

**KENTUCKY SOCIETY OF NATURAL HISTORY
ANNUAL SPRING CONFERENCE
SHAWNEE STATE PARK RESORT, FRIENDSHIP, OHIO
APRIL 22 - 25, 2010**

- ü ü **Shawnee is located within the Eastern Time Zone**
- ü ü **All drive times are estimated and for one way, starting from Shawnee Lodge.**

Field Trip Ratings:

- Easy: Hiking short distances usually on trails with little slope.
Moderate: Generally easy with a comfortable pace. Participants must be able to negotiate occasional steep slope and/or rough trail.
Strenuous: More endurance required to negotiate longer stretches of steep slopes, sections of rough and/or no trail.

*** Be careful on all of the field trips and watch your step. Watch out for venomous snakes and poison ivy. Be safe and have a great spring Conference.

Thursday, April 22, 2010

5:30 **Gather in the lobby of Lodge to car pool/caravan to Eulett Center**

6:00 **Dinner at the Eulett Center on the Edge of Appalachia Preserve**

Join us for an informal and relaxed evening at the heart of this amazing 13,000 acre preserve. The Edge of Appalachia is co-owned and managed by the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History and the Ohio Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. The Eulett Center is a multi-purpose meeting, educational, and research facility. Dinner will consist of pulled pork BBQ and all the “fixins”, catered by the Ohio Valley Career and Technical Center Culinary Program (Becky Foster, Instructor).

7:30 **Evening Presentation – “The Edge of Appalachia Preserve System”**

Chris Bedel- Preserve Director, Cincinnati Museum Center

Friday, April 23, 2010

9:00 – 3:00 **Full Day Trip to The Great Serpent Mound**

This full day trip will make start off with a drive north through the heart of the Shawnee State Forest. We will then head west into Adams County to visit one of the most famous prehistoric effigy mounds in existence. Nearly a quarter of a mile long, Serpent Mound apparently represents an uncoiling serpent. The mound and nearby burial mounds are associated with the Adena and Fort Ancient Cultures and potentially date back to 800BC. The park has several trails that are lined with a beautiful spring wildflower display. After our visit to Serpent Mound we will work our way back to Shawnee, stopping at other points of interest that could include some nature preserves and Adam’s county’s Amish community.

Rating: Easy

Trip Leader: Jeff Foster

1:00 – 5:00 **Auto Tour of Shawnee State Forest**

Shawnee State Forest and the State Park it encircles is one of Ohio's greatest treasures. A magnificent 65,000 acres in size, Shawnee is not only the largest and least fragmented of Ohio's state forests, it has the steepest hills and the richest flora. Because of its southernmost position in Ohio and its proximity to the Ohio River, Shawnee is a botanical paradise, boasting many species found nowhere else in the state. Car travel to hotspots will ensure that this tour will obtain a large number of blooming species including Bird's-Foot Violet, Vernal Iris, and Spotted Mandarin.

Rating – easy

Trip Leader – Jenny Richards

5:00 **Dinner**

6:00 – 7:30

Harry Knighton Nature Trail Hike (open to public)

Named after world renowned mycologist, Harry Knighton, this 2.5 mile trail in Shawnee State Park reveals many marvels. Starting off in the Campground near Roosevelt Lake and ending along the shore of Turkey Creek Lake on the lodge road, hikers will enjoy a mature mixed mesophytic forest with diverse topography. Numerous tree species including the rare Umbrella Magnolia with its gargantuan leaves, Canada Hemlocks with its fragile needles and an old stand of white pines planted by the CCC workers in the early 1900's are just a few. Stunning flowers such as Yellow Lady-slippers, Showy Orchis, and Nodding Mandarins color the ground while the plethora of singing migrating warblers fill the air and treetops. Meet at the State Park Campgrounds Amphitheater.

Drive Time – 5 minutes

Rating – easy

Trip Leader – Jenny Richards

8:00 **Evening Program:**

Welcome and Introductions – Jeff Foster, Vice President KSNH

Introduction to Shawnee – Jenny Richards, Park Naturalist

Welcome to Adams County Area – Tom Cross, Adams County Travel & Tourism

Children's Program Topics – Daniel Foster

Photography Program Topic – Scenic Pictures of Spring – Susan Wilson

Featured Presentation – **“In the Footsteps of E. Lucy Braun: Re- Establishing Braun's Agave Ridge Transect from 1927”** - Martin McAllister, Southern Ohio Regional Preserve Manager, ODNR

The interesting story of how the Ohio Department of Natural Resources was able to locate, re-establish and monitor Lucy's transect from 1927. This transect was one of three published in her “Vegetation of the Mineral Springs Region” that showed the link between limestone soils and prairie openings. Ironically, it also shows where Lucy herself was wrong about the management of such areas.

Explanation of Saturday's Field Trips – Jeff Foster &/or leaders

Saturday, April 24, 2010

7:00 **Early Morning Bird Watching Walk**

Gather with fellow members in the lobby of the lodge then enjoy a casual walk around the lodge and the along the Lampblack Nature Trail.

Morning Field Trips

8:30 –12:00 **Davis Memorial & Shoemaker State Nature Preserves**

This trip will head west from Shawnee and focus on two small nature preserves that straddle the very edge of two physiographic regions - the Unglaciaded Appalachian Plateau and the Bluegrass Region. Diverse flora, karst topography and easy hiking will make this excursion an enjoyable morning in one of the most ecologically diverse areas in southern Ohio. Many rare and beautiful plants are found in these preserves, including Walter's Violet, Sullivantia, and Yellow Lady Slipper Orchids. The Davis Memorial area was explored and researched by world renown botanist E. Lucy Braun.

