On The Fringe
Journal of the Native Plant Society of Northeastern Ohio

The Year in Review – 2012
A message from the President

The Native Plant Society of Northeastern Ohio is celebrating its 30th year since its founding. I have been President for the past six years, and I am proud of our accomplishments. This past year, the Board has worked hard to develop interesting educational programs and to have a fitting celebration of our thirtieth anniversary.

As part of that celebration, on September 29th of this year, we hosted a picnic at Look About Lodge in the South Chagrin Reservation with a talk by 30-year member Jim Bissell of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. His topic was 30 years of change in the Lake Erie shoreline. Fifty members and guests came to celebrate this special day. It was a beautiful day, and Wendy Weirich took us on a nature walk on the grounds.

In honor of our thirtieth anniversary, we established the Gentian Award for significant contribution to the study, appreciation and conservation of the native plants and plant communities of Ohio. Perry Peskin was honored with the first award and a commemorative plaque at our Annual Meeting.

Last year we honored Ann Malmquist as the founder of the Ohio Native Plant Society and for her years of service to the organization by donating a bench in her name outside the West Woods Nature Center in Novelty, Geauga County. On the back of the bench is a plaque depicting three trillium flowers. According to the "Our Ohio" website:

> Ann Malmquist, founding president of the Ohio Native Plant Society, was instrumental in securing the trillium's position [as state wildflower]. Malmquist, with Richard Moseley and Guy Denny of the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves, worked with state legislators on a bill to add the trillium as the state's wildflower. Malmquist said the trillium was selected because it was found throughout the state and was easily recognizable. On Dec. 4, 1986, Gov. Richard F. Celeste signed into law an act making the *Trillium grandiflorum* Ohio's official state wildflower.

We continue to reach out to other like-minded organizations. This past year we financed the Plants of the Year postcard for the Lake Erie Allegheny Partnership (LEAP), and we contributed to the Invasive Worm program at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Last year's Annual Grant was given to the Doan Brook Watershed Partnership for riparian restoration. Victoria Mills spoke to us at the Annual Meeting. It is wonderful to know that the monies we donate are actually making a difference. We will continue to cooperate in any way we can with organizations concerned with the conservation of natural resources.

For the first time in ten years, our Annual Meeting and lecture was not held at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History in conjunction with the Explorer Series of lectures. This year we met for dinner at the Pine Lake Trout Club in Bainbridge. Guy Denny spoke about the history of the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources of which he was chief for many years. His topic was "Preserving Ohio's Natural Heritage." His talk was interesting and informative. He discussed the history of the designation of natural areas in Ohio, with specific reference to several prominent areas, and the development of the Ohio Division of Natural Areas and Preserves (DNAP). He also reviewed the development of DNAP. In 1970, Ohio passed the Natural Areas Act, which created natural areas, and Dick Moseley became the director of the program. In 1975 the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves was created, and Dick became the first director.

DNAP still exists, but is non-funded and has no personnel. Of great concern is the status and care of natural areas–who will take care of what and to what degree. Guy discussed how a consortium of volunteers is being formed, under his and Dick Moseley's guidance. The Board wishes the Native Plant Society to be included in efforts to keep Ohio's Natural Areas in the best shape possible. I am proud to say that The Native Plant Society of

Board

President	Kathy Hanratty
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At Large	Diane Christensen
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Co-editor	Bill Oberdick
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The Mission of the Native Plant Society of Northeastern Ohio is to promote the study, appreciation and conservation of the native plants and plant communities of Ohio.

Northeastern Ohio has adopted the Gott Fen preserve, Streetsboro, Ohio. A program has been scheduled in October to work on controlling European buckthorn and other invasive species on the property.

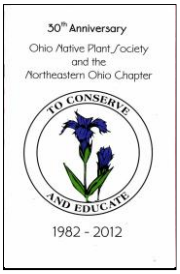
We held four programs and eleven field trips this year. Tracey Knierim established a successful new series of wildflower walks last year, and she continued it this year by popular demand. These are nearby mid-week, after work walks, especially for working people who cannot get out during the day to enjoy the spring flowers.

I personally would like to thank the current Board members for their continued diligence and efforts to keep this society active. Diane Christensen and Bill Oberdick produced four issues of *On The Fringe*. They rolled out the new colored electronic version, which is just wonderful. Jean Loria, our Secretary, did a meticulous and timely job making a lucid record of the activities and discussions at our board meetings. Jane McCullam kept track of the membership and wrote a wonderful history of the Society for a Thirtieth Anniversary keepsake. Bill Oberdick, in addition to keeping peerless financial records, helped the Board to develop a Code of Ethics for Board Members and to draft guidelines for conservation ethics for field trip leaders and participants and for gardeners. New board member Meiring Borcherds opened a Gmail account for us and set up Google Drive and Calendar for the board to use to file reports and share information. Meiring is also our new webmaster.

And, of course, I want to thank you, our membership. Without you we would not be a society. Your membership and dedication to the Native Plant Society gives us the energy to pursue the Society's Mission: to promote the conservation of native plants and native plant communities, to foster public knowledge and appreciation of native plants, and to raise awareness of the ethical issues regarding native plants.

It has been my honor to serve you, and I know you will be in good hands with our new president, Kathy Hanratty. She is very energetic and is dedicated to the mission of the Native Plant Society. She has proven herself capable of leadership of the organization having stepped in and taken over for me while I was out on sick leave, "Thank you Kathy."

Judy Barnhart served as President of the Native Plant Society of Northeastern Ohio from 2006 - 2012.



Thirtieth Anniversary Booklet Is Available

In honor of our Thirtieth Anniversary, we produced a 12-page booklet about the founding of the Ohio Native Plant Society, its chapters and early supporters. Those attending the anniversary picnic at Look About Lodge on September 29th were given a copy as a keepsake. If anyone else would like a copy, we will be glad to provide it. They are available by mail for $5.00 each to cover printing and postage. If you wish to see the booklet, it is on our website at http://nativeplantsocietyneohio.org/NPS_30th_History.pdf
Please send orders to Jane McCullam, 9880 Fairmount Rd., Newbury, OH 44065

Program Schedule – Winter 2013

Sunday, January 20, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm - Wildflower Tour of Manitoba, Canada, The West Woods Nature Center, Geauga County. Tom Sampliner, photographer and past president of the Native Plant Society of Northeastern Ohio, shares his two-week journey from the prairies along the Manitoba-US border to the shores of Hudson Bay at Churchill. Explore the flora and habitats of this Canadian province with a few cultural encounters along the way. Presented in conjunction with Geauga Park District. Stay afterwards for a presentation on landscaping for wildlife. Directions: take St. Rt. 87 east from Rt. 306 in Russell Township approx. 2 miles to the park entrance on south side of the road. 9465 Kinsman Road, Novelty, Ohio 44072.

