

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NORTHEASTERN OHIO

Founding Chapter Of

THE OHIO NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

6 Louise Drive
Chagrin Falls, Ohio 44022
(216) 338-6622

On the Fringe

Volume 4

January/February 1986

Number 1

PROGRAMS AND FIELD TRIPS:

Friday, January 10 - 8:00 p.m. - Cincinnati Wildflower Society:

Cloning - A Potential for Saving Endangered Species. A lecture given by Dr. Valerie Pence of the Univ. of Cincinnati at the Avon Woods Outdoor Education Center.

✓ **Saturday, January 18 - 2:00 p.m. - Wilderness Nature Center:**

Dr. C. Wayne Elliot and Dr. Clinton Hobbs will continue the second part of their series on identifying the higher plant families. I am told by those who attended that this was an outstanding lecture!

✓ **Sunday, January 19 - 2:00 p.m. - Mayfield Regional Library:**

Bring 5 or 10 of your best 1985 slides showing unusual plants or places and share them. A good time to get ideas from others on where to go this summer.

Friday, February 14 - 8:00 p.m. - Cincinnati Wildflower Society:

A lecture by Bill Culbertson of the Society on "Minnesota's Canoe Country". At the Avon Woods Outdoor Education Center. This is God's country and home to many rare plants.

✓ **Saturday, February 15 - 2:00 p.m. - Wilderness Nature Center:**

Dr. C. Wayne Elliot and Dr. Clinton Hobbs will wind up their three part class on identifying the higher plant families.

PROGRAMS AND FIELD TRIPS:

Saturday, February 22 - 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Cleveland Museum of Natural History:

Tom Yates of Holden and Lanter Court will give us a class on Ferns: identification and cultivation. Microscopes and hand lenses will be used. This is a subject that Tom has great expertise in and it is a real opportunity to gain from his knowledge. Fee: \$5.00 members and \$7.50 non-members. **Reservations: 338-6622 - Brown bag your lunch.**

NEW JERSEY PINE BARRENS TRIP

As announced at the Annual Dinner, Bob Faber has been putting together a field trip proposal through Bixler Tours of Hiram. Not all of the details were available at press time, but we'll give you what we have.

The proposed dates are somewhere between June 9 and 21 and the site would be the New Jersey Pine Barrens, Wharten State Forest, Hammontown area. Tom Yates has agreed to be the primary leader with other local experts called in as necessary. Tentative plans call for a canoe trip on one of the famous and scenic Barren rivers, with alternative plans for those not interested in canoeing. Karl Anderson, Chief Naturalist of the Rancocas Nature Center and one of our members, is acting as advisor to Bob on the rare species that can be seen at that time.

The estimated cost will be in the area of \$430-\$450 for three nights and four days, **ALL** expenses paid, tax, title and out the door. All accommodations and meals will be first class. **THIS TRIP IS OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS AROUND THE STATE AND TO THEIR GUESTS.** It is an opportunity for you to meet other great people with similar interests. It is also a fund-raising project for us as we make a small amount on each reservation.

Having been to the Pine Barrens many times I can assure you that it is one of the loveliest and most unique areas in the United States. It is loaded with rare species of plants and birds. I recommend it to you most highly.

If you are interested in further details please write to:
Bob Faber, c/o Bixler Tours, Hiram, Ohio 44234.

OHIO POLYGONUMS by Clinton H. Hobbs

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.

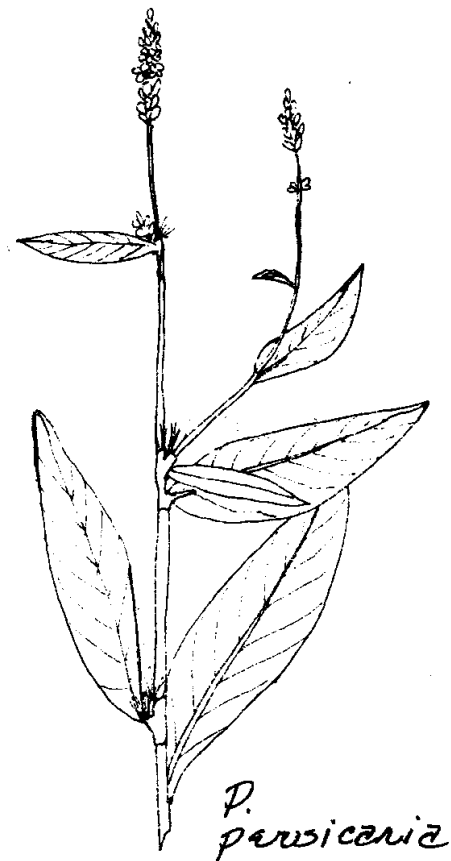
1. **Avicularia -- true knotweeds.**

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 "semicosmopolitan 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.

2. *Persicaria* -- smartweeds.

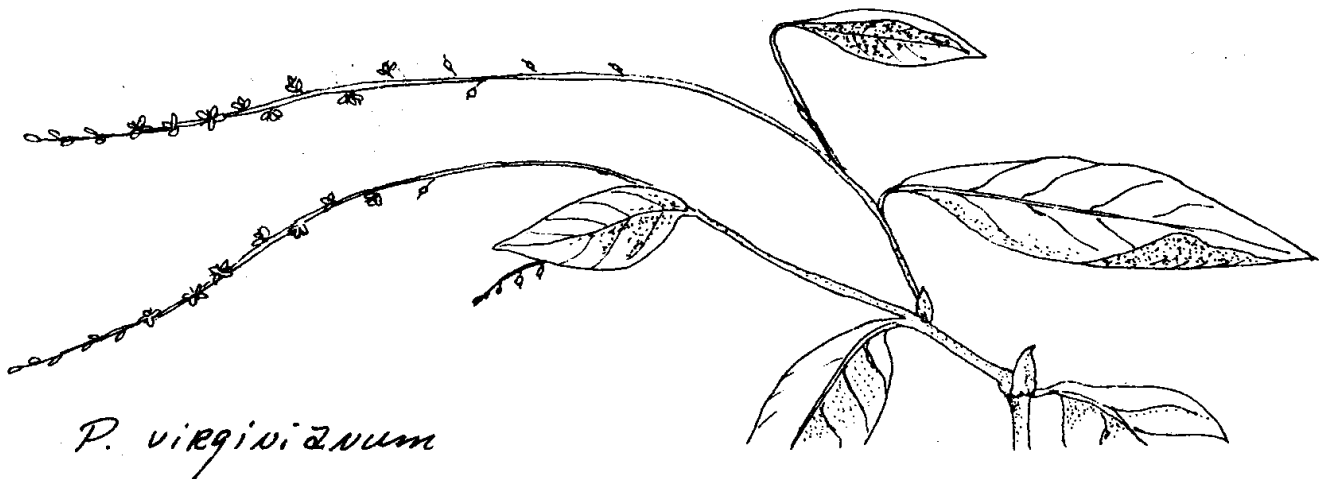
This is the largest of the sections, and contains 11 species in Ohio (out of the 24). The acid nature of the sap of these plants when in contact with cuts in the skin or with mucous membranes causes stinging or smarting, hence the name. They inhabit damp to wet places. One species, water smartweed, can 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 sarasaparilla.



