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2011 Michigan Botanical Club Spring Foray Field Trips

Difficulty Key:

- ◆ = Easy, possibly wheelchair accessible
- ◆ ◆ = Some trails, probably no mud or off trail, any off trail will be level ground, good footing
- ◆ ◆ ◆ = Trails, mud and/or off trail are likely occurrences, off trail will be uneven, slightly sloped terrain
- ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ = Expect any combination of off trails, mud and/or steep difficult slopes.
-  = Wheel chair accessible.

Session Times and Meeting Locations:

- All sessions meet in and depart from the Fernwood parking lot except the Tree Climbing Workshop which will meet at Sarett Nature.
- All-day sessions meet at 8:00 AM and return by 4:00 PM.
- Morning sessions meet at 8:00 AM and return by Noon.
- Afternoon sessions meet at 12:30 and return by 4:00 PM.

Saturday, May 28, 2011

Saturday All Day Sessions

- **Tree Climbing Workshop** with Dick Flowers ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ [more](#)
- **Russ Forest and Westrate Farms** with Bill Westrate ◆ ◆ [more](#)

Saturday Morning Sessions

- **Champion Tree Tour** with Andy Sawyer ◆ [more](#)
- **Trillium Ravine** with Ken Kirton ◆ ◆ [more](#)
- **Grand Mere State Park** with Todd Barkman ◆ ◆ ◆ [more](#)
- **Fernwood Botanical Garden** with Lynda Pelkey ◆ [more](#)

Saturday Afternoon Sessions


- **Champion Tree Tour** with Andy Sawyer ◆ [more](#)
- **Walking Ferns** with Dave Wendling ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ [more](#)
- **A Field Trip With Gerould Wilhelm** with Gerould Wilhelm ◆ ◆ [more](#)
- **Indian Bowl** with Kip Miller ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ [more](#)

Sunday, May 29, 2011

Sunday All Day Sessions

- **Tree Climbing Workshop** with Dick Flowers ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ [more](#)
- **Big Rock Valley/Ed Lowe Foundation** with Lynn Steill & Mike McCuistion ◆ [more](#)
- **Sebert Property and Bendix Woods** with Scott Namestnik ◆ ◆ [more](#)

Sunday Morning Sessions

- **Sarett Nature Center** with Chuck Nelson ◆ [more](#) 
- **Mud Lake Bog** with Pat Underwood ◆ [more](#)
- **Robinson's Preserve** with Anita Riess ◆ ◆ [more](#)

Sunday Afternoon Sessions

- **Andrews University Arboretum** with Stan Beikmann ◆ [more](#)
- **Warren Woods State Park** with Bill Burger ◆ ◆ [more](#)
- **Warren Dunes State Park** with Mike Latus ◆ ◆ [more](#)
- **Dowagiac Woods** with Paul Olexia and John Rippon ◆ ◆ [more](#)

2011 Foray Field Trip And Leader Details

Gerould Wilhelm

Dr. Gerould Wilhelm is a foremost botanist, research taxonomist, and educator. He received his Ph.D. in botany in 1984 at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale. His dissertation focused on the vascular flora of the Pensacola Region in Florida and southwestern Alabama. He co-authored, through years of collaboration with Floyd Swink, at the Morton Arboretum in Lisle, Illinois, the definitive flora "Plants of the Chicago Region." Currently, he is developing an expanded, illustrated "Flora of the Chicago Region," to include insects and other animals that have direct relationships with the 2,800 local plant species. He is also an authority on the lichens of the Chicago region.

Dr. Wilhelm is also noted for his development of the Floristic Quality Assessment (FQA) methodology, which has become widely adapted for use in 20 states and provinces: Colorado, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, Missouri, New Jersey, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, South Florida, Southern Ontario, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Virginia. His recent research effort on Timberhill Savanna has increased our understanding and awareness of the critical cultural relationships involved in the evolution of North American landscapes and ecosystems. He is an owner of Conservation Design Forum, the pioneer company in changing the water doctrine in the United States, and he is the director of research for

the Conservation Research Institute. (Bio courtesy of the Chicago Botanical Garden)

