

Flora-Quest Wetland Workshop

■ Field Trip Descriptions



Friday, September 30, 2016: Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge and much more.

We offer trips to accommodate all levels of energy and expertise. Select one (1) from the list.

- Quest #1 **Sheldon Marsh** **Rick Gardner**
Ohio Heritage botanist will lead this trip to a Lake Erie barrier beach to see the only undisturbed beach remaining in the Sandusky bay. Interesting species include beach wormwood, inland sea rocket, seaside spurge, silverweed and brushy cinquefoil. Blanding's Turtles are also a possible species.
Level: Difficult – a faster moving trip! **Distance:** 2 – 3 miles **Limit:** 10
- Quest #2 **Big Swamp Preserve** **Dan / Becky Donaldson**
Explore one of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History's newest preserves – Big Swamp. Huron County's largest swamp boasts 400 acres of connected forest, high quality wooded buttonbush swamp, swamp forest wetland complex, rare plants and significant amphibian communities. Big Swamp is a State Designated Conservation Site and a Reference Wetland Complex.
Level: Moderate – walking in the field **Distance:** 2 miles — AM & PM **Limit:** 10
- Quest #3 **East Harbor State Park** **Jim McCormac / Chris Ashley**
East Harbor State Park is at the interface between the open waters of Lake Erie, and inland marshes. Beaches offer habitat for rare coastal species like Inland Sea-rocket, *Cakile edentula*, Seaside Spurge, *Chamaesyce polygonifolia*, and Purple Sand Grass, *Triplasis purpurea*. Shallow marsh and wet meadows support a host of interesting plants, including Caribbean Spikerush, *Eleocharis geniculata*, and Nodding Ladies'-tresses orchids, *Spiranthes cernua*. There should also be plenty of migrant birds around to spice things up.
Level: Moderate **Distance:** 2.5 miles **Limit:** 10

Quest #4 Meadowbrook Marsh & Lakeside Daisy Preserve Jason Larson / Todd Crail

Get the full sense of the flora of the peninsula, as this trip has both wet and dry. Meadowbrook Marsh is a very important inland estuary with aquatic emergent vegetation and fall color, including a large population of American Lotus. It also features a prairie and woodland with interesting limestone-loving flora, including Great Blue Lobelia, Fragrant Sumac and Wafer-ash. The Lakeside Daisy preserve is a unique Alvar habitat which features several of Ohio's botanical rarities and many remnant prairie species of the historic Marblehead Prairie, including Great Plains Ladies'-tresses, Nodding Wild Onion, Stiff Goldenrod and Spiked Blazing Star.

Level: Easy/Moderate: Difficult Trail **Distance:** 2.5 miles — AM & PM **Limit:** 10

Quest #5 Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge: Further Afield with Insects Larry Rosche / Judy Semroc

Our expert guides will be Judy Semroc and Larry Rosche the primary authors of the Dragonflies and Damselflies of North East Ohio. Not only are they experts on all thing odonate, they know the butterflies and plants as well. Ottawa has hosted the Ohio butterfly rarities, Dogface and Purplish Copper. We'll see what we can find!

Level: Moderate: lots of walking **Distance:** 3 miles **Limit:** 10

Quest #6 Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge: Botany Latin..... Jim Bissell / Fish & Wildlife Staff Justin Wolpert

Jim Bissell will be our in-house expert on wetland botany and wet prairie ecology in the Lake Erie Region. If you have not visited Ohio's only National Wildlife Refuge, this is a must see trip. You will get the full tour by bus or tram, as well as some time to explore the grounds and Visitor Center. Our system of Wildlife Refuges plays a critical role in protecting and conserving wildlife, both game and non-game species alike.

Level: Moderate: serious botany **Distance:** 1 mile —PM **Limit:** 10

Quest #7 Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge: Botany LiteMark Dilley / Fish & Wildlife Staff Justin Wolpert

Mark Dilley will be our in-house expert on wetland botany and wet prairie ecology in the Lake Erie Region. If you have not visited Ohio's only National Wildlife Refuge, this is a must see trip. You will get the full tour by bus or tram, as well as some time to explore the grounds and Visitor Center. Our system of Wildlife Refuges plays a critical role in protecting and conserving wildlife, both game and non-game species alike. Home to Bald Eagles and rare orchids, Ottawa NWR provides federal protection to the largest wetlands remaining in Ohio.

Level: Easy

Distance: Walk as little or much as your like.

Limit: 10

Quest #8 Castalia Resthaven Preserve Guy Denny / Jennifer Windus

Castalia Prairie at Resthaven Wildlife Area is one of the finest and largest remaining tallgrass prairie and fen complexes in Ohio. Guy Denny and Jennifer Windus are very familiar with this wildlife area and will visit several locations, besides the well-known Castalia Prairie to see both prairie and fen plant species. The wildlife area supports a large number of rare prairie and fen species, including the state endangered small white lady's-slipper. This trip will entail some walking, but it will be worth it to see the Fringed Gentian and other fall-blooming species in bloom.



Level: Moderate

Distance: Short Walks and time in the field

Limit: 10

Quest #9 Birding & Botany Jim Berry / Tanner Morris

Jim Berry will bring his knowledge from being past State Park naturalist and his avian career at the Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History in New York. Jim is well acquainted with the botany and the birds of this region. Our charming tour guide will pick the best locations throughout the Lake Erie region. Tanner Morris will round out the trip with his keen botanical knowledge. Bring binoculars along for the full experience.

Level: Moderate

Distance: Short Walks

Limit: 10

Evening Field Trips:

- **Friday** evening following the Ottawa National Wildlife Preserve Program
- **9:00pm**
- *If weather does not cooperate, we will offer indoor programs or other options.*

- 1) Night Skies:** Join us as we explore the night with Jason Larson, your guide, to the night skies. He brings the stories of our stars to life. Get a better understanding of the planets and stars, as well as their brightness and placement within the constellations. This session will be held only if the sky is clear. Location to be announced once determined.
- 2) Night Sounds:** Our guides will help us discover the sounds of the night. We have potential for insect songs or migratory bird calls. We will be developing this trip for best locations and will announce them during the evening program.
- 3) Mixer:** We'll provide a location for a relaxed evening get together. TBA

Ohio Ornithological Society's 'Rally for Rails' Conference

- **October 1 - 2, 2016:** please consider signing up for this as it's the same weekend and location!
- Great Speakers & Field Trips and more!
- Registration Form and Trip Descriptions: www.ohiobirds.org