



View from Buzzardroost Rock

## Preserve Overview

As you travel east through Adams County in south-central Ohio, the rugged hills of the Allegheny Plateau abruptly rise above the countryside. Here, at the Appalachian escarpment, sprawls one of the most biologically diverse collections of natural systems in the Midwestern United States. Amid rocky slopes, rolling meadows, and deep moist ravines, relict plant communities have persisted for thousands of years. Wild turkeys share the area with green salamanders and eastern woodrats, both endangered in Ohio.

Here, too, The Nature Conservancy and Cincinnati Museum Center own and manage a series of eleven nearly contiguous preserves, collectively called the Richard and Lucile Durrell Edge of Appalachia Preserve System, the largest privately owned protected natural area in Ohio.

The Edge of Appalachia provides critical habitat for some 100 rare species of plants and animals. Four areas in the preserve, Lynx Prairie, Buzzardroost Rock, Red Rock and The Wilderness, are registered National Natural Landmarks, testimony to their national significance. The eminent ecologist E. Lucy Braun first called attention to the biodiversity of "The Edge" in the 1920s. Her students, Richard and Lucile Durrell, were early leaders in the effort to preserve this outstanding natural area.

E. Lucy Braun, 1950  
Hugh H. Raup, photographer

## Programs Offered

The preserve offers outstanding opportunities for outdoor education and recreation for all ages. Cincinnati Museum Center offers Science Camp programs from June through August for teens and preteens to learn more about southern Ohio's rich natural heritage. Science Camps are conducted at the Rieveschl Chalet, generously gifted to the museum by Dr. George Rieveschl Jr. Adults and families can enjoy one of the many naturalist-led day hikes to explore the preserve's rich spring flora, prairie blooms, or fantastic fall colors. For more information contact the Museum Center's Preserve Director.

## Volunteer Opportunities

Ample opportunities exist for interested individuals to help manage this outstanding system of natural areas. An active volunteer stewardship program provides individuals with a special opportunity to visit and help manage portions of the preserve. Activities include: prairie management, trail maintenance and office assistance. For more information on volunteer opportunities, please contact The Nature Conservancy.

## Area Amenities

Food, lodging, and other services are available eight miles west of the preserve in West Union. The town of Lynx has a store with gasoline. Picnic facilities are available at Adams Lake State Park off St. Rt. 41. Camping is available at Shawnee State Park. Contact the Adams County Chamber of Commerce, 937-544-5454, in West Union for a list of in-county Bed and Breakfasts.

