



NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NORTHEASTERN
OHIO

9500 Sperry Road Mentor, Ohio 44060

(216) 338-6622

ON THE FRINGE

VOLUME 2

MARCH 1984

NO. 2

MARCH PROGRAMS AND EVENTS:

- 22nd (Thursday) - Stuart Lewis, Administrator of the Scenic Rivers Section of ODNR Natural Areas will present SCENIC RIVERS OF OHIO. This program should interest all of us who enjoy hiking, canoeing and plant life along riverways. See you at The HOLDEN ARBORETUM at 7:30, Thursday, March 22nd.
- 31st (Saturday) - Perry Peskin, a VERY BUSY retired teacher with a great love for Botany will lead a FIELD TRIP at Mentor Headlands State Park. He will not guarantee seeing Whitlow Grass or Lyre-leaved Rock Cress but he is keeping his fingers crossed. Meet at the last parking lot (farthest to the right) at 9:30 a.m. Bring binoculars for alternative viewing.

APRIL PROGRAMS AND EVENTS:

- 21st (Saturday) - Duane Ferris, also a very busy man, will lead a Field Trip at Swine Creek at 9:00 a.m. and then on to Eagle Creek in the P. M. To get to Swine Creek take Route 87 through Middlefield to Hayes Rd. Turn right to Swine Creek Road.
- 26th (Thursday) - Dr. Paul Wiegman, Director of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy District will speak to us about RARE AND ENDANGERED PLANTS OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA. Mr. Wiegman is an authority on this subject having once been employed by the Carnegie Museum of Natural History and the Smithsonian Institute and having authored RARE AND ENDANGERED VASCULAR PLANTS OF PENNSYLVANIA. This program ties in with the June 16th trip to Corry, Penna. See you at 7:30 p.m. at the Rocky River Reservation Nature Center.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

At our February 5th lecture at the Museum of Natural History it was announced that one of our 1984 projects would be to adopt the University Circle ravine that runs from the Garden Center to East Boulevard, approximately 1000' x 300'. Three people have given their time and money to reclaim it for the last five years but they are asking for help. Holden has authorized Brian and Tom to work with the Garden Center's Alex Apanius in drawing up a basic landscape plan. When the weather gets better our Society hopes to have a good old-fashioned clean-up day. Then as materials become available (thru donations or rescue missions) we will plant and maintain throughout the summer. An excellent start has already been made and it is up to us to carry the torch. Please contact me at 338-6622 if you can volunteer just a few hours. There are 5 sign-ups so far. This ravine will be a great asset to Wade Oval and a possible future teaching area for school children. Our credibility as a viable organization is at stake with The Holden Arboretum, Garden Center of Greater Cleveland and The Cleveland Museum of Natural History, all of whom are backing us in this project. HEADS UP!!

Our own Ruth Fiscus had given the Society \$400.00 to further our work. A member of the original Cleveland Wildflower Society, Miss Fiscus has been active in conservation organizations for many years. We are lucky to have her as a part of our group. We thank her from the bottom of our hearts.

Barb Andreas has suggested that we petition the State Legislature to change the Ohio state flower from red carnation to a suitable native wildflower such as the Trillium. I would like to hear from you on this as we can take an official vote at the April 26th meeting. Please let me hear from you.

The executive board has voted to recommend a constitutional amendment to change the name of the Society to OHIO Native Plant Society for the following reasons:

Our charters are not yet through the Secretary of State or the IRS and it will save money, legal work, expense and time to make the change now.

Members around the state such as the Dayton Cox Arboretum, Toledo Naturalists and in Columbus will be brought under our umbrella.

Members and groups from our part of the state have joined us on the assumption that we actually are OHIO NPS and we are receiving mail as such.

BOOK REVIEW by Wilma Kupfer

TWO-MOON POND by Paul Koepke (john f. blair, Winston-Salem, N.C. c1983) 134 p.

Paul Koepke, a retired professor of music theory and composition, and his wife, who both love fishing, bought "a little place out in the country" that had 5 acres and its own pond, 20 years ago, and this collection of musings relates their problems and rewards, particularly in connection with the pond.

