On The Fringe

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NORTHEASTERN OHIO

Founding Chapter of
THE OHIO NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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On The Fringe
Quarterly News Letter of
THE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
OF NORTHEASTERN OHIO
2651 Kerwick Road
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FIRST CLASS

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Quarterly Newsletter of
The Native Plant Society of Northeastern Ohio

4th Quarter 1998

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1998 PROGRAM SCHEDULE
by Dr. George J. Wilder

It is advised that all participants bring a brown-bag lunch on all field trips and to all workshops. All please call the trip leader to let him or her know that you will be coming. This is very important in case of any last minute changes which participants many need to know about. The phone number for the trip leader is listed for each event. Please feel free to invite guests.

SUNDAY, **NOVEMBER 1,** LAST FLING FIELD TRIP - 9:00 AM TO ABOUT 1:00 PM - **Dr. George Wilder**, Professor of Botany at Cleveland State University and Vice President and Program Chairman, will lead this trip. Most likely, we will examine plants of vacant, disturbed lands within Cleveland and/or nearby suburbs. Prominent, among species observed will be member of the families Goosefoot (Chenopodiaceae), Grass (Gramineae), and Composite (Compositae or Asteraceae). Telephone Dr. Wilder at work (216) 687-2395 or at home (216) 932-3351 if you wish to attend. Participants will initially meet at the botany laboratory at Cleveland State University, Room 225, Science Building.

SATURDAY, **NOVEMBER 7,** ANNUAL MEETING AND BANQUET - 5:30 PM TO ABOUT 9:00 PM - CLEVELAND BOTANICAL

GARDEN, 11030 EAST BLVD., CLEVELAND. **Dr. Warren H. Wagner**, Professor Emeritus at the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor) will be our guest speaker. Dr. Wagner is an internationally renouned authority of pteriodophytes (free-sporing vascular plants), especially, and including diverse groups of ferns and lycopods. His publications, and those of his students have emphasized multiple aspects of pteridophytes, particularly, morphology, development, taxonomy, cytology, life histories, floristics and putative evolutionary trends of these organisms. Major studies have involved the classification of *Botrychium* species, of higher ferns, of species of Section Camplanata of the genus *Lycopodium*, and also have considered the morphology and developement of *Ophioglossum* gametophytes. Dr. Wagner is among the last active outstanding pteridologist of his generation (which has provided such other luminaries as Dr. David W. Bierhorst [deceased] and Dr. Rolla Trion (retired). As such, he brings with him broad persepctive, profound expertise, and charisma. It will be a privilege to have him visit us. Although originally he was going to speak about the unusual wildflowers of Ohio, we have persuaded him to speak on ferns. His presentation will begin after dinner at 8:00 PM and is free to all those having dinner. Those wishing to attend only his presentation can do so for $3.00 per person. A reservation form can be found on the inside of the rear cover page. Please send your check for dinner and your reservation form to Tom Sampliner, 2651 Kerwick

Road, University Heights, OH 44118 **by Saturday, October 31st** so Tom can make final arrangements with the caterer. Please make your check payable to "The Native Plant Society of Northeastern Ohio."

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Beginning with this issue our *"On the Fringe"* will be printed on paper stock which is composed of unbleached, 100% post-consumer waste. The stock is called *"Quest Script"* and is manufactured by Simpson Paper Company of Seattle, Washington. The stock was purchased from TreeCycle Recycled Paper in Bozeman, Montana.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Thomas Sampliner

Frequently, I am called upon to speak to groups that have potential members or allies for this Society. I am sure others of you also find yourselves in this situation.

For example, Friday evening, September 18, I am to give a talk at the F.A. Seiberling NatureRealm of the Akron Metroparks; I will give a talk on Sunday, September 20 at 12:45 P.M., during the Sunnybrook Farms "Annual Herb Fair," on using native plants; and then, the evening before our annual Banquet, Friday, November 6 I will speak at Geauga County Park District's Meyer Center. I am also scheduled to speak in connection with my one-man print exhibition during the months of November and December.