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--lady's-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.

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.

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.

BALANCE SHEET AS OF NOVEMBER 30, 1985
Fiscal Year End
NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NORTHEASTERN OHIO
6 Louise Drive
Chagrin Falls, Ohio 44022

ASSETS:

Cash in Bank as of December 1, 1984	831.93
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Income:

Memberships	2412.50
Donations	919.89
Annual Dinner	1213.50
Misc. Income	267.20

Total Assets	4813.09
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OPERATING EXPENSES:

Newsletter	1059.55
Programs (Excl. Annual Dinner)	1031.00
Annual Dinner	1303.14
Annual Grant	500.00
Misc. Expenses	431.81

Total Operating Expenses	4325.50
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Cash in Bank November 30, 1985	<u><u>\$1319.52</u></u>
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OHIO PLANT SPECIES OF FEDERAL CONCERN

Allison W. Cusick, Division of Natural Areas & Preserves
ONDR, Fountain Square, Columbus, Ohio 43224

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (F&WS) updates its list of plant species of Federal concern on an irregular basis. The latest list was issued Sept. 27, 1985. Species designated endangered or threatened on a national basis are protected from disturbance or destruction by projects using Federal monies. More important than this limited protection is the attention which Federal status focuses on the species. Public awareness remains the best conservation measure.

The first step toward Federal listing is nomination of a species for study. The nomination often originates from state agencies. The F&WS then asks for input from botanists nationwide. A nominated species initially is classified as Category 2, a species under study. Extensive investigations are needed to determine the national status of a Category 2 plant. After sufficient study, the species may be upgraded to Category 1. This means that enough information is available to support Federal listing of the species as endangered or threatened. The final step is official designation as a Federally protected species. Several years may be required to complete this process from nomination to designation.

Ohio has a single Federally protected plant species. Two Ohio species are in Category 1; 15 others are in Category 2. Five Category 2 species are presumed extirpated from the Ohio flora.

This article is a synopsis of our present knowledge of the Ohio species of Federal concern. I've made no attempt to document my statements in a scholarly fashion. However, further information may be obtained from the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves, Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

The species are listed here under three headings: Federally designated species, Category 1, and Category 2. Species are arranged alphabetically by Latin names under each heading. The Latin names are those used by the Division in the state list of rare species. Synonyms used by the F&WS are in parentheses. The Latin name is followed by one or more English names for the species, known national distribution by state and province, and known Ohio distribution by county. The Ohio range is further divided into pre-1960 and post-1960 records. Finally, I've added a few personal comments on each plant. The opinions expressed here are entirely my own and not necessarily those of ODNR.