Sunday, January 20, 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm - Planting for Wildlife, The West Woods Nature Center, Geauga County. Join Penny Orr of Perennials Preferred, Inc., Chesterland, as she shares secrets of planting using good gardening principles and native plants to create beauty while attracting birds and other wildlife. Penny is a lifelong gardener, co-founder of Perennials Preferred, and a past president of the Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland, where she designed a wetland reclamation planting. See http://www.perennialspreferred.com/about/ for more details.

Saturday, February 2, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm - Kiss Your Ash Goodbye: Impacts of Emerald Ash Borer, Cleveland Metroparks Look About Lodge. Connie Hausman, Plant and Restoration Ecologist with the Cleveland Metropark's Division of Natural Resources, provides an historical background to the invasion of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) and discusses ecological impacts and management options. Presented in conjunction with Cleveland Metroparks. Stay afterwards for a presentation on landscaping for wildlife. Directions: Look About Lodge, 37374 Miles Road, Bentleyville, Ohio 44022. Take Rt 91 south to Miles Rd, turn left (east) on Miles Rd. Look About Lodge will be one mile on the right

Sunday, February 10, 2:00 pm, Solon Library Meeting room. Garrett Ormiston from the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Conservation Outreach Program, will speak to us about Edible Native Plants. He will cover the different culinary and historic medicinal uses of different native plants and where these plants grow.
No registration required, but call Tracey at 330-388-9279 in case we need to cancel due to inclement weather.

Sunday, March 10, 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm, Solon Library Meeting room. We will watch Catherine Zimmerman's "Urban & Suburban Meadows**"** 60 minute video with meadow expert Mike Nadeau. The video brings into focus the amazing diversity of life inhabiting meadows and prairies, and the beautiful imagery inspires meadow and prairie creation. The video and book address the problems caused by the extensive planting of pesticide-ridden, non-native grass lawns across America. We will also watch a 13 minute video on how the Mohican State park was created and how far it has come. The video was created by the Ohio Department of Forestry, Rick Miller, Bryce Millikin, Peace River Studios, & Timothy McKee. Followed by a lively discussion. Solon Library - 34125 Portz Pkwy., Solon, OH, 44139. No registration required.

Friday, April 5, 8:00 am – 4:00 pm, Ohio Botanical Symposium, Villa Milano, 1630 Schrock Road, Columbus, Ohio, 43229. The Native Plant Society of Northeastern Ohio will be a sponsor of the Ohio Botanical Symposium, which brings botanists, naturalists, and other nature enthusiasts together to network, provide professional enrichment, and view posters and displays on Ohio's native flora, natural areas, and rare plants. Keynote speaker is Doug Tallamy, Chair of the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware and author of *Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens*. Presentations include best plant discoveries of 2009 and secrets of pollination. Many exhibitors and vendors. More information will be provided in the March issue of *On The Fringe*.

Statement of the Native Plant Society of Northeastern Ohio Upon Awarding Perry Peskin The Gentian Award for 2012

We are proud to give Perry Peskin our first Gentian award. Our Society created the award to honor those in the community who have made a "significant contribution" to the mission and goals of the Society. The Society's mission is the study, appreciation, and conservation of the native plants and plant communities of Ohio.

Perry Peskin exemplifies our mission in a special way. There are many who through their occupation do much to foster that mission, but Perry's life shows that this mission can be pursued with dedication even by those who are not employed in the field of conservation, botany, or similar areas.

Perry was a teacher of English for many years in Cleveland-area schools. Nevertheless he pursued the love of botany that he developed while wandering the hills of Cumberland, Maryland, where he grew up, and while he minored in biology at Case Western Reserve University.

Perry went on many nature walks over the years, and he turned what he learned and experienced on those walks into many articles and talks, sharing his knowledge and experience. He wrote more than a half dozen articles for our Society's journal, *On The Fringe*. He also wrote for *Wildflower Magazine* and *Explorer*. Perry's botanical travels have taken him worldwide, and he wrote articles about many of his trips. He created a book from the portion of his articles that were about Ohio and the Midwest. The book is called *The Search for Lost Habitats*.

Perry shared his love of nature with others, not only through his own writing, but also through the writing assignments he gave his students. Often he assigned his English students to take a walk and write about it. We are sure that he prompted many to see things in nature they never saw before.

So for a lifetime of interest in native plants and for sharing his knowledge with others, we are delighted to honor Perry with this first Gentian Award.

The plaque has a picture of a Fringed Gentian and says:

Gentian Award
For Dedication to the Native Plants of Ohio
Perry Peskin
2012

Congratulations Perry!

Winter Nature Interpretation

By Emliss Ricks, Jr.

From *On The Fringe,* March 1984, Vol. 2, No. 2.

Among the noticeable features on the winter landscape are the many and various galls to be seen. These plant deformities can be found in fields, forests and streamside. There are over fifteen hundred insects in North America that produce these unusual growths on a great variety of plants. No two galls are exactly alike. Essentially, galls are temporary housing for many different species of insects. They are formed when an insect, either through physical irritation or chemical secretion, causes the plant to produce anomalous tissue growth around the intruder, providing food and shelter for the developing insect. Most of the gall producers' life histories are a mystery to us. Some of the more common galls that we see in Ohio include several different Goldenrod galls.

The Elliptical Goldenrod Gall is widespread in field annuals. Unlike most galls, this one is caused by *Gnorimschema gallaesolidaginis*. In the autumn the adult lays the eggs singly on the lower leaves and stem of the goldenrod. The insect overwinters as a hardened egg and emerges in the spring to burrow into the end buds and travel down the stem. Where the insect stops is where the gall develops along the stem. The larva feeds until midsummer, pupates, and emerges in late summer as an adult. The gall, when seen in winter, is without its maker, with a small exit hole near the top as the evidence of its leaving. Often other insects and spiders will utilize the chamber for shelter.

The Goldenrod Bunch Gall occurs on Canada Goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*) and is caused by a little midge, *Rhopalomyia solidaginis*. It is easily recognized by the proliferation of overlapping leaves at the meristem due to stunting of the plant stem, giving the appearance of a green, many-petaled flower. Though the gall is believed to be caused by a single larva, other insects of the same genus can inhabit the gall as inquilines, or late arrivals.