Drive Time – 45 minutes

Rating – easy

Trip Leader – Martin McAllister

8:30–12:00 Tiffin Cliffs (Edge of Appalachia Preserve)

Tiffin Cliff's boast an outstanding spring wildflower display amidst a backdrop of dolomite cliffs covered with Sullivantia and wild columbine. Large slump blocks covered with alum root and miterwort dot this trail-less area. Participants should come prepared for uneven footing and a few spicebush in their faces. Trilliums, mayapple, corydalis and dwarf larkspur abound along with a great diversity of tree species. This area is accessed by a rough road that runs through the area. Carpooling in high clearance vehicles is a necessity. The trip will assemble in the lodge lobby and then carpool to the Eulett Center.

Drive Time – 30 - 40 minutes

Rating – moderate

Trip Leader – Chris Bedel

8:30 –12:00 Abner Hollow Preserve (EOA Preserve)

This hollow was frequented by E. Lucy Braun in her studies of Adams County, and where she told of moonshiners asking her to change her direction of travel in the hollow. The 2.5 mile hike is on rough trail with displays of spring flowers and small prairie openings. Nearly all of the preserve's six rock strata are present with major floristic changes between dolomite and acidic shale. Good tree diversity and large slump blocks with spring flowers are highlights. Rarities include green salamanders (*Aneides aeneus*), wood rats (*Neotoma magister*), and nodding mandarin (*Prosartes maculata*).

Drive Time – 30-40 minutes

Rating – moderate

Trip Leader – TBA

12:00 – 1:00 Lunch

Afternoon Field Trips

1:00 – 5:00

Buzzard's Roost Rock Preserve (EOA Preserves)

This promontory point hike is legendary in Adams County and the preserve is registered as a National Natural Landmark with the USDA. With panoramic views into the Ohio Brush Creek Valley, this prairie clad monolith was brought to botanical fame by noted ecologist E. Lucy Braun and earlier by the first assistant state geologist in Ohio, John Louck. One of only two spots in the state for the rare Plains muhlenbergia grass (*Muhlenbergia cuspidate*), this three mile hike will try the legs and the heart of the unprepared. The trail traverses nearly all bedrock layers found on the Edge of Appalachia Preserve System and is open to public visitation. There may be some off trail exploration as part of this hike.

Drive Time – 30 minutes

Rating – moderate to strenuous
Trip Leader – Daniel Foster

1:00 – 5:00 **Vastine Run Historic Quarry**
This trip will be a hike deep into Vastine Run in Adams County, to reveal the old historic sandstone quarries that were active in the mid to late 1800's. The stone cut from these hills was used in the construction of the famous Roebling Suspension Bridge in Cincinnati, built in 1866. The stone was transported by a tram to the Ohio River, where it was loaded onto barges and floated to Cincinnati. Now deep within Ohio's only designated "wilderness area", Vastine Run combines history, geology, and wilderness beauty. The site also has potential for discovery of herps (including the state endangered Timber Rattlesnake) and wild flowers.
Drive Time – 20 minutes
Rating – moderate
Trip Leader – Tom Cross

1:00 – 5:00 **Cedar Falls Preserve (EOA Preserve)**
Explore the beautiful boulder-strewn gorge of Cedar Run to view Adams County's iconic Cedar Falls and the globally threatened *White Cedar Bluff Woodland* plant community. Plant diversity is high at The Nature Conservancy's Cedar Falls Preserve with old field, woods and shaded streamside habitats. Rock dwelling ferns are common on slump blocks, including the Ohio rare wall rue, and slopes of dwarf crested iris grace the hills overlooking the falls. The area is also rich in history being one of three sites for iron ore furnaces in the county.
Drive Time – 30-40 minutes
Rating – moderate
Trip Leader – Mark Zloba

5:00 **Dinner**

7:30 **Evening Program**

Welcome and Introductions – Jeff Foster

Review of Saturday Field Trips

Children's Program Awards – Daniel Foster

Student Presentation – "Reproductive and spatial ecology of an ephemeral pond-breeding amphibian community" - Michelle Guidugli, Eastern Kentucky University

Featured Presentation – "Orchids of Southern Ohio"- John Howard, local naturalist.

Photography Competition & Awards – Susan Wilson

Business Meeting & General Topics – Open to All

Door Prizes

Sunday, April 25, 2010

7:00 **Board Meeting – All board members are encouraged to attend**

Morning Field Trips

9:00 –12:00 Raven Rock State Nature Preserve

Access to this site normally requires a written permit from the Ohio Division of Natural Areas and Preserves. It provides an outstanding vista of the Ohio River with over 14 miles of the river visible from a single point, providing a good location for discussing the effects of the Pleistocene on the rivers of southern Ohio.

Drive Time – 15 minutes

Rating – strenuous

Trip Leader – Martin McAllister

9:00 –12:00 Sandy Springs Cem. / Ohio River Bluffs Preserve

Start your drive home with a leisurely drive along the Ohio River. We will stop at the Sandy Springs Cemetery to view the rare Eastern Prickly-pear Cactus (*Opuntia humifusa*). Proceeding on downriver we will stop at one of southern Ohio's most spectacular wildflower blooms, the Ohio River Bluff's Preserve. A sea of blue and purple graces the entire hillside as Eastern Bluebells, dwarf larkspur, and wild hyacinth are abundant. We will hike to the top of the ridge, for a view of the Manchester Islands. After the hike, you may choose to stop for lunch at Moyer's Winery before your trip home.

Rating – easy to moderate

Trip Leader – Jeff Foster