Each place invites the dissemination of our literature. Since part of our purpose is to spread awareness regarding native plants, we should all seek to make use of such opportunities. The board plans to make this easier by preparing a brochure describing the Native Plant Society and its mission. The board would find it helpful to have you folks who are computer literate pass along information you find on the internet.

* * * * *

BILL'S LAST WALK

By Tom Sampliner

Cigarette? Blindfold? Last meal? Nah, none of the above. However, it certainly was to be the last official walk given by Bill Hudson in what is now his former capacity as Administrator for the State Division of Natural Areas and Preserves. We all join in congratulating Bill upon becoming the new Director for the Geauga County Park District.

On Sunday, August 2, a very small group of interested members accepted the challenge of a strenuous hike into Pymatuning Creek Fen. Under Bill's able leadership, four followers trudged behind on a delightful day for this time of year; mostly low 80's, gentle breeze, lots of sunshine and tolerable humidity.

From the moment of introductory remarks, we learned how unusual and special this wet realm was. All were surprised to hear that the creek was part of the Ohio River drainage system. Apparently, the creek flows south and eastward towards the Pennsylvania line where it feeds into the Shenango River which in turn joins the Neshannock in New Castle and so on with additions until it contributes to the mighty Ohio.

The creek has been quite pristine subject only to some periodic problems from local oil well drilling and farm runoff. Perhaps this explains how the undesirable reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinaceae)* got a foothold along Creek road and is being successfully attacked with

a grass specific herbicide.

Until Bill educated us, we did not notice the frequent butternut trees (*Juglans cinerea*) that line the creek as one walks west from the parking area to access the fen. For those unfamiliar, the pinnate compound leaflets closely resemble black walnut (*Juglans nigra*). One way to distinguish is the former is the ellipsoid fruit while the latter is globose. Without fruit, look for a band of hairs at the upper edge of the leaf scar and dark brown pith vs. no hairs and light pith for the walnut.

It is a totally different world when entering the fen at this time of year as opposed to May when the federally listed globeflower (*Trollius laxus*) is in bloom. Then, the vegetation is not the seemingly impenetrable thicket of plants that all seem to scratch, prick, trip, or cause itching. Certainly, this is what eagerly awaited us this day. There may have been no vocalization of fee, fi ,foe, fum, but these plants certainly did smell and awaited the blood of us Englishmen. Let's see; we endured *Rosa palustris*, *Rosa multiflora*, as chief prickmasters; and stinging nettles (*Urtica dioica*) and Poison ivy and sumac (*Toxicodendron radicans* and *vernix*) as chief itchmasters while density and unstable soil were the tripmasters. The joke of the day became "Are we having fun yet"?

Having successfully plowed through the thicket guardian, we emerged and descended into the gravely seep that is the fen. Cold water bubbled to the surface in a nutrient-poor habitat that few plants have adapted to. Hummocks arise from the water as nurse beds. A highly noticeable miniature forest of *Carex flava* is one of the

hummock species. This sedge is expected in marly habitat according to Edward G. Voss in the Monocot section of his *Michigan Flora*. Both Voss and Ohio's Clara Weishaupt attribute the sedge with wide, strongly ribbed leaves, long beaked perigynia with pistillate scales that at maturity are reddish in color. Voss further observes the perigynia being serrulate towards the tip. Another hummock denizen is a beak-rush (*Rhyncospora alba)* which are perennial, slender and usually 3-angled culms having terminal and axillary spikelets. When young, this species has white spikelets, which later become brownish-red. Achenes and bristles surround these diagnostic features among spike-rushes. The impression is surreal in this forest of Lilliputians.

Don't overlook the surface of the hummocks. Roundleaf sundew (*Drosera rotundifolia*) will readily disclose how it catches its prey if you get down to look. In and around these hummocks in prime bloom were two of the reasons why we came. Let me introduce two upstanding members of the orchid family, *Spiranthes romanzoffiana* and *cernua*. The former, called hooded lady's tresses, have a tightly wound coil and lateral sepals that are connivant with the dorsal sepal and lateral petals to form a hood-like structure above the lower lip. *Cernua* is less tightly wound, but more importantly has free lateral sepals that do not appear as a hood with the remaining flower parts. So, two orchids for the price of one--not bad.