The Goldenrod Ball Gall is one of the most common galls. Causing a ball-like swelling of the plant stem, it is probably the most widely recognized of all the goldenrod galls. It is produced by a small spotted-winged fly, *Eurosta solidaginis*. The eggs are laid on new stems in the late spring and early summer. After hatching, the larva burrows its way into the stem. It then hollows out a living chamber while the plant creates the large globe-like gall around it. By winter the larva is quite mature, but it will overwinter in the larval stage. It resumes its activity in the spring by boring its way to the outermost layer of the gall and then returning to the chamber to pupate. The adult emerges in the late spring. It is quite vulnerable during the winter months and a number of insects and other animals are known to feed on these larva, including downy woodpeckers. Large holes in the galls are evidence that the tenants provided a midwinter banquet for a diligent Downy.

Other galls commonly seen during the winter include many types of oak galls (over 800 species), and several willow galls, some of which look a lot like small pine cones. Galls make interesting winter study because they are so highly visible at this time of year and because they readily show the diversity of interrelationships among plants and animals.

Emliss Ricks has spent 30 years as an Ohio Department of Natural Resources district preserve manager for northeast Ohio. He retired in November, 2007.

Ancient seeds grown

Russian scientists have successfully grown narrow-leafed campion plants from seeds buried by an artic ground squirrel 31,800 years ago. The frozen *Silene stenophylla* seeds were found in an ancient burrow on the banks of the Lower Kolyma River in northeastern Siberia by a Russian research team. The scientists took cells from the placentas in the seeds and grew them in culture dishes into whole plants. The plants appear identical to the present-day narrow-leafed campions, but their petals are narrower and more splayed-out.

Reprinted from the *Minnesota plant Press*, The Minnesota Native Plant Society Newsletter, Summer 2012, Vol. 31, No. 3.

A Near-Perfect Native Plant: Creeping Wintergreen, Gaultheria procumbens

By Gene Bush



Creeping wintergreen glazed by a light frost.
Photo by the author.

Creeping wintergreen, or *Gaultheria procumbens*, is as close to the perfect native plant as one will find in gardens from Canada to the Carolinas.

Almost every human sense is fulfilled just paying this plant a visit while walking through the garden. All twelve months of the year, the eyes are most certainly rewarded by lustrous leaves decorated in turn by tiny white flowers and red berries. The nose is rewarded by berries and foliage that exude a clean, fresh scent when crushed. Although wintergreen does not make an audible sound, it does say "holidays" as few plants can with its red and green theme during winter months. All five senses are combined to become that elusive sixth sense rising to the experience of a Courier and Ives greeting card.

Creeping wintergreen is a dwarf shrub that draws itself up to its full height of four inches while moving outward, rooting as it goes. It is assertive in its growth, creating a great groundcover when given the right habitat. There are only two requirements for success in growing wintergreen. It must have somewhat acidic soil, and it does best when the stems have a loose mulch or duff for the roots as they extend their reach.

My soil was neutral to just slightly acidic, so I created a raised bed for my wintergreen along with other acid-loving plants. My garden is on the north side of a hill, and the bed I created was located under a white pine for shade. I used alternating layers of peat moss and pine bark chips to a depth of eight to twelve inches, let the bed get rained upon a couple of times, and then transplanted my wintergreen and companion woodland jewels.

Within weeks, the wintergreen settled in and began expanding, creating a carpet of deep, lustrous green leaves of heavy substance. Each leaf looked as though it had been polished during the night to shine in the light of a new day. In July, tiny white-aging-to-pink, urn-shaped flowers adorned the top of the leaves. As I walked by the bed I could watch the flowers drop and begin to turn into berries.

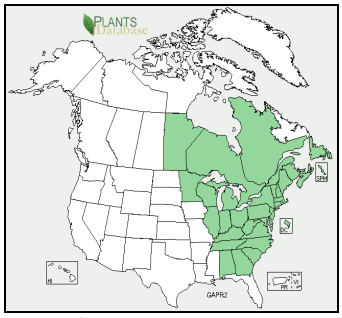
By October, each round berry had become a deep holiday-red. In November, the first frosts and light snows began to dust and adorn the red and green of the wintergreen, heralding the holidays to come.

Wintergreen responds well to containers if you would like to bring some up to your home's entrance over the holidays. Give it lots of light, water well, feed lightly and often, and it will quickly fill a container to match a red bow and some sprigs of pine or cedar.

My favorite companions are native azaleas of choice; further south, perhaps a camellia for the groundcover to ramble under. Coming up through the wintergreen, I think the native Iris vema, along with the pink ladyslipper and the painted trillium, flesh out blooms for spring.

Each time you walk by, pick a berry to chew on for the fresh clean taste of wintergreen that will linger along with memories of a bed filled with the near-perfect native plant.





Gaultheria procumbens

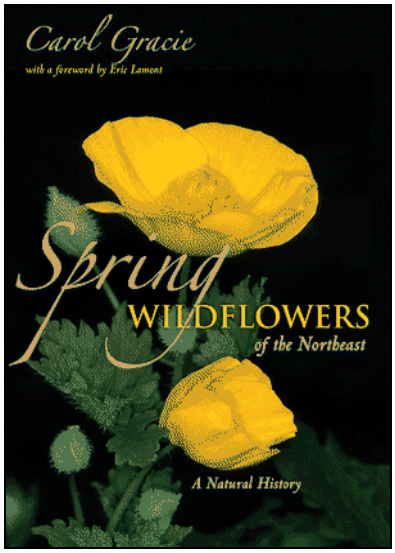
Gene Bush owns Munchkin Nursery, a prime source of ornamental shade plants, including many natives, in southern Indiana. You can follow his blog and sign up for his newsletter, Green Clippin's, at www.munchkinnursery.com.

Reprinted from the Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society Newsletter, Winter 2011-12.

Book Review

Spring Wildflowers of the Northeast
A Natural History
By Carol Gracie

Review by Tracey Knierim



Cloth | 2012 | **$29.95** / £19.95 | ISBN: 9780691144665
290 pp. | 7 1/2 x 10 | 512 color illus.
eBook | 2012 | **$29.95** | ISBN: 9781400841745
Princeton University Press
290 pp.; 7 ½ x10; 512 color illustrations. $29.95.
http://press.princeton.edu/titles/9668.html

When I heard Carol Gracie's *Spring Wildflowers of the Northeast* was coming out, I was extremely excited and knew immediately that I wanted to buy it. When The Native Plant Society was asked to review it, I jumped at the chance. I thought it was going to be a field guide that I could take with me on our spring wildflower walks. To my surprise it turned out to be an 8 x 10 hard cover book about an inch thick. A pocket field guide it is not!

