Field trips will depart from the Bergamo Center on Sunday at 9:00 a.m. Printed directions showing the destination GPS coordinates, directions and drive time from Bergamo will be available Saturday evening and Sunday morning. Participants may elect to depart from Bergamo or meet at the trip destination. Participants will NOT return to Bergamo and should consider how best to drive home from the field trip site. **Remember to fill your water bottle! PLEASE do not change field trips without consulting with the field trip team!**

Ratings:
- **Rating 1**: easy walking on mostly even surface or boardwalk
- **Rating 2**: uneven ground, can be muddy or slippery
- **Rating 3**: Rough terrain and/or hills, uneven walking surfaces

**Trip #1 Cincinnati Zoo Bowyer Farm**

In 1995, Bowyer Farm was willed to the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden with the proviso that it be used to further the conservation & education mission of the zoo in a local context. Since then, the property has grown to 600+ acres including a restoration area of 54 acres, 36 acres of wetland, and 18 acres of prairie. Since the restoration of the wetland, more than 200 species of birds have been documented on the property, with bald eagles becoming a frequent occurrence. A major component of the farm is the Native Plant Program, which grows thousands of native plants each year. These plants are then used for landscaping at the zoo’s main campus, planted out into the restoration projects, or sold at annual native plant sales. There is a paved parking area, an ADA parking area, shaded shelter, gravel paths and a restroom on the premises. The trails are flat, unpaved, and filled with irregularities. **Recommended hiking poles.** You will experience both a hike through the property to view native plants, shrubs, and trees, along with a tour of the propagation houses and demonstration gardens. **Rating 2** due to unpaved trails

Limit 30 participants (2 groups of 15)

**Trip #2 Gallagher Fen State Nature Preserve**

This 213-acre area is located east of Springfield and is managed by the ODNR Division of Natural Areas and Preserves. It has a variety of habitats including stream, savanna, marlstone meadow, oak-hickory woodland and boasts one of the **best prairie fens** in Ohio. There are a wide variety of species such as Side-oats Grama, Cut-leaf Prairie Dock, Round-leaved Sundew, Nodding Wild Onion, and Kalm’s Lobelia. **Rating 3**- This site has a boardwalk but there are steep steps. **Limit 15 participants**

**Trip #3 Yellow Springs Native Plant Garden Tour**

Site #1) The first garden is designed by a local, international award-winning landscaper. She will personally introduce you to the garden and explain the elements of design she uses to create a more formal look with native plants, shrubs, and trees while allowing the natural beauty of the plants to become her palette. Site #2.) The second garden is a pollinator garden with a large variety of native trees, flowers, and shrubs. The property also has a meadow where overflow flowers are planted and blooms are constant throughout the season. You will “hear” the garden before you see it because of the number of pollinators. Seeing the established native plant garden will give you an idea of how tall the plants bloom and she will also talk about what plants need more care and which ones that need to be kept under control. **Rating 1** Limit 15 participants

**Trip #4 Travertine Fen State Nature Preserve**

Located on the northern outskirts of the village of Spring Valley, OH, this 21.8-acre State Nature Preserve is managed by Greene County Parks & Trails and is open by permit only. This remnant prairie fen has recently undergone an extensive removal of invasive plants to maintain this area as a fen. We will be looking for plants expected to be found in an Ohio fen while keeping an eye out for some less frequently found ones such as Sundews, Orchids, Kalm’s Lobelia, Lesser Fringed Gentian, False Gromwell, Fen Indian Plantain, Midwest Spikemoss, and hopefully, some new species for the state rare plant list. Some of Ohio’s endangered animals we will look for include the Spotted Turtle, Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake, Elfin Skimmer Dragonflies, and Metalmark butterflies. **Rating 3**- There are no improved trails, so we will be walking over uneven ground. However, just the walk on the bike trail has so many flowers to see, if you decide you can’t make the trip into the fen you won’t be disappointed. A trekking pole is a good idea. **Limit 15 participants**
Trip #5 Cedar Bog State Nature Preserve
Located south of the city of Urbana, this diverse 427-acre site is really a calcareous fen with prairie, woodland and wetland species. One can take an easy stroll along the boardwalk and view many rare plants, including Round-leaved Sundew, Grass Pink Orchid, Kalm’s Lobelia and Horned Bladderwort. Cedar Bog is also home to a few of Ohio’s endangered animals such as the Spotted Turtle, Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake, and Elfin Skimmer dragonflies.
Rating 1 - This site has a boardwalk
Limit 15 participants

Trip #6 Clifton Gorge State Nature Preserve
This 268-acre preserve protects one of the most spectacular dolomite and limestone gorges in the state. Registered as a National Natural Landmark in 1968, Clifton Gorge encompasses a 2-mile stretch of the Little Miami State and National Scenic River, just east of John Bryan State Park. Geologically, it is an outstanding example of interglacial and post-glacial canyon cutting. At one point, the river funnels through a deep, narrow channel, which was apparently formed by the enlarging and connecting of a series of potholes in the resistant Silurian dolomite bedrock. In other sections of the gorge, cliff overhangs have broken off forming massive slump blocks scattered along the valley floor. The shaded, north-facing slopes provide a cool, moist environment for northern species including hemlock, red baneberry, Canada yew, Arbor-Vitae and Mountain Maple. This is one of the most spectacular sites in the state for viewing spring wildflowers including the rare snow trillium. Restrooms are available at this location; 4 miles of hiking trails. Food is available in the nearby villages of Clifton and Yellow Springs.
Rating 3- Some uneven ground and steep trails
Limit 15 participants