Next we gingerly walked around the deepest waters to make a brief jaunt northward to find some of

the *trollius* leaves. One of us made an inappropriate step and left a boot for a brief solitary sojourn in the muck. Standing tall we met composites: tall or greenheaded coneflower (*Rudbeckia laciniata*), boneset (*Eupatorium perfoliatum*), Joe pye weed (*Eupatorium dubium*) and swamp thistle (*Cirsium muticum*). None of us were what could be called tall, so walking amidst these species quickly created a claustrophobic feeling. It was tolerable considering sights like prime condition wild clematis or Virgin's bower (*Clematis virginiana*) was putting on a great show. It twisted and wound around all the tall aforementioned species as well as the trees and shrubs that were frequent enough to provide a welcome handhold--itch causer or not. A fellow member of the buttercup family, tall meadow rue (*Thalictrum polygamum*) was past bloom but highly visible with the scalloped leaves at chest height. A more maple-like leaf in appearance was the now enlarged ones of water or purple avens (*Geum rivale).* This spring-to-early summer blooming member of the rose family was not quite the height of taller species; in fact, it hovered down at the level of the *trollius* leaves. Slightly higher were the green pickle-like pods from blue flag iris (*Iris versicolor*).

An interesting shrub to small tree, Alder-leaved buckthorn, (*Rhamnus alnifolia*) was encountered as we picked our way through this special wetland. The classic habitat is cold bogs and swamps. Green flowers without petals cluster 1 to 3 at the base of oval toothed leaves. The fruit is a black inedible berry. Too bad, we were past prime for the frequent shrub companion, steeplebush

(*Spiraea tomentosa*) which shows off rose-pink flowers arranged in steeplelike clusters. Amidst these and not as plentiful, were some bugleweeds (*Lycopus virginicus*), a mint with tiny white flowers at the base of opposite, sharply toothed leaves.

It was about this time that we backtracked to leave the fen to tramp some distance to the south to look for the Small purple-fringed orchids (*Platanthera psycodes*). As we moved along, Bill must have decided it was high time to whip this motley crew into shape. He was right, of course. Well, we started by whacking each other with rose branches that were frequently chest height as we wandered south through the woods to get to the southern open field. Next, Bill thought that a very tall wet meadow of towering ironweed *(Vernonia noveboracensis*) and Eastern Joe pye weed (*Eupatorium dubium*), both composites and both being heavily visited by insects packing stingers, might be nice to test our mettle. The Joe pye had the solid stems and somewhat rounded clusters of pink flowers as opposed to others. Speaking of mettle, why not add some nettles? We sure did, as robust, chest high stinging nettles (*Urtica dioica*) really separated out the hardy from the wimps. With the composites towering mostly 6, 7 or more feet high, I really began to hope things were looking up sometime real soon. I know I sure wished I had a machete. Did you ever notice how some of these plants have developed an appetite for tripod leg locks? I knew one was not supposed to take greenery home from a preserve but this was clearly not my fault.

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ABOUT OUR NEIGHBORS THE SOUTH

by Jean Roche

The following information was exerpted from the August Newsletter of the Cincinnati Wildflower Preservation Society, Southwest Ohio Chapter of the Ohio Native Plant Society. The Cincinnati program promises that during the 1998-99 year they will "run-in" with lizards and "fly-out" with butterflies and, in between, concentrate on wildflowers, their conservation, and the influences of geology on their locations. Pretty impressive promises!

