

## *Outing to Bluff Spring Fen*

Hello and thanks for your interest in our outing.

**Please note new date! We are trying to stay clear of a workday on the fen. There is limited parking and the trails are narrow.**

**Directions:** Proceed west on Interstate 90 past Schaumburg to the Route 59 exit. Make a left at the stoplight and go south on Sutton Rd. (Rt. 59). Continue south on Rt.59 for 4.1 miles to Rt.20 and exit to your right. Go west on Rt. 20 for 2 miles and make a left onto Bluff City Blvd. Follow this street for 1 mile and turn into the cemetery on your left. Follow the entrance road [ Lawndale ] straight ahead. It will curve some and turn into Dell. After 3/10 of a mile, the parking area will be on the right. There are small wooden signs with a green Oak on them to guide you in the cemetery.

As noted above there is very limited parking at this location so please carpool if at all possible!

**What to bring:** If the temperature is warm it **will** be hot in fen - it is in a bowl and holds heat very well. So the first consideration is to bring **water** and a hat for protection. We will be focusing on macro and scenic subjects so I would suggest a lens in the 100 to 300mm range with the ability to close focus. A macro lens, extension tubes, or a diopter close-up lens will all work. If you have a TTL compatible flash please bring that with too. A shorter lens, preferably a zoom will be handy for overall photos of the area, and of course, a tripod. Try to carry as little as possible on your person as we will not be far from the vehicles.

**Background:** A fen is a special natural habitat in which water from underground springs pushes upward through Limestone rock to the surface where it then turns into streams. This very moist habitat supports a wide range of plants and insects. We will concentrate on butterflies, dragonflies and damper flies. There will also be a good selection of flowers and reeds to work with.