



2021 ONAPA Annual Meeting

The West Woods Nature Center
Geauga County Park District, Novelty, Ohio
Saturday, August 21st, 2021
11:00am – 5:00pm

This year's ONAPA Annual Meeting will be held at the West Woods Nature Center on State Route 87 in Novelty, Ohio. This is the location we had planned for last year's meeting, which was cancelled due to the COVID pandemic. This year's meeting will include two presentations, a short business meeting, lunch, and 4 field trips. Attendance will be limited to 75 people to allow for adequate spacing in the Oak Room of the nature center and field trips will be limited to 15 people each. Registration will be \$35 per person, \$25 for students.

This year's keynote speaker will be Lisa Rainsong, who is speaking about "*Learning from Crickets and Katydid*s". Cricket and katydid, often referred to as "singing insects," are fascinating to study for their songs and subtle beauty. But a closer look – and listen – reveals that their late-summer concerts are just the beginning. We can also learn what their presence or absence may tell us about habitat, resiliency, and even climate change.

Lisa Rainsong holds a Doctor of Musical Arts in Composition from the Cleveland Institute of Music and is a member of CIM's music theory faculty. When she is not in her CIM classroom, she teaches birdsong classes and makes field recordings of bird and insect songs. She also does field research on crickets and katydids. Her online field guide to the crickets and katydids of NE Ohio, *Listening to Insects*, is at <https://www.listeningtoinsects.com/>. Her recordings, photos, and stories from the field can be found on her blog, *Listening in Nature* at listeninginnature.blogspot.com

Draft agenda:

10:30am	Registration begins at the Oak Room at West Woods Nature Center
11:00am	ONAPA President, Guy Denny – ONAPA Accomplishments in 2020-2021
11:30am	ONAPA Business Meeting
12 noon	Lunch begins
12:45pm	Keynote speaker, Lisa Rainsong - " <i>Learning from Crickets and Katydid</i> s"
1:30pm	Meeting ends; preparation for field trips
2:00-5:00pm	Field trips, 2 of which will be less than 3 hours (travel time included for the Mentor Marsh & bog field trips)

Lunch:

Lunch will be provided by Heinen's in Bainbridge in a buffet style where attendees go through a line arranged in the nature center to choose from sandwiches and wraps, salads, fruit, cookies, and drinks, all individually packaged. For online registration, we request people specify if they prefer meat, vegetarian, gluten-free, or vegan options, so we can plan the lunch choices accordingly. There will also be coffee and small pastries available at the beginning of the meeting.

Field trips, 2:00-5:00pm (4 options):

Mentor Marsh State Nature Preserve – a tour of the recent restoration efforts conducted by the Cleveland Museum of Natural History led by David Kriska. This is a 40-minute drive from West Woods. This 806-acre marsh was the first state nature preserve (1971). It was severely impacted by salt-mine tailings leaching into Blackbrook Creek, causing extensive die-off of the native marsh vegetation. Over many years, the preserve became dominated by the invasive, non-native reed grass (*Phragmites australis*). The Museum began an extensive restoration project several years ago to control reed grass and restore native vegetation; David Kriska will showcase some of the impressive, restored regions of the marsh. Attendees can leave from Mentor Marsh for their travel home.



Sphagnum Peat Bogs of Northeast Ohio – a tour of Triangle Lake Bog and Kent Bog State Nature Preserves led by Guy Denny. Both of these high-quality bogs have boardwalks and are easy walking. We will visit Triangle Lake State Nature Preserve first, located about 3 miles south of Ravenna, 45 minutes from West Woods. Sphagnum peat bogs are living relicts of the last Ice Age. We will see several species of rare boreal plants including large cranberry, round-leaved sundews, and Northern pitcher-plants. These plants have survived here for more than 12,000 years. We will learn how these peatland ecosystems have survived to the present day. Next we drive about 8 miles west to Kent Bog State Nature Preserve/Cooperrider Bog. Here we will follow the boardwalk through a sphagnum peat bog forest community of tamaracks and gray birch, with additional bog species in the small meadows. Attendees can leave from Kent Bog for their travel home.

Lichens of Northeast Ohio – an introduction to some of the common lichens led by Ian Adams. Ian will provide a basic introduction to lichens – what they are, where to find them, tips on identifying and photographing lichens, and some useful resources for further lichen study. Bring a hand magnifying lens if possible. This field trip will be held at West Woods and will be easy walking around the parking lots.





Frohring Meadows – a tour of this magnificent wet sedge/cattail wetland and prairie at Geauga County Park District will be led by Park District naturalist, Linda Gilbert. The park site features several habitats with a variety of birds, dragonflies, butterflies, singing insects, and plants, so there will be plenty of biodiversity to explore, including Sora and Virginia rails, bronze copper butterflies, bobolinks, and savannah sparrows. This field trip is not far from West Woods and is easy walking on a paved trail.