Sarett Nature Center with Chuck Nelson

Sarett Nature Center is located in Benton Township, a 30 minute drive from Fernwood. Sarett recently completed an addition to their main building that more than doubled the size of the main building and added several new features. Chuck Nelson will spend the first half of this field trip sharing a brief history of the nature center including design considerations for the new addition. Two key features will be focused on, the first will be the incorporation of teaching materials into the structure and finish of the building. As a result of these features, the building itself has become a teaching material. Chuck will also talk about the second key design feature: accessibility. Much thought was given to providing access to both the building and the outdoor spaces to folks with mobility limitations. The second half of this field trip will utilize these features to provide a naturalist-guided field trip on completely wheelchair friendly boardwalks. The highlight of this trip will be the wheelchair accessible Tree Top Tower which provides an impressive opportunity to experience the forest canopy from 70 feet above the forest floor.

Flora that we are likely to encounter on this trip include a walk through succession on a trail built through an area that was a strawberry field 40 years ago and now has become a young mesic forest. The trail then goes onto the Tree Top Tower and into the canopy of a 70 year old swamp forest. Seventy years ago this forest was a hay meadow of canary grass. Those who want to walk further through the Paw Paw River valley will be treated to something unique. This trail goes through a rich fen, and it is the only known trail that goes through the federally endangered Mitchell's Satyr habitat rich with Tussock sedge (*Carex stricta*) and Tamarack (*Larix laricina*). This butterfly is known to exist in only 14 areas of the world. The critically unique fen will be explored and explained by Sarett staff. Please note that the adult Mitchell Satyr butterfly lives as an adult for only two weeks in July so we don't expect to see it. As a bonus for this trip, as you are leaving the Sarett to head back to Fernwood you will pass by the site for the Tree Climbing Workshop and you are welcome to stop in and check it out.

Chuck Nelson

Chuck Nelson received his both his Bachelor's and Masters of Science Degrees from The University of Wisconsin. In February of 1971 Chuck and his wife Kathy moved to Southwest Michigan when Chuck was offered the Executive Director's position at Sarett Nature Center in Benton Township, Michigan, a position he is still serving in 40 years later. Chuck is a passionate and dynamic speaker and he has lead trips all over the world. He is also an avid birder with an vast life list. Chuck has also taught many extension classes for both Western Michigan University and Michigan State University.

Plant Collection Workshop with Josh Springer

Biological collections have been declining for several decades worldwide, while the concern for loss of biodiversity is on the rise. Without accurate and up-to-date biological collections, the most detailed and sophisticated analyses of biodiversity patterns are intrinsically flawed. Several recent publications have detailed the potential consequences of the decline in biological collections. With academic support for knowledge and research in taxonomy and systematics also waning, one powerful tool to reverse this trend is to educate amateur botanists and other naturalists about making biological collections.

Learn standard plant collecting techniques such as: selecting the right individual(s) (and the right plant parts!), pressing to show diagnostic characters, what information to record, and plant collecting ethics. With the pending publication of the revised Michigan Flora (see Saturday night program), gain the skills to contribute to the next era of plant collecting in Michigan! Limited to 10 attendees. Plant presses will be provided. Part indoor/ part outdoor.

Josh Springer

Josh Springer is a fourth year Plant Biology PhD candidate at Michigan State University studying the ecology and evolution of American chestnut, blight pathogen, virus interaction. Initially trained as a plant systematist during his undergraduate years, he has collected hundreds of plant specimens throughout Michigan and has recently published "A checklist of vascular plants in the Lapeer State Game Area" in the Michigan Botanist. Josh's experience with all steps of the plant collecting, pressing, and note-taking process make him uniquely qualified to inspire others to start or continue documenting our local flora.

Warren Woods with William Burger

According to E. Lucy Braun in *Deciduous Forests of Eastern North America*, Warren Woods is a classic example of an old growth Beech/Sugar maple forest climax ecosystem. The existing trail off Warren Woods Road or Elm Valley Road makes a wide loop through giant trees in an upland forest, a floodplain, and crosses the Galien River via a suspension bridge, which ends/begins in a picnic area off Elm Valley Road in a pioneer woods. Ecological features will be emphasized. The tour will feature the grandeur of the forest, the East-Asian--Eastern North American disjunction, and the tallness of the trees.