FEDERALLY THREATENED

ACONITUM NOVEBORACENSE Gray

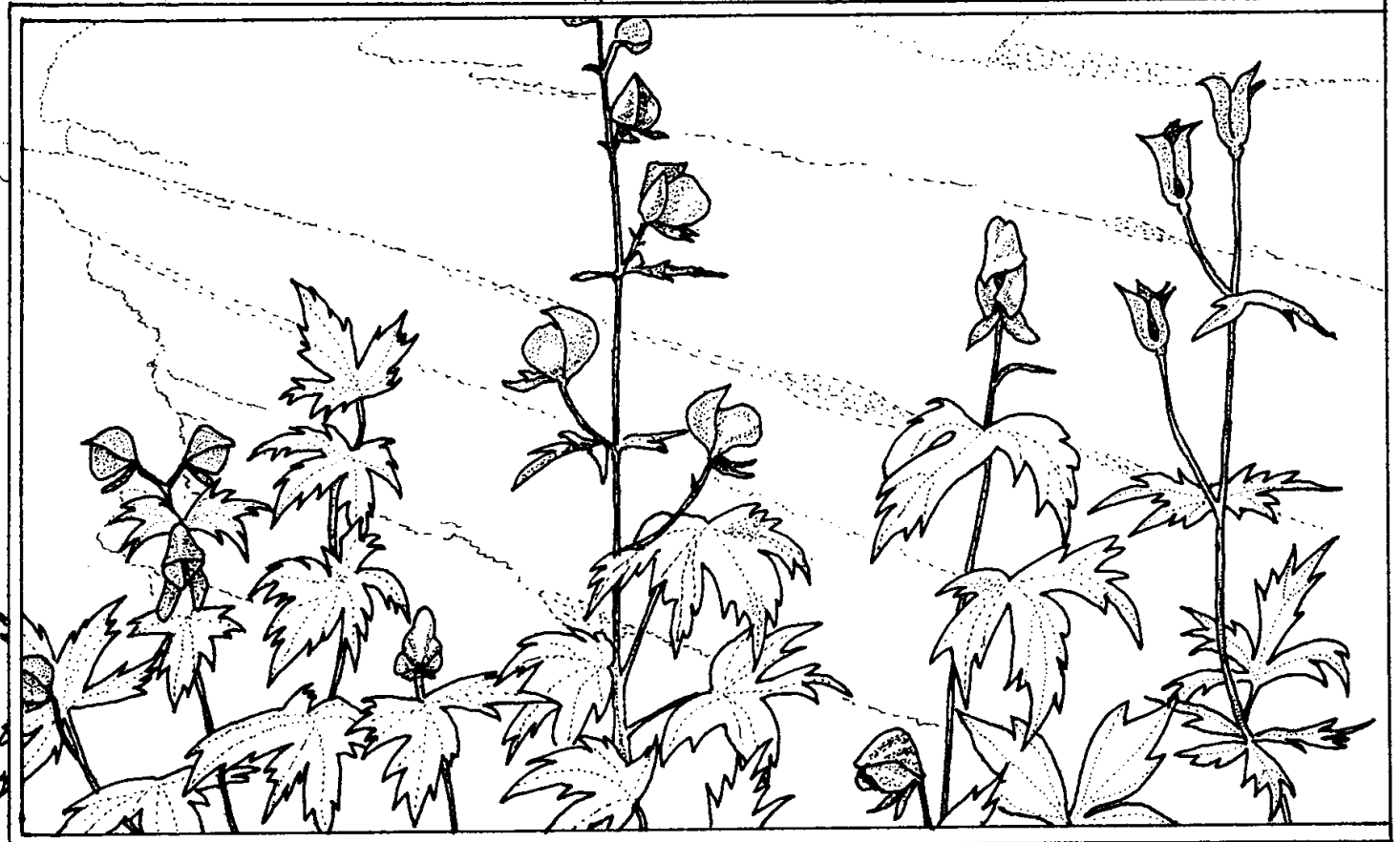
Northern Monkshood

National Range: IA, NY, OH, WI.

Ohio Range: post-1960, Portage & Summit.

The largest known stands of this species are in Iowa and Wisconsin. Of the two known Ohio populations of northern monkshood, only the one in Summit County is partly protected. There is some evidence that this population has declined in vigor in recent years.

Aconitum noveboracense



CATEGORY 1

HYMENOXYS ACAULIS (Pursh) Parker var. GLABRA (Gray) Parker

Lakeside Daisy; Rubberweed

National Range: IL, OH, Ontario

Ohio Range: post-1960, Ottawa.

Lakeside Daisy is one of Ohio's most beautiful wildflowers. It grows on sun-baked limestone pavement, a seemingly hostile environment. But in May the barren stones and rubble are carpeted by bright yellow flowers, like the desert in bloom. Lakeside Daisy is an eastern variety of a species widespread in the Rocky Mountains

and western Canada. In the eastern U.S. it grows today only on Marblehead Peninsula, the Bruce Peninsula, and Manitoulin Island. The last remaining Illinois population was destroyed within the past decade. A few Illinois plants still survive in an arboretum, however. Lakeside Daisy is named for the town of Lakeside, Ohio. Canadians prefer the unromantic name of Rubberweed.



TRIFOLIUM STOLONIFERUM Muhl. ex A. Eaton

Running Buffalo Clover

National Range: AR, IL, IN, KS, KY, MO, OH, WV.

Ohio Range: pre-1960, Belmont, Butler, Clermont, Clinton, Franklin, Greene, Hancock, Hamilton.

Even a widespread and seemingly common plant can be destroyed in a limited period of time. Running Buffalo Clover formerly grew in eight states. It was rather frequent in southwest Ohio as recently as a century ago. Today, there are only two known populations of this species extant in the United States. Two small colonies of this clover were rediscovered in 1984 in southern West Virginia. Unlike most clovers, it did not grow in large populations in fields and meadows. It occurred as isolated plants in woodlands. The early settlers usually grazed their livestock in the forest, a practice still followed in some areas. Running Buffalo Clover probably was a tasty treat to a horse or cow. In Ohio, this clover was most common in the vicinity of Cincinnati and Dayton. It was last collected in the state in 1907 in Belmont County.

CATEGORY 2

TOMANTHERA AURICULATA (Michx.) Raf.

[*Agalinis auriculata* (Michx.) Blake]

Ear-leaf False Foxglove

National Range: IL, IN, KS, MI, MON, MO, OH, OK, TN, WI.

Ohio Range: pre-1960, Butler, Muskingum, Ottawa; post-1960, Adams.

This annual false foxglove was thought to be extirpated in Ohio. But in 1985, Jeff Knoop of The Nature Conservancy rediscovered the

species in Adams County. It had last been collected there in 1951. All other Ohio records date from the nineteenth century.

BESSEYA BULLII (Eaton) Rydb.

Besseya; Kitten-tails

National Range: IL, IN, IA, MI, MN, OH, WI.

Ohio Range: pre-1960, Montgomery.

Besseya is a spring-blooming member of the snapdragon family. Slender, naked stalks bearing tiny yellow flowers arise in mid-May from rosettes of round leaves. Often the plants are hidden among prairie grasses on dry, gravelly hills and moraines. Besseya was collected only once in Ohio, near Dayton in 1904. It grows in Indiana, though, less than 50 miles from the Ohio line. Besseya might be overlooked due to its brief blooming time and inconspicuous appearance. Perhaps someone in western Ohio will be fortunate enough to stumble on a patch of kitten-tails some fine May morning.

CALAMAGROSTIS INSPERATA Swallen

[Calamagrostis porteri Gray subsp. insperata (Swallen) C.W. Greene]

Bartley's Reed Bent Grass; Ofer Hollow Reed Grass

National Range: AR, MO, OH.

Ohio Range: post-1960, Jackson and Vinton.

This grass grows in semi-shade on dry ridgetops in southeast Ohio. No one understands the unusual national distribution pattern. Floyd Bartley of Circleville first discovered this species in Ofer Hollow in Jackson County in the 1930's. No populations of this rarity are presently protected in Ohio.

CIRSIUM HILLII (Canby) Fern.

[Cirsium pumilum (Nutt.) Spreng. subsp. hillii (Canby) Boivin]

Hill's Pasture Thistle

National Range: IA, IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, PA, WI, Ontario.

Ohio Range: pre-1960, Ashtabula, Carroll, Columbiana, Coshocton, Stark; post-1960, Harrison and Jefferson.

The large purple heads of this thistle are balanced atop a tangle of spiny leaves on a plant less than three feet high. Hill's Pasture Thistle is difficult to separate from the common pasture thistle and many botanists believe it is better treated as a subspecies. Though it is known from only two counties in Ohio, it may be more widespread and merely overlooked. Thistles aren't popular wildflowers with most nature-lovers. But thistles need love too! Just ask any goldfinch.

PAXISTIMA CANBYI Gray

Cliff-green; Mountain-lover

National Range: KY, OH, PA, TN, VA, WV.

Ohio Range: post-1960 Adams and Highland.

