

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

THE JOURNAL OF THE OHIO NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Volume 7

January/February 1989

Number 1

ANNUAL DINNER FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1989 CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

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It's that time of year again — when your membership is due for renewal. Last year many of you showed your approval of our Society by increasing your membership, and it was greatly appreciated. Your monetary support makes possible our Annual Grant, our Journal, and many other activities. PLEASE, renew at the highest possible category — and, renew now.

In addition to the dues, another source of income for the Native Plant Society is gift memberships given for occasions such as birthdays, Christmas, or other anniversaries. It is an easy way to remember the person being honored as well as introducing them to an exciting new avocation.

classes, and field trips. DO NOT LOSE IT! Note that there is a class on JANUARY 21ST which needs reservation. Call at once if you are interested. Let's have better attendance this year at our lectures. They are interesting and informative.

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TO FEED A BIRD ON A SNOWY DAY IS TO BE A HOST TO GOD

PROGRAM & EVENTS:

- January 13 (Friday) Cincinnati Chapter 7:30 p.m. Avon Woods Outdoor Education Center "How to Know the Ferns" Allison Cusick, Botanist, ODNR
- January 14 (Saturday) Dayton Chapter 10:00 a.m. Tour of Krohn Conservatory, Eden Park, Cincinnati (1 hour). Meet in lobby.
- January 14 (Saturday) Lisbon/Little Beaver Creek 11:00 a.m. General natural history hike. Place will be announced, call for information.
- January 16 (Monday) Dayton Chapter 7:30 p.m. Cox Arboretum. Marvin Olinsky, Director of the Park District of Dayton-Montgomery County, will speak on the subject "Trees, Wooden Dinosaurs".
- January 16 (Monday) Columbus Chapter 7:30 p.m. Sharon Woods Metro Park Teacher and naturalist Tom Bartlett will present a slide program "A Trip Through Springville Marsh".
- January 21 (Saturday) Cleveland Chapter 1:00-4:00 p.m. Holden Arboretum Corning Building Tom Yates from The Holden Arboretum will conduct an indoor workshop on the subject of native trees and shrubs. Limit 25. Fee \$5. Please call 338-6622 to register.
- January 21 (Saturday) The Wilderness Center 2:00 p.m. Members Brag Show. The Brag Show at 2:00 will be open to the public. Members should plan to show slides or report on their special plant discoveries of 1988.
- January 21 (Saturday) Lisbon/Little Beaver Creek 8:00 p.m. Trip to Pittsburgh Museum of Natural History and the Pittsburgh Aviary. Meet at McDonald's in Calcutta at 8:00 p.m.
- January 24 (Tuesday) Lisbon/Little Beaver Creek 7:00 p.m. Program on aquatic life of Little Beaver Creek Meet at JVS.
- February 5 (Sunday) Dayton Chapter 2:00 p.m. Tour of Aullwood will be led by Paul Knoop, Director of Education at Aullwood. Cost \$2.00.
- February 10 (Friday) Cincinnati Chapter 7:30 p.m. Avon Woods Outdoor Education Center "Fires, Forests, and the National Parks" John Van Kat, Professor of Botany, Miami University.
- February 13 (Monday) Dayton Chapter 7:30 p.m. Ralph Ramey, Director of Glen Helen will talk about Shawnee State Forest. This will be a preview of the April outing.
- February 13 (Monday) Hocking Valley Audubon 7:30 p.m. Scott Moody will give a slide show presentation on his hiking and birdwatching adventures in the mountains and natural areas of Europe.
- February 15-16 (Wednesday & Thursday) Cleveland Chapter Wildflower symposium at the Garden Center of Cleveland. See announcement on page 20.
- February 18 (Saturday) Wilderness Center 2:00-4:00 p.m. Talk on Ohio Prairies by Charles King, Ohio Biological Survey. Public invited.

February 20 (Monday) Columbus Chapter - 7:30 p.m. - Sharon Woods Metro Park - John Watts of DNAP will talk about "Ohio's Green & Gold", the Ohio Ginseng Management program.

February 25 (Saturday) Lisbon/Little Beaver Creek - 8:00 a.m. - Pymatuming Lake and Hartstown Swamp for waterfowl. Meet at Burger King in Columbiana at 8 AM.