William Burger

William Burger grew up in New York City where he graduated from Columbia College in 1953. Drafted, he spent a year with US Army Engineers in France and a half-year in Germany. Even better, he came home with the GI Bill, receiving a Masters degree in Plant Taxonomy at Cornell and his PhD at the Missouri Botanical Garden and Washington University in St. Louis. His next four years were spent teaching plant science and building a herbarium at the Agricultural College in eastern Ethiopia. He then joined the Field Museum to work on the floristics of Costa Rica. His other research interests have been with the early evolution of flowering plants and the

origin and maintenance of biodiversity. His latest book is titled: *Flowers: How They Changed the World* (Prometheus Books, 2006).

Indian Bowl with Kip Miller

Indian Bowl is a seep-riddled area located along a floodplain bend of the St. Joseph River that may contain the largest undisturbed prairie fen in Michigan. Other natural communities here include wetland, tamarack swamp and floodplain forest. A significant parcel of the area was protected by the Michigan Chapter of the Nature Conservancy in 1995 before transfer to Berrien County Parks. Access to the area is rather challenging, so this rugged outing is not for all. There are no established trails, the ground is often wet and uneven, tripping hazards and Poison Sumac are present, and there will be a couple of potentially awkward creek crossings required. Due to these circumstances and the sensitive nature of the area, this outing will be restricted to 14 participants.

Kip Miller

Kip Miller has worked as a park naturalist for Berrien County Parks at Love Creek Nature Center since 1983. While birds and bird tour leading are his primary natural history passions, Kip enjoys sharing his enthusiasm for the natural areas and native plants of Berrien County as well. While he makes no claims to being an expert botanist, it's worth noting he does know the way in and out of the Indian Bowl area!

Andrews University Campus Arboretum with Stan Beikmann

In 1991 an 'arboretum concept' was adopted to use the woody plants of the main university campus to emphasize the universities history, philosophy, mission and educational missions. The long-term goal of the arboretum concept is to make the campus an "Eden garden" for the four years the student spends there. Rare and interesting trees (e.g. umbrella pine {*Sciadopitys verticillata*}, The big tree {*Sequoiadendron giganteum*}, Japanese Plum yew (*Cephalotaxus harringtonia*) and the 'living fossil' Wollemia pine {*Wollemia nobilis*} are some of the woody species observed.

Stan Beikmann

Stan Beikmann grew up on a grain, forage and livestock farm in Washington, Kansas and graduated from Kansas State University with a BS in Horticulture and Design. He then worked as a Landscape Architect III for the Kansas Highway Commission and served as Director of Fernwood Botanical Gardens at Niles, Michigan for 21 years prior to joining the Andrews University faculty full-time in 1996. As Asst. Prof. of Horticulture and Landscape Design, he teaches twelve different annual and rotational classes in Horticulture and Landscape Design. He also serves as a part-time Director of Grounds for Andrews University and is involved in its projects and functions as needed.

Warren Dunes State Park with Mike Latus

E. K. Warren of Three Oaks, MI gave to the people of Michigan, in trust, both Warren Woods and Warren Dunes State Park (WDSP) for outdoor recreation. This 1500 acre preserve is one of the most popular parks in Michigan with up to 2 million visitors a year. WDSP is a classic Lake Michigan dunes ecosystem with many dune habitats including open sandy blowouts, successional pioneer communities, stable old growth upland woods, inter-dune wetlands and swamps. Boreal disjuncts from the north (e.g. *Juniperus communis*) are found here along with the federal endangered Pitcher's thistle (*Cirsium pitcheri*), Climbing fumitory (*Adlumia fungosa*), White lady's slipper (*Cypripedium candidum*) and American Ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*). Bring sun screen, good hiking shoes and a hat.

Mike Latus

Mike Latus is the summer naturalist at Warren Dunes State Park. In the off-season, Latus can be found at River Valley High School in Three Oaks, Mich., where he teaches math and science. Summers, he spends surrounded by the natural glories of the Warren Dunes State Park.

Robinson's Preserve with Anita Riess

This Michigan Nature Conservancy property is an old farm situated along W. East Road that has been allowed to return to various stages of secondary succession beginning with disturbed areas around the old, now removed, farmhouse, to a climax beech/sugar maple forest. A walk along the old 'two-track,' now a narrow path, takes you through 150-200 years in time. The property is rich with species of club-mosses (*Lycopodium*), ferns, early pioneer successional trees and has one of only three known populations in Michigan of the Crane-fly orchid (*Tipularia discolor*) that blooms in early August, Pink lady's-slipper (*Cypripedium acaule*) and Yellow lady's-slipper (*C. calceolus*). Two species of Michigan special concern and four species threatened are found on the property. The hike will be on sandy soil, mud or wet conditions are unlikely. The trail has not been maintained and some underbrush will be present, so long pants and boots will be in order.

