NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NORTHEASTERN OHIO
9500 Sperry Road Mentor, Ohio 44060
(216) 338-6622

On the Fringe

Volume 1 June, 1983 No. 4

JUNE PROGRAMS AND EVENTS:

JUNE 18: Field trip. Eagle Creek Preserve. Leader, Emliss Ricks. Take Center St. (n.e.) out of Garrettsville 1½ miles to Hopkins Road. Turn right (south) on Hopkins. Proceed 3/4 mile and meet in the parking lot at Eagle Creek which is on the right hand side. Let's assemble by 9:00 a.m. so we will have a full day. Bring a lunch. Emliss has planned to travel to various selected bogs in northeastern Ohio and will provide us with those locations on the day of the walk.

JUNE 23: Be sure to attend our regular meeting. "Overview of Plant Use Through the Ages to the Present" will be presented by Dale Leonhardt and Gene McKenna. This lecture will focus on poisonous plants, food use and pharmaceuticals. Meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Corning Bldg. at the Holden Arboretum.

FUTURE FUN:

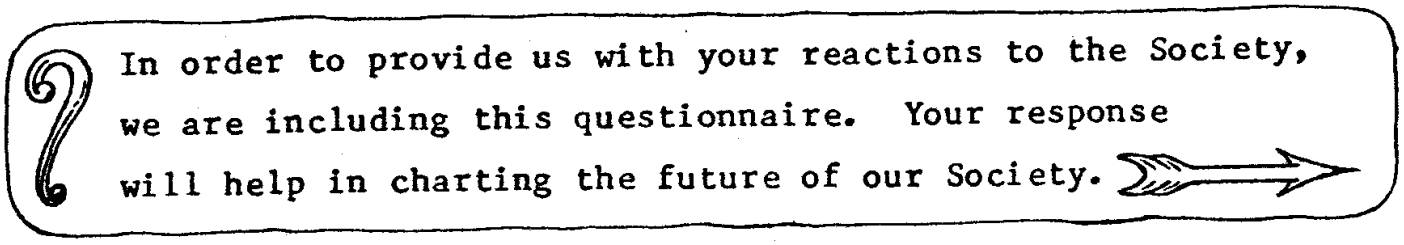
JULY 30: To better serve the needs of our membership, July's program "Ferns of Northeastern Ohio" will be held at two locations. It will combine program, workshop and field trip. The day will begin with an instructive workshop and balance out with fieldwork until 2:00 p.m. or later for all willing. On the east side, meet at Holden Arboretum at the Shelter-

house near the Corning Bldg. at 9:00 a.m. Leaders will be Tom Yates and Brian Parsons. Holden is east of Rt. 306 and north of Kirtland-Chardon Road. On the west side, meet at Brecksville Reservation at the Trailside Museum parking lot at 9:00 a.m. Leader will be Jay Beswick. Take 271S to the Macedonia exit. Rt. 82, head west to Riverview Road, then south to park entrance to meeting site. Bring a lunch and spend the day getting better acquainted with a fascinating group of natives, the ferns.

AUGUST 12: Our regular meeting will feature Mr. William R. Jordan III of the University of Wisconsin Arboretum in Madison, Wisconsin. He is the editor of "Restoration and Management Notes" and part of the Arboretum staff. He will be speaking on the topic of "Making Nature Whole: Ecosystem Restoration and Arboreta". Don't miss our 5:00 p.m. picnic with Mr. Jordan speaking at 8:00 p.m. This will be an excellent beginning for our Prairie Weekend.

THANK YOU...Ruth and Laurence Schwartz have done it again. Not only have they donated time and money, but they have solved one of the remaining problems of the newsletter. Each month the newsletter is now copied at their place of business in Cleveland Heights. You have no idea how much we appreciate all your time.

MEMORIAL GIFT...We were all aware many months ago, of an extremely generous donation made to our Society by Gretta and Hugh Pallister. What we recently learned is that the donation is a memorial gift and we quote "given in memory of Miss Emma Pallister, John C. Pallister and C.M. Shipman, all of whom were founding members of the Lake Erie Wildflower Club, good field botanists and dedicated conservationists."



