**On-Your-Own Field Trips**

**Thanks to Barbara Andreas, Ray Showman, and Chris Bedel.**

If an organized field trip does not fit your schedule, or if you would rather be on your own at your own pace, or you would like to go out in the field on Sunday morning, then here are some suggestions of places to visit near the Lodge.

Shawnee State Forest, also called “the little Smokies of Ohio” is Ohio’s largest state forest, with over 63,000 acres. Mixed oak forests dominate the ridges and the dry south- and west-facing slopes, while mixed mesophytic forests are found on the moister east- and north-facing slopes. Stream terraces contain a mixture of tree species including sweet gum, black walnut, red maple, tulip tree and sycamore.

Habitat for lichens and bryophytes is fairly uniform in the Shawnee State Park and Forest, and the sites listed below are typical of what is found throughout the area.

This part of Ohio is home to three tick species, American dog tick (also called wood tick), Lone Star tick and Deer tick. All these species can carry serious diseases. The good news is that according to experts, they must be attached and feeding for one day before transfer of disease can occur. But play it safe and use a deet repellant on your pants and socks. Or better yet, use field clothes that have been treated with permethrin. This part of Ohio is also home to both copperheads and rattlesnakes. They are not commonly seen, but be aware of where you place your hands and feet.

We have permission to collect in Shawnee State Forest, Shawnee State Park and Edge of Appalachia Preserve. Carry your permits with you. Please collect only small amounts and collect where others will not see a trace, preferably slightly off-trail.

**Shawnee Lodge Parking lot (Shawnee State Park)**

The parking lot at Shawnee Lodge contains a number of trees, primarily sugar maple, but there are mixed hardwoods along the trails surrounding the lodge. The trees near the parking lot support corticolous species typical of both lichens and bryophytes for southern Ohio. *Pyxine subcinerea* is abundant and notable because it fluoresces bright orange under UV light. This area has a bryophyte flora typical of dry sites and a fair sampling can be found on soil and tree bases. Members of the genera *Orthotrichum* and *Frullania* are abundant.

**Wolfden Lake (Shawnee State Park)**

From the Lodge, drive down to State Rt. 125 and turn left, drive 1.5 miles, turn right onto Forest Road 25 and it is a short drive to park near Wolfden Lake. Look on fallen limbs for lichens from the tree canopy. Along the stream feeding the lake, crustose lichens are abundant on the rocks and the area also contains a representative moss and liverwort flora for this habitat in southern Ohio. The meadow spikemoss, *Selaginella apoda*, is common in the mowed area with scattered trees to the right of the road as you pull into the parking area.

**Turkey Creek Lake Boat Ramp (Shawnee State Park)**

From the lodge, drive down to State Rt. 125, turn right and drive 0.8 miles to the boat launch ramp on the right. There is plenty of parking and a restroom. This site contains large trees, mainly white oaks, in an open, mowed area. Look for *Physcia americana* and *Heterodermia species,* both of which prefer the bark of white oaks in this part of Ohio.

If you are after bryophytes, there is a trail (Harry Knighton Trail?) that starts directly across from the entrance road. The east branch of the Day Hike Trail parallels Williamson Hollow and passes through a mesic hardwood forest and the west branch of the trail passes through typical Appalachian oak-hickory forest. The entire circular trail is about 4 miles if you have the time and energy.

**Horse Heaven Section of The Buckeye Trail (In Edge of Appalachia Preserve)**

*Difficulty:* Moderate.

*Length:* Self-determined. The entire Buckeye Trail through the preserve is 15 miles. However, the Horse Heaven section is midway along the entire route and offers the possibility of hiking either east or west on the trail for long as you like, then back to the parking lot.

*Parking:* There is a small parking area off of Black’s Run Road for 6 cars.

The Buckeye Trail circumnavigates the entire state with a 15-mile section of it crossing the preserve heading east over to Shawnee State Forest. The Horse Heaven section offers hikers the opportunity to walk east or west from the Black’s Run parking area. Heading east takes you past the head of the Horse Heaven Hollow, so named for the site where a few early farmers dumped their deceased equines.