Both the pond and the house, which he describes as a "leaky, snake-rodent-termite-infested toaster oven", had been neglected and had to be renovated. It was more work and expense than they had expected, though worth it. He describes this with vividness and humor, as when the roof leaks causing a section of gypsum-board ceiling to fall on the house guest, "leaving him stunned, cold sober, and thoroughly plastered."

Some of the other essays are about snapping turtles, water birds, the local snakes, winter predation and the foibles of the fishers, human or otherwise who come to the pond. The next to last chapter about the end of the day has the soul-soothing peacefulness of a nocturne.

I recommend this book for pleasure, but the reader can also expect to learn a thing or two - especially about the care and maintainance of ponds.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN (Continued)

It was the original aim to be the core for the OHIO NPS and we can hope to bring in more members, dues and workers under that name. It will, finally, make our fund raising chairman's job easier when contacting foundations and industry for funding. There will be no change in our current operation and no increase in expenses. But we will be in a better position to help other chapters around the state.

THIS IS YOUR OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION as per the By-Laws.

VOTING will be at the MARCH 22nd meeting.

Ann K. Malmquist

WINTER NATURE INTERPRETATION
BY Emliss Ricks, Jr.

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 fields of annuals. Unlike most galls, this one is caused by a moth, 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.

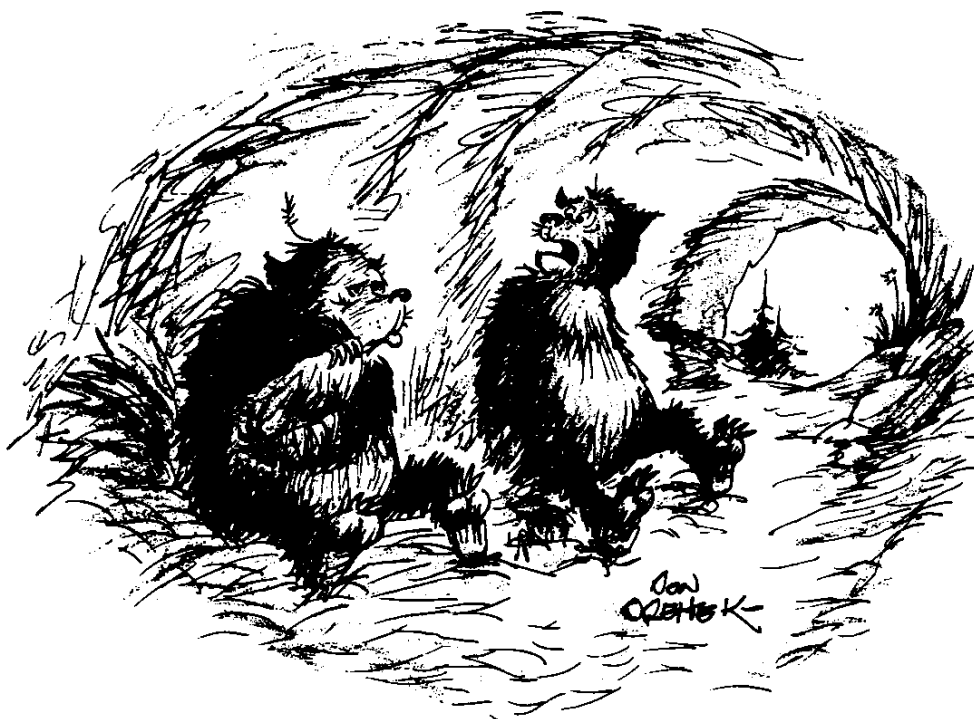
The Goldenrod Bunch Gall occurs on Canada Goldenrod (Solidago canadensis) and is caused by a little midge, Rhopalomyia solidaginis. It is easily recognized by the proliferation of overlapping leaves at the meristem due to stunting of the plant stem, giving the appearance of a green, many-petaled flower. 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 tenant 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.

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"What on earth was the matter with you? You tossed and turned all January!"