Comments from the President

Last month I suggested to you an August picnic at which we might all be able to get together and discuss the future of the Society. Since then, the Prairie Weekend has become a reality, August 12, 13, 14 and we are very much involved. This activity is co-sponsored by our Society and the Friends of the Arboretum and is for the purpose of raising funds for the prairie, bog and limestone rockery addition to the Myrtle S. Holden Wildflower Garden.

The weekend will begin with our picnic at 5:00 p.m., August 12 at Holden. We will hold a short business meeting, have an open discussion period and hopefully get to know all the members better. At 8:00 p.m. we are having William R. Jordan III from the University of Wisconsin speak on "Making Nature Whole: Ecosystem Restoration and Arboreta". Mr. Jordan is editor of "Restoration and Management Notes" and a recognized authority on prairies. This lecture will be the first of an annual series in which we will engage a nationally recognized speaker and dedicate the lecture to someone who has devoted his/her life to the same goals and ideals as our Society. This lecture will be called the Elizabeth S. Martin Lecture in recognition of her efforts in beginning what was to become the Myrtle S. Holden Wildflower Garden. We hope that she will be able to be with us that evening.

The weekend will continue with the sale of prairie plants not available at any other place in Ohio. In addition, the Arboretum has scheduled many interesting events. We will provide lecturers Saturday and Sunday on prairie and bog plants and their importance. In reality, this is another symposium like our May one, but open to all without admission. We will need volunteers to assist at Holden that weekend. Please call me at 338-6622 as soon as possible and let me have your name.

Ann Malmquist

From the Latin regina, queen



"What is This?"

As admirers of wildflowers and native plants a commonly asked question as we wander along and see unknown flowers and foliage is "What is this?"

To answer that question, to identify (or key out) the plants, there are a number of field guides available for the amateur.

Newcomb's Wildflower Guide by Lawrence Newcomb (1977), uses black and white illustrations with representative pages of color. It includes 1,375 species of wildflowers, flowering shrubs and vines. It's unique key system utilizes parts of the flower, type of plant (wildflower, shrub or vine) and leaf characteristics. This classification gives you a three digit group number that you refer to in the Locator Key. Then you are sent to the page where, hopefully your plant will appear. Once mastered this system is quick and dependable as long as you have correctly classified the flower parts and plant and leaf types.

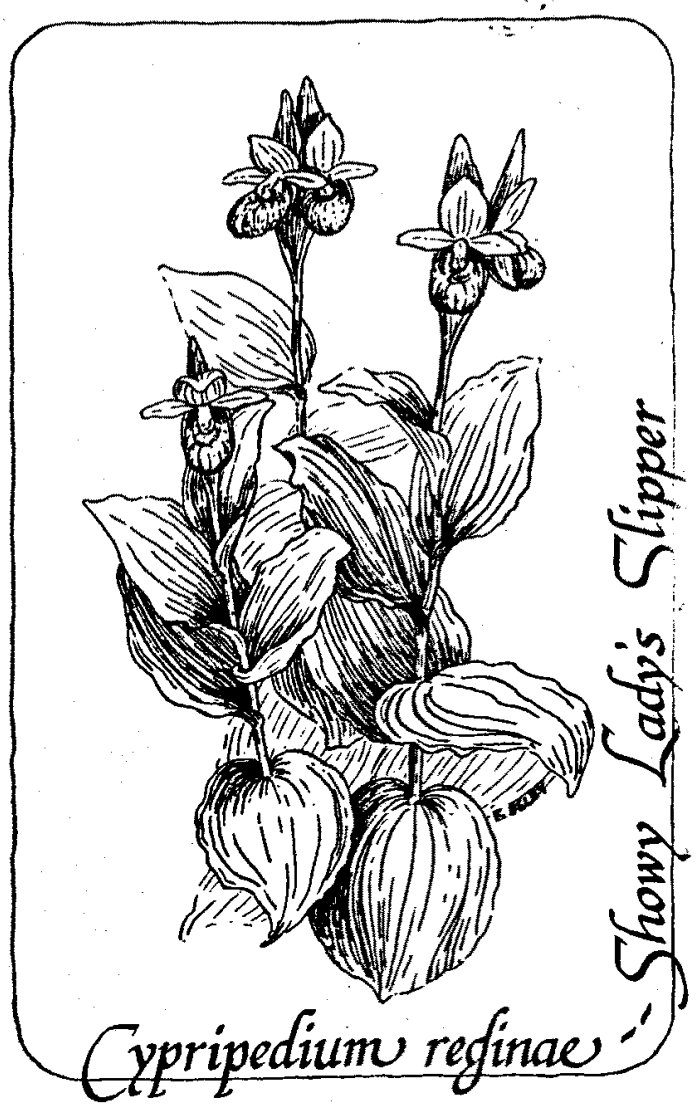
The plant habitat and range is listed and a very generalized flowering time is noted by seasons. It also designates whether a plant is not native by use of an asterisk (*). The illustrations are very accurate. Close up details of small intricate flowers are often shown and it frequently gives actual sizes of flowers and leaves in addition to heights.

