NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NORTHEASTERN OHIO
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ON THE FRINGE

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MAY PROGRAMS AND EVENTS:

MAY 7: Field trip, Big Creek Park/Whitlam Woods, Geauga County Parks. Leader, Nate Finck. Take old 44 n. out of Chardon to Woodin Road. Turn right on Woodin to Robinson Road. Turn left on Robinson to Big Creek Park. Meet at Maple Grove Shelter at 9:00 a.m.

MAY 20-22: Second Annual Native Plant Symposium sponsored by The Holden Arboretum and The Native Plant Society of Northeastern Ohio. We urge all members to plan to attend and take advantage of the opportunity to hear and talk with authoritative speakers lecturing on a variety of topics pertinate to Ohio flora. Also, join in on workshops and field trips. This will prove to be a highly informative as well as an entertaining weekend! Check your brochure for exact details. If you have not received a brochure, one can be obtained by calling The Holden Arboretum at 946-4400.

FUTURE FUN:

JUNE 18: Field trip. Coming up in June will be a very special field trip. Emliss Ricks, the manager of Eagle Creek Preserve in Garrettsville, will conduct a walk to several different bogs in the area. These selected sites will prove to show a vast array of unusual flora, including orchids and insectivorous

plants. Be sure to plan the whole day.

JUNE 23: Our regular meeting will feature Mr. Dale Leonhardt and Mr. Gene McKenna presenting an illustrated talk "Overview of Plant use Through the Ages to the Present" with focus on poisonous plants, food use, and pharmaceuticals. Meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Corning Bldg. at The Holden Arboretum.

"The fair maid who, the first of May
Goes to the fields at break of day
And washes in dew from the hawthorn tree
Will ever after handsome be."



VIRTUES BEYOND BEAUTY

Several native plants, trees, fungi, and lichen have medicinal virtues that were valuable to Native Americans and early settlers. Remedies, as varied as the flora, to cure or sooth anything from a wound to digestive disorders were survival knowledge.

One would wonder how it was discovered that pulverized blue flag root would reduce swelling, or a preparation of goldenseal and bear fat would act as an insect repellent, or a tea made from boneset to reduce a fever, when there were no laboratories to verify its safety. Nonetheless, these plants and more were tried. Some found their way into the main stream of conventional medicine. Goldenseal is an example of a once abundant plant that was nearly eradicated by over zealous collection for medicinal use.

Next time you find yourself appreciating the beauty of a wildflower or some strange spotted mushroom, think perhaps, of its once ancient use as a healing remedy.

Wendy Perks

BIG CREEK PARK

by Nate Finck, Park Naturalist
with Geauga County Parks

Since The Native Plant Society has scheduled a field trip on May 7th to Big Creek Park which is part of the Geauga Park District, some background information would seem appropriate.

Big Creek, one of four major Geauga parks, contains over 600 acres. It originally was part of the Mather family estate which was donated to the State of Ohio.

The Geauga Park District was formed in 1961. Four years later, following the passage of the first park levy, the original parcel of 580 acres was leased to the park district. Since then an additional 90 acres has been purchased.

The park, containing a second growth forest of at least 100 years in age, is dissected by a number of small streams cutting through both recent glacial deposits and sedimentary rock formations of approximately 300 million years old.

Beech-maple on the uplands and beech-hemlock associations along the cooler ravines make up the major mature forest communities.

We in Ohio are fortunate that men with vision preceded us. Because of their foresight and efforts, a law was enacted by the State Legislator which authorized the establishment of Park Districts.

A park district is an autonomous political sub-division created with the expressed mission to acquire land "for conversion into forest preserves and for the conservation of the natural resources of the state, including streams, lakes, submerged lands and swamplands, and to those ends may create parks, parkways, forest reservations, and other reservations and afforest, develop, improve, protect and promote the use of the same in such a manner as the board deems conducive to the general welfare."[1]

In this way natural areas can be preserved for the present and future generations, saving special habitats without which many animals and plant species might not survive.

These areas serve as ideal outdoor classrooms for school groups who

visit the parks, a place for visitors to explore the world of nature and for interpretive programs carried out by park naturalists.

Because these parks are a protected resource, no plants or animals are to be disturbed or removed. This includes the wood of downed trees since they serve as sites for many small plants and animals and in time decay and enrich the forest soils.

Welcome to Big Creek Park. Hope your visit will be a pleasant one.

[1]Ohio Revised Code, Section 1545.11, 1980

EDITOR'S CORNER



To those who were not at last month's meeting, I would like to point out that a great vehicle for fund raising was hit upon that evening. Through the donation of an original watercolor by Maureen Bartel, and the generous bid of an anonymous buyer, $ 300.00 was realized for our Society.

I am calling upon talented members, of which this Society is well endowed, to donate their quality amateur or professional works for the purpose of fund raising.

A silent auction could be an interesting addition to a monthly meeting or a raffle at the Symposium would be great...there's still time.

Without the proper funding, our Society will not progress.