As I flipped through the pages, not only was I impressed with the photographs, but also with its content. A couple years ago I was developing a presentation on the history and folklore of the spring wildflowers of northeastern Ohio. I was amazed at how hard it was to find information. It was scattered, a little here and a little there, in many books, and often contradictory. This book not only condenses all the information I found, but also includes information I did not find, current information, and the author's personal observations on more than 35 species.

The book is set up alphabetically by the species' common name. I like this because it eliminates the need to look up the flower in the index. This setup works because it is basically a book of light reading that can be used to find out information on a flower you have already identified.

I also appreciate the use of the common names, so that a beginner will not be intimidated by the scientific names. The author continues this philosophy throughout her book. When she does find that she has to use a scientific term, she immediately explains it so that anyone can understand her point. She does have a short glossary, but given her style of writing, it is not really necessary. However, do not take this to mean that the book is only for beginners. The content is fresh enough that even the most advanced botanist would enjoy it.

The section for each species is set up like a new chapter. The first page is a gorgeous, full-page picture of the flower in full bloom. The text starts with a colored block that lists the common name, scientific name, and Family. This is followed by a short description of the flower, an interesting fact, or a personal observation by the author. It finishes up with the habitat and the range description. The "chapter" discusses the most interesting facts, folklore, and medicinal uses. She explains the reasoning behind a plant's scientific name, why the name may have been changed, or why its classification has changed. She also covers the plant's life cycle, its pollinators, and her personal observations.

The book is full of interesting tidbits. My favorite is the author's personal observation of the life cycle of the Bloodroot. I knew the Bloodroot was a flower that closed every night and only opened on sunny days. I did not know that it would only open up three times before the petals would fall off, that the petals would start to fall off as soon as it was pollinated, or that it would begin the self-pollination process on the third day.

As a nature photographer, I was quite impressed with the author's 500+ color photographs: not just the quality of her photographs, but her choices of what to include. She not only has photographs of the flower in full bloom, but also of root structures, emerging leaves, buds, fruit, and seeds. She also includes

pictures of the primary pollinators, dependent insects, close relatives, and color variations.

My only criticism of this book is that the author occasionally includes photos of, and references to, species that are not found in America, let alone in the northeastern United States. Although the references may be relevant, I would have preferred them to have been left out. This may have allowed for more room to include at least one more northeastern species.

This is a fantastic book. The photos are great. The writing is captivating and interesting. The information is up to date. It would make a holiday gift for anyone interested in natural history, folklore, or our native wildflowers.

Carol Gracie is a naturalist, photographer, and writer, who also has been an educator and tour leader for many years with the New York Botanical Garden.

Tracey Knierim is on the board of the Native Plant Society of Northeastern Ohio and conducts a popular series of wild wildflower walks as part of the Society's extensive range of native plant programs.

'Non-Invasive' Cultivar? Buyer Beware

Cultivars of popular ornamental woody plants that are being sold in the United States as non-invasive are probably anything but, according to an analysis by botanical researchers published in the October [2011] issue of *BioScience*. Tiffany M. Knight of Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, and her coauthors at the Chicago Botanic Garden write that the claims of environmental safety are in most cases based on misleading demographic evidence that greatly underestimates the plants' invasive potential. What is more, the offspring of cultivars do not usually "breed true" and may be more fecund than their parents, especially if they cross with plants from nearby feral populations.

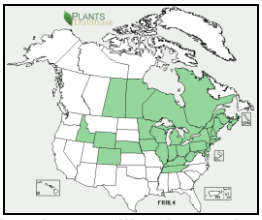
Many invasive plants were once ornamental cultivars, because the characteristics that the "green" industry looks for are the same ones that make a plant potentially invasive -- being adaptable to wide range of conditions, forming dense stands good for erosion control, and having a long flowering period, for example. In recent years the nursery and horticultural industries have responded by creating cultivars of top-selling plants that produce reduced numbers of viable seed and are advertised as "safe to natural areas." Such cultivars of Japanese barberry, buckthorn, and burning bush are now widely sold, as they avoid bans on growing invasive species.

Yet simple population modeling demonstrates that reductions of even 95 percent in the number of viable seed will leave a long-lived species quite capable of spreading -- and many of the new cultivars do not achieve even that much of a reduction. More sophisticated modeling would likely reveal even stronger invasive potential of the "safe" cultivars. Knight and her co-authors conclude that only completely sterile cultivars can be considered truly safe without further testing, and that other types should be tested for breeding true and having a low growth rate before they are sold as non-invasive.



Photo courtesy of Missouri Botanical Garden Plantfinder

'Fine Line' glossy buckthorn is a hybrid produced by crossing a female plant of a variety with an upright habit with a male of a variety with feathery foliage. Its seeds germinate less frequently than those of wild-type buckthorn, but because this cultivar is a hybrid, it likely will not breed true.



Frangula alnus Mill. glossy buckthorn



Courtesy of Portland Press Herald

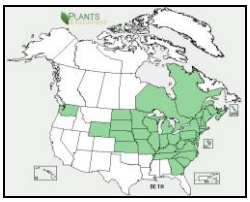
The origins of the reputedly non-invasive 'Rudy Haag' cultivar of the invasive burning bush are not known, but it probably was a "sport" of the popular 'Compactus' cultivar. 'Rudy Haag' produces many fewer fruits and seeds than the 'Compactus' cultivar, but scientists have found that when it is grown with other cultivars it can cross-pollinate with them and regain the ability to produce abundant fruit.

Pictures taken on Oct. 5, 2012 from news.wustl.edu/news/Pages/22789.aspx

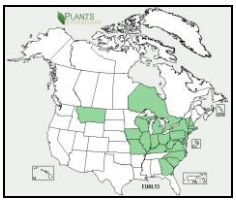


Courtesy of Gary J. Kling of the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign

The 'Crimson Pygmy' cultivar of the invasive Japanese barberry also produces fewer fruits and seeds than the wild type. It is not a hybrid but gardeners have found that it will not breed true from seed and that open-pollinated offspring have some of the traits of the wild type.



Berberis thunbergii DC. Japanese barberry



Euonymus alatus (Thunb.) Siebold burningbush

Printed from the *ScienceDaily (Oct. 7, 2011)* website Oct. 5, 2012. For more information go to http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/10/111007073214.htm. (Tiffany Knight, the author of the article cited, is Associate Professor of Biology in Arts & Sciences at Washington University in St. Louis. The original article appears in 816 *BioScience* October 2011 / Vol. 61 No. 10, and can be found on the web at: http://www.plantright.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/Knight,%20Havens,%20Vitt%202011_On%20Non-Invasive%20Cultirvars.pdf.)

