

Preserve in southern Ohio offers view from the Edge



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13,000-acre Edge of Appalachia Preserve lovely home to more than 100 rare, endangered plants, animals

By Bob Downing
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WEST UNION, OHIO: It's not often that you can go eyeball to eyeball with buzzards.

But I found myself hiking next to turkey vultures soaring 500 feet above the ground at a very cool nature preserve in southern

Ohio.

Somehow, it seemed appropriate since I was on the Buzzardroost Trail at the Edge of Appalachia Preserve along Ohio Brush Creek in Adams County.

The panoramic view from atop Buzzardroost Rock at the end of the trail is considered one of the best vistas in Ohio by

many, and it is something special.

You can see perhaps five miles north and south along the creek and across heavily wooded ridges that stretch to the east and west. The area offers what some call Ohio's best wilderness scenery and it is one of the wildest spots in Ohio.

The limestone rock itself is 75 feet high - with a top that is 81 feet by 36 feet with a wood-and-steel observation deck. It is connected to the trail by a bridge

that spans a 50-foot-deep cleft where vultures once nested.

Buzzardroost Rock, once an Indian lookout, features the greatest relief in all of Ohio from the top of the rock to the stream.

The 13,000-acre preserve, home to more than 100 rare and endangered plants and animals, includes prairie openings, woodlands, giant promontories, rocky outcroppings, clear streams, mountain coves, rocky hollows, cedar glades and waterfalls.

The preserve- it is actually a number of tracts along a 12-mile section of the creek - is owned and operated by the Cincinnati Museum Center at Union Terminal in partnership with the Ohio chapter of the Nature Conservancy.

Known simply as The Edge, the preserve is one of the most biologically diverse areas in the Midwest. It features 30 ecologic

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