February 28 (Tuesday) Lisbon/Little Beaver Creek - 7:00 p.m. - Nevada Laitsch will do a program on identification of winter birds of Columbiana County. Meet at JVS at 7:00 p.m.

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This charming story appeared in the 12/5/88 Plain Dealer. We thought you would like to read it if you did not already see it.

ELEPHANTS TRY TO SAVE CALF, MOURN ITS DEATH - New Delhi, India

For two days recently, a herd of elephants nursed a wounded eleplant calf after nudging him along the road to the nearest human protection in the forests of eastern India, United News of India reported yesterday.

It took the elephants six hours to cover the two miles to their destination, a forest rangers' office. The staff administered first aid to the 2-year-old calf, but he later succumbed to head wounds inflicted by a tiger.

Tears rolled out of the mother elephant's eyes as the rest of the herd formed a circle, raised their trunks and trumpeted over the body.

UNI said the tale was related by S.G. Ochi, project manager of forest development in Simlipal National Park in Orissa state.

Ochi said the herd of about 25 elephants apparently was grazing in grasslands about two miles from the rangers' office when a tiger tried to seize the calf.

Devandra Nayak, a tracker for Project Tiger, a government organization trying to save tigers from extinction, watched the herd's progress as it brought the calf to the rangers' office. Nayak said the herd paused intermittently to let the wounded elephant rest.

When the elephants reached a salt lick near the rangers' office, the mother elephant picked up a clump of dry grass in her trunk and fanned flies away from her calf's head wound.

The elephants apparently thought the proximity of people would keep the tiger from returning for the kill, UNI said.

According to the report, as the midday sun shone down and the heat grew intense, most of the herd sought shelter under some trees 300 feet away. The mother left her calf in search of water.

The rangers took advantage of the herd's temporary absence to wash the calf's wound and apply ointment.

Then the mother returned, chasing the rangers. She sprayed water on the calf to cool him and kept vigil, with the rest of the herd, until he died the following day.

This issue of "On the Fringe" will be dedicated to introducing all of the members in the State to the various chapters. We now number eight, with the very welcome advent of the Lisbon and Toledo groups.

It will become apparent to the reader that the scope of our society has been enlarged by the addition of groups that are more general in nature and not devoted solely to native plants. This would seem to be a step in the direction of strengthening our understanding of the workings of nature as it impacts on our native flora. A plant does not exist on its own recognizance. Its presence is predicated on the geological history of the habitat in which it grows, on the conditions of the environment surrounding it, on the needs of the particular species for propogation. One cannot separate a plant from the other species of life with which it shares its habitat. Does it require a particular butterfly to pollinate it? Does it require another species of plant with which to establish a life-giving symbiotic relationship? Does it require certain habitat parameters in order to survive?

The addition of natural history groups to our Society will give us access to people with expertise in all areas of nature study, and by working closely with them and learning from them, we will increase our own ability to help in the crusade for conserving and preserving our native plants.

Each chapter article will be preceded by a brief description of their entering the State organization.

We now number over 1,000 members strong, and are rich in talented knowledgeable people. We can be proud of the achievements of the various chapters. But, we must always remember that the war against loss of species, whether in the animal or the plant kingdom, is ongoing and that we are on the short end of the stick. Our members have a magnificent opportunity to make a significant contribution in the field of conservation. We CAN make a difference.



All members of the Native Plant Society are welcome to attend any and all activities of every chapter in the state. Avail yourself of this great opportunity to meet people who care, like you, about Ohio's native plants.

THE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NORTHEASTERN OHIO

The Native Plant Society of Northeastern Ohio began at a Wildflower Symposium in May of 1982 when the question was posed to the audience, "Do we want a Wildflower Society?" The answer was a resounding yes, but it was stressed that we encompass all of our native plants. A small group met in the Fall of that year to organize, and the first public meeting was held at The Holden Arboretum in February of 1983.

In 1985 it was decided that we were strong enough to begin forming chapters around the state, and to that end feelers were sent out to Wilmot Wilderness Center, Cincinnati and Columbus. Slowly but surely our membership grew, and today we are EIGHT chapters strong!

