ON THE FRINGE

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NORTHEASTERN OHIO

Founding Chapter of
THE OHIO NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Thomas A. Sampliner, Local President
and Editor

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

In this issue, the complete schedule of events for the year are fully described. For your convenience, pocket calendars with a complete schedule in summary form will be available at all events. Furthermore, it is intended you take extra calendars and distribute these to interested nonmembers and guests to attract new members. As an additional benefit, these pocket calendars will enable all of you to keep track of upcoming events with greater ease than referring back to this journal.

Now is dues renewal time. Please promptly renew at the highest possible category. Your prompt renewal saves the society follow-up communication.

The program this year was by board committee effort. We hope we more accurately reflect your needs and desires by group planning. Keep in mind we always welcome your input. The surveys returned from the annual dinner were useful.

This coming fall, we will return to the Garden Center for our annual dinner. The event this past November was so enjoyed by all attendees that we elected to schedule there as first choice as opposed to the Natural History Museum.

For those who have indicated they are willing to serve the society in some capacity, please recontact me at this time and set forth in what role and with what limits you are willing to serve so I may get you started. If you are a member of other natural science or even garden societies, tell those folks about us. You may be surprised at who will be interested.

As all of you should know by now Trillium resumes publication. This third issue still reflects back to the state's obligation to print four quarterly issues for that first year; therefore one more is required before any new arrangement is made. If you are not receiving Trillium, please report to me. It may be you joined after that first year's state roster was compiled. Other problems can be surmised. I'll do what I can to notify those in charge. Also, if you have agenda items for the state organization's annual board meeting in late March please notify me now.

I am always looking for material for this journal. Book reviews, reflections upon a hike or trip you took, gardening experiences, anything botanical, horticultural and environmental are welcome.

See you all out in the field.

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THOMPSON LEDGES

By Tom Sampliner

As this journal begins to reach our members, the frequency and durations of spring thaws bring promise of wild flowers to come. Just east of the municipality of Thompson's Town square and across from Ledgemont School is a municipal park that features attractions for some early Spring wild flowers. This park is known as Thompson Ledges.

Situated in Geauga County, the prominent geological feature is Sharon Conglomerate outcroppings. The components create an acidic soil in the glaciated northeast quadrant of Ohio in the heavy snowbelt.

Such a niche is a desirable host habitat for an early spring bloomer like trailing arbutus (*Epigaea repens*). The park has a patch unusually vigorous and large for our area. Unfortunately for those of us interested in photography, prime bloom time always seems to encompass a period of cold, wet snow/sleet days that make the photographic effort almost impossible.

The patch contains an overlapping mat of arbutus leaves with the tiny pink on white tubular flowers rising up on short stalks from the mat. The mat is unusual and impressive for this area.

While looking at this display, spend some time admiring the ground cover of the conglomerate surfaces. You'll find a marvelous mixture of mosses and lichens. Colors range from various greens to oranges, browns and greys of the lichens. I confess to having taken photographs of just these ground covers.

To the east the ledges drop away to a creek. Both the heights and the steep slopes display an impressive

population of ferns. I particularly enjoy the common polypody (*Polypodium vulgare*) that line the back tops.

The glossy dark green bipinnate fronds jump out at you from amidst the quartz pebbles of the conglomerate. Several other evergreen ferns fill the nooks and crannies of the steep embarkment but are less impressive.

Also located in this park are a few large whorled pogonia orchids (*Isotria verticillata*). Memorial Day weekend is a good estimate of bloom time. If this plant is a desired goal for anyone, I know of a site in Massachusetts where there are literally thousands.

Let's take a quick jaunt across the street to the north of the park entrance. The ledges continue in a northerly direction and fall away to the east. This is not part of the park. Below the ledges to the east is a trailer park. Apparently, they use the bottom land to their west and just below the steep embankment as an occasional garbage dump. Assuming you are willing and limber enough to hike over garbage, boulders and a couple wet spots, you'll encounter one of the loveliest hobble bushes (*Viburnum alnifolium*) that I've ever seen. There are a couple there. But one in particular is the most heavily flowered I've ever seen. There is ground cover of such spring ephemerals as dwarf ginseng (*Panax trifolium*), white baneberry (*Actea pachypoda*) and assorted violets (*Viola* sp.).