Search Rare Species Data by County or Watershed

NatureServe is a non-profit conservation organization whose mission is to provide the scientific basis for effective conservation action. NatureServe and its network of natural heritage programs is the leading source for information about rare and endangered species and threatened ecosystems.

Now you can use NatureServe Explorer to search for rare plants and animal species by U.S. county or watershed, not merely by state. County and watershed distribution data are available for rare and endangered plants and animals based on available locality records form NatureServe's natural heritage member programs. This database includes most species and subspecies with a NatureServe global conservation status of critically imperiled (G1), imperiled (G2), or vulnerable (G3), as well as species protected under the U.S. Endangered Species Act.

County and watershed searches are accessed by going to the main search screen, then clicking on the "Location" tab at the top. You can select your area of interest either through a drop-down menu or through a map interface. http://www.natureserve.org/explorer/servlet/NatureServe

Augusta-Anne Olsen State Nature Preserve

Located in Huron County, this preserve is just a short drive from Wakeman. Formerly named the Vermilion River Preserve, it now bears the name of Augusta-Anne Olsen, who, with her husband, was instrumental in protecting the significance of this scenic natural area.

Olsen donated 83 acres to the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves to ensure that her Ohio farm would not experience the same fate as her childhood home. Later in 1996, the Division purchased an additional 47 acres of the farm.

Today, Olsen State Nature Preserve features ridge top oaks and maples towering above a mixed floodplain forest and the Vermilion River.

The half-mile Spring Trail offers great diversity and a wide variety of spring wildflowers in April and May including twinleaf, bluebells, sessile trillium, large-flowered trillium, drooping trillium, ginger, bloodroot, marsh marigold, hepatica, wild hyacinth, golden saxifrage, dwarf ginseng and showy orchis.



Both the River Loop Trail and the River Trail offer excellent wildflower viewing, as well as American chestnut trees. The Sassafras Trail features one of the largest sassafras trees in the state, as well as spectacular views high above the river on a ridge of serviceberry and witch-hazel.

The Vermilion River, which runs in a huge bend around the preserve, has created many small plant communities with different exposures offering a great deal of diversity in a relatively small area.

Birding along the river is outstanding in the springtime. Bald eagles, pileated woodpeckers, scarlet tanagers and many species of wood warblers can be spotted in the preserve. The floodplain also offers many vernal, or seasonal, pools of water teeming with breeding amphibians, such as dusky, redback and smallmouth salamanders.

Located about 1 mile north of Wakeman on West River road. It is open to the public; this preserve features a trail system and is 132 acres.

Information from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources website:
http://ohiodnr.com/location/olsen/tabid/955/Default.aspx

Ohio Native Plant Collaborative

By Lori Totman

On November 18, 2010, The Dawes Arboretum called together major stakeholders, including state and federal agencies, private and public organizations and respected field professionals, concerned with Ohio native plant conservation. Collectively they formed the Ohio Native Plant Collaborative (ONPC).

To begin, one must define an Ohio native plant. It is simply a plant that was part of the Ohio landscape pre-European settlement. Pre-European settlement in the late 1700s was a time when nearly 95 percent of Ohio was forested, with some open prairies, bogs and marshes. The rich woodlands with their towering species of oaks, hickories, beeches, maples and chestnuts, to name a few, were most certainly impressive. Some of these majestic trees stood 100-150 feet tall with the first branches located 50 feet off the ground. Few temperate zone hardwood forests rival Ohio's original, primeval forests in varieties and sizes of trees. Ohio's early forests were some of the greatest to ever blanket the earth.

The rapid European settlement of Ohio resulted in a steady decline of forest cover and wetlands, as they were cleared and drained to make way for agriculture. The native plant species the Ohio Native Plant Collaborative will focus on are those that survived the vast changes to the ecosystems during times of settlement.

Native plants play a critical role within an ecosystem; it is important to understand the vital need to conserve them. Ohio native plant species enrich and fortify the soil in which they grow, contributing to the microbes in the ground and providing food and shelter for native bees, butterflies, birds and mammals.

In the November 2010 meeting, The Arboretum's Executive Director, Luke Messinger, stated The Dawes Arboretum is "proposing the creation of a collaboration comprised of resource professionals who will help establish guidelines for the collection, propagation and distribution of trees, shrubs and herbaceous perennials of wild known origin." The overall goal of this initial meeting was to exchange experiences and to create a vision for this collaboration to enhance native plant biodiversity, conserve local genotypes and restore native plant communities in Ohio.

To enhance native plant biodiversity, the partnership most likely will need to address some of the present and most serious threats, such as habitat destruction and habitat degradation due to competition pressure from non-native, invasive plant species. One also must not overlook the imminent threat of climate change on present Ohio native plant species. According to recent scientific predictions, if Ohio becomes warmer and wetter during climate change, there will be an appreciable decline in American beech trees, and sugar maples may totally disappear from Ohio. Beech-maple climax communities are quite common in Ohio. As these species decline and disappear, species more tolerant of a warmer, wetter climate, such as those that are now found in the southeastern parts of the United States, will move north. If this happens, many Ohio native plant species that coexisted and co-evolved with these ecosystems may also disappear.

It is not difficult to find seemingly native plant materials sold in local garden centers and nurseries, but consider first where this "native" plant material originated. If buying locally, it is better to purchase plant material where the origin (provenance) is known to be both from Ohio and the local eco-region.

Distinctive plants, wildlife and natural communities are grouped into eco-regions based on climate patterns, landforms, elevation, soils and hydrology. Eco-regions are recognized by several conservation organizations and agencies including The Nature Conservancy, the World Wildlife Fund and The United States Environmental Protection Agency. The Nature Conservancy's eco-regions are based on USDA Forest Service maps, updated by Nature Conservancy personnel in cooperation with state-based Natural Heritage Programs.

Why work to conserve local genotypes? It is a documented fact that the more closely the environmental conditions of the plant material source (seeds) are matched to that of the planting site, the better it will grow. This is because species have become genetically adapted to the local conditions. To attain the goal of conserving local genotypes, the ONPC will preserve not only the diversity of Ohio native plant species but also genetic diversity within each species. One way to accomplish this is to collect seeds of wild known origin within an eco-region.

Another goal of the ONPC is to restore native plant communities in Ohio. In order for this to occur, it will require the work of ONPC members working collaboratively and in conjunction with Ohio nursery and landscape industries to ensure the availability and use of common Ohio native plants of local known genotypes. Just imagine the impact if new developments could utilize Ohio native plants (trees, shrubs, vines and herbaceous plants) around newly constructed homes and businesses.

