



## On Your Own: Self-guided trips to places we like to visit

*Please note that some sites we visited in Adams / Scioto on Saturday may have been accessed by permit only. Please ask someone on the conference team before visiting a site that is not listed here.*

### **Adams Lake Prairie: Adams County**

TRIP RATING: EASY

This sparsely vegetated xeric, or dry, prairie is situated on a highly eroded slope of calcareous Estill Shale surrounded by a second-growth oak-hickory woodland. Red cedar, post oak and blackjack oak occur sporadically in the prairie opening. Prairie grasses are sparse but Adams Lake Prairie supports diverse prairie forbs including a stand of prairie dock. Some of the interesting plants found growing at this cedar barren prairie include spider milkweed, shooting-star, green milkweed, Carolina buckthorn, American aloe, slender blazing-star and large summer bluets. Along the trail you will easily spot the mounds of the Allegheny Mound Ant, which have a unique relationship with the Edward's Hairstreak Butterfly by tending to their larvae in early summer. Easy walking. <https://ohiodnr.gov/wps/portal/gov/odnr/go-and-do/plan-a-visit/find-a-property/adams-lake-prairie-state-nature-preserve>

### **Harry Knighton Trail: Shawnee State Park Scioto County**

TRIP RATING: EASY

Shawnee State Park's Harry Knighton Trail features two miles of low-impact terrain that is high in natural beauty, representing a mature mixed mesophytic forest. The trail weaves through gentle hills in the dense, shaded forest near Turkey Creek Lake. Harry Knighton, internationally known for his study of fungi, helped found the North American Mycological Association in 1959 and the Shawnee Nature Club in 1961. Numerous tree species including the rare Umbrella Magnolia with its giant leaves, the Eastern hemlock and an old stand of white pines planted by the CCC workers in the 1930s are just a few of the trail's notable tree species. <http://www.sciotohistorical.org/items/show/75>

### **Buzzardroost Rock Trail: Adams County**

TRIP RATING: MODERATELY DIFFICULT

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. 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 a number of rare prairie plant species, including the plains muhlenbergia grass, which is classified as an endangered species in Ohio. Buzzardroost Rock trail is not a loop, and the round-trip hike of 2.2 miles is considered moderately difficult, with steep grades. Preserve naturalists suggest that hikers plan to spend a minimum of two to three hours for the round trip, allowing time to observe the natural features along the way and enjoy the scenic view from the top of the rock.

### **Davis Memorial State Nature Preserve: Adams County**

TRIP RATING: EASY TO MODERATE

Geologic features include excellent Silurian dolomite cliffs. Both Greenfield dolomite and Peebles dolomite are exposed. Ohio black shale occurs on the tops of the knobs. An impressive fault, causing vertical displacement of 30 feet, exposes adjacent cliffs of Greenfield and Peebles dolomite.

The preserve's dolomite cliffs provide habitat for white cedar and sullivantia. American aloe, dwarf hawthorn, hairy wing-stem, side-oats gramma grass and purple coneflower are found in the prairie openings. Other significant species include tall larkspur, limestone Adder's-tongue fern, narrow-leaved bluecurls and Walter's violet. **Directions:** Located in Adams County south of State Rte 32. From the junction of State Rte 32 and State Rte 41 south of Peebles, follow State Rte 32 approximately 1.2 miles east to Steam Furnace Rd. Proceed south on Steam Furnace Rd .3 mile to Davis Memorial Rd. Go left (east) on Davis Memorial Rd for 2.8 miles until reaching the parking lot on the right.

<https://ohiodnr.gov/wps/portal/gov/odnr/go-and-do/plan-a-visit/find-a-property/davis-memorial-state-nature-preserve>

### **George Rieveschl Jr. Creek's Bend Overlook & Joan Portman Trail/Buckeye Trail Adams County**

TRIP RATING: MODERATE

The Dr. George Rieveschl Jr. Creek's Bend Overlook is the first stop in exploring the 17,000-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. This visitors' center features canoe/kayak access to Ohio Brush Creek as well as two trails: the brief Prairie Garden Trail and the 1.6-mile, round-trip, Joan Jones Portman Trail, which leads through prairie openings to a small rock promontory for a view of the adjacent forested valley. Visitors are also invited to take time to enjoy the Ohio Brush Creek overlook, and to peruse the interpretive signage, which describes the preserve's natural history and offers travelers information about other points of interest within the preserve to visit. Directions: From Shawnee, Go west onto State Route 125. Travel west on SR 125 for about 6 miles. Turn left onto Waggoner Riffle Road and continue for about 2 miles to Dr. George Rieveschl Jr. Creek's Bend Overlook. Parking area is located on the behind the wooden fence.

### **Chaparral Prairie State Nature Preserve: Adams County**

TRIP RATING: EASY TO MODERATE

This is an outstanding xeric limestone prairie with post and blackjack oak. It supports the most extensive population of rattlesnake-master in the state. Prairie dock and spiked blazing-star are also unusually abundant at this site. Eleven state-listed species have been recorded at the preserve including spider milkweed, prairie false indigo, pink milkwort and American Bluehearts. Little bluestem is the dominant prairie grass. Several rare Lepidoptera, such as Edward's hairstreak butterfly, have been observed. <https://ohiodnr.gov/wps/portal/gov/odnr/go-and-do/plan-a-visit/find-a-property/chaparral-prairie-state-nature-preserve>

### **Cedar Falls Trail – The Helen C. Black Trail: Adams County**

TRIP RATING: EASY TO MODERATE

The 1.5-mile trail winds along a deep gorge flanked by 70-foot-high cliffs and terminates at a vista of Cedar Falls, a stunning sight in the spring when the water flowing through the gorge is highest. In autumn, the flow slows to a trickle, except following heavy rains. Before the trail's construction, the falls had remained relatively unknown because they were difficult to reach and required a special access permit. The Conservancy funded the new, marked trail, parking area, and interpretive signage to share the site's history and serve as a draw for ecotourism in the county.