This species is my candidate for Ohio's rarest wildflower. There are only two known populations in the state and each one is probably a single clone. So there are only two plants known in Ohio and they are 30 miles apart! Now for the good news. Both populations or plants are on protected land. This low, creeping shrub with evergreen leaves blooms in late March or early April.

PLANTAGO CORDATA Lam.

Heart-leaf Plantain

National Range: AL, AR, DC, FL, GA, IL, IN, KY, LA, MD, MI, MO, NY, NC, OH, VA, WI, Ontario.

Ohio Range: pre-1960, Auglaize, Champaign, Clark, Erie, Franklin, Logan, Lorain, Lucas, Madison; post-1960, Adams and Mahoning.

This species looks like an over-size version of the pesty broad-leaf plantain in your lawn. But heart-leaf plantain grows in swamp woods and along streams at only two known sites in Ohio. Formerly, this species ranged widely across eastern North America. Drainage ditches, stream channelization, and deforestation have lead to its virtual elimination from our flora. Most of the extant populations are in Missouri.

PLATANThERA LEUCOPHAEA (Nutt.) Lindley

[Habenaria leucophaea (Nutt.) Gray]

Prairie Fringed Orchid

National Range: AR, IL, IN, IA, KS, LA, ME, MI, MN, MO, NE, NY, ND, OH, OK, PA, SD, VA, WI, Ontario.

Ohio Range: pre-1960, Auglaize, Champaign, Erie, Franklin, Montgomery; post-1960, Lucas, Ottawa, Wayne.

This orchid grows among tall grasses and sedges in moist prairies and openings. Its tall spikes of bright white flowers add a touch of elegance to the grasslands. Frequently, it shares its home with the massasauga or prairie rattlesnake. Sadly, both species have been greatly diminished in modern times. Only one of the three known Ohio populations of this orchid enjoys even limited protection.

POA PALUDIGENA Fern. & Weig.

Marsh Spear-grass

National Range: IL, IN, MI, MN, NY, OH, PA, WI.

Ohio Range: pre-1960, Pike.

This obscure grass is poorly known throughout its total range. It is exceedingly difficult to distinguish from common species of blue-grasses, many of which grow in the same habitat as this species. The only Ohio specimen was collected by Floyd Bartley in 1953 from a large area of moist meadows near the Scioto River in Pike County. The site has been greatly altered by cultivation since then. Recent searches for this grass in Ohio have been unsuccessful.

POLEMONIUM REPTANS L. var. VILLOSUM E.L. Braun

Braun's Jacob's-ladder

National Grange: KY and OH.

Ohio Range: pre-1960, Hamilton; post-1960, Adams, Highland, Pike, Ross, Scioto.

This unusual variety of Jacob's-ladder is common in Adams and Scioto counties, especially in Shawnee State Forest. Here it completely replaces the widespread variety of the species. E. Lucy Braun described this plant as an endemic variety from southern Ohio and adjacent Kentucky. The name, var. *villosum*, is unfortunate. Hairy plants of the common variety are found throughout Ohio and elsewhere; these are not the true *villosum*. The variety is distinguished by leaf shape and by its glandular pubescence. Young plants of var. *villosum* are easily identified. They are viscid to the touch and the rosette leaves shine with a distinctive whiteness. Intergrades between the two varieties are frequently found in southwest Ohio and northern Kentucky.

POLYGONUM PENNSYLVANICUM L. var. EGLANDULOSUM J.C. Myers

Lake Erie Pinkweed

National Range: MO, OH, and Ontario.

Ohio Range: post-1960, Erie, Lorain, and Ottawa.

Botanists do not agree on the nature of the Lake Erie Pinkweed. Many of them consider it only a minor variant of the common pinkweed. Others consider it a distinctive entity. More research is needed to determine its true status. This plant was thought to be restricted to the islands and shores of Lake Erie until Steyermark discovered it in Missouri.

RHUS AROMATICA Ait. var. ARENARIA (Greene) Fernald
[Rhus trilobata Nutt. var. arenaria (Greene) Barkley]

Beach Sumac

National Range: IL, IN, and OH.

Ohio Range: pre-1960, Ashtabula.

The beach sumac is, in my opinion, the most dubious taxonomic entity among the Ohio plants of Federal concern. This variety of the common fragrant sumac is distinguished by a combination of leaf shape, habit, and blooming period. In my experience, these characters are not consistent enough to warrant recognition of this variety. Fragrant sumac is an exceedingly variable species. More study is required to determine the status of this and other varieties of *Rhus aromatica*. The Ohio report of beach sumac is based upon two sterile specimens collected along Lake Erie in Ashtabula County in 1931. Unusual populations of sumacs with some characters of var. *arenaria* are found in Erie, Ottawa, and Sandusky counties. The best place to see beach sumac is the Indiana Dunes of Lake Michigan.

SILENE REGIA Sims

Royal Catchfly

National Range: AL, AR, GA, IL, IN, KS, KY, MO, OH, OK.

Ohio Range: pre-1960, Fairfield, Franklin, Greene, Hamilton, Marion, Montgomery; post-1960, Champaign, Clark, Madison, Union.

In mid-summer, Royal Catchfly shoots spikes of brilliant red flowers skyward in the Ohio prairies. A handsome population grows in the Bigelow Prairie State Nature Preserve west of Columbus. The central Ohio chapter of the Native Plant Society chose this spectacular wildflower as their emblem.

SYNANDRA HISPIDULA (Michx.) Baill.

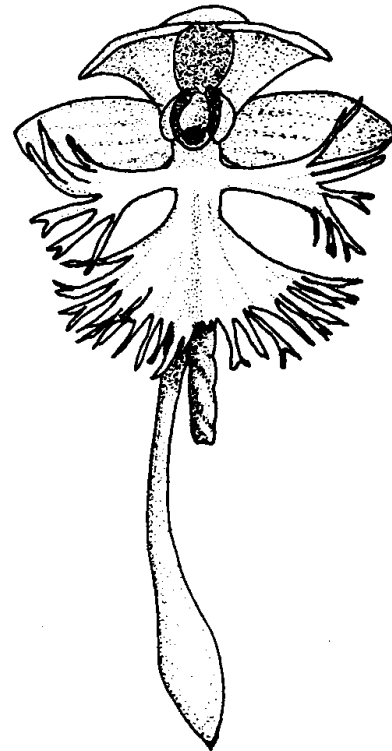
Synandra; Guyandotte Beauty

National Range: AL, IL, IN, KY, NC, OH, TN, VA, WV.