After collecting seeds from common (not rare, threatened or endangered) Ohio native plants of wild known origins and propagating these seeds, the goal then will be to get these plant materials into the nursery and landscape industries for their use and eventual distribution to anyone responsible for creating backyard landscapes as well as restoring natural ecosystems.

Collecting and propagating seeds of Ohio native plants of wild known origin will eliminate the horticultural selected types, known as cultivars, that are now common in nurseries and garden centers. Cultivars rarely have the genetic variation of their wild relatives, may be overly aggressive to the point of being considered invasive, and deprive native pollinators (native bees, butterflies, etc.) of their traditional food sources.

In addition to common native plant species, the ONPC may also be instrumental in saving Ohio native rare, threatened or endangered plant species through seed collecting efforts and through their role as a seed repository or seed banking system. Saving the gene pool of these plants species is critical.

To serve as a seed repository or seed bank, the ONPC will most

likely require a seed-processing and banking facility. This will enable the cleaning, testing and storing of seeds for plant production and restoration projects, as well as allowing for seed banking of the rare, threatened and endangered plant species

An integral part of the ONPC program will be to share information among the member organizations. Much can be learned from other Ohio groups' success stories in native plant conservation such as the Maumee Valley Growers, Toledo Botanical Gardens Oak Openings project, and LEAP (Lake Erie Allegheny Partnership for Biodiversity). Any information regarding shortcomings in current projects will also prove invaluable. Learning from others' mistakes or failures while working with Ohio native plant species will give ONPC reason to adapt and change plant selection strategies.

In the initial meeting to discuss the formation of the ONPC, the attendees agreed education should be a key component to the success of the project as we move forward. Education will come in the form of promoting public awareness in regards to Ohio native plant conservation and the value in choosing Ohio native plants of local genotypes for home landscapes. For example, when one goes to purchase the plant species called burning-bush (*Euonymus alata*) for its outstanding autumn color, rarely is one informed it is highly invasive once established in ecosystems. The goal is to educate the public and suggest an Ohio native plant species as a nice alternative; in this case, the fragrant sumac (*Rhus aromatica*), which also exhibits an incredible crimson color in the fall.

Although landowners and land managers may understand the importance of planting Ohio natives, our mission cannot be accomplished if these native plant materials are not readily available. The nursery and landscape industries will play an integral part in the success or failure of the project. These are businesses, and therefore respond to consumer demands and financial incentives. If consumers don't want Ohio native plant materials, more likely than not, the nursery and landscape industries will not grow them.

The first phase of the ONPC was to identify target native plant species for the project. An initial list of plants was generated by a group of professional botanists in January 2011. The criteria used for this initial list state that the plant must be native to the Ohio River Valley Ecosystem and must be common (not rare, threatened or endangered in the state of Ohio). Other factors the botanists took into consideration are if plants: have wildlife value; are edible or have medicinal value; are marketable; and are easily available from nurseries and garden centers.

The botanists' list was sent to those who attended the November, 2010 ONPC meeting, as well as other statewide organizations, agencies, colleges and universities concerned with native plant conservation. Plant propagators and nurserymen weighed in on how easily the Ohio native plants on the list could be propagated and grown.

A next step for ONPC is to create a collections policy that looks at considerations including ethics, wild known populations, and *ex situ* and *in situ* conservation.

In the meantime, The Dawes Arboretum is beginning to obtain seeds of some of the selected plant species located within our own collections (native and restored), taking voucher specimens for the herbarium and keeping accurate plant records. The Arboretum is also proceeding with plant propagation of the collected seeds and pursuing distribution of an ONPC brand.

Lori Totman is currently the Conservation Director of The Dawes Arboretum
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2013 Membership Renewal Rate

The Native Plant Society has not had a dues increase for 10 years. This year, in response to increasing printing and mailing costs, we are going to add a charge for the printed edition of *On The Fringe*. The dues will remain the same, but it will cost an additional $10 to get the journal by mail. The electronic version will be sent at no extra cost (with color picture, hot links, and early delivery).
You will receive your renewal form before the end of the year. If you wish a printed copy of the OTF mailed to you, simply check the box to receive the printed journal and add $10 to your total.
Please also consider making a contribution to our endowment fund. This is the source of our Annual Grant, and and with the low interest rates, we need to increase the principal.

Why are some plant species able to coexist while others cannot?

By Jean Burns

Dr. Jean Burns is trying to find out why some plant species are able to coexist while others are not, and this past summer she shared her work on a walk with our Native Plant Society. She is going to continue to update us on her progress during a walk next year. You are invited; join us. (Follow our website next year for details.)

Observed communities are composed of a subset of possible species, and a central question in ecology is what mechanisms govern these patterns of community assembly. Understanding these mechanisms provides information essential for predicting responses to climate change, developing restoration programs, and controlling biological invasions. Dr. Burns, of Case Western Reserve University, studies mechanisms governing community assembly in plant communities. Dr. Burns and a Postdoctoral Research Associate in the lab, Dr. Angela J. Brandt, are currently conducting a study of factors governing invasibility at CWRU's Squire Valleevue and Valley Ridge Farms. Theory suggests that heterogeneity (variance) in the environment might influence the ability of species to invade one another's populations. They are testing theory by manipulating soil heterogeneity, establishing resident populations, and then experimentally invading those populations with closely related plant species (for example, they use common weedy species, like the narrowleaf plantain, *Plantago lanceolata*, and the common plantain, *Plantago major)*. In addition, the Burns lab conducts shorter-term experiments that examine the role of species traits in invasion. This work has important implications for controlling biological invasions, and the lab is collaborating with Cleveland Metroparks to determine what environmental factors, for example soil heterogeneity, are correlated with invasions.



In 2011, Lauren Huffman (undergraduate researcher), S. Conor Leahy (SPUR fellow), Jean Burns (Assist. Prof.), and Nicole Zimmerman (undergraduate researcher), [left to right], collaborated with Angela J. Brandt to conduct an experiment on the role of phenotypic plasticity in invasion at CWRU's University Farm.

Jean Burns got her Ph.D. in 2006 from Florida State University. In 2007 and 2008, she was a Tyson Research Center postdoctoral fellow, where she conducted research with Tiffany M. Knight's lab. From 2008-2010, she was a Center for Population Biology Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of California, Davis, where she collaborated with Sharon Y. Strauss. In 2010, Jean joined the Biology Department of CWRU. Jean is also a member of the Native Plant Society of Northeastern Ohio.