The Northeastern chapter really covers the area from Lorain County in the west, to Youngstown, to Akron in the south. Some of this area overlaps with the Wilderness Center chapter and in the east with the new Lisbon chapter. In fact, some people belong to both groups in order to receive the Journal of the Ohio Native Plant Society, which is a benefit of membership of the Cleveland chapter. The Cleveland flower is the Fringed Gentian and the Journal is titled "On the Fringe".

Each year the Cleveland group puts on an Annual Dinner at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History or the Garden Center of Greater Cleveland. It is the custom at this time to award a \$500.00 Annual Grant to a deserving person or institution that is working in the field of native plants. In the past six years the recipients have been: The Holden Arboretum Wildflower Garden; Jim Bissell for the Herbarium at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History; Tom Yates for the Center for Plant Conservation work; Dr. Walt Macior at the University of Akron for research in plant pollination; Dr. Shya Chitaley at the Museum of Natural History for research for an international paper on Paleobotany of the area; and this year to the Garden Center of Greater Cleveland for the expansion of their new native plant garden.

In addition, the group also recognizes an individual each year who has made significant contributions to the world of native plants. The Annual Lecture, on the evening of the Annual Dinner, is named for that person, and a nationally or internationally known speaker is brought in. We have had such outstanding scientists as Dr. Peter Raven, Dr. Robert Mohlenbrock, Dr. Ed Voss, Dr. Warren Wagner, Dr. Kerry Walter, and others.

This year the Cleveland chapter took the leadership role in funding a \$5,000 grant to the Center for Plant Conservation in Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts. This money, doubled to \$10,000 by a matching grant, will be used by the Holden Arboretum to secure for perpetuity the existence of Silene regia, Royal Catchfly. The plant, now growing at the Arboretum, will be researched for its needs in propagation and survival, and will be reintroduced to its natural habitat as well as being kept at Holden. The money needed will be raised through sale of a poster, almost ready, featuring the eight flowers of the chapters of the Ohio Native Plant Society.

In addition, our members have volunteered at the Holden Wildflower Garden, the Lantern Court Garden, the Herbarium at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, at the Garden Center of Greater Cleveland, and at the Metroparks of four counties.

In February of this year we will co-sponsor with the Garden Center a 2-day Symposium on Wilflower Conservation and Preservation. The presentors will be from various parts of the United States.

We hope to host a statewide field trip within the next year to introduce members of other chapters to our rare plants of extreme northeast Ohio that reflect boreal influences. In the meantime, anyone is welcome to attend any of our events if they are in our area, and we encourage you to visit us.



The Wilderness Center, located in Wilmot just south of Akron, was a logical first step in expansion. The intial meeting with them was on a warm Autumn day in 1984, and the reception was equally warm. Bob Hawes, chief naturalist, took the initiative and in January of the following year, 1985, the group met and formally elected officers. The first president was Bobbie Lucas who authored the following article.

TWC BOTANIZERS

The Wilmot chapter of the Ohio Native Plant Society is known as the Wilderness Center Botanizers and was organized in January of 1985 as one of the special interest groups of the Wilderness Center in Wilmot. Consequently we are fortunate in having their interpretive building available to us for our meetings, and their beautiful trails for our wildflower study. In this area our group has found an enthusiastic membership waiting to share their knowledge and fellowship with others who possess an interest in Ohio's native plants.

In the past three years we have organized many field trips in our area which includes Wayne, Stark, Holmes, and Tuscarawas counties. In these counties there are the deep lush ravines of Doughty Gorge, the unusual environment of Hemlock Hollow, and an expanding prairie which is right on the Wilderness Center's immediate property. We feel very lucky to have such interesting areas so near, and it is a real pleasure to share them with other members of the Native Plant Society. We had an opportunity to do this in 1987, when we hosted the statewide summer meeting. We hope to have more opportunities to share our special areas and to see some of the many interesting wildflower areas in the other chapters' home grounds.

The preservation and study of wild native plants are concerns of our group. Therefore, we are in the process of a study of the plants which were native to the Wilderness Center's property before the land was cultivated and developed. After the study is completed we plan to start the process of reinstating as many of these species as we find practical to bring in to the center. This will ensure the protection and accessibility of these plants for the enjoyment and education of future generations.