Ohio Range: pre-1960, Belmont, Butler, Clermont, Montgomery, Scioto; post-1960, Adams, Athens, Franlin, Hamilton, Lawrence, Morgan, Perry.

Few people are familiar with this attractive mint. The large white flowers are seen only for a few weeks in late May or early June. *Synandra* presents a real challenge to the wildflower photographer. The tall, leafy plants are nearly camouflaged in the semi-shade of mesic woods. Large populations of *Synandra* grow in western West Virginia and in the Wayne National Forest of Ohio. The name Guyandotte Beauty comes from the Guyandotte River of West Virginia.

The appearance of a species on the Federal list increases public awareness which in turn increases search activities. Federally listed plants are accorded far more attention from professional and amateur botanists than they might otherwise receive. The Division of Natural Areas and Preserves depends heavily upon the support of organizations such as Ohio Native Plant Society and its individual members for information about rare and endangered plants. We always are pleased to receive your reports of unusual species and natural areas. Thank you for helping us preserve and protect the natural heritage of Ohio.



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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

I was delighted to see all of your good faces at the Annual Dinner. It makes the year's work worthwhile. I think everyone had a great time visiting with each other, and Ed Voss gave a fascinating lecture. For those of you not at the dinner, this year's lecture honoree was Dr. J. Arthur Herrick of Kent State University, and the Annual Grant winner was Tom Yates of Holden Arboretum. In addition, the hard work of Larry Giblock netted us \$126.00 from the sale of the wreaths that were the centerpieces. We are very grateful. You are such a great group of people that it seems a shame we can't get all of you together more often. No one has better members than the NPS!!!

HOUSE BILL 763 has been introduced into the General Assembly by Rep. R. W. Clark, 74th District. It is as follows:

To enact section 5.021 of the Revised Code to adopt the White Trillium as the state wildflower. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO: Section 1. That section 5.021 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows:

Sec. 5.021. THE PLANT TRILLIUM GRANDIFLORUM, COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE LARGE WHITE TRILLIUM, FOUND IN EVERY OHIO COUNTY, IS HEREBY ADOPTED AS THE STATE WILDFLOWER.

Considerable testimony on its behalf will be necessary for passage. **PLEASE** send me letters advocating passage of this Bill so that we can use them when the time comes. These are the salient points: It is found in all 88 counties; it is recognized by most of the population of Ohio; it is not an endangered species and so will not be threatened by calling attention to it; and we are one of three states in the Union that do not have a native plant as their state flower. We are **not** advocating replacement of the red carnation as the state flower, but rather the adoption of the Trillium as the state **wildflower**. Pick up your pens and write!

* * * * *

At the suggestion of one of the Toledo chapter founding members, we have approached Jim Glover, staff artist with ODNR, about designing a poster for us with the theme of conservation and preservation of native plants, most particularly wildflowers. This would be on the order of a collectors' poster, and may or may not be a series. This is still in the talking stage, but we should have more information for you in the March newsletter. His work is stunning and should be easily saleable, making a good fund-raising project.

WE NEED:

Photographers willing to donate slides to the "slide Herbarium" project at the Natural History Museum. Jack Selby will have a detailed write-up for us in March.

Gardeners who will work at the University Circle Ravine several hours each month. Larry Giblock is leading that project, and you will love it if you just give it a try.

Collectors to work with Tom Yates on collecting seed under his direction for the use of Holden and for sale. An extremely interesting way to get to know the plants.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN - Cont'd

Writers who will work with Mark Kearney on developing a brochure to educate builders how to use native plants for landscaping.

Members to keep their eyes open for areas that are threatened by the bulldozer and may contain rare plants that need to be rescued.

If anyone has a yen to write a scholarly article for use in the newsletter, or if you know anyone who would want to, anywhere in the state, **please** submit same. We are open to all suggestions.

Your 1986 Program is enclosed. Go right now and pin it up in a readily-seen spot. **YOU** are the Native Plant Society, and I hope that more and more of you will come to the meetings and field trips.

SINCE THE FOUNDING OF THE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY THE DIVISION OF NATURAL AREAS AND PRESERVES HAS BEEN AN UNSWERVING ALLY. WITHOUT THEIR ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT WE COULD NOT HAVE HAD SOME OF THE PROGRAMS THAT WE HAVE HAD, AND THE NEWSLETTER WOULD NOT HAVE CONTAINED AS MUCH QUALITY.

NOW IT IS OUR TURN! PLEASE, CHECK OFF FOR THE DIVISION OF NATURAL AREAS AND PRESERVES WHEN YOU FILE YOUR OHIO INCOME TAX RETURN. FOR EACH OF US IT IS A MINISCULE DONATION, BUT ALL OF US TOGETHER WILL MAKE A TREMENDOUS DIFFERENCE.

Help protect Ohio's natural heritage!

Ohioans! You can help preserve and protect part of your rich natural heritage.

The Ohio income tax form allows you to make a tax-deductible donation by designating part of your TAX REFUND to support Ohio's efforts to protect nature preserves, scenic rivers and endangered species.

Your support is needed to assure that the state's most important natural areas, scenic rivers and endangered plants and animals are preserved for future generations of Ohioans to see and enjoy. Please join us in protecting your natural heritage before it is too late!

Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Division of Natural Areas and Preserves
Columbus, Ohio 43224

Natural Areas



-Check Us!

NATURE PRESERVE'S CHECKOFF PROGRAM

Thanks to over 132,000 generous Ohioans, the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves' Tax Checkoff Program earned over \$589,000 last year. This money was again used to support programs that could not have been funded otherwise.

Six new natural area and scenic river sites, totalling 259 acres, have been acquired to date. Additional acquisitions will raise that total to almost 550 acres purchased with Checkoff money alone. Facility developments in 15 different areas, including the boardwalks at the newly opened Gross Woods (Shelby Co.) and the mile-long, handicapped accessible boardwalk at Fowler Woods, observation tower at Irwin Prairie and Mentor Marsh, footbridges at Clifton Gorge and Eagle Creek and trail work at Christmas Rocks and Gahanna Woods, are almost all complete. These facilities allow both improved public access to preserve areas as well as protection for those areas' fragile environments.

