Field trips will depart from Bergamo at 8:45 am prompt! Participants may elect to drive themselves from Bergamo, using the GPS address or the printed directions provided by the trip leaders, or follow the trip leaders to the site from Bergamo. The participants will NOT return to Bergamo and should consider how best to drive home from the field trip site. Please remember to fill your water bottle! PLEASE do not change field trips without consulting field trip chair Debi Wolterman. Changes to the trip attendee lists cause delays when departing on Sunday.

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 EcOhio Wetlands & Meadows
This nearly 530-acre site in Warren County (S. of Dayton) offers a 24-acre reclaimed wetland, farming operations to provide food for the zoo animals, established honey bee hives, and an abundance of birds and other wildlife that has moved in or that stops over during their migration. Over 200 different native plant species are propagated on-site in the hoop houses, some of which will be available for sale at Bergamo during the conference. There is paved parking area, an ADA parking area, shaded shelter, and a restroom on the premises. The area around the propagation houses is flat and covered in gravel. The trails are flat, unpaved, and filled with irregularities. Recommend 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, divided into 2 groups of 15 each

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: Tour of Native Plant Gardens
These gardens are in Yellow Springs. 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. The owner can also talk about honey bee plants to use during the “dearth” in late summer. 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 need to be controlled. 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 and 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: Caesar Creek Lake Prairies
Located off I-71 near Waynesville Ohio, Caesar Creek Lake boasts multiple restored prairies with outstanding displays of Ohio native wildflowers. For over 30 years, Caesar Creek Lake has been an innovator, educational provider, and seed source for native prairie restoration throughout the region. We will be visiting two of the prairies located near each other, with total walking distance of ~ 2 miles on flat ground. The tour will start at the Visitor Center with a short presentation on how the prairies were restored, maintained, and expanded. The tour will end with a lunch at the classroom located in the Visitor Center. **Rating is 1-2** - due to the uneven, unpaved trails that traverse the prairies. Views are excellent from the main paved road if you choose not to enter the prairies. Limit 15 participants.

Trip #7: Siebenthaler Fen
Siebenthaler Fen is located 3 miles east of Beavercreek and is managed by ODNR Division of Wildlife. Visit the boardwalk and discover an area that has over 470 plant species. Turtlehead, Queen-of-the-Prairie, Swamp Milkweed, Kalm’s Lobelia, Cardinal Flower, and Blue-leaved Willow are a few of the plant species located here. Spotted Turtle, Massasauga Rattlesnake, Baltimore Checkerspot Butterfly, Least Bittern, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Willow Flycatcher call this area home. **Rating 2**-There is a boardwalk at this site, but there are possible slippery spots. Limit 15 participants.

Trip #8: 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 #9 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, divided into two groups of 15 each.
Trip #10: Great Miami Mitigation Bank, Five Rivers MetroParks - New!
This 360-acre 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 20 participants.

Trip #11: Aullwood Gardens, Five Rivers MetroPark - New!
To many, Marie Aull was the godmother of the environmental movement in southwestern Ohio. As both a conservationist and gardener, she loved Dayton and its natural beauty, and she devoted her life to preserving it. Visitors to her former country garden retreat can enjoy the collection of wildflowers, beautiful gardens and natural areas she and her husband, John, worked for years to curate. The diverse habitats of this intimate park along Wiles Creek make it a great place for nature study, discovering shade gardening, birding, relaxing and observing butterflies. Through the years, the Aulls interlaced wildflowers around their property. The prairie and the butterfly garden are best in July. This woodland garden and home date to 1907 and are on both the Ohio State and National Historic Registries.
Rating 2 - The site has some uneven terrain and short, but sometimes steep inclines. Limit 12 participants.

Trip #12: Cox Arboretum, Five Rivers MetroPark - New!
The Barbara Cox Center for Sustainable Horticulture engages the community with opportunities for experiential learning about sustainability and horticulture to improve quality of life and to effect positive change in the world. This working facility showcases methods for growing plants critical for maintaining your MetroParks, from tree seeds to prairie plants. Visit the specialty gardens at Cox Arboretum and learn to make sustainable plant choices. From the stonewall perennials to the rock and water gardens, there is inspiration for every gardener to discover. The Butterfly House features native pollinator plants that naturally attract an array of butterflies and moths. Take note of the various host plant species in the house to create your own butterfly garden at home! If you are up for it, you won’t want to miss the 81-step climb up the park’s 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 13: Tour of native plant gardens and prairies in Beavercreek - New!
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 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