Anita Riess

Anita Riess is a botanist and botanical illustrator. She conducted the Floristic Study of the Robinson Preserve as a requirement for her masters degree in Biology from Andrews University in 1986. In 1985 she married a fellow botany student, Paul Riess and moved to Lansing while he attended MSU. She substituted in area schools and finished illustrating Dennis Woodland's first edition of Contemporary Plant Systematics, and taught in the Natural Science Department at Lansing Community Center. She and her husband now live in Traverse City, MI where she uses her botanical knowledge for pleasure as an avid gardener and botanical illustrator.

Fernwood Prairie & Arboretum Field Trip with Lynda Pelkey

Fernwood's 5 acre tallgrass prairie reconstruction began in 1976. Seeds were collected from local prairie remnants and the end result is a diverse assortment of over 150 species of grasses and wildflowers. The 40 acre arboretum was begun in 1971 by Kay Boydston, Fernwood's first director. She was assisted by Clarence Godshalk, a well know landscape architect and director of the Morton Arboretum. The arboretum contains trees and shrubs from temperate regions around the world. This is an easy walking trip.

Lynda Pelkey

Lynda Pelkey is a volunteer naturalist at Fernwood. She is also the current treasurer of the of both the Michigan Botanical Club and the Southwest Chapter, and an officer of the Michiana Orchid Society .

Grand Mere State Park with Todd Barkman

Grand Mere State Park is a 1,127 acre property that has been designated as a National Natural Landmark and has been identified as a Critical Sand Dune Area by the State of Michigan. The plant community types found here are diverse and include sand dunes of various stages of development, wetlands of various types including cranberry bogs and wet mesic lakeplain prairie, a rare plant community type in Michigan, and upland forests that include a wide diversity of species. Of particular note is the hemlock-pine swamp that is disjunct from the expanses of this more typical northern forest community in our state. As a result, we should encounter a mixture of plants of southern and more northern latitudes within the park boundary. Some species that we will encounter in various stages of reproduction include *Opuntia humifusa* (prickly pear cactus), *Lupinus perennis* (wild lupine), *Cakile edulenta* (sea rocket), *Asimina triloba* (paw paw) and *Juglans cinerea* (butternut), an infrequently encountered relative of the black walnut. Hiking may be strenuous at times, particularly when we make our way through the sand dunes. Because of the extensive wetlands within Grand Mere State Park there is a possibility of wet feet. However, there are no plans to get knee or thigh deep in the bog! Grand Mere State Park is a 35 minute drive from Fernwood Botanical Garden. The management plan for Grand Mere State Park is very informative and may be found at: http://www.michigandnr.com/publications/pdfs/RecreationCamping/ParkManagementPlans/grand_mere_gmp_complete.pdf

Todd Barkman

Todd Barkman, an Associate Professor in Biological Sciences at Western Michigan University, will lead the field trip. Todd received his Bachelors of Science and Masters of Science degrees in Botany from Michigan State University and his Ph. D. in Botany from The University of Texas in Austin. He moved to Western Michigan University in 2000 after a two-year postdoctoral research position at Pennsylvania State University. Todd currently serves as the Editor of The Michigan Botanist.

Mud Lake Bog with Pat Underwood

Mud Lake Bog is a 66 acre parcel containing one of the best examples of a true bog to be found this far south in Michigan. Nearly all states of bog succession are present and readily accessible. Plant species we hope to see include: Sphagnum Moss, cranberries, sundews, Pitcher-plant, Leatherleaf, and possibly Rose Pogonia. Most trails are easy walking on floating boardwalks. Very wet spring occasionally leaves standing water or mud in a few locations.

Pat Underwood

Pat Underwood has been a Parks Naturalist for the Berrien County Parks for 26 years. He has an Environmental Studies & Earth Science degree from Western Michigan University. While he enjoys teaching all topics of nature, Pat especially enjoys "The 3B's", Birds, Botany & Bugs.