Numerous Special Projects likewise continue with the use of checkoff funds. Among those projects are the Breeding Bird Atlas (completing its third year), research and monitoring program, Mini-Grants program, stream water quality monitoring program, scenic river reforestation, the state and federal lands inventory, and the scenic rivers inventory. These programs will aid in preserve and river management both today and in the future. Over this past year, Checkoff monies were also used to produce 13 free pamphlets and brochures on the Preserve and Scenic Rivers systems as well as the Division newsletter. Informative public displays at the State Fair, libraries, and garden shows, slide talks on Division activities, and a survey of public opinions and attitudes regarding the Checkoff were all supported with Checkoff funds.

Much has been accomplished with the money that Natural Areas and Preserves has received through the Checkoff Program, but much more remains to be done so that the Division can continue its ten year tradition of preservation in Ohio.

Elizabeth Wrobel-Boerner



Editor's Note:

We can only print some of the negative biological effects that the Inland Waterway would have on a great portion of eastern Ohio.

A good compilation of other pertinent facts, from the campaign in the 60's to the most current bill, has been gathered by Beverly Danielson. She has offered to provide copies to interested people.

Please contact her at 371-5746 or ask for Stephanie at 341-8833.

PROPOSED CANAL THREATENS GRAND RIVER RICHES

A 108 year old threat to the Grand River Lowland and Grand River gorge has returned again; linkage of Lake Erie to the Ohio River by canal. In the mid-1960s, lake-to-river canal proponents organized Interconnecting Waterway, Inc. Anti-canal citizen groups and municipalities rallied and successfully opposed the proposal. Recently, a new organization promoting the lake-to-river canal, the Great Lakes Inland Waterway Advisory Committee, held its first public meeting to rekindle the issue. House Bill 1519, which would authorize a new feasibility study for the canal, has been introduced by U.S. Rep. James A. Traficant, Jr. of Youngstown. A 111-square-mile reservoir on the Grand River Lowland would be part of the project.

The Grand River, which meanders through Geauga, Lake, Ashtabula and Trumbull counties, represents different things to different people. To some, the Grand River is a wilderness escape with easy access from Cleveland. Canoeists can expect frequent wildlife sightings along the forest-covered banks of the river. Beaver, deer and wood duck, along with many other different birds, can be seen along the shore. The river supports a great variety of game fish, including walleye, muskellunge and bass. Grouse, woodcock and other game abound in the surrounding woodlands. Recently, wild turkey has become established along much of the river through Ashtabula County. A state hunting area covering 6,000 acres, the Grand River Wildlife Area, straddles the river in Farmington Township, Trumbull County. This hunting preserve would be inundated by the Grand River Reservoir.

The Grand River has been designated a State Scenic River from U.S. Rt. 322 in southern Ashtabula County north to the Harpersfield Dam just west of OH Rt. 534. The river has Wild River designation from the Harpersfield Dam west to the Norfolk and Western railroad tracks south of Painesville. The proposed reservoir would flood the Grand River from the Harpersfield Dam south to the Grand River Wildlife Area. From the north end of the Grand River Reservoir,

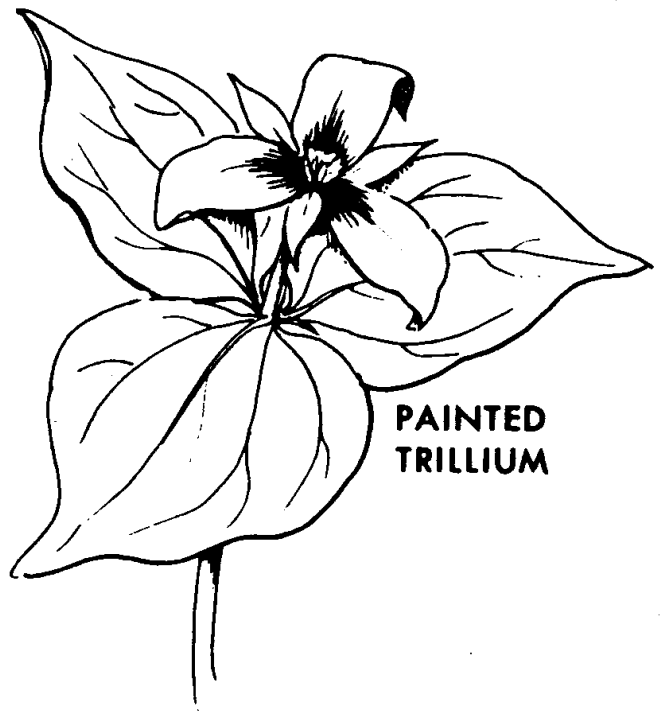
the canal would be linked to Lake Erie, either down the Wild River (gorge) section of the Grand River or an alternate route to Ashtabula.

Biologists at The Cleveland Museum of Natural History have conducted studies of all the Lake Erie drainage streams from Rocky River on the west side of Cleveland to Conneaut Creek near the Pennsylvania border. Continual discovery of state-significant natural areas and rare species along the Grand River keeps luring the biologists back to the Grand; they regard it as an unusual ecosystem complex.

The Grand River Lowland is a distinct physiographic feature formed by sediments from two Ice Age lakes; Grand River Lake and Rock Creek Lake. The tablelike surface of the former bottom of Grand River Lake extends from just south of the Rt. 45 exit of I-90 southward into northwestern Trumbull County. The deep Grand River gorge flows west to Painesville from the northwest edge of the Grand River Lowland.

The impermeable bottom deposits of the Grand River Lake basin have provided a stage for the development of several significant wetland ecosystems, which would all be flooded by the proposed reservoir. Wetlands are lands saturated with water and characterized by emergent plants, such as cattails, shrubs or trees. Some wetlands provide ecological functions, including floodwater storage, pollution filtration, habitat for wildlife and food-chain support. Swamp forests, shrub swamps and open beaver marshes are common wetland types on the Grand River Lowland.