FEBRUARY FLOWERS? by Kent L. Scott
Intrepretive Naturalist
Lake County Metroparks

Biologically, spring arrives much sooner than most people are aware. The first real day of spring this year came on February 12th. Temperatures on the ski slope reached 60°F, or more while the hive of honey bees in the corner of the ski shop was extremely active with bees seeking water in a nearby puddle. Male cardinals were calling that morning while people sought the sun while bicycling, playing ball and washing cars. Truly a spring day!

While I didn't check the nearby wetlands, I am sure our earliest flower, skunk cabbage, is already 3-4" above the ground and ready to open. When warm weather arrives early, so does the parade of wildflowers. On south facing slopes, the colts foot will bloom looking rather like the blooms of dandelions.

Other early bloomers include spring beauty, hepatica, winter cress, plantain leaved sedge, bloodroot, salt and pepper. Most years, all of these can be seen by March 15th. Usually bloodroot and salt and pepper will be gone by early April.

ROUND-LOBED
HEPATICA



BLOODROOT



SKUNK CABBAGE

Several of my favorites are prominent because of their early colorful foliage. Moist river valleys will sometimes be covered with Virginia Bluebells in April; early in the season though, the emerging blue-green leaves are the most prominent feature. So, also, the

blue leaves of the blue cohosh.

By April, the parade of spring flowers is now passing quite rapidly. A cold spell at this time of year usually is welcome since it delays the great parade of wildflowers. So, for an early spring and to enjoy our earliest spring flowers, start your searching early.

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PLACES TO GO

Seventeen parks comprise the Lake Metroparks; most of these areas are excellent for the enjoyment of spring wildflowers. Our most outstanding for early flowers is Hogback Ridge Park in Madison Township. It's not unusual to see patches of hepatica the size of a car or larger. Pepper and salt is almost common along Mill Creek. Later in the season both the white trillium and Virginia bluebells can be found carpeting acres of area. Truly a stunning sight!

Parks such as Hidden Valley, Riverview, Indian Point, Mason's Landing and Helen Hazen Wyman Park are all found on the flood plain of the Grand River. Seek Skunk Cabbage, false hellebore, white adders tongue, wild hyacinth and the elusive green dragon in these locations.

Dry, sandy, acid soils can be found at Chapin Forest and Penitentiary Glen in Kirtland. Partridge berry, halbred leaved violet, bastard toad flax and trailing arbutus can be found under the oaks.

If you would enjoy the company of a naturalist while enjoying spring flowers, join Ranger-Naturalist, Art Burke, on Saturday, May 19th at Hogback Ridge Park and on May 26th at Indian Point Park. Both walks start at 10:30 a.m. and end about 12:00 p.m.

GOOD HUNTING!! Kent Scott, Interpretive Naturalist for Lake County Metroparks.

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If you have not received your MEMBERSHIP CARD or your name has not appeared in print as a renewal or new member, please contact me. Phone # on back page; address:

74 Paw Paw Lake Drive, S. Russell, O. 44022

CONSERVATION ALERT

The UNITED STATES WILL LOSE 458,000 ACRES OF WETLANDS THIS YEAR.. The marshes, sloughs, swamps and bogs will hardly be missed by most Americans. If they think about wetlands at all, it tends to be as empty real estate that breeds mosquitoes and other pests and as places that seem to be forever standing in the way of progress.

The inherent benefits of wetlands go far beyond their ability to support wildlife, however:

*Studies by ecologist Eugene Odum showed that Georgia salt marshes produce 10 tons of organic material per acre per year, whereas fertile hayfields produce only four tons a year.

*A study done at the University of Saskatchewan has shown that bulrush and cattail, two common marsh plants, have insatiable appetites for raw sewage. Their roots produce an antibiotic substance that attacks and kills fecal bacteria. The root systems also absorb dangerous chemicals in domestic sewage, trapping the toxic elements in their tissues and in some cases breaking them down into harmless elements.

* A 10-acre wetland stores 1.5 million gallons of water when there is a 6" rise caused by rain. The damage caused by heavy rain in Mississippi and Texas last year would not have been nearly as severe had the farmers and developers left the swamps and bottomland forests to act as natural sponges during the periods of prolonged rainfall.

The nation's wetland inventory, which has been reduced to 95 million acres from 215 million since the founding of the Republic, is being depleted at an alarming rate.

