

Field Trip Lantz Farm and Nature Preserve

Description: The Lantz Farm and Nature Preserve was created in 2006 as the result of a generous gift from the Lantz family descendants who wished to enhance wildlife diversity and public recreation at the preserve. Wheeling Jesuit University now owns the property and it is managed in cooperation with the DNR.

In 1826, Alexander Lantz acquired a 177-acre tract known as the "Wyatt patent."

This and other parcels purchased later comprise what is known today as the Lantz Farm. Three trails, color-marked and of varying degrees of difficulty, originate near the

Lantz family homestead. Throughout the preserve, one can see the results of numerous DNR and WJU projects including plantings, nest box installations and the creation of watering holes. Many tree species found at the preserve are identified by their common name by means of attached metal plates. A full-color, self-guided walking trail map is provided to assist visitors in identifying various species and habitats and give historical insight into the farm property.



Violet wood sorrel

Sue Olcott



Eastern bluebird

Mark Shock

A highlight of the trail system is the panoramic view from Owl-head Peak, the highest point of the preserve. Visitors can also

explore grasslands, ponds and hardwoods -- each area supporting different types of wildlife and vegetation.

Viewing Information: Along the banks of Wyatt Run on the Blue Trail, look for raccoon, deer and wild turkey. The forested area of the trail is also home for pileated woodpeckers. The pond areas provide freshwater habitat for bluegill and bass, dragonflies, green herons and belted kingfishers, various turtles, snakes and muskrats.

The higher elevation of the Red Trail provides high quality deer browse which attracts deer and turkeys, especially in the fall. In the spring, temporary breeding pools for wood frogs, spotted salamanders and toads are formed in small depressions filled with melted snow and rain. These pools are part of a unique microhabitat which disappear when summer's heat dries up the water. Several large oak trees with holes or splits in their trunks have become den trees, providing shelter for raccoons, squirrels and bats.

The gently sloping Green Trail and its many hedgerows provide good habitat for typical farm wildlife such as cottontail rabbits, mourning doves, red foxes and woodchucks. The hedgerows also support common songbirds throughout the year such as the northern cardinal, tufted titmouse, American robin and gray catbird. In the summer, the open fields of the Green Trail fill with eastern blue-



Warm season grasses attract various species of birds and wildlife that prefer open fields.

Sue Olcott

birds, eastern meadowlarks, meadow mice and many sun-loving insects such as butterflies and dragonflies.

Visitors are able to see how different vegetation and habitat management techniques provide for different types of species. Spring is also a good time to visit the preserve to see the abundance of the season's first wildflowers: trillium, toothwort and violets.

Location: In Wetzel County, take U.S. Route 20 to Jacksonburg. Turn onto county Route 82 (Buffalo Run Road) then bear right after crossing the railroad tracks.

Ownership: Wheeling Jesuit University and managed cooperatively by the DNR. For more information, call the DNR office at Farmington (304)825-6787.

Size: 555 acres

Closest Town: Jacksonburg