

Nature Study Retreat - 2012

Nature Study Retreat (NSR) for 2012 will be held in northwest Ohio at the 4-H Camp Palmer. This camp is affiliated with the Ohio State University and Ohio State University Extension. It is located in Fayette Ohio which is West of Toledo, North of Archbold, East of the Indiana state line and South of the Michigan border. NSR has always utilized a camp for 2 years normally. Everyone enjoyed this camp immensely last year. The topography is fairly flat and very diverse from the area of Ohio near the Appalachian foothills. It's quite interesting! Camp Palmer is located in the geographical region of the country known as the Oak Openings Region. This region is 130 square miles in size and is a globally rare ecosystem. The Nature Conservancy has described the Oak Openings Region as one of the 200 "Last Great Places on Earth".

Other areas of interest near Fayette are the Harrison Lake State Park, within a short walk to camp, the Kitty Todd Preserve, and Sauder Village in Archbold Ohio along with local shopping. At camp, there is canoeing, swimming, fairly level nature walking paths, new poles and lights this year for volleyball, basketball, mini putt-putt and an awesome campfire area with amphitheater seating. One area has many aderondeck chairs and picnic tables making an excellent area for reading, meeting with your friends. The playground was donated by Wauseon Elementary School System. (It's fun to be a grown-up kid). We have added the viewing of local gardens and farm operations this year.

Camp Palmer has a Naturalist on Staff, Mr. Chuck Wurth who has worked with OSU in this area for many years. He is very knowledgeable and a wonderful guide and teacher. He always keeps native species in a separate area for us to enjoy. NRS Chairperson is Paula Mowery. Maureen Wootton, Sheila Curtis and Bill Coho are co-chairs and Secretary/Treasurer.

We would like to present a challenge to OAGC members at each Region to sponsor a campership for one of their youth to attend and to have an adult from each region to attend with their junior. We want you to be part of this group, to see what we do and become an advocate for NSR to report back to your Region. The camp will begin Sunday after 2:00 p.m. June 3, 2012 and depart for home after breakfast on Friday June 8, 2012. These dates make us more kid-friendly since most schools will be closed for the summer.

This article is followed by the 2012 Nature Study Retreat Registration Form: 6-3-12 - 6-8-12 and the OAGC Website: www.OAGC.ORG with an itinerary.

