Local Flora is a one-week field course in plant identification that will meet at F.T. Stone Laboratory of The Ohio State University at Put-in-Bay, Ohio.

Objectives
1. Become familiar with the basic characteristics of common plant families, genera and species of Ohio and the Lake Erie Island Region.
2. Recognize, identify and name some common or characteristic wetland, aquatic, prairie, and forest plants including trees, shrubs, vines, ferns and summer's herbaceous plants.
3. Practice the use of identification keys and develop self-confidence in sight identification.
4. Utilize information resources to research a plant or habitat for oral presentation to the class.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of the course material via quizzes, identification practical, and an exam.

Description
This course is primarily an introductory field course in plant identification useful in preparation for wetland and other botanical field work or natural history interpretive work. Learn plants of wetlands, shores, forests, prairies through field trips to preserves on the Lake Erie Islands and northwest Ohio, as well as in the classroom during lecture/lab/discussion sessions. Field trips will emphasize hands-on familiarization with local plants. Lecture/lab/discussion sessions will focus on the principles of classification, identification and nomenclature, important characteristics of plants, conservation and plant habitats. A list of plant species, families, and their habitats will be compiled for the week. Evening sessions will include plant pressing techniques and a wild edibles dinner.

Tentative Schedule by Day
1. Introduction to Local Plants Course, Texts, Equipment.
2. AM-Learning the Language-Botanical Terms-How to Use Keys-Practice on Gibraltar Island
   PM-Forest Associations-Field Trip to South Bass Island, DeRivera Woods, Ladd Carr Wildlife Woods
3. AM-Wetlands, Invasive Plants, Grasses/sedges/rushes, Succession/Tolerance
   late AM-PM Field Trip to Middle Bass Island-Wetlands, Old Fields, Rocky Shores
   Kuehnle State Wildlife Area, Middle Bass Island State Park
4. AM-Sand Beaches, Alvars, Fens, Ferns, Submerged Aquatic Vegetation
   late AM-PM Field Trip to Kelley’s Island – North Shore Alvar, Scheele Preserve, East Quarry, North Pond
5. All Day Field Trip to Mainland – Rest Haven Prairie, Edison Woods, Erie Sand Barrens
6. AM- Oral Presentations
   Late AM-PM- Tentative Field Trip to Pelee Island, Canada, (passports needed), Stone Road Alvar, Fish Point Provincial Reserve
   Alternate Field Trip to Oak Openings-Kitty Todd, Oak Openings MetroPark, Irwin Prairie
7. Final Exam

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