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MOHICAN NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

The Mohican Native Plant Society is diligently preparing to host our first Ohio Native Plant Society weekend field trip. We are all very eager to show you a small part of Mohican Country. Choosing which parts was not easy.

The Mohican area is a land of rich contrast and diversity. Our weekend base, Camp Mowana, is located at a pleasant hemlock ravine, site of historical Fleming Falls. Just to our north are the flat buttonbush swamp forests of the east-west continental divide and home of the famous Fowler Woods State Nature Preserve. To our south are the rolling forests of Malabar Farm State Park, the site of not only of botanical interest, but of the unique agricultural experiments of author and farmer Louis Bromfield. Nearby are the cliffs carved by a long-abandoned river landmark of Clearfork Gorge, found in the Mohican State Park Area. These various landscapes have shaped a flora that is very interesting, representing elements found both far to the north and to the south. We have chosen a few of our favorite areas to share with you.

Registration and fellowship will begin Friday evening at 5 PM. Area expert Roger Troutman will provide an introduction to the area with a slide presentation at 8 PM. Botanical entertainment of several varieties will follow over the next two days. So please join us, if you will, for your presence will be what really makes the weekend bloom.

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Industrial pollution. Acid rain. Septic pollution. Non-point source. Clear cutting. Dove hunting. The list goes on and on. And it is easy to get people's attention for these real problems. There is nothing the average man likes more than to tear a strip off a big guy, and these problems provide an opportunity to take on big business, big lobbies, big government from a relatively safe distance.

There is a problem right here in our own backyard with no easily identifiable human villain, and, to a very large part, it is being ignored. We are being invaded by foreign plants. Reproducing without the checks and balances that contained them in their native land, they are running wild.

Is there anyone who would claim that Mentor Marsh today can compare with the wonderful natural area that it was before phragmites covered it from shore to shore? Jim Fulton put in countless hours on Aurora Sanctuary. Buckthorn is rapidly negating all that work. That tall purple flower getting established along Rt 44 is the same purple loosestrife being battled in wildlife refuges all across the United States and Canada. Garlic mustard, Russian olive, multiflower rose and perhaps a dozen more can be added to the list as of urgent concern. All of them are robbing us of our natural heritage by out-competing it and crowding it out.

What can you do about it? Personally, not much. Anyone who has tried to cut buckthorn knows that for every stem cut a dozen comes up. Similar results with other intrusive plants indicate that at our present level of expertise, many have to be poisoned, and herbicides in the hands of untrained personnel scares me as much as do intrusive plants themselves. But isn't that why we have governments? To do things for us that we can't do ourselves?

What we must have is a government agency whose function is to protect the environment from organisms foreign to our state. I say organisms because, as I expect you have already recognized, what I say could just as well be said about chestnut blight or gypsy moths.

I envision a two pronged agency compose on the one hand of scientists searching for ways to biologically control intrusive organisms, and on the other hand, men fighting in the ditches, flood planes and fallow fields to prevent their spread.

None of this is new. For three years I have poised this on local, county, and state levels. The answer is always the same. "We don't have the money." Well I have news for those on all political levels. The intrusives aren't waiting. They are reproducing and spreading, and spreading, and spreading.

Duane F. Ferris
Box 126
Burton, Ohio 44021

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NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NORTHEASTERN OHIO
1994-1995 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

It is advised that participants bring a brown-bag lunch on all field trips.

FIELD TRIPS

Sunday, APRIL 3, 10AM TO 12PM - BRECKSVILLE RESERVATION. George Wilder, Professor of Biology at Cleveland State University, will lead this trip. Emphasis will be on winter

botany, including identification of both herbs and woody plants in winter condition. Participants are encouraged to bring a handlens or some other kind of magnifier, although this is not required. Drive to the center of Brecksville, i.e., to the junction of Rt. 82 and Rt. 21. Go east on Rt. 82 and turn right on Chippewa Creek Drive, which is ca. 500 feet past the shopping center on the right of Rt. 82. Follow Chippewa Creek Drive as it bends to the left, for ca. one-half mile. Park in the parking lot at the right of the drive, where there is a sign directing people to the Nature Center. We will meet in this parking lot.