One thing lacking in this guide is an in depth discussion of families although it does group families close together and gives a general description.

It comes hardbound and is very well sewn, to hold up under active use.

A Field Guide to Wildflowers by Roger Tory Peterson and Margaret McKenny (1968) covers about 1300 species and also makes use of black and white illustrations with representative sections of color drawings. Arranged in sections by color, form and detail you can quickly turn to the proper color section, then page through to find form and detail of your specimen. Grouping by color can be a hindrance, as some species can be more than one color the authors therefore recommend that the other color sections be checked.

As in other field guides of the Peterson series, arrows are used to point out distinct features, and close-ups are used for smaller flowers. The families are not grouped together but a series of family symbols appear next to the individual plant descriptions and refer you to the front for a brief discussion of each family. Range and habitat are covered, as well as a monthly blooming period. A clear notation "alien" is used for plants not native to our area.



A few shortcomings of this guide are the lack of flowering shrubs (although a few are listed) and no mention of the actual size of the flower is given in the description. The plant height is noted, however.

The binding comes in either soft or hard cover, is well sewn and holds up with use.

The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Wildflowers Eastern Region by William A. Niering (1979), uses full color photographs to identify 700 flowers, shrubs, vines, grasses and

sedges. Grouped by color and shape it makes use of a thumb tab with a colored symbol to designate the different sections. Here again, you page through to find your specimen and because of the color difference in species the other sections need to be checked also.

The photographs although nice to look at, frequently emphasize the flowers and do not show the foliage, making identifications very frustrating. Also limiting is the number of species represented.

Once you get there, Part II the family and species descriptions are very informative, often giving complete breakdown of numbers of parts and sizes of flowers and leaves. It also lists flowering times, habitat, range and interesting comments about usage, origin of names and folklore. It does not however, consistently designate native or not native.

The binding comes in softbound only, the pages are sewn but may not hold up with extended use.

There are many other books available to us for reference, though some are not as handy to carry into the field. Worthy of reading are: A Guide to the Wildflowers and Ferns of Kentucky by Mary E. Wharton and Roger W. Barbour, the now out of print Knowing, Showing and Sharing Ohio Wild-Flowers by the Ohio Association of Garden Clubs, Wildflowers of Eastern America by John E. Klimas and James A. Cunningham, Wildflowers of Ohio and Adjacent States by Isabelle H. Klein, and Growing Wildflowers by Marie Sperka. More technical in nature are: Vascular Plants of Ohio by Clara G. Weishaupt (the botanists bible for Ohioans!), Gray's Manual of Botany by Merritt Lyndon Fernald, and The New Britton and Brown Illustrated Flora by Henry A. Gleason.

Happy keying!

Roxy Hayes

Please hand in at the June meeting or "Dewdrop" in the mail now. Don't wait for the Daliharda repens to bloom.

QUESTIONNAIRE

ANY COMMENTS ON OUR MONTHLY PROGRAMS? _____

_____

_____

ANY TOPICS YOU WOULD LIKE COVERED? _____

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_____

ANY INDIVIDUALS THAT YOU MIGHT RECOMMEND TO PRESENT A PROGRAM? (INCLUDE PHONE NO., PLEASE SO WE MAY CONTACT THEM)_____

_____

WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO ATTEND PROGRAMS IN OTHER LOCATIONS, IF SO, WHERE? _____

WOULD YOU PREFER A NIGHT OTHER THAN THURSDAY? _____

_____

ANY COMMENTS CONCERNING THE NEWSLETTER? _____

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ANY TOPICS YOU WOULD LIKE COVERED? _____