In addition, we lead identification hikes for the Wilderness Center to familiarize people with the trees, flowers, and other plants of the Center.

Our group has always kept a casual approach to our meetings and activities, emphasizing fellowship and enjoyment; however, in the process many goals get accom-

plished and many new things are learned. We invite other members to take part in the activities we announce in the fringe newsletter.



In January of 1985 a long sought meeting was arranged with the Cincinnati Wildflower Preservation Society. It turned out to be the coldest day in the history of the state, 24 below zero. But the relationships established that day have become a strong and beneficial thread holding our Society together, and we have been immeasurably enriched by Cincinnati's talent and enthusiasm. Long-time president Vic Soukup writes about his group.

CINCINNATI WILDFLOWER PRESERVATION SOCIETY

"We in America are the inheritors of a beauty of forest and a wealth of wildflowers unequaled elsewhere in this world. Shall we preserve this beauty for future generations to enjoy or shall we, through our thoughtlessness, destroy within a short period what man can never replace?"

Thus begins the original message of the Society, founded in 1917 by Dr. E. Lucy Braun, which has directed its efforts toward arresting the destruction of wildflowers. The Society seeks to attain its goals by educating people to appreciate wildflowers and plants in their natural surroundings, by the establishment of sanctuaries, and by cooperation with all conservation projects which have as their aim the preservation of natural areas.

In the 1920s and the 1930s the Society could count among their accomplishments the publication for 12 years of Wild Flower, an illustrated magazine; public lectures on subjects of interest to nature lovers, with emphasis on the importance of conservation to the community; establishment of wildflower preserves in and around Cincinnati; an education program in the schools including illustrated talks in the classroom and guided tours over nature trails in the Cincinnati parks. At one time 25,000 school children were junior members of the Society, proudly wearing their button with the picture of the Shooting Star and the slogan, ENJOY, DO NOT DESTROY.

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The Society offers every year to its members and friends programs of outstanding merit—both in the lecture hall and in the outdoor laboratory. The field trips every year with experienced leaders have become a vital part of the Society's activities. Most field trips are planned on a Saturday or Sunday and the year is topped off in December with the Hardy Soul's Hike.

The Society continues to be interested in conservation projects of various types,

but particularly in preserving natural areas in southern and southwestern Ohio. Some recent preservation projects in which the Society has been involved, both in personnel and in donations of money, have been the various Adams Co. preserves, such as Lynx Prairie and Buzzard's Roost Rock; in northern Kentucky, Boone Cliffs; and most recently through a matching fund grant, the program to preserve the Oxbow Area on the Ohio/Indiana border just north of the Ohio River.

Through the activities of its members, either acting singly or in groups, the Society also contributes to the acquisition of plant materials and scientific data on natural areas in the Cincinnati region. Of longest standing is a project that involves rescue operations wherein desirable wildflowers are removed from the bulldozer's path for reintroduction into similar habitats in Hamilton Co. Park Preserves. Recently the Society's members have become involved in projects to determine the floras, especially the presence of absence of rare or endangered species, in the Oxbow area of Shawnee Lookout Hamilton Co. Park; and at East Fork State Park in adjacent Clermont Co. The first of these has been particularly successful since several species on the state list have been discovered and the group was involved in the finding of Running Buffalo Clover, a nationally endangered species, just outside of their study area. Other current projects are one providing technical assistance to the Clermont Co. commissioners in the starting of a prairie at the new Kelly Preserve and another of working with the Urban Forestry Department in identifying desirable shrubs and trees on the I-71 and I-75 shoulders as a first step in an interstate highway beautification program.



The same weekend in January, 1985, on the way home from Cincinnati, we met two wonderful Columbus professionals, and it was no effort to convince them to start the local chapter in the state capitol. Columbus meets in the Sharon Woods Metro Parks and this article was written by their founding president, Dr. Jeanne Willis.

