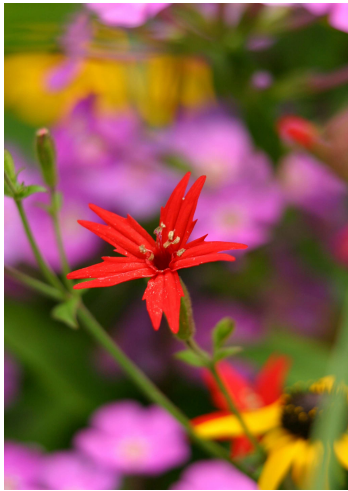


BRIAN JORG OUTDOORS

Summer 2009



Spring Summary

It has been busy spring for BJO! The spring wildflower and photography trips to the Smoky's were a success, with participants seeing an average of 140 different species of wildflowers both weekends!

I also squeezed in a trip to the Cedar Glades of Central Tennessee. This unusual habitat, which included

a large number of endemic (only found in this area) plant species provided a great opportunity to see some interesting plants including: Milo's Ground Plum, Nashville Breadroot, and False Aloe.

During the summer, BJO will not be conducting classes because of travel, which includes the Peru/Amazon trip. We

are however currently planning an autumn trip, as well as, expanding the number of classes and trips offered next year due to YOUR requests for more opportunities. Feel free to send me suggestions on any trips you would like to see offered in the future.

Thanks again for all the support. ~ Brian



Focus on Nature: *The Ring Neck Snake*

The Northern Ring-neck Snake, *Diadophis punctatus*, is a small and slender snake with a black or gray body, with its distinguishing yellow band (ring)

around its neck. Only attaining an overall length of 10"-15", this small snake rarely suns itself in the open, but rather tends to hide under fallen logs and rocks.

This snake can be found in Ohio's southern and eastern counties. Fairly common within its range, this snake is rarely seen, partially because it tends to be nocturnal. It prefers moist habitats near woods. The ring neck tends to feast on sala-

manders, earthworms, and other small invertebrates.

This beautiful snake is beneficial to the ecosystem, and should not be removed or harmed if found. They rarely bite. When handled, they will wiggle violently and emit a musky odor.



Native Flora Spotlight: Cactus in Ohio

Yes! The prickly pear cactus (*Opuntia humifusa*) can be found in 13 Ohio counties, mostly in the bottom 1/3 of the state, as well as, around the western end of Lake Erie. The prickly pear can be found as far north as Ontario, Canada, west to Montana, and down though Florida.

This cactus produces beautiful soft yellow flowers in early summer. The flowers are fleeting, but the plants (pads) persist even through winter. The fruit is pear shaped and hairless, and is edible, as are the pads of the plant.

The plant is covered in spines, which are actually modified leaves. There are actually two types of spines on a prickly pear cactus. The larger spines are easily seen, but it is the smaller spines, called glochids, that give the most problems. These tiny hair-like spines are the ones that get imbedded in the skin and are hard to get out.

This cactus grows well in the garden situation if you give it full sun. I grow mine in a glade section of the garden with fawn flower and *Eggleston's violet*.



Upcoming Events: **Wildlife Expedition to PERU and Extension to the Urubamba Valley & Machu Picchu**

July 31—August 9, 2009

ESCORTED by: BRIAN JORG, Manager of Horticulture



Bring the family and join us for a wildlife adventure in the Amazon rainforest, the most biologically diverse ecosystem on Earth. The overwhelming abundance and diversity of wildlife found in the Amazon basin is beyond comprehension. In addition to two species of fresh water dolphins, the 4,200 mile long Amazon River is home to more species of fish than swim in the entire Atlantic Ocean. Thousands of butterflies and untold numbers of other invertebrates, one-third of the world's 9,000 species of birds and numerous mammals, reptiles and amphibians thrive in these tropical jungles. Traveling by boat down the Amazon River, from the frontier town of Iquitos, we search for river dolphins, fish for piranha, visit the tree tops on the longest rainforest canopy walk way in the new world and are introduced to the Riberenos people

that live here. Our extension to Cusco, the Urubamba River Valley and the "lost city" of Machu Picchu is a journey back in time and an introduction to the magnificence of the ancient Inca Empire.

THIS PROGRAM IS SPONSORED BY THE CINCINNATI ZOO. ALL INQUIRIES MUST BE MADE BY CONTACTING THE ZOO - CALL CHRISTINA AT 513-487-3318.

Closing Shot

Going headlong into a trumpet creeper flower, this tiny female ruby throated hummingbird is seeking nectar.

Hummingbirds are easy to attract to your garden with feeders, as well as such plants as this trumpet creeper, bee balm , and red cardinal flower.

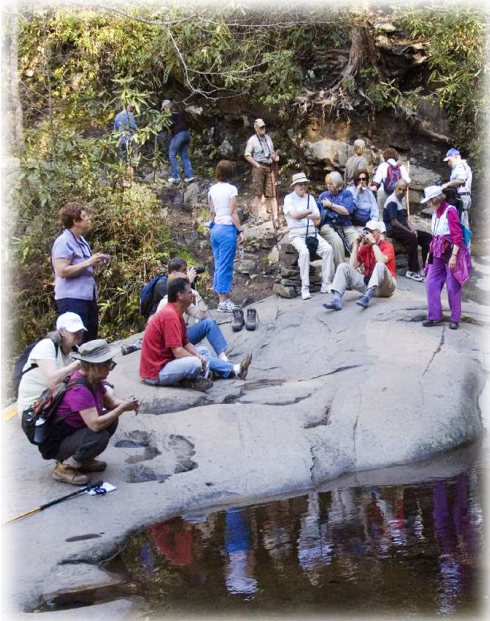
Male ruby throats have a ruby red throat, that usually appears black in most light, while the female has a white throat. Both sexes have an iridescent green back and white belly.



A collage of images. On the left is a large, detailed image of a purple and white flower. To the right, the text "BRIAN JORG OUTDOORS" is written in white serif font on a dark blue background. Below this, the website "www.brianjorg.com" is displayed in white serif font. Underneath the website are six smaller images arranged in two rows: a man in traditional red and white patterned clothing, a white tiger, a forest stream, a city skyline at night, and a field of red tulips.

To unsubscribe from this newsletter, please reply to brian@brianjorg.com

SNAPSHOTS FROM THE SMOKY'S



NEW

QUARTERLY CONTEST! Visit Our website www.brianjorg.com and click on the CONTACT tab. Correctly identify the image on the page then email your answer for a chance to win a gift boxed set of original print note cards (5) valued at \$12. *Winner will be chosen at random from all correct answers submitted.

*Photos of the Smoky's trip above taken by: Rick Lisi