

A Review of our Trip to Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve

By Jack Wooldridge

I really enjoyed our trip to Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve. When we arrived, we had a peek through the visitor's center and bought a guide book to the wildflowers of the Northeastern United States. Then we headed off down the trail. We went down some steep stairs to the river, where we saw a snake basking in the sun. He (or she) looked quite content. After that we walked down a path in the woods, where we spotted False Solomon's Seal, Jewelweed and many other plants. We walked along the river and through a gate, where we walked down the path to the visitor center. Then we had lunch.

After lunch we peered through a gallery full of stuffed birds and eggs. The earliest year a bird was caught in was 1929, and the biggest eggs belonged to a goose. Just in case you were interested. After that, we went on a guided tour through the woodlands. Our guide was from England and he was very good. He showed us lots of different types of plants, including Prickly Pear, Pennsylvania's native cactus. He also tested us on what plants we could identify. We went through the woods and around a pond (where you could really smell the Swamp Azalea!). I really enjoyed my day at Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve, and I was sad when I had to leave.