots are recommended if you want to get in the water. **Trip Rating: Easy to moderate with a steep slope to the creek. Team Lead: Lexie Stevenson.**

Trip 9 - *The Edge of Rocky Hollow: "Lucy's Trail"* - Jenny Richards and Martin McAllister, Shawnee Forest.

The Mackletree Bridal Trail runs up Rocky Hollow and connects with Shawnee State Park's CCC Overlook Trail. A long list of women naturalists have hiked Rocky Hollow and studied it as an example of the mixed mesophytic forest in Ohio. With the construction of Roosevelt Lake and Shawnee State Park in the 1930s, Rocky Hollow became easily accessible and popular with naturalists and, for decades, Dr. E. Lucy Braun led her students and other visitors up this hollow and around its ridges. Through her tours and publications, Dr. Braun raised awareness in scientific circles about the great biodiversity found in the hills of western Scioto and eastern Adams Counties, highlighting Shawnee Forest's status as an endangered "mixed mesophytic forest." While the typical North American forest is dominated by two or three species, the mixed mesophytic can cradle up to eighty different woody species in its canopy and understory. Among them are beech, yellow poplar, basswood, sugar maple, chestnut, sweet buckeye, red oak, white oak, yellow locust, birch, black cherry, cucumber tree, white ash, red maple, sour gum, black walnut, and various kinds of hickory. In 1970, at the age of 81, Braun accompanied National Park Service officials on a hike in Rocky Hollow, during which she argued for federal intervention to save the mixed mesophytic forest of Shawnee. **Trip Rating: Moderate.**

Trip 10 - *Buzzardroost Rock* - Tom and Penny Borgman, Adams County

The most popular of all trails in the [Edge of Appalachia Preserve System](#) is the one that leads to Buzzardroost Rock, which stands like a giant limestone monument far above the waters of Ohio Brush Creek. The panoramic scene from this hilltop has been called Ohio's most spectacular view. Buzzardroost Rock is a 4.4-mile, moderately difficult, round-trip trail. In addition to hiking, visitors can enjoy birding, wildlife watching, native plants, incredible biodiversity, and amazing views with an overlook of forested hills.

The 465-acre protected area is named for the turkey and black vultures (buzzards) frequently seen soaring above or roosting on the rock. This dolomitic outcrop towers 300 feet above the valley and provides habitat for several rare prairie plant species, including the plains Muhlenbergia grass, which is classified as an endangered species in Ohio. **Trip Rating: Moderate to Difficult.**

Trip 11- *Kamama Prairie* - John Howard & Deborah Evie, Adams County

Driving Distance from the lodge: About 40 minutes

Kamama Prairie is an Arc of Appalachia-owned preserve and is also recognized as a state nature preserve. The word "Kamama" is Cherokee for "Butterfly" and was named this because of the incredible butterfly diversity found there. The terrain isn't too difficult, but much of the trail system is out in the open and can get very hot on warm days. We hope to find some Indian Paintbrush still blooming, Pale Lobelia, Toadflax, Hoary Puccoon, Spider Milkweed, Purple Milkweed, Grape Honeysuckle, Climbing Milkweed, and many others. I don't think anyone would be disappointed with the butterflies there either! **Trip Rating: Easy to Moderate.**

Trip 12 - *Lower Twin Creek Bio-Blitz* - Judy Semroc & Ned Keller, Adams County

Driving Distance from the lodge: About 35 minutes

We will spend the day in the area near the Wilderness Area, located in the western portion of Shawnee State Forest. We will be attempting to document as many species as possible of all types of organisms. The focus will be on birds and botany but will also include whatever else we find. Don't be put off by the term "Wilderness" – that is the State Forest's term for a designated area with no roads. Although parts of that area are off-trail and difficult to access, we will be hiking the more accessible spots along Lower Twin Creek Road. **Trip Rating: Easy to Moderate. Team lead: Kathy McDonald.**