This ALERT was condensed from the FORUM by Robert Eberhardt which appeared in the Plain Dealer on December 2nd, 1983.

EDITOR'S COMMENT:

BAD EXAMPLE: The land area which is now SEA WORLD was once a beautiful swamp land teeming with birds and other wildlife.

GOOD EXAMPLE: Drive down Chagrin River Road.

GOOD EXAMPLE which could become a **BAD EXAMPLE:**

CEI wants High Power lines through Geauga County over wetlands where rare species exist. The Amish farmers in the area fought it - stopped it.

BUT - it is being revived. We, who are interested should contact our State Representatives and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. LET THEM KNOW that WE ARE CONCERNED.

BOOK REVIEW by Ann K. Malmquist

Every once in a while a book comes into one's possession that is at once an aesthetic and an intellectual inspiration. After the second reading of Louise B. Young's THE BLUE PLANET I am ready to read it again. The sub-title is "A Celebration of the Earth" and it truly reveals the awesome grandeur of this globe upon which we live. Written in a poet's words, page after page discloses new and wondrous facts. It is the kind of book to be read aloud to family and friends. Mrs. Young takes us on a journey of discovery to the bottom of the world's oceans, thru the heart of earth's seething core and to watch continents splitting apart and drifting millions of miles. She explains the how and why of much that we seldom question. The book sold out of its first printing in a matter of weeks and is just now back on the market. "The book is written for amateurs in the literal sense (from the Latin amatores, meaning lovers) --- those who love the earth and delight in understanding its moods and speculating on its past and future."

THE BLUE PLANET by Louise B. Young; Little, Brown and Co.,
Boston, 1983, \$18.95

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NEWS OF OTHER GROUPS:

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED - April 27-28 SPRING WILDFLOWER WORKSHOP at Lake Katherine. Friday, April 27, 8:00 p.m. - Wildflower slide presentation. Saturday, April 28, 9:00 a.m. - Wildflower nature hike. This is an area of extremely rare plants and great beauty. Sponsored by ODNR.

Sunday, March 11th, Jackson, Michigan (west of Ann Arbor) the Michigan Nature Association Annual Meeting will feature speakers on the endangered and threatened plants and their communities in Michigan. Since Michigan is home to some really rare plants we do not see here, we feel this will be a highly informative meeting..

** PLEASE --- DON'T FORGET TO CHECK YOUR Income Tax return so that **
** your dollar goes to the Ohio Department of Natural **
** Resources - Div. of Natural Areas and Preserves. **

NEW MEMBERS: (3)

MARK FLEMING, Horticultural Curator, Oklahoma City Zoo	
TOM SAMPLINER	RICHARD M. EILERS
JANET B. ASHBROOK	ERIC MALMQUIST JOHN MICHALKO
JOHN AUGUSTINE	THELMA G. SMITH JUDIE JOHNSON
TRUDY BEAL	ROBERT AND BEVERLY MOHLENBROCK
KIM MALMQUIST	RUTH SKULY WAYNE MICHEEL

RENEWALS: (20)

Ruth E. Fiscus	Harry J. & Leslie W. Lee
Mary Conrad White	R. E. & Beverly Danielson
Albert F. Sprock	K. S. & B. S. Lucas
Michael M. Lister	Charles and Barbara Caseau
Nancy Cameron	Pat and Dave Malmquist
Emiliss Ricks	Mr. & Mrs. Robert J. McMinn
Carole Babyak	Doris and James Fulton
Parry Peskin	Kenneth and Clara Herbert
Barbara Andreas	Wm. H. and B. A. Fuchsman
Chris Bartolotta	Donald and Emily Miller
C. W. Eliot Paine	Sarah J. and Walter May
Ann Malmquist	Lila H. and Kurt Seelbach
Anna Jean Slater	Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Williams
Rebecca Rogers	Mr. and Mrs. H. Wallace Hatch
J. J. Barbour	Jack and Ruth Chase
E. T. Endicott	Tom and Molly Offut
Jane C. Piwonka	Emiliss and Catherine Ricks, Jr.
Jim Bissell	Mr. & Mrs. Karl D. Smith
John Holzback	Mr. and Mrs. Robert York-White
Joan Koharik	Greta and Hugh Pallister
Carol Allen	Gary and Susan Smith
Delores C. Zink	Dan and Nancy Best
Dave McAdoo	
Paula Van Natta	
Laurie Larson	THANK YOU for joining us this year.
Barbara Andreas	
Mark Hoberecht	Christine Holyland
Bob Kurowski	Tod C. Hull
Bill Hartman	Anita and Charles King
Margaret Schellenberger	
Ruth E. Crowl	Tig Ann Swartz
Florence Hendricks	
Grace Marriott	
Bruce Loomis	

