

All Great Lakes Chapter members are invited to join our first ever cyber foray by posting your photos of plants on iNaturalist! Technology carries a *stigma* but it can be useful for helping us connect—to nature and with each other. Join us and maybe you'll find it fits your *style*! Together we can make a *statement* about botanical biodiversity!

**What is a cyber foray?** It is all of the staples of a traditional foray, it is making botanical discoveries, it is learning new plants, some you've seen before and others that are completely new, it is learning from experts, it is experiencing a new place, and it is getting to participate and feel comradery. This all happens through a powerful social media network and biological databasing tool called iNaturalist. Participants add photos of their plant observations collected throughout the year to a special project for our chapter on iNaturalist.org

**How to participate:** 1) Start by creating a free iNaturalist account. [Click here to learn how](#). Once you have an account, 2) email Derek (Derek at landtrust.org) your iNaturalist user name and he'll add you to the project OR go the project page by [clicking HERE](#) and request to be added to the group ([here's how to do that](#)). If you're not a member of the Great Lakes Chapter and would like to be, please contact Irene (Eisemani at gmail.com) and become a chapter member to participate! 3) Once in, you can start adding observations—instructions below.

*Please note that the cyber foray may expand to the rest of the Michigan Botanical Club next year should this test with the GLC go well!*

**You've signed up now what?** Now time to get outside! Check out your favorite botanical hotspots or try some place new. Photo document your observations. You don't need a smart phone to make observations; you can upload your photos from your camera. [Click here to learn how](#). But there is an app for those with smart phones that allows you to add observations from your phone. [Here are instructions for using the app](#). You do not have to know what you are observing! Put in what you know, maybe it's just that it is a flowering plant, maybe you know the family, or that it is an *Elymus* species—enter what you know and let the community help you refine the identification! **Don't forget to add your observation to the Great Lakes Chapter Cyber Foray Project—[here is how](#).**

**That is only the beginning!** To experience the power of iNaturalist and a cyber foray, look at other members' observations and help them with making or confirming identifications. Interact with others by commenting on observations. Maybe a small group went to a special natural area and they added their observations from the day to the cyber foray project; now we can all go and experience the plants they observe through this cyber-project. Who is making the most observations, or who has observed the most species so far? These questions can be explored throughout the year and by year's end we will have a winner for both those categories. Winners get a cyber high-five!

**Still have more questions?** Derek Shiels will be leading an iNaturalist workshop on April 26<sup>th</sup> in Charlevoix, MI ([more information on that here](#), if interested). We encourage you to jump onto the <http://www.inaturalist.org> website and look around. Please feel free to contact Derek at landtrust.org with additional questions.

- [iNaturalist Getting Started guide](#)
- [iNaturalist FAQ page](#)
- Video tutorials: [Creating an iNaturalist account and adding an observation](#)

Enjoy getting out in 2017!

- Great Lakes Chapter Leadership Team