Folklore:

The Wonder Tree: Eastern Hemlock

By Robert L. Tener

The Eastern Hemlock has been one of my favorite trees ever since my wife and I saw its magnificent stands in the Ohio Hocking Forest Park and I realized how big and magnificent it can be. This is a tree that reaches 160 feet and attains a diameter of 6 feet! What a tree! Imagine this tree in your backyard or front yard. It is not mature until it is 250 or 300 years old, and it can live as long as 988 years. What an edge it has on people. Its ancient ancestors

left remains of leaves, cones, and wood that have been found in the geological strata of both North America and Asia. Certainly history grows into its roots as the tree reaches up and up, as though, like people, it wants to escape earth's limits. In the Hocking Forest Park, I stood in awe of its magnificent sweeping branches and small, light-brown, oval cones. I marveled at how such a tree could grow from a tiny seed, so small that it would take over 400,000 to weigh a pound.



Reprinted from statesymbolsusa.org

As far as Americans are concerned, its name is indeed very old. In Middle English it was called hemlock, and in Old English it was named hemlic, hymlic, hemeluc, hymlice, hemlake, and humlock. The origin of its name is truly obscure. Even the OED could not find it. Hym is probably the original spelling, although Hem is a Kentish dialect spelling. So here we are today speaking a bit of the Kentish dialect. More recently it has had a variety of names such as Canadian Hemlock, Tanbark Tree, Hemlock, Hemlock Spruce, Weeping Spruce, and Spruce Pine. More formally horticulturists refer to it as Tsuga Canadensis: Tsuga, the generic name, being a Japanese term meaning yew leaf, because its needles resemble those of the Yew tree, while obviously canadensis, the species name, means Canadian.



Reprinted form naturekind.org

It has a few insect pests such as the flat headed borer, aphids, scale, and the red spider mite. Despite these it makes a fine ornamental tree for lawns and parks, and if kept sheared produces a rich looking hedge. A tree of many uses, its wood is light, beige colored, tasteless, odorless, soft, and hard to work, knotty, and brittle. Underground it tends to decay quickly. It makes bad fuel, as it sparks, and so is often used for boxes, crates, rough construction, and paper pulp. I have often thought: what a shame to cut such a tree down just to make paper pulp. Yet it does have many medicinal and commercial uses, sufficient reason to save stands of this tree and protect it in one's backyard.

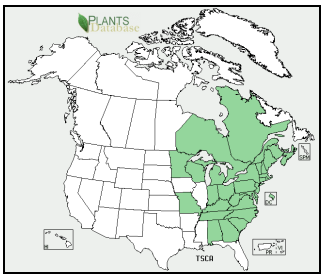


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Its needles produce Oil of Hemlock, and its twigs are a source of Hemlock Tea, once used to induce sweating. This is not the Hemlock Tree whose tea was used to poison Socrates! Some half dozen needles can be steeped in a pot of boiling water for about five minutes, then the twigs are removed and the liquid left is sweetened to one's taste. Although the wood is difficult to work, American Indians used to make a poultice for sores and wounds from its inner bark, which they would boil and then pound with stones to produce a plaster-like substance. Because the bark is rich in tannin, the tree was useful to the tanning industry. Hemlock tannin was often mixed with Oak tannin to avoid the reddish color derived from the Oak alone, which rubbed off too easily from leather. From the pink inner bark an extract was made to dye cloth a dull red. Even the twigs turned out to have multiple uses both for human beings and for animals. New England pioneer women made brooms from the twigs. Imagine using a Hemlock broom to sweep one's dirt

floor! Deer also eat the twig ends, which are loaded with sugar, and birds eat the tiny seeds.

No wonder I fell in love with this tree. On my small farm, which I call High Hawk, I have planted five Hemlocks, and by now, despite their slow growth, they are well over five feet tall. My wife and I rescued one in late October from the refuse pile at one of the local nurseries. I pruned off the dead lower branches, perhaps why it would not sell, and planted it. By now it is almost 15 feet tall, doing well, and a delight for us and the birds. We do not allow deer to come close enough to our home to sample the twigs. By the way, it is an excellent tree to grow to attract birds, as it provides both food and shelter; it graces our lawn with its sweeping, dark-green beauty. All in all a fine, useful, and beautiful tree to live with.





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Tsuga canadensis (L.) Carrière
eastern hemlock

Robert L. Tener is a member of the Native Plant Society of Northeastern Ohio and a regular contributor to *On The Fringe.* He lives in Rootstown, OH.

Ohio *Polygonums*

By Clinton H. Hobbs

From *On The Fringe,* Jannuary 1986, Vol. 4, No. 1

The genus Polygonum is a large and heterogeneous group, and is a member of the buckwheat family. These plants are herbaceous annuals or perennials, and most are considered as weeds. Some of the species are ubiquitous in their occurrence, while others are unusual, or rare, or perhaps extirpated from our state. Some are indigenous to our area, while others are naturalized from other parts of the world.

My study of herbarium specimens on file in numerous educational institutions shows 24 species of *Polygonum* in the flora of Ohio. These species represent six sections of the genus, and these sections have been in centuries past elevated to the rank of genus by the "splitters" among taxonomists. But today the "lumpers" are prevailing for the most part, and this is the way I am considering them—all members of one genus, *Polygonum*. However, it should be said that these species are so diverse in their habit and characteristics that there is good reason for subdividing the genus.

The word Polygonum derives from *poly*, many, and *gonu*, knee—referring to the swollen joints or nodes on many species. The leaves are all simple, alternate, and entire. A sheath enclosing the petiole base arises at each node. This sheath is technically called the ocrea and is formed (in the belief of many) from the union of the stipules. The flowers vary in color from greenish to white, to pink, to rosy red. They are small and strictly speaking have no petals. The structures that look like petals are called sepals, tepals, or perianth segments. The

seeds (really achenes) are fairly large and contain a lot of food, especially carbohydrate. So they are valuable for the support of many kinds of wildlife. The seeds of some species have been used as a source of flour for human use.

In the following paragraphs I am going to discuss the six sections which have species in the Ohio flora, and some of the more common or familiar representatives of each section.

1**.** ***Avicularia*** — true knotweeds.
The common prostrate knotweed is about as ubiquitous as any member of our entire flora. It can stand a lot of trampling, so is found along sidewalks, paths, and roadways. It can stand more trampling than any true grass, and is sometimes called knotgrass. Since it used to be so common in dooryards it was called doorweed or yard grass. One of its favorite habitats is the cracks in sidewalks, where it is frequently found along with the prostrate spurge. Fernald in Gray's Manual of Botany refers to it as a "semi-cosmopolitan weed", and it was accurately described by Dioscorides in the first century A.D. Heraclides Tarentina, another Greek physician, prescribed it as a remedy for flowing of blood from the ear. The roots have served as a substitute for quinine in northern and middle Africa, and the seeds are said to be emetic and cathartic.