Sebert Property & Bendix Woods Nature Preserve with Scott Namestnik

During this field trip, we will spend several hours at two very different northern Indiana forest communities. Sebert Property (LaPorte County) consists of a flatwoods assemblage unique to Indiana, found only in the northwestern part of the state near Lake Michigan. This approximately 40-acre property consists of hummocky wet-to-mesic flatwoods, dry sandy upland flats with seasonally inundated depressions, mesophytic forest, and a buttonbush pond. Of the known flora of 434 vascular plant species, 362 are native to the Chicago Region, and numerous species are tracked as endangered, threatened, or rare in Indiana. We can expect to see *Anemone quinquefolia* (Wood Anemone), *Carex arctata* (Drooping Woodland Sedge), *Carex communis* (Fibrousroot Sedge), *Carex crinita* (Fringed Sedge), *Carex debilis* var. *rudgei* (White Edge Sedge), *Carex laxiculmis* var. *laxiculmis* (Spreading Sedge), *Carex laxiflora* (Broad Looseflower Sedge), *Carex seorsa* (Weak Stellate Sedge), *Conopholis americana* (American Cancer-root), *Lycopodium clavatum* (Running Clubmoss), *Lycopodium digitatum* (Fan Clubmoss), *Lycopodium obscurum* (Rare Clubmoss), *Panax trifolius* (Dwarf Ginseng), *Ranunculus flabellaris* (Yellow Water Buttercup), *Thelypteris noveboracensis* (New York Fern), *Trientalis borealis* (Starflower), *Viola lanceolata* (Bog White Violet), and *Woodwardia virginica* (Virginia Chainfern); we will also see *Lonicera canadensis* (American Fly Honeysuckle), the only known location for this species in Indiana. Rubber boots are recommended, as the site can be wet or muddy depending on spring rains. The terrain is generally flat, but portions are a bit hummocky, and there are no designated trails. Sebert Property is approximately a 45-minute drive from Niles, Michigan. For more information on the site, see volume 49 of *The Michigan Botanist*. After leaving Sebert Property, we will drive approximately 30 minutes to see a classic mesic upland forest at Bendix Woods Nature Preserve (St. Joseph County). This old-growth beech-maple forest is said to have one of the best spring wildflower displays in Indiana, and we can expect to see *Aplectrum hyemale* (Putty Root), *Arisaema triphyllum* (Jack-in-the-Pulpit), *Asarum canadense* (Wild Ginger), *Asimina triloba* (Pawpaw), various forest sedges (*Carex* spp.), *Caulophyllum thalictroides* (Blue Cohosh), *Cardamine diphylla* (Crinkleroot), *Dicentra canadensis* (Squirrel Corn), *Enemion biternatum* (False

Rue Anemone), *Euonymus obovatus* (Running Strawberry Bush), *Floerkea proserpinacoides* (False Mermaid), *Hydrophyllum appendiculatum* (Great Waterleaf), *Hydrophyllum canadense* (Canada Waterleaf), *Phlox divaricata* (Blue Phlox), *Podophyllum peltatum* (May Apple), *Stylophorum diphyllum* (Celandine Poppy), *Trillium flexipes* (Deflexed Trillium), *Trillium grandiflorum* (Large-flowered Trillium), *Trillium recurvatum* (Prairie Trillium), and *Viola canadensis* (Canada Violet). Tennis shoes or hiking boots will be sufficient; there are a few small hills but we will stay on the trails.

Scott Namestnik

Scott Namestnik, a botanist at Cardno JFNew, will lead this all day field trip. Scott received a degree in Botany with a Focus in Environmental Science from Miami University. Upon graduation and prior to relocating to northern Indiana, he worked for The Nature Conservancy in Southern Missouri as a field botanist, participating in a study on the effects of fire management on forest dynamics.

Westrate Farm/Russ Forest/Dodd County Park with Bill Westrate

Bill will show us the Westrate farm with various environmental and habitat improvement projects in progress along the upper Dowagiac Creek which runs through his property. Highlights include a small fen, native American *Wisteria frutescens* and *Polymnia uvedalia*. He will then take us to Russ Forest, an MSU owned research forest that includes a significant amount of old growth, mesic, beech/maple forest. Blue-eyed Mary is included in the extensive spring flora to be found. We will enjoy our box lunch here.