BOOK REVIEW by Gene Spohn

NEVER CRY WOLF by Farley Mowat; Pub. 1963 by Little, Brown & Co. 247 pages.

Seldom have I read a book which at once educated, entertained and aroused my sympathy and anger as this. I checked the book out of the Library because I like to "read the book before I see the movie". Now, I want to see the movie more than ever.

Farley knows only what he has heard about wolves before he ends up in the Sub arctic studying them for the Canadian Dominion Wildlife Section. His hilarious narrative about how he arrives at his destination (which noone knows but himself) is worth the reading - but the book goes on.

All the stories he had heard about wolves had made him very wary and not just a little afraid of his first encounter. But he soon learns to love and respect the family of seven wolves he sets up camp near. The silver-white male becomes George, the female, Angeline, and the single baby-sitter for four pups becomes Uncle Albert.

He had pitched his tent on a gravel ridge, and was vainly trying to go to sleep one evening, when he became aware of unfamiliar sounds. A weird medley of whines, whimpers and small howls. "The cries were obviously those of a Husky, one of Mike's Huskys" (Mike was an eskimo who befriended Farley and loaned him a cabin.)

"I was delighted. If that pup needed a friend, a chum, I was its man! From the nature of the sounds I had assumed the dog was only a few yards away from the far bank, but as I made my way in the dim half-light, over broken boulders and across gravel ridges, the sounds seemed to remain at the same volume while I appeared to be getting no closer.

"I saw a steep ridge looming ahead of me and I suspected that, once I gained its summit, I would have a clear enough view to enable me to locate the lost animal.

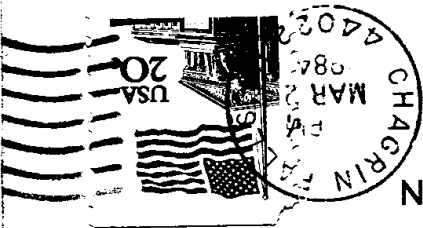
"My head came slowly over the crest - and there was my quarry. He was lying down, evidently resting after his mournful singsong, and his nose was about six feet from mine. We stared at one another in silence. I do not know what went on in his massive skull, but my head was full of the most disturbing thoughts. I was peering straight into the amber gaze of a fully grown arctic wolf... "

I have made myself a list of all the other books written by Farley Mowat, and I intend to read them ONE AFTER THE OTHER.



9500 Sperry Road Mentor, Ohio 44060
OHIO

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NORTHEASTERN



EDITOR'S COMMENTS

DID

There are four of you in the CUYAHOGA FALLS/KE...
There are eleven of you in...
EUCLID, WILLOCHICK, WILLOUGHBY AND TYNERST?
BAY VILLAGE, FAIRVIEW PARK, NORTH CLEVELAND AND...
FALLS? Five IN BEREA, MIDDLEBURG HEIGHTS AND PARMA?
Four of you live in the PAINESVILLE, GENEVA, PERRY and
MADISON area. Nine or ten of you live in the BURTON/
CHARDON AREA. We have members in Poland, Akron, Youngs-
town, Cleveland Heights, Shaker Heights, New Middletown,
Centerville, Hiram, Windsor and Kirtland, Stowe, Hinckley,
and Gates Mills, and others which I cannot mention now.

WHY ARE YOU COMING TO MEETINGS ALONE?

JEANNE FURST (216-247-6597) or I, GENE SPOHN, (216-
338-5560) will be most happy to put you in touch with
each other.

DO GIVE ONE OF US A CALL.

Gene Spohn, Editor