The Cincinnati Society began in 1917 and was involved in the teaching of science in the Cincinnati Public Schools in the 20's and 30's. Many Cincinnati school children were members, paying their ten-cent dues and receiving the little white button with the Shooting Star logo displayed on it. During the days of the major acquisition of lands in Adams County designed to become the Lynx Prairie and Buzzards' Roost Rock, the Socity was a major contributor. In the 80's and 90's, the Society again contributed to land preservation in the Oxbow and at the Highlands Sanctuary. Four years ago, to help improve the integrity of the boundaries at Hazelwood, the University of Cincinnati's National Natural Landmark woods in Sycamore, the Society voted to grant $ 1,000 toward that purpose, the money to be made available when plans were finalized. Dues, besides

being used to pay current expenses like program and newsletter printing, postage, meeting space rental and speaker fees, are also used to help preserve some of the best examples of fine wildflower habitat in the tri-state area. The Society, like the Society of Northeastern Ohio, lives through its dues-paying members. Highly active members who participate in most of the scheduled activities are critical to the month-to-month, year-to-year lifeblood of the Society.

Cincinnati has 14 scheduled field trips and four unscheduled ones planned for this year. The first is a short half day trip on October 10th, to Lloyd's Woods with Drs. Jerry and Carol Baskin. Call Steve Pelikn (681-2574). The other three involve extended times away from the Cincinnati area. The first is a driving trip through the deep South to see the several species of sessile Trilliums in mid-March with Vic Soukup. The second is a visit to Glacier National Park in early July with Stan and Karen Lockwood. The last trip in late June to Iceland with Bill Eisele who earlier this year found that two days were insufficient to see the wealth of flowers and spectacular scenery. Consult the named individuals for more information. A trip to Newberry Preserve in mid to late May next year is suggested to see Gyandotte Beauty (*Synandra hispidula*), citing identification of hundreds of first year rosettes during a 1998 field trip, making prospects bright for a spectacular show in 1999.

This year's trips will include a very rare Cedar Glade habitat in April and a large population of

spectacular Kentucky ladyslipper in May. Programs will include information about lizards of the Mohave Desert, about butterflies and their life-cycles, and about wildflowers of Israels' Negev Desert, and of Lake Catherine, about the geological basis of Ohio's biodiversity, and finally about the public's increasing awareness of wildflowers and their conservation.

For more information on Cincinnati, you may contact their treasurer, Bill Eisele, 9005 Decima St., Cincinnati, OH 45242.

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MEMBERSHIP DUES

Annual membership dues are due on the first day of each new year. Dues are not prorated for individuals who join in mid year. Membership categories and rates are as follows:

ACTIVE: $10.00
FAMILY: $15.00
SUSTAINING: $25.00
PATRON: $50.00
LIFE: $500.00

Please make your check payable to "*The Native Plant Society of Northeastern Ohio*" and send with the attached form to Tom Sampliner, 2651 Kerwick Road, University Heights, OH 44118.

Name:_____
Address:_____
City/State/Zip:_____
Phone:_____

THE URGENCY OF FOREST CONSERVATION

A Summary of a Presentation by James Bissell

by Brian Gilbert

On July 29th, Jim Bissell of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History came to the assitance of the Geauga Park District and our Society by filling in at the last minute for Bob Leverette who was forced to cancel his scheduled talk on "Big Trees and Old Growth Forests."

Jim's presentation on "The Urgency of Forest Conservation" was very similar to a presentation he made to members of the Museum on January 17th. His message was well worth repeating.

Jim stressed our need to begin preserving representative samples of beech-maple forests which dominate our northeast Ohio landscape. He pointed out to guests that we have been paying most of our attention to preserving rare plants and wetlands. While these are important issues, we have tended to ignore one of the major biological features of our neighborhood...the mature beech-maple forests. He pointed out that we have not even inventoried the locations of the remaining typical beech-maple forests in our area. In addition, our focus on preserving wetlands has inadvertently caused land developers to direct their developments on upland forest sites.

The size of our forests also has a large impact on

the amount of diversity. A preserve of 25-50 acres may be expected to have 10-20% fewer species than a 250 acre site. This may be most noticeable in neotropical bird species diversity. They seem to do best in large, un-roaded (and no wide trails) tracts of land. The ideal tract size on which you would expect to see the greatest variety of neotropical bird species is about 7,000 acres. And it is doubtful that intact, untouched sites of this size can even be found in our area. We have allowed too much fragmentation in our land use. And even if we could find areas of this size, it is doubtful that we amass the funds necessary to acquire them so they could be set aside and preserved from development. The cost of land is at least in part driven up by the high value of timber found on unlogged land.