Saturday, MAY 7, 10AM TO 1PM - HOLDEN ARBORETUM. Walter Macior, Professor of Biology at The University of Akron, will lead this field trip. Dr. Macior is an expert on pollination mechanisms, and will demonstrate numerous instances of pollination in action. From route 90 (east of Cleveland), turn off at exit 193, onto route 306. Proceed southward on route 306, to the bottom of the long hill. Turn left onto Kirtland-Chardon Road and go ca. 3 miles to Sperry Road. Go left on Sperry Road. Follow signs that direct you to the main entrance, which will be ca. 1 mile or more away. Participants will meet in the main parking lot of the arboretum.

Sunday, MAY 15, 11AM TO 2PM - KENNEDY LEDGES in Portage County. We will begin a survey of the flora of this relatively pristine area, which will continue informally, on dates not yet scheduled. The location stands out as having unspoiled sandstone ledges (contrary to the damaged environment at Nelson Ledges nearby). This is a rare opportunity, because the public is normally excluded from this location. We are obtaining special permission from ODNR-DNAP to enter the area. We will meet at the parking lot at Nelson Ledges. This lot is on Route 282, ca. 2-2.5 miles south of Route 422.

Sunday, MAY 29, 11AM TO 2PM - PALLISTER PRESERVE. A highlight of the flora here is *Coptis groenlandica*

(Goldthread). Duane Ferris states that, rumors to the contrary notwithstanding, he has never observed a massasauga rattlesnake here. In Ashtabula County, travel north out of the town of Windsor, on Noble Road. Go right (east) on Mead Hollow Road. Go north on Windsor-Mechanicsville Road. Turn right (east) on Callendar Road. The Pallister Preserve is on the south side of Callendar Road. Look for Duane Ferris and he will direct you to a parking place.

Saturday, JUNE 11, 11AM TO 2PM - LOU CAMPBELL PRAIRIE. Tom Sampliner will lead this trip. It is expected that people in attendance will observe grass pink orchid, sundew, and *Aletris farinosa*. The Prairie is in Lucas County. In Lucas Co., from Rt. 80 (Ohio Turnpike) proceed to Rt. 2 West; proceed west on Rt. 2 to Crissey Rd.; turn south (left) on Crissey Rd.; the Prairie is on the west side of Crissey Rd.,just south of the Turnpike.

Sunday, JULY 10, 10AM TO 3PM - BORROW PIT at Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area. George Wilder will lead this field trip. The borrow pit, created when soil was removed to aid in construction of Rt. 80, has an extremely diverse flora including many species which are uncommon or rare elsewhere within our area. Meet at the intersection of Boston Mills Rd. Cross the bridge over the Turnpike (Rt. 80), and immediately thereafter park along either side of Boston Mills Road.

Sunday, AUGUST 21, 11:00AM TO 5:30PM - MARBLEHEAD AND KELLYS ISLAND. We can expect to see a diverse flora unique to the alkaline soils of this area. Meet with Tom Sampliner at the Newman Boatline Ferry Landing at Marblehead.

Sunday, SEPTEMBER 18, 11AM TO 2PM - NORTH KINGSVILLE SAND BARRENS. Tom Sampliner will lead this trip. It is expected that we will observe blue curls, *Spiranthes ochroleuca*, striped maple, pin cherry, and *Lycopodium tristachyum*. Drive east on Rt. 90; then exit Rt. 193 to the north; drive north on Rt. 193; turn right on Rt. 20 East; turn left on street.

Saturday, OCTOBER 1, 10AM TO 2PM - IDENTIFICATION OF TREES IN SUMMER. George Wilder, Professor of Biology at Cleveland State University will present this two-part program. The first part will be a laboratory exercise pertaining to structural features of foliage leaves and branches of native trees. The second part will be a field trip to Shaker Lake (Shaker Heights, Ohio) and possibly, also to North Chagrin Reservation. Meet in room 226 Science Building in Cleveland State University (located in Cleveland, on the northwest corner of the intersection of Euclid Ave. and E. 24th St.); park in the parking lot on the south side of Euclid Ave., across the street from the Science Building and immediately east of the Barnes and Noble Bookstore.