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ANY PERSON YOU KNOW WHO MIGHT BE WILLING TO WRITE AN ARTICLE? (INCLUDE PHONE NO., PLEASE) _____

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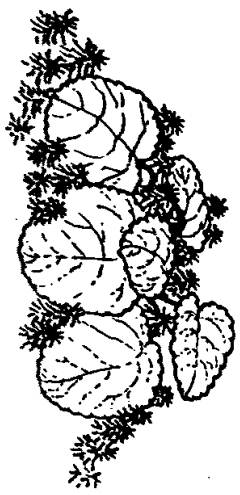
DO YOU FEEL THE FIELD TRIPS SHOULD BE CONTINUED? _____

WOULD ANOTHER DAY OR HOUR BE BETTER FOR YOU? (INDICATE DAY & TIME) _____

ANY SPECIFIC AREAS THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO VISIT? _____

_____

OVER, PLEASE



ANY LEADERS YOU WOULD RECOMMEND FOR FIELD TRIPS? (INCLUDE PHONE NO.)

_____

_____

ARE THERE ANY ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES WITH WHICH YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE SOCIETY BECOME INVOLVED? _____

_____

ARE THERE ANY ACTIVITIES OF THE PLANT SOCIETY YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE INVOLVED WITH? _____

_____

PLEASE FOLD, STAPLE AND RETURN. THANK YOU FOR TAKING TIME TO RESPOND!

COMMENTS: (USE ADDITIONAL PAPER, IF NECESSARY)

FROM:

_____

_____

_____

LARRY GIBLOCK, EDITOR
7611 NOBLE ROAD
WINDSOR, OHIO 44099

Native in the Garden



Spiderwort, Tradescantia, the generic name honors John Tradescant, botanist and gardener to Charles I of England, is an elegant plant with clusters of three petaled flowers rising above long, narrow, iris-like leaves from mid-summer to early fall.. The petals are roundish and arranged symmetrically around the bright yellow stamens. These delicate flowers last only a few hours, blooming in the morning and fading by early afternoon.

There are several species of spiderwort in Ohio. T. virginiana has a hairy stem and leaves, where T. ohiensis is smooth.

An interesting aspect of this plant is its ability to act as a biological Geiger counter. The flowers react with a change of color from blue to pink in the presence of increased radioactivity, and for those of us living down wind of nuclear power plants, this could be a handy plant to have around.

Spiderwort is very effective in the border, if its spreading tendencies are curbed. The plant tends to be invasive, so may best be grown in isolated areas. Locate in partial shade or sun and in moisture retentive soil, it will grow and spread rapidly.

Propagation of this plant is best achieved by dividing clumps early in the spring and can easily be grown from seed or cuttings.

L. Giblock

JUNE BLOOMERS from The Myrtle S. Holden Wildflower Garden

partridge berry	rattlesnake weed	winterberry
daisy fleabane	wild yam	wild garlic
goat's beard	bristly sarsaparilla	gray dogwood
Canada waterleaf	Canada lily	round-leaf orchid
elderberry	shin-leaf pyrola	Indian hemp

The newest flower in the Parsons' house is a baby girl named Lindsey. Congratulations, to the proud parents!

Sponsored by The Holden Arboretum

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MENTOR, OHIO 44060

Editor's Corner

Ruth Schwartz, a charter member of this Society and chairperson of education and conservation for the Hilltop Garden Club of Cleveland Heights, has recently been awarded 1st prize for her exhibit in the field of conservation. The exhibit, on the subject of wildflowers and native plants, was designed by Ruth for the Hilltop Garden Club's biennial flower show.

Comprising the display was an enchanting dish garden representing the woodland floor, a browsing library of books and periodicals on the topics of wildflowers and native plants, and handout literature from the state.

Ruth was also thoughtful enough to include a table for the Native Plant Society. A large 3D poster of the fringed gentian created by Florence Selby, caught everyone's eye, while potted wildflowers decorated the scene. Brochures were provided and Ruth reports that much interest was shown in the Society.

This was a wonderful piece of P.R. work, great job, Ruth!

Larry Giblock

Mitchella repens --Partridge Berry