Trip #7 Huffman Prairie
Huffman Prairie is a 109-acre remnant of a much larger prairie and fen complex that once covered much of what is now Wright Patterson Air Force Base. The prairie contains outstanding grassland bird and insect populations, including a moth species found nowhere else. Summer displays of prairie wildflowers and tall grasses are impressive. Because of damage done to the site from previous land uses, restoration activities have been a focus of the base and Five Rivers MetroParks since 1988. The site is adjacent to the world’s first airport, the Huffman prairie flying field, a component of the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Park.
Rating 2 due to level but unpaved trail
Limit 30 participants (2 groups of 15)

Trip #8 Great Miami Mitigation Bank
This 360-acre Five Rivers MetroParks property is little known, but offers a treasure trove of biological diversity, especially in mid-summer. Easy hiking via mowed trails over mostly-flat terrain provides access to grasslands dominated by native prairie species, interspersed with wetlands. This habitat diversity fosters scores of interesting plant species and attracts myriad beneficial insects. The site is a butterfly and dragonfly magnet, and attendees can expect to rack up a good Lepidoptera and Odonata list. Numerous Wild Senna plants can attract many Cloudless Sulphurs, and southern immigrants like Little Sulphur can be numerous. Interesting birding is a bonus, as Blue Grosbeak, Dickcissel, Henslow’s Sparrow and other notables nest most years. The Mitigation Bank serves as a fascinating and easily accessible land lab.
Rating 2-The access trail is a mowed path and may contain slippery spots and ruts.
Limit 15 participants

Trip #9 Cox Arboretum, Five Rivers MetroParks-New!
The Barbara Cox Center for Sustainable Horticulture (BCCSH) is a working production facility that uses sustainable methods to propagate native herbaceous and woody species for restoration in all the Five Rivers MetroParks. The horticulturist will showcase the BCCSH and several of the spectacular gardens including a new pollinator habitat restoration area to naturally attract an array of butterflies, moths, hummingbirds, and bees. If you are up for it, you won’t want to miss the 81-step climb up the Tree Tower which rises 65 feet above the conifer collection, and provides breathtaking panoramic views of the Arboretum grounds and the Miami Valley.
Rating 1 (exception of the Tree Tower)
Limit 15 participants
Trip #10: Beavercreek Native Habitat Tour
We will first visit a private property whose owners have incorporated many native plants and shrubs into their residential landscape. We will then drive a short distance to the Beaver Creek Wetlands Association’s (BCWA) Monarch Waystation and a native plant garden recently planted by the Dayton Area Wild Ones in collaboration with the City of Beavercreek. These two plantings are directly across a heavily travelled bike path from each other and should be in full summer bloom. The DAWO planting features many of the same species as BCWA’s wildscape, but in a more formal arrangement. The goal of both plantings is to inspire users of the bike path to incorporate native plants into their own home gardens. Optional: Visiting two small remnant prairies a short walk west on the bike path.
Rating 1
Limit 15 participants

Trip #11 Pearl’s Fen – New!
Pearl’s Fen is a small remnant wetland east of Fairborn acquired by Greene County Parks & Trails and opened to the public in 2020. It is unique in that it is a mound fen, formed by centuries of peat formation. Pearl’s Run is formed from springs and seeps between two mound fens, becoming the headwaters of the Beaver Creek and its nearly 12-mile long corridor of wetlands. The fen supports a rich diversity of plant and animal life, including Fringed Gentian, Ohio Goldenrod, and Rattlesnake Root. There is a 700’ boardwalk loop through the fen and past the springs, where you can observe groundwater “boils” and marl formation. There is also a 0.7 mile trail through wetlands and upland woods, connecting with the adjacent Oakes Quarry Park.
Rating 1 for boardwalk
Rating 2 for woodland trail due to uneven ground
Limit 15 participants

Trip #12 Cowan Lake State Park – paddling trip to view American lotus – NEW!
This 1775-acre state park offers a peaceful lake setting with scenic inlets and a wooded shoreline. American lotus, a native aquatic plant with large fragrant yellow flowers and floating leaves up to 3 feet in diameter, is abundant in the lake’s shallow areas. The park naturalist will lead participants on an easy paddling trip to a nearby American Lotus patch. You will be on the water for about 1 hour; it takes about 15 minutes to paddle to the lotus patch, about 30 minutes for the program once there, then another 15 minutes to paddle back. All equipment will be provided. Cowan Lake State Park volunteers will be on hand to assist inexperienced paddlers. Dress appropriately, including shoes that can get wet; bring water, and use insect repellent and sunblock as needed. Afterward, participants may visit the Nature Center and view the new native plant gardens. In event of a thunderstorm, the paddling trip will be cancelled; the naturalist will instead provide an interpretive presentation about the American lotus in the Nature Center.
Rating - easy paddling trip via canoe or kayak
Limit 12 participants