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF CENTRAL OHIO

The Central Ohio Chapter of the Ohio Native Plant Society was begun in 1985 with a meeting in the Department of Biology at Otterbein College with Dr. Jeanne Willis and Dr. George Phinney. This was the same cold and stormy weekend that Cincinnati joined the new state group, so the temperature outside may have been 24 below zero, but the warm winds of April were on everyone's minds. The Columbus group accepted the state organization's constitution and bylaws. Our membership is mostly from Franklin and Licking Counties but we do recruit from other contiguous counties as well.

The programs initially began in an educational vein with lectures on the various biogeographical areas in Ohio. Later programs included learning about the wild-flowers of the state nature preserves, Columbus Metropolitan Parks, how to monitor

rare plants in Ohio, and the origin and ecology of Ohio's rare and endangered plants. We have travelled to Killdeer Plains, Claridon Prairie, Battelle-Darby Creek, and Fowlers Woods to explore these unusual environments.

Projects have included assisting the Columbus Metropolitan Parks in establishing management of the prairies at Darby Creek MetroPark, and removal of woody species in a Milford Center Prairie along the right of way owned by Dayton Power and Light and managed by DNAP. We also established a display for the entire Ohio Native Plant Society at the American Institute of Biological Sciences meeting at O.S.U. in August of 1987.

We adopted <u>Silene regia</u>, Royal Catchfly, a federally endangered species, as our logo, and that flower is the one that has been adopted by the State organization for the Center for Plant Conservation. It is featured on the new poster that will be sold to finance our pledge to the CPC. "The Catchfly" is the title of our newsletter which advises our members of coming events and is a means of publishing scholarly papers.

In February of 1987 our chapter hosted the meeting of the state chapter presidents to pull together the State Constitution and Bylaws. We will host the next state presidents' meeting in April of this year.



Dayton took a little longer to get started, but once going, they were like a shooting star. In the first month of their existence, in 1986, they found a prairie remnant that was going to be destroyed by the construction of a thruway, and they set out to save it forthwith. The Dayton president, Ellen Fox, is still at the helm and is in no small way responsible for the chapter's success. This article was written by president Ellen Fox.

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF THE MIAMI VALLEY

The Miami Valley Chapter was started in June 1986 with the encouragement of Marie Aull, renouned Aullwood donor, and the help of Paul Knoop, Education Director of Aullwood. The big project of the Chapter has been to save a prairie remnant in Greene County which was being destroyed for a new road. When it came to our attention, the site of the wet prairie had been reduced to $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres by the construction of the new road. Plant species found at the site include queen of the prairie, prairie dock, prairie coneflower, bergamot, whorled rosinweed, Indian grass, and green dragon. Contractors were unaware of the significance of the site and were covering it with fill and seeding it with Kentucky fescue, the ubiquitous alien grass planted along most major highways in Ohio.

After talks with the personnel of ODOT and the Ohio EPA, and explaining to them its significance, they agreed to stop the filling and preserve the site. The area has been watched closely and supervised by members of the chapter.

On September 10, 1988 the area was dedicated and a sign erected naming it the Little Beaver Creek Prairie. As it is directly across the road from the Zimmerman Prairie, a stomping party was held that day, bringing seeds over to be stomped into the newly dedicated area.



Lisbon is actually the seventh chapter in the Society. In early summer of 1988 a phone call was received from one of their members requesting help in the area of a native plant project they were considering. A visit in August to their meeting produced evidence that we had much to share and that both groups would benefit by their affiliation with us. A joint field trip in October proved that we have gained an outstanding group of members who know a great deal and are anxious to share it.

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF LITTLE BEAVER CREEK

The Little Beaver Creek Natural History Society, the latest chapter of the Ohio Native Plant Society, was founded in January of 1988, having arisen from an informal and varied group of Columbiana County residents who met annually to participate in the annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count. The Count Circle encompassed the major portion of the Little Beaver Creek watershed and extended east to the Pennsylvania State Line, south to and including the Ohio River, west to Highlandtown State Park and north to include the County Seat of Lisbon. The Count Circle has a 15 mile radius and is roughly equivalent to 177 square miles. Over the years others became involved and it appeared that a small coterie of county residents were avid natural history buffs and pursued their varied interests vigorously. Birders were predominant but persons with other specialties began to become known.

