

Flora-Quest is All Wet in 2016

Swamp, marsh and bog are seldom epithets for locations considered travel worthy. However, there are a myriad of interesting and little-known plants in these habitats. Wetlands provide important filtering eco-services to our state's water, not unlike the way kidneys function in a human body. Much of that filtration is provided by emergent wetland flora, grasses and those little-known aquatic plants. Flora-Quest is bringing the botanical experts to Lake Erie to provide a crash course workshop on "Wetlands."

Lakeside, Ohio will be the hub for this adventure to be held Friday, September 30, 2016. Featured speakers will include experts Jim McCormac from Ohio Division of Wildlife and Mark Dilley of M.A.D. Scientists. They will help us learn some favorite wetland species and better understand the biological richness of life in our wetlands.

Field trips to botanical hot-spots and general flora tours of local wetlands are available. Our forays are varied to meet every level of interest and ability. Whether you are hoping for those gorgeous Fringed Gentians and Nodding Ladies'-tresses orchids, or rarities like Inland Sea-rocket our guides know the way. Featured locations will include Meadowbrook Marsh, Lakeside Daisy Preserve, Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, East Harbor State Park, and trips further afield for rarities at Sheldon Marsh or Castalia Rest Haven Wildlife Area.

Evening offerings will be a friendly meal, loads of comradery and special guest speaker, Jason Lewis. As Manager at the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, Jason will help us understand the importance of Ohio's only National Wildlife Refuge and the conservation and economic benefits it provides to us.

For those interested in extending the fun to a second day, Ohio Ornithological Society will be hosting their "Rally for Rails" on Saturday Oct 1st. This not-to-be-missed event will bring in bird experts from across Ohio and beyond to peak into the secretive lives of these wetland specific birds.

- Registration for the **Flora-Quest Wetland Workshop**: www.flora-quest.com
- Registration for the **OOS Rally for Rails & Annual Banquet**: www.ohiobirds.org



Ohio's only National Wildlife Refuge is located near Oak Harbor Ohio. Ottawa N.W.R. is home to everything from orchids to orioles and protects the largest remaining wetland complex in Ohio.