MEETINGS

Saturday, NOVEMBER 12, 5 PM - CLEVELAND BOTANICAL GARDEN, Garden Center of Greater Cleveland, Annual Banquet and Annual Meeting. Our speaker will be Dr. Tom S. Cooperrider (Professor Emeritus of Biology at Kent State University). He will discuss his forthcoming book pertaining to the flora of Ohio. The Cleveland Botanical Garden is located in Cleveland, along the north end of Wade Oval, just north of the Cleveland Museum of Art and the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. (Wade Oval is situated immediately east of the intersection of E. 105th St. and Martin Luther King Drive). There is a parking lot next to the building, and another parking lot beneath the building.

January, 1995 - TALK AND SLIDE SHOW BY INVITED SPEAKER. Details to be arranged.

Thursday, FEBRUARY 16, 1995 - MEMBER'S SLIDE SHOW at CHAGRIN FALLS LIBRARY. Travel to downtown Chagrin Falls; proceed east on Orange St. for ca. one-quarter mile. The library is on the south side of the street, opposite the large church.

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A BOOK REVIEW: THE BIOPHILIA HYPOTHESIS

Stephen R. Kellert and Edward O. Wilson, Editors. Island Press, Washington, D.C., 1993. 455 pages.

In 1984, world renowned biologist Edward O. Wilson wrote Biophilia in which he coined the term and defined his understanding of it as our "innate affinity for all life forms." In his introduction conservationist Stephen R. Kellert says that "the biophilia hypothesis proclaims a human dependence on nature that extends far beyond the simple issues of material and physical sustenance to encompass as well the human craving for aesthetic, intellectual, cognitive, and even spiritual meaning and satisfaction." *The Biophilia Hypothesis* is a collection of essays by the editors and 18 other eminent thinkers from a wide range of disciplines each of whom contributes evidence for and against the hypothesis.

Part One of the book written by Wilson and Kellert deals with an expanded definition of what exactly is meant by "the biophilia hypothesis" and on what basis we have come to use and value nature. Both conclude with strong calls for conserving the diversity of life.

Part Two discusses biophobia, emotional responses to natural landscapes, adaptive responses to habitats and interactions with animals. I found some of these chapters overly detailed belonging more in professional journals than in synthesis books such as this.

The essays in Part Three address the historic and prehistoric changes in human perceptions of our relationship in and to nature, the psychological effects of a loss of biodiversity, and a skeptical chapter detailing a currently existing culture which seems to cast doubt on the validity of the hypothesis.

Two chapters on Symbolism constitute the fourth part. I found the text in the chapter "On Animal Friends" by Paul Shepard found very readable, but the diagrams and flow charts did not add to my understanding. This section concluded with a chapter on how deeply nature has entered and illuminated our language.

The section on evolution discusses prototaxis (the innate tendency for one organism or cell to relate in a definite manner to other organisms or cells); the relationship between Biophilia Hypothesis, the Gaia Hypothesis and earth's evolving environment; and the relationship between artifacts, complexity and engineered biological diversity.

The final section, Part Six, focuses on ethics and political action. I found the chapter on ethics difficult to follow without advanced formal education in ethics or philosophy, but still very thought provoking. The chapter by David W. Orr of Oberlin College was my favorite. Professor Orr's contribution entitled "Love It or Lose It: The Coming Biophilia Revolution" is one of the most understandable of all the chapters being completely jargon free, yet at the same time cutting to the heart of the issue. His call for and suggestions of directions to go is very timely. Many environmentalists are good at critiquing what's wrong. David Orr provides us with a large measure of hope by identifying some meaningful actions which we all can take and the importance of education in moving us forward.

I think this book is a major contribution in helping us understand our place on this planet, our relationship to the other beings we happen to share it with, and how we might begin to live together without destroying our home.

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A MOTHER'S DAY WEEKEND TO REMEMBER
Or A Weekend Mostly In The Car

By Tom Sampliner

Set your biological and botanical clocks and gas up for Mother's Day weekend. Traveling from the northeast quadrant of the state to the Lake Plain of Lakeside Ohio and finally to Resthaven Wildlife Area you will see some of Ohio's rarest and most interesting species.