On the way back to Fernwood will be a stop at Arhtur Dodd County Park to see a river restoration project completed by MEANDRS, a river rehabilitation group. The Dowagiac River was channelized into a straight drainage ditch. Restoration efforts center on reconnecting the river to its original floodplain by directing its flow through old meanders. This is a full day trip -- return @ 4pm.

Bill Westrate

Bill Westrate, farmer, botanist, entymologist and general naturalist will lead this trip. Bill is a former president of the Michigan Entymological Society, former Board member of Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy and president of the local restoration group, Meeting the Ecological & Agricultural Needs of the Dowagiac River System (MEANDRS). He has been a long-time member of the Michigan Botanical Club.

Big Rock Valley & The Edward Lowe Foundation property with Mike McCuistion and Lynn Steill

Home to the Edward Lowe Foundation, Big Rock Valley (BRV) features 2,600 acres of woodland, farmland, wetland and prairies. Because of its diverse landscapes and ecosystems, the property has a wide variety of animals, plants and insects — many of which are listed as special concern, threatened or endangered. For example, inventories have counted more than 700 species of plants (including golden seal and ginseng), more than 200 species of birds (including the Cerulean warbler) and more than 25 species of amphibians/reptiles (including the eastern massasauga rattlesnake).

Mike McCuistion, the foundation's director of physical resources and head of its land-management initiatives, will lead part of the tour. Participants will be driven to various habitats on the property and introduced to some of the foundation's environmental management practices. For example:

- Managing for old growth forest, and maintaining woodland demonstration plots, which show the effects of different long-term management strategies.
- Habitat enhancement projects that include restoring native prairies and savannas, creating aspen regeneration stands and establishing vernal ponds.
- Habitat management initiatives used to improve sites used by specific listed species like the Eastern Massasauga.
- Show some of the positive results of the organization's prescription-burning program.

The Edward Lowe Foundation property with its diversity of landscape allows for a wonderful compliment of ferns. Lynn Steil, retired science teacher, who has spent several summers exploring and conducting plant surveys on the property, will lead the other half of the trip. There are 34 pteridophytes found on the property including Virginia Chain Fern (*Woodwardia virginica*), Clinton's Fern (*Dryopteris clintoniana*), Silvery Glade Fern (*Deparia acrostichoides*), Narrow-leaved Spleenwort (*Diplazium pycnocarpon*), Log Fern (*Dryopteris celsa*), Goldie's Wood Fern (*Dryopteris goldiana*), Marginal Wood Fern (*Dryopteris marginalis*) and Prickly Tree Clubmoss (*Lycopodium dendroideum*). Depending on the amount of water and locations of the ferns visible at the time most of the 34 ferns and club mosses can be seen on short walks from a car. The physical demands of both parts of this trip will be easy. Boots may be needed and Poison Ivy and Poison Sumac are common.

Mike McCuistion

As director of physical resources at the Edward Lowe Foundation, Mike McCuistion has collaborated with numerous conservation organizations, including The Nature Conservancy, the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Michigan Natural Features Inventory. He serves on the steering committee for the Michigan Prescribed Fire Council and employs similar land management practices used at BRV at his family's 80-acre property.

Lynn Steil

Lynn Steil is a past Board member of the SWMLC and continues to volunteer on the Land Protection Committee, on the speaker's bureau of Wild Ones and is a long-time member of MBC.

Dowagiac Woods with Paul Olexia and John Rippon

Dowagiac Woods is a nature preserve owned by the Michigan Nature Association (michiganature.org). It is slightly over 384 acres in size and consists mostly of mesic southern forest (beech-maple) and floodplain forest. Located west south-west of Dowagiac, it is approximately 15 miles north of Niles (Rt. 51 north and Rt. 62 west). It is well known for its display of spring wildflowers (nearly 50 species, including blue-eyed mary) which, of course will be past their prime. In addition, there is a diversity of approximately 50 woody species among which are blue beech, black ash, winged elm, Ohio buckeye and American chestnut. The relatively abundant moisture and diversity of substrates has the potential to produce a variety of fungi. Yet, this time of year tends to be intermediate between the characteristically earlier-appearing morels plus a few others and those species that typically appear later in the season. The common unknown in all mushroom field trips is that a lot depends on the weather and seasonal timing, making it difficult to predict with any accuracy what we will discover.