Larry Giblock
Editor

LANDSCAPING WITH NATIVE PLANTS

The mystique that surrounds wildflowers, their fragility, delicateness, and ephemeral nature has long kept the public away from landscaping with our beautiful natives. The prevailing philosophy of ornamental horticulture and landscaping has resulted in our urban landscapes becoming dominated by exotic flora.

The nursery trade gives the public what they want. Yews from Japan and Ireland as foundation plantings, Eurasian bluegrasses for the lawn, European myrtle as a ground cover and numerous Eurasian bulbs and perrenials for the border.

As landowners, you are temporary custodians of tracts of land that are within the natural range of hundreds of plant species. The once vast forest that stretched to the edge of the Cleveland area is no more. Only remnants remain and none have not felt the hand of man to some degree. You have the power and the knowledge to eliminate habitat, or to choose to improve that section of habitat that you occupy.

Natural landscaping with the myriad of colors, forms, and textures of native species such as trees, shrubs, ferns, and wildflowers is one way in which you can improve your section of habitat. This is not a new concept, it has been written about and discussed since the 19th century. Today's focus on lower maintenance landscapes and the desire for the rare and unusual is bringing our natives back into the limelight.

While landscaping with native plants is a method by which native plants can be conserved and your section of habitat improved, this can not be accomplished unless the public supports nurseries, dealers, and organizations which provide plants that are propagated from local sources.

The vast majority of native plant dealers do not propagate, but go into rapidly decreasing natural areas and dig their stock. As concerned individuals, it does not befit us to support organizations that plunder our diminishing natural heritage.

Increasing research and experimentation has provided the answers to how to propagate many of our native species. Many of our favorite woodland

species are easy to propagate and within the capabilities of the home gardener. Unfortunately, some species are not.

All species of native orchids and trilliums have proven to be not economically feasible or impossible to propagate. A southern nursery which offers 1000 trilliums and pink lady's slippers for $ 225.00 obviously is not propagating their stock.

You the public have a very strong voice and motivational method by which you can help to promote the propagation of native plants. Simply, do not buy plants unless they are propagated.

Nurseries in this area which sell wildflowers, buy their stock from dealers which dig from the wild. Ask nurseries if they propagate their stock and do not buy from them unless they do propagate. The dollar is a very convincing argument.

If the public wants native plants that only are propagated, then the nurseries will supply them propagated stock. The public wants yews and vinca, and we most certainly have these plants. It will only take time.

For a complete list of dealers which propagate wildflowers and those which collect native plant species, send $ 1.00 to:

The New England Wildflower Society
Garden in the Woods
Hemenway Road
Framingham, MA 01701

Please ask for the list of sources of native plants and wildflowers.

Brian Parsons



MAY BLOOMERS:

dwarf ginseng	early meadow rue
foamflower	painted trillium
miterwort	long-spurred violet
wild oats	round leaf ragwort
wood phlox	golden alexanders
wild geranium	great Solomon's seal
columbine	starry Solomon's seal
red elder	large yellow lady's slipper
Mayapple	Indian cucumber root
bunchberry	appendaged waterleaf
starflower	lily-leaf twayblade

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Those of you who did not attend the April 14th meeting, missed a truly outstanding lecture on Ohio native orchids. The slides on the insects that pollinate the orchids and how they do it were fabulous. Let's have better attendance at future meetings. That is the only way we'll continue to attract quality speakers.

August 13th & 14th, Holden and the Society will co-sponsor an Ohio Native Plant Sale. All proceeds will go toward the Wildflower Garden. We are obligated to provide manpower to staff the sale and affix plant markers. We must have volunteers step forward. Even if you can only give two or four hours it will be a big help.

As discussed on April 14th, Holden is trying to raise $ 8500.00 to enlarge the Wildflower Garden by adding a bog, a prairie, and a limestone rockery. Some of Ohio's rarest and least seen plants will be grown there. Holden is after the big donations. But, if every one of our members gave $ 5.00 or 10.00 it would be a giant step toward gaining the goal. This is one of the purposes of our group. The Wildflower Garden is a beautiful jewel in a magnificent setting.

I need your input and soon. What do you think of a picnic meeting one evening in August at Holden when <u>all</u> the members could get together and exchange ideas about what <u>you</u> want the Society to do and how. This is your group and we very much need to hear from you. Let me know if you want such an evening at 338-6622 or by mail.

Ann Malmquist
President

"Awareness promotes understanding,
Understanding promotes appreciation,
Appreciation promotes protection."

Freeman Tilden



Sponsored by The Holden Arboretum

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The art work in this month's newsletter was provided by a very talented member, Phyllis Leonetti. Phyllis received her training at the Cleveland Institute of Art, and has exhibited at the May Show, Bonfoey On The Square, Butler Institute of Art in Youngstown, and at The Holden Arboretum in 1980.

As well as botanicals, Phyllis is noted for her views of the Flats of Cleveland. Her medium is acrylics.

Mrs. Leonetti volunteers at Lantern Court and for the past five years, has been chairperson for the yearly wildflower sale at Holden. She is also chairperson of membership for our Society.

When it comes to society work, the roll of the volunteer plays an integral role. Phyllis Leonetti is truly an integral part of our Society.