Kerr had some informal discussions with Carol Bretz in the fall of 1987 regarding the establishment of a more permanant and broader based nature oriented county organization. No such entity existed. So at the December 19th, 1987 Christmas Bird Count meeting at Kerr's house in Signal an enthusiastic discussion ensued among the 20 people present on organizing a natural history club. An organizational meeting was set for January 19, 1988 at the County Joint Vocational School. Seven people attended the January meeting and moved to adopt the following statement of purpose:

The purpose of this organization is to provide for an association of persons in Columbiana County and contiguous areas who are interested in natural history; and, to afford a medium for the exchange of natural history information; and, to promote and encourage the conservation and appreciation of natural resources in Columbiana County.

By June of 1988 the Little Beaver Creek Natural History Society had 17 paid members and had begun to catalog flora and fauna seen on the groups' various field trips in the Beaver Creek Basin. We had decided early on, that with the rich environment representative in the watershed on the Little Beaver Creek we would do well to be myopic, so to say, to limit our forays mainly to our own backyard since so much remained to be discovered and cataloged.

It is appropriate here to offer a brief description of our "home turf". Columbiana County is the eastern most county in the State bordering the Ohio River and offers a variety of terrain and environment due to its position in the glacial history of the State. Glaciers penetrated midway into Columbiana County at their southernmost expansion resulting in an unusually diverse mixture of terrain. In the most southerly portion of the watershed the topograph is entirely due to erosive forces and the landscape is hilly and rugged. This western portion of the Allegheny Plateau shares much of the flora and fauna indigenous to the Appalachian Region. Columbiana County, and particularly the Little Beaver Creek Watershed, affords a fascinating look into Ohio's past. Most of the creek area is undisturbed and numerous rare plant species are found in the watershed. Little Beaver Creek was designated as the State's first Wild River in January of 1974. DNAP conducted a Wild and Scenic River Study in that year and in October of 1975 34 miles of the Little Beaver Creek System were designated as a National Wild and Scenic River. Much of Ohio's colorful past is associated with Little Beaver Creek. The first inhabitants along the creek date back to the Fluted Point Indian Culture, some 10,000 years ago. In 1785 Thomas Hutchins began the U.S. Public Land Survey at a point near the mouth of the creek. This was the greatest subdivision in America at that time, and the first time land was surveyed before being sold. Beaver Creek State Park affords many opportunities to explore the rich biota of the area and is easily accessed by State Route 11.

The Little Beaver Creek National History Society has organized at a critical time in the Creek's existance. The watershed is currently threatened by chemical pollution originating north of Salem, Ohio at the Old Nease Chemical Plant which is on the national priority list for the Superfund cleanup. Mirex, a suspected carcinogen, is a major pollutant of the North Fork of Little Beaver Creek. The Ohio Department of Health has posted warning signs as far south as Lisbon warning against swimming, boating, or consumption of fish in this major tributary of the system. The Federal EPA, after two years of research, has not yet determined a practical and efficacious way to remove the Mirex from the stream. Long term effects on the environment are only speculative at this time. The Little Beaver Creek National History Society currently monitors 5 sites on various streams in the watershed as part of the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves Stream Monitoring Program. Only one of our streams presents concern and that is Leslie Run which flows through the City of East Palestine into the Middle Fork at Negley. Leslie Run consistantly gives poor readings on monitoring visits because we find few or no macroinvertabrate species present. We are not currently monitoring sites where Mirex is suspected, so we attribute Leslie Run's condition to other factors. Many Columbiana County residents take for granted the beauty and diversity of our county's environment, and only recently when the very real threat of Mirex appeared has there been citizen concern about the quality of the environment.

What we hope to accomplish as an organization is to make residents aware of the great beauty of our county and the need to preserve and protect this bounty. "One of our major agenda items is to promote the preservation of Water Cress Marsh,

a natural wetland approximately 150 acres in extent and created when Pleistocene glaciers invaded the maturely-dissected Appalachian Plateau about 2 million years ago. An open kettle hole pond near the center of the marsh is a source of the Mahoning River and the eastern end of the Marsh is drained by the headwaters of the West Fork of Little Beaver Creek. The entire Marsh is in the hands of private owners. It is significant because it is one of the very few remaining undrained and unimpounded natural wetlands formed by glacial end moraines." The Marsh contains some 215 plant species including the rare Water Horsetail, (Equisetum fluviatile L.) and some 17 species of sedges. We are planning a field trip to the Marsh August 12, 1989 and will be contacting staff at the Nature Conservancy's Ohio office and staff at ODNR's Division of Natural Areas and Preserves for assistance and guidance with our plans. The Cleveland chapter will join us.

