

iNaturalist- Offering Enjoyment, Learning and Sharing

The app iNaturalist has become increasingly talked about, a popular way for anyone with a computer or smartphone with internet to explore their environment and share their findings! Just check out the Otty Lake Association Facebook to see the posting of wonderful photos of beautiful Otty Lake! Take it a step further and realize that you can get connected with a community of scientists and naturalists who could benefit from your sharing and who offer help to you as you learn more about nature.

It's fun to meet with people of similar interests and to share with projects that are being run on iNat. Try the "explore" section and you can enter a name and look at pictures of that species. Otherwise, try uploading an image and click on the 'S' of "Species name" and it will then prompt you with suggestions. Don't just accept the first suggestion, look at whether it is a reasonable match (sometimes it isn't, and another choice is better). Many search filters are available to support exactly your area of interest.

Refer to the iNaturalist 101 guides for either iPhones or Androids or work directly from the web. Feel free to download the directions and begin to play with the program! Otty Lake provides a diverse environment as seen by our past two BioBlitzes. Take time to be the observer. Enjoy a paddle or a walk. Join the photographers in capturing unique plants and animals in nature. Query what you have found. Share your expertise in assisting others with identifications.

All this and more when you engage in iNaturalist and support scientists who are working to better understand and protect nature!