In Ashtabula County, there is a restricted access property called Morgan Swamp, now owned primarily by the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. As the name suggests this wetland is wooded and very wet. Located in the heart of the glaciate plateau. This acidic woods is home to some rare plants. One is the painted trillium (*Trillium undulatum*), a state threatened species with only a couple sites. The trillium are found in several spots scattered on the property. As you search you'll be impressed with this hemlock swamp with it's dark pools spread over the property. The pools are remarkable for their robust specimens of cinnamon and royal ferns (*Osmunda cinnamanea* and *Osmunda regalis*). The former can be most easily distinguished from interrupted fern (*Osmunda claytoniana*) when neither are in fruit by looking for a tuft of golden brown hair at the base of each set of pinna where the pinna attach to the rachis.

Those dark pools are also great for frogs, salamanders, and the like.

The trilliums may not be as frequent or robust as in the east Appalachians but they sure as attractive with that dark delicate red line that circles the three petals close to the throat. The leaves are a blue green color. Another noteworthy plant is goldthread (*Coptis groenlandica*) found at the edges of the dark pools or even at the hummocks protruding like cypress knees from the water. For avid

mushroom hunters, I usually also find a yellow morel (*Morchella escuelenta*) or two.

A few years ago at a Native Plant Society weekend, some of our guests from downstate were delighted to find dwarf ginseng (*Panax trifolium*) at another site not too far away. Well that's here too as one of the ground covers.

Not yet in bloom at this time, you can find the rounded dark green callop-edged, hairy leaves of a rare plant in the rose family that has lots of common names; I refer to robin-run-away (*Dalibarda repens*), a state threatened species. Just of a couple of these other common names are dewdrop and false violet. If this weekend is to cover all we intend, it's time to pack up again and hit the road.

We'll leave Ashtabula County and head west via I-90. We go all the way to the Marblehead exit which is Route 269. Head east to Lakeside until you reach Alexander Pike Road where you turn right (south). The restricted access state nature preserve is especially set aside for the preservation of the Lakeside Daisy (*Hymenoxys herbacea*, formerly *Hymenoxys acaulis* var. *glabra*), endangered in Ohio and federally threatened.

Here amidst a quarried limestone formation, the daisies seem to flourish. Even from the road you see those bright yellow composite flowerheads in clumps. The flowers seem to arise from a look alike to lunar landscape. Our Canadian friends in Ontario Province call this plant, Rubber weed. The name is based upon the rubber band like snap back if you were to pull the strap like leaves.

On a recent trip (Spring 1993) with botanist Paul Martin Brown from the New England Wildflower Society, I asked for an explanation of the occasional clumps of cream colored specimens. I was informed that these were this species version of albino. He pointed out there were clusters that were colors between the obvious bright yellow

and creamy, some having even doubles in the flowering heads. Paul indicated these were hybrids. Apparently this population is large enough and healthy to give rise to such variants. Before leaving the site, take a look at the embankments where quarry work still seems to be occurring. The bank swallows have a large active colony.

This preserve is open one weekend in May to the public with no permits or reservation needed. Contact ODNR for details.

Heading further west we'll exit at Eustalia and proceed south through town to circle back north along Rt. 101 to Resthaven. In town, be sure to check out the pond which is excellent, just about any season for ducks and other waterfowl.

Resthaven is not restricted access. For viewing the small white ladyslipper orchids (*Cypripedium candidum*), a state endangered species, it is best to go following a burn year. These wet prairies are burned by ODNR on a rotating basis. These can be hundreds of orchids in an area burned the prior season.

There is one area where small yellow ladyslipper orchids (*Cypripedium calceolus* var *parviflorum*) have crossbred with the small white to form a recognized hybrid (*Cypripedium xandrewsii*). The hybrid is described in "Orchids of the Western Great Lakes Region" by Frederick W. Case, Jr. revised edition 1987. This book is a must have for orchid enthusiasts. Case describes it as having an ivory-white pouch of the white and dark purple-brown sepals and petals of the yellow parent.

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