The trail we will follow is a loop approximately a mile in length with bridges over the stream and boardwalks over the most muddy areas. So walking should not require any footwear or be particularly difficult.

Paul Olexia

Paul Olexia obtained his undergraduate degree from Wabash College in Indiana and a Ph.D. from the University of Tennessee (Botany, Mycology). He is retired from Kalamazoo College where he taught botany, environmental science and evolution for over 30 years. He currently does volunteer stewardship work for the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy and is very active in the Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones Native Plants, Natural Landscapers who promote the use of native plants in gardening and landscaping.

John W. Rippon

John W. Rippon, retired professor from the University of Chicago, Dept. of Medicine. With appointments in Microbiology and Botany, his specialty is Medical Mycology, having written a text, now in its fourth edition, *Medical Mycology: The Pathogenesis Fungi and Pathogenic Actinomycetes*.

Walking Fern/Virginia Chain/Quillwort Sites with Dave Wendling

Berrien and nearby County is home to three pteridophytes in three different habitats. The Virginia chain fern (*Woodwardia virginica*) is found in bogs and but easily accessible near the Love Creek Nature Center along Huckleberry Road. After a short 10 minute hike and steep slope climb, you

will visit one of the more rare Michigan ferns, the Walking fern (*Asplenium rhizophyllum*) on private property growing on limestone conglomerate outcrops near the village of Eau Claire. Boots or wading shoes will be needed to see the aquatic Spiny-spored quillwort (*Isoetes echinospora*) in the clear shallow water of Cable Lake. It will include a 10 minute walk along the shore.

Dave Wendling

Dave Wendling is a family physician in Paw Paw, MI and an amateur naturalist. He became interested in Ferns on a trip to the Upper Peninsula in 2003 where he became fascinated by the great diversity of Ferns there. Now he cannot pass any Pteridophyte without stopping to identify it. He also enjoys gardening with native plants.

Trillium Ravine with Ken Kirton

Trillium Ravine is a 15-acre preserve owned and managed by Michigan Nature Association. It features a spectacular display of spring ephemerals, including 1000s of *Trillium grandiflorum* and good numbers of *Trillium sessile* and *Trillium recurvatum*, two species that barely extend into southern Michigan. A relatively level loop trail leads along the crest of a steep ravine through the rich beech-sugar maple woods. The ravine carries spring melt and heavy rains to the nearby St. Joseph River. The walk is easy, scenic and shady. There is very little poison ivy on the preserve, which is only about a 10-minute drive from Fernwood.

Ken Kirton

Ken Kirton, a former president of the Southwestern Chapter and MBC Board member, will lead the trip. Ken is the volunteer steward for this MNA preserve. In addition to his service for MBC and MNA, Ken has served as president of the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy and for many years volunteered on its stewardship and its land protection committees.

Tree Climbing Workshop with Dick Flowers

This class teaches the techniques for accessing the canopy area of tall trees via ropes and hardware. The techniques used emphasize safety for the climber and are not injurious to the trees. No particular expertise is required other than being in good general health. All necessary equipment will be provided, class size is limited in number and climbing saddle sizes. Registration for this workshop is handled by the Sarett Nature Center and you must call them at 269-927-4832 to register. Please have your waist size ready when registering for saddle sizing.

Dick Flowers

Dick Flowers, from Honor, Michigan, is a man who has been climbing recreationally for quite a few years. Dick is the author of "Recreational Tree Climbing" and one of those responsible for the

growth of recreational tree climbing across the country. Dick's climbing style embraces a free-spirited love of adventure and he is having fun anytime he is off the ground. Dick was also a participant in the First Annual Rainforest Climbing Expedition in Panama in 2004.

Champion Trees Tour with Andy Sawyer

Join Andy Sawyer on a half-day caravan tour of some of our majestic National and State Champion Trees in Berrien and Cass Counties. Included on this tour will be at least two National Champs, the Niles Burr Oak, and the Cass County Green Ash, and several State Champion Trees. We will plan on car pooling, drivers will be greatly appreciated, and directions will be provided for drivers.

Andy Sawyer

Andy Sawyer is a 1985 graduate of The University of Michigan (B.S. Biology). An avid hiker, tree climber, and explorer, he and his son Noah began working with the late Elwood "Woody" Ehrle on the Big Tree Program in 2006. In 2008 he was appointed the Big Tree Coordinator.