Museum biologists have been surveying wetlands on the Grand River Lowland and gorge through the last decade and reporting data to the Ohio Natural Heritage Program (Ohio Department of Natural Resources). Last year, the program developed, through contract from The Nature Conservancy, a State Scorecard of the top 100 unprotected



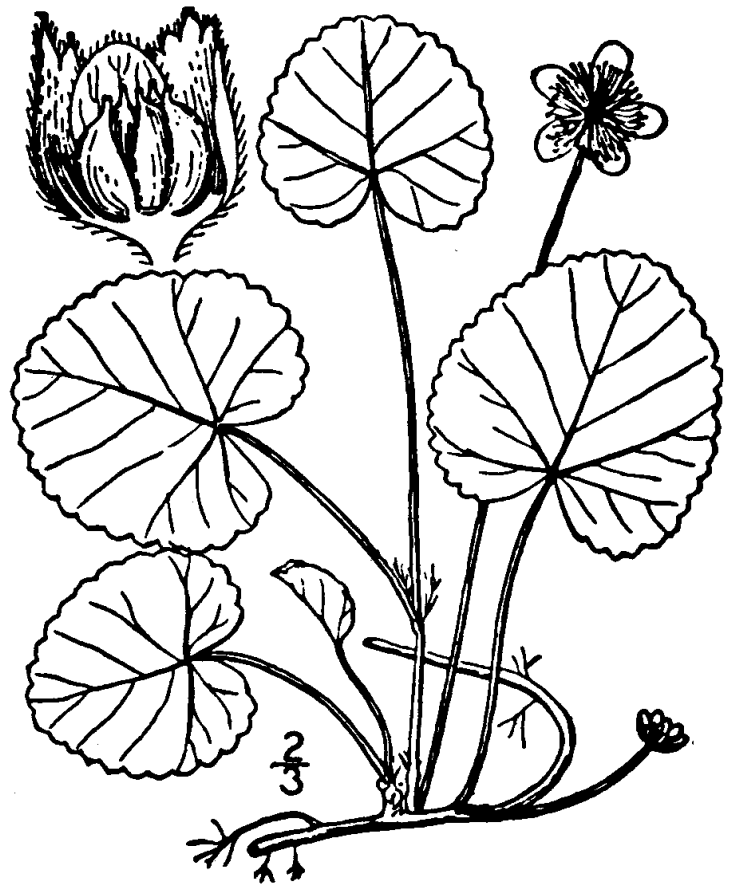
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TRILLIUM**

This species will reach the brink of extinction in Ohio with the destruction of The Grand River Valley.

areas in Ohio. Four wetlands on the Grand River Lowland and two other natural areas down-stream in the gorge made the Scorecard; one of these areas, Morgan Swamp, has been recognized as a nationally-significant wetland. Hundreds of acres of beaver marshes, shrub swamps and swamp forests at Morgan Swamp are much more productive waterfowl breeding habitats than open waters of a reservoir. Morgan Swamp wetlands protect more than two dozen rare plant species and have the only documented nesting record for hooded merganser in Ohio.

The Grand River Lowland is an ecological crossroads. Some wetlands on the Lowland provide habitat islands within which assemblages of northern Allegheny Mountain plants are growing at the western periphery of their ranges. Some of these Allegheny peripherals, such as painted trillium, dewdrop and brownish sedge, have been discovered within enough swamp forests on the Lowland that their status in Ohio should drop from endangered down to threatened on the 1986 Status List. A few species with a predominantly midwestern range, such as shellbark hickory and wahoo euonymus, reach their northeast periphery on the Grand River floodplain. Wetlands on the southern Grand River Lowland contain southern peripherals, such as shining bedstraw, which do not penetrate the northern Lowland.

Southern disjunct species on the Grand River Lowland may be evidence that southern forest types advanced northward during the Hypsithermal Period, a warmer period than now that existed 4,000 to 8,000 years ago. A disjunct species is an occurrence of a species which is separated by great distances from the general range of that species. Disjunct species can be interpreted as advancing populations or leftover relics of former climates. A disjunct fern, netted chain fern, grows in one hemlock swamp on the Lowland. Other sites in Ohio where this fern occurs today are more than 150 miles



This species will reach the brink of extinction in Ohio with the destruction of The Grand River Valley.

farther south. Straw sedge, an endangered species in Ohio, is also a southern disjunct which grows within another swamp forest on the Lowland.

Museum biologists have documented more than 50 rare plant species that would be inundated by the proposed reservoir.

The biological information not yet discovered from the Grand River Lowland and Grand River gorge is perhaps the greatest loss which would result from construction of a lake-to-river canal and the Grand River Reservoir. Base-line data on some groups on the Lowland and gorge, such as plants, birds, mammals, fish and reptiles, are much more complete than invertebrate data. Some factors responsible for unusual distribution patterns or isolated rare species occurrences may be resolved as scientists continue to study the area. The Grand River ecosystems offer scientists decades of fascinating research opportunity. Submergence of the Lowland ecosystem by a reservoir would greatly deplete the biological richness of Ohio and erase the state's best assemblages of Allegheny Mountain species.

Jim Bissell, Curator of Botany, Cleveland Museum of Natural History

The above article has been reprinted from January 1986 Tracks with the permission of the author.

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We acknowledge with deep gratitude the gifts of Mrs. Albert Holden and Mrs. Kurt Seelbach. These gifts enabled us to carry forward our Annual Grant at the 1985 Annual Dinner.