Polygonum L.
knotweed

2. ***Persicaria*** — smartweeds.
This is the largest of the sections, contains 11 species in Ohio (out of the 24). The acid nature of the plants when in contact with skin or with mucous membranes causes stinging or smarting, hence the name. They inhabit damp to wet places. One species, water smartweed, can live in standing water, with the leaves floating on the surface as in a water lily. When growing in drier places it will have an entirely different appearance. The roots of this water smartweed have been used as a substitute for sarsaparilla.



Polygonum persicaria L.
spotted ladysthumb

Two of the most troublesome agricultural weeds are classified in *persicaria*, and they often have purple splotches in the leaves. One is indigenous, Pennsylvania smartweed, and is a robust annual. The other is a naturalized alien, but very common–ladys-thumb. Legend has it that the purple leaf splotch was the thumb print of Our Lady (Notre Dame), the Virgin Mary. Another name, hearts-ease, indicates a use it had in early times. Another reported property (virtue) it had was to change the seat of disease from one part of the human body to another!
Carey's smartweed is an example of a plant which is believed to be extirpated from the state. It is still found in areas to the north of Ohio, and in the last century was collected from counties adjoining Lake Erie. But the last collection was made in 1920 in Erie county. The long-bristled smartweed on the other hand is an example of a new species to Ohio's flora. A native of southeast Asia, the earliest Ohio specimen I have found in a herbarium was collected in 1951. It is now locally common, and often grows in colonies. It has some tolerance for shade, while most smartweeds are sun-loving.
One other smartweed I would like to mention is water-pepper. The name is somewhat of a misnomer, because it is not usually found in water. Anyway, biting the leaves gives a pungent or peppery taste. In folk medicine, the plant is said to be a strong diuretic and a strong vesicant.

3. ***Echinocaulon*** — tearthumbs.
These are semi-prostrate herbs often found in wet ditches. The stems are beset with rows of prickles curved toward the base. If one grasps the stem and pulls, the fingers can be definitely injured. The arrow-leaved tearthumb is much more common than the halberd-leaved tearthumb.



Polygonum sagittatum L.
arrowleaf tearthumb

4. ***Tiniaria*** — climbing *polygonums*.
These are twining vines belonging to several species with such common names as black bindweed and climbing false buckwheat. They climb on other weeds or on fences, and often create a tangled mass of vegetation. However, they are not parasitic like the dodders.

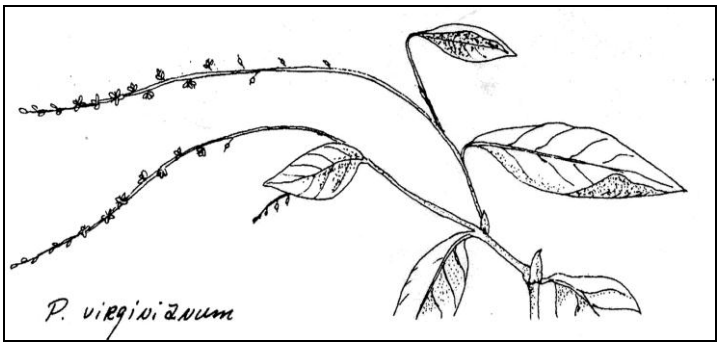


Polygonum cilinode Michx.
fringed black bindweed

5. ***Pleuropterus*** — Mexican bamboo and Sachaline.
These robust herbaceous perennials are truly giants, achieving a height of 10 feet or so, and are sometimes referred to as shrubs. Mexican bamboo, despite its name, is a native of Japan, and is widely distributed in the state. But Sachaline is confined mainly to a few counties bordering the Ohio River. Mexican bamboo was originally introduced as an ornamental, but is no longer looked upon as being ornamental by most people. Furthermore, it is very difficult to eradicate when well established. The vigorous purplish shoots keep popping up year after year. These shoots can be eaten, it should be noted. They have a sour taste like rhubarb, which is also in the buckwheat family.

6. ***Tovara*** — Jumpseed.
This is the only truly shade-tolerant *Polygonum* in our flora, and the only one which can be called a wild flower in the usual sense. When one strips the spike between thumb and finger in the autumn, the dry fruits pop off in all directions. This gives rise to the name jumpseed, which name is probably preferable to the other common name, Virginia knotweed. The young shoots in spring often show the purple leaf splotches reminiscent of some of the smartweeds.
Now after this review, don't you agree that this is a very diverse group of plants to be subsumed under one genus?

Other buckwheat family members in the Ohio flora are buckwheat itself, *Fagopyrum*, and the true docks, *Rumex.*



Dr. Hobbs is a retired Professor of Botany at Kent State University.

Pictures courtesy of USDA website.

Musing on the Society's Thirtieth Anniversary



On this thirtieth anniversary weekend of the Native Plant Society of Northeastern Ohio, it is timely to contemplate what those of us who have been around that long can and should pass on to those who come after us. The symbol of our society is the greater fringed gentian, *Gentianopolis crinite*. The photos on this page were captured the Saturday morning of the thirtieth anniversary meeting.

Whether you are nature observer, photographer, teacher, gardener or casually interested layperson, we all have skills and talents to various degrees that can and should be shared and passed along to those who succeed us—just as there were those who came before us and knew of these marvels of nature such as the rare and beautiful gentian. Such thoughts caused me some years back to commence giving back, or perhaps paying forward, by teaching, guiding, mentoring and doing whatever I can to share what I have learned and enjoyed with those younger or inexperienced in such things. After all, if we do not do this, who will? And then, what of nature in the future?

Tom Sampliner is a member of The Native Plant Society of Northeastern Ohio and a former Board Member an President.







Chapters of the Ohio Native Plant Society

Cincinnati Wildflower Preservation Society
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Oregonia, OH 45054
513-850-9585
cncywildflower.org
http://www.CincyWildflower.org

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The Native Plant Society of Northeastern Ohio
Kathryn Hanratty
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Chardon Ohio 44024-9639
oldefarm@windstream.net
http://www.NativePlantSocietyNEOhio.org

The Botanizers
The Wilderness Center
Gordon T. Maupin
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Wilmot, OH 44689-0202
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- Encourage surveys and research into native plant species and the publication of findings
- Promote cooperation with other programs and organizations concerned with the conservation of natural resources

On The Fringe

Journal of The Native Plant Society of Northeastern Ohio

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