It is unfortunate but beech-maple forest preservation has not been a priority in Ohio. Neither the Nature Conservancy nor the Cleveland Museum of Natural History have made finding and preserving beech-maple forests an important goal in recent history. This needs to change. One possibly important site might be the old Ravenna Arsenal which has about 22,000 acres total.

Jim also suggested that we look for good representative samples of red oak (*Quercus rubra*) forests to preserve. Our area produces some of the best red oak in the world. Growth is both clean and straight. But this too might be expensive to procure. A good 100-acre forest of 60-80 year-old red oaks might be worth between $500,00 an

$1,000,000.

In the long run we might have to depend on securing lands which may not be pristine but which can be rehabilitated. We need to learn the techniques of native species reintroduction to repair damaged lands. We need to be able to control the alien plants such as gout weed, myrtle and english ivy which tend to take over formerly used but now abandoned lands. Even with skillful and knowledgeable restoration abandoned farms can easily take over 100 years to exhibit a resemblance to its original natural biodiversity.

We need to start now.

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4TH ANNUAL NORTH AMERICAN NATIVE ORCHID CONFERENCE

University of South Florida
Tampa, Florida
April 8-13, 1999

As many as 25 species are possible during the four days of field trips! Registration Fee: $45.00 per pers.

Thur-Fri - April 8 & 9 - Ocala/Gainesville areas
Sat-Sun - April 10 & 11 - Conference at U of SF
Mon-Tue -April 12 & 13 - Sebring/Naples areas

Dr. Robert L. Dressler, Featured speaker, with John Beckner, Chuck McCartney, Roger Hammer, Cliff Pelchat, Eric A. Christenson, and Paul Martin Brown.

North American Native Orchid Alliance
P.O. Box 772121
Ocala, Florida 34477-2121

BALLOT - 1998
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The following individuals were nominated for officers of the Board of Directors of the Native Plant Society of Northeastern Ohio at the September 9, 1998 Board of Directors meeting:

PRESIDENT:	Thomas Sampliner
VICE PRESIDENT:	George Wilder
TREASURER:	Judy Barnhart
SECRETARY:	Brian Gilbert

WRITE -IN CANDIDATES

Office_____ Name_____

Office_____ Name_____

Office_____ Name_____

The election of officers will take place during a short business meeting at the annual dinner. If you know of anyone who is interested in serving on the Board and/or of chairing a committee, please call Tom Sampliner or any other Board member. Additional nominations for officers can be made from the floor during the Annual Meeting. If you would like to nomnate someone for an office, please be certain that they are willing to accept the nomination and have time to devote to the Society. If you will be unable to attend the meeting you may mail in this ballot to Tom Sampliner by Nov. 7th.

ANNUAL MEETING & DINNER
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1998
CLEVELAND BOTANICAL GARDEN
11030 EAST BOULEVARD
CLEVELAND, OHIO 44106

Cocktail Hour	**5:30 PM**
Dinner	**6:30 PM**
Dr. Wagner's Presentation	**8:00 PM**

"Ferns of Ohio"

The Board of the Society has maintained the price of the catered, buffet-style dinner at $13.00 per person. The cost to attend Dr. Wagner's presentation without dinner will be $3.00 per person. Please feel free to bring guests.

Please send your check and reservation form to Tom Sampliner, 2651 Kerwick Road, University Heights, OH 44118. Please make your check payable to the "Native Plant Society of Northeastern Ohio". Be sure to indicate the total number of people coming with you.

Reservations must be made by Saturday, October 31, 1998.

Native Plant Society of Northeastern Ohio
ANNUAL DINNER RESERVATION

Name_____

Address_____

Phone_____

Dinners @ $13.00 each ____

Presentations only @ $3.00 each ____