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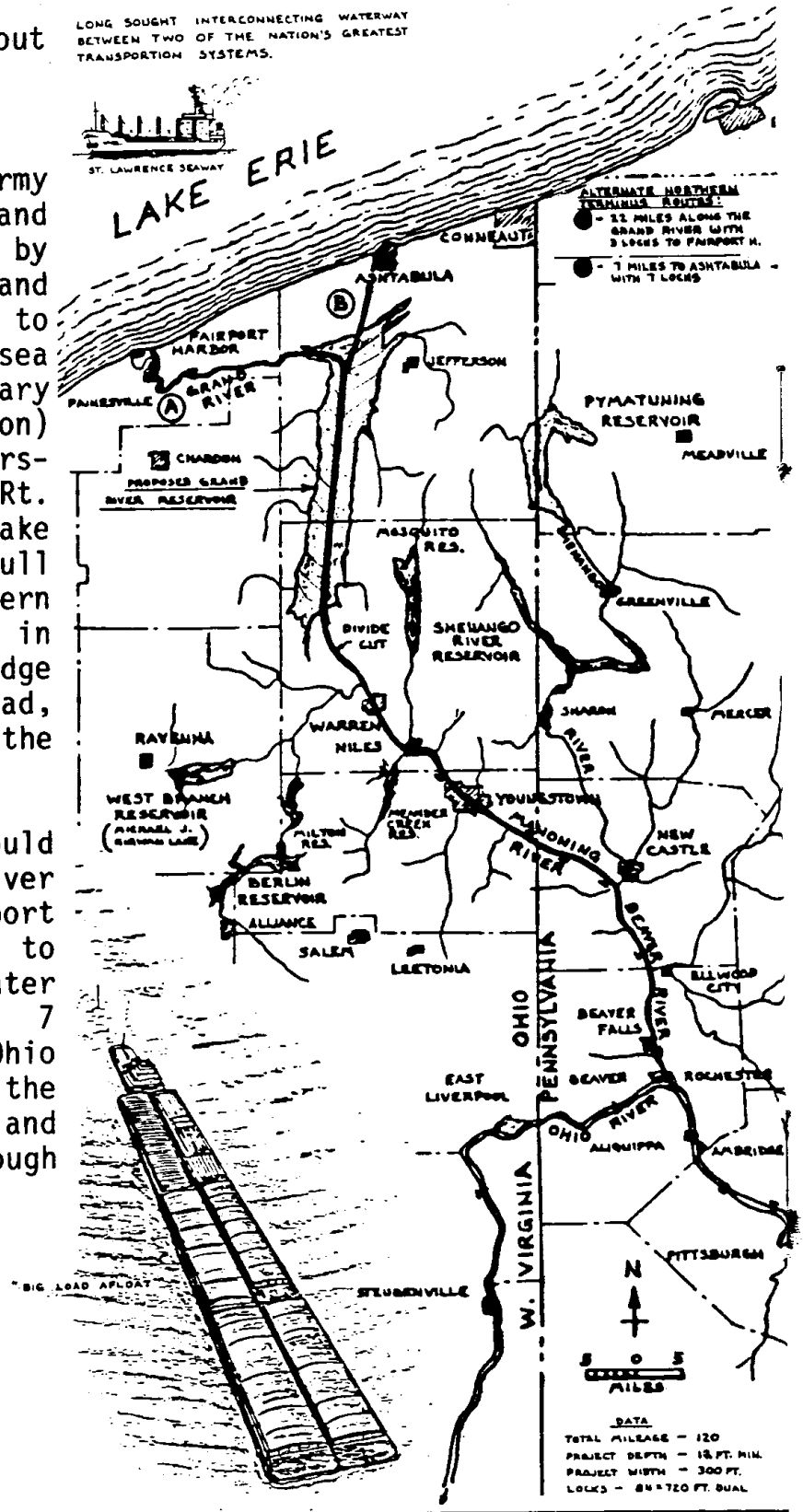
This newsletter ran to unusual length due to several timely articles that could not be printed at a later time. We will return to our regular format next month.

COMMENTS by Bev Danielson about Jim Bissell's article

As proposed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers the Grand River Lake would be created by a dam west of Harpersfield and fill the Grand River basin to the height of 850 ft. above sea level. The northern boundary (the widest east-west portion) would be along I-90 from Harpersfield to the interchange at Rt. 11 south of Ashtabula. The lake would extend south into Trumbull County to Mesopotamia. The eastern edge would overlap Rt. 45 in many places and the western edge of Windsor-Mechanicsville Road, being at least 3 miles wide the entire north-south distance.

The canal to Lake Erie would either replace the Grand River channel from the dam to Fairport Harbor with 3 locks or cut to the Ashtabula River to enter the lake at Ashtabula with 7 locks. The canal to the Ohio River would similarly use the channels of the Mahoning and Beaver Rivers and go through the City of Youngstown.

LONG SOUGHT INTERCONNECTING WATERWAY BETWEEN TWO OF THE NATION'S GREATEST TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS.



THE PROPOSED GREAT LAKES INLAND WATERWAY

At this time two pieces of legislation threaten to give proponents of the Great Lakes Waterway a significant head start before the public realizes which is afoot.

HR 1519 in the U.S. Congress requests that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers restudy the feasibility of building the waterway. They completed a study in the early 1960's and recommended the project but it was halted at that point by lack of support and was finally de-authorized in 1981. The study would cost \$2-3 million, some of which may be available to them without further congressional action. Governor Celeste has pledged \$125,000 as well as to match federal funds. This bill is in the Public Works and Transportation Committee and its proponents hope for passage this spring maybe as early as February.

HR 709 in the Ohio Legislature is a 30 page document giving full powers to a 5 man appointed Authority to build and operate the waterway. These unlimited powers include forming compacts with other states, issuing revenue bonds, using eminent domain, purchasing lands for multipurpose development, charging tolls, selling water, etc., with an emergency clause calling for immediate enactment. This bill is in the Urban Affairs and Transportation Committee and its proponents are working seriously towards a quick passage.

SINCE THE PUBLIC IS GENERALLY UNAWARE OF THESE BILLS AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS, THEY STAND A GOOD CHANCE OF PASSAGE DUE TO ABSENCE OF PUBLIC OPPOSITION. AT THE SAME TIME, EVERY LETTER YOU WRITE WILL HAVE AN IMPACT. PLEASE DO!

A 20 word telegram, called a Public Opinion Message, may be sent to any elected official for the flat rate of \$4.45. Your name and address are not counted as part of the message unless there are additional signers. Phone: 771-5660.

For status of bills in Ohio General Assembly, call 1-800/282-0253. (toll free).



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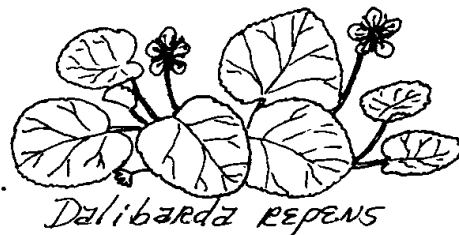
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

RENEWAL DUE

Memberships are **DUE FOR RENEWAL** on January 1, 1986. Please continue to support your Society and renew at the **highest** possible category. Those of you who send us Sustaining and Patron memberships are enabling us to go on with our worthwhile projects. An active membership just about pays for the newsletter costs. However, economics aside, we need **EACH** of your memberships, and each year we get stronger and better. The 1986 Program and Field Trips schedule will be well worthwhile.

Please enroll me as a member of the NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NORTHEASTERN OHIO.

- ACTIVE\$ 7.50
- FAMILY\$15.00
- SUSTAINING ...\$25.00
- PATRON\$50.00



Membership runs from January through December and is not pro-rated.

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