

Fernald Preserve: A NATURE SAMPLER

- ▶ The Land Conservancy's Summer Meeting presentation
- ▶ Fri., June 18, 7 PM at Fernald Preserve, 7400 Willey Rd.

Take I-74 to Exit 7 (SR 128). Go N on SR 128 thru Miamitown for 7 miles to Willey Rd.; turn L, go 1/4 mi. to Fernald Preserve entrance. Free parking at Visitors Center

Join us! The Land Conservancy is going back to **Fernald Preserve** in Crosby Township for our Summer meeting on Fri., June 18, 7PM at the Visitors Center.

We'll bring you up to date on Land Conservancy activity, and announce our most recent Conservation Easement that protects a 25-acre wooded homesite in Colerain Township.

Walk through nature

Following the meeting, we'll head outdoors to discover what's new in nature since our visit last year. Fernald Preserve's staff will lead two guided tours: choose a short walk that includes the Preserve's bio-wetlands, or a longer tour into the forest.

Fernald Preserve opened to the public in 2008, following years of cleanup and ecological restoration of the former uranium

foundry. Now, multiple habitats can be explored from trails built through the site's forests, prairies and savanna—and along 140 acres of open water and wetlands.

Birds, mammals, plants come back

Every season brings new discoveries at the Preserve. Recently, the 200th bird species was identified. A new mammal, the southern bog lemming, was sighted on the edge of the forest where sedges and ferns grow.

New trails open

Today, a total of 7 miles of marked trails meander the site, giving access to a much wider variety of wildlife habitat. Two new trails are proving popular with birders,



Fernald Preserve entrance on Willey Rd.

photographers and hikers. The 1.5-mi. Sycamore Trail provides access to Paddys Run riparian corridor as well as prairies and vernal pools at the southern portion of the site. The 2-mi. Hickory Trail allows excellent viewing of prairie and edge habitats.

Come early, see the Fernald exhibit

The Visitors Center is a true community asset. The redesigned warehouse is the first building in Ohio to achieve LEED-platinum certification for "green" construction.

Be sure to see the interactive exhibits that tell the story of Fernald's history from the time Native Americans inhabited the area to today's ecological management.

The Land Conservancy of Hamilton County, Ohio is a nonprofit conservation organization that helps families preserve their lands, and works to protect our County's precious land and water resources to benefit the quality of life for all citizens.