To these ends we'll continue with our quarterly stream monitoring, monthly field trips to catalog and observe species in the Beaver Creek system, and participation in the Annual Christmas Bird Count. During this coming year we plan to expand our data base and photo and slide collection so that we can begin to put on educational programs for schools and local organizations.

We look forward with great interest to our new affiliation with the Ohio Native Plant Society and are most pleased to be able to draw on the experience and expertise of the Society's members.

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In the Fall of 1986 a botany graduate student at Ohio University was interested in starting the chapter in Athens. She managed to get a fledgling group going, but moved to the West Coast, and things went into dormancy. There was, however, a long established and very strong roup known as the Hocking Valley Audubon Society that went more into general naturue than just birds. They took our little kernel under their wing and became so interested that they have affiliated with us and are deep into the native plants. We welcome their strength in numbers and their demonstrable enthusiasm. President Scott Moody wrote this article and is a main spark plug of the group.

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF S.E. OHIO

The Hocking Valley Audubon Society (HVAS), a chapter of the National Audubon Society, was founded in 1977 by a small group of people who resided mainly in the Logan and Rockbridge area and were associated with the Hocking Technical College (Dept. of Natural Resources) at Nelsonville. Several years later most of the members and officer resided in the Athens area and were either associated with Ohio University (Dept. of Zoology) or the Wayne National Forest. Officially, our chapter includes all of Athens and Hocking Counties and portions of Meigs, Washington, Vin-

ton and Perry Counties.

Although some Audubon chapters are primarily active in birdwatching field trips, our chapter is more oriented towards serving the community and the schools with educational programs. These activities include supplying nearly 50 fifth-grade classrooms throughout Athens and Hocking Counties with the Audubon Adventures educational materials, sending local teachers to the National Audubon Ecology Workshop for Educators, and presenting informational programs on mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, insects, and spiders. The latter programs are given by several members who are also faculty of the Dept. of Zoology at Ohio University in Athens. The monthly programs are open to the public; the topics vary from wildlife studies to conservation to travelogues to environmental activism.

The Athens or Southeastern Ohio Native Plant Society was founded three years ago by Ingrid Chorba, a graduate student in the Dept. of Botany. At that time the group attracted only a few people but together with HVAS two or three field trips were a success. After one year Ingrid moved out of state, and this organization joined with HVAS. Recently, Jean Andrews agreed to serve as the leader of the local Native Plant Society as she had considerable experience as curatorial assistant of the Berkeley Botanical Gardens in California.

Many of our active members as well as many other persons in the Athens area are field botanists and the HVAS could be characterised more aptly as a plant-oriented rather than bird-oriented Audubon chapter. Phil Cantino is an Associate Professor of Botany and Curator of the Herbarium and a member of the Board of Directors, Ohio Nature Conservancy. Marilyn Ortt and Ora (Andy) Anderson are members as well as being associated with the Ohio Nature Conservancy. Several students in the Botany Dept. frequently attend meetings or go on field trips.

The Hocking Valley area is a beautiful area for botanizing since much of the land belongs to ODNR, including the Waterloo Wildlife Research Station, several forests, Strouds Run, Burr Oak, Lake Hope and Hocking Hills Parks, and the Natural Areas and Preserves of Conkle's Hollow, Desonier and Lake Katherine. The Wayne National Forest has a lot of acreage including Wildcat Hollow Natural Area in Perry County.

HVAS has organized a Christmas Bird County for Athens County for the past six years and we usually have 25-30 people in the field or watching feeders. Sixty-five to seventy species are to be expected. Two species of animals with which HVAS is closely identified is the Wild Turkey which is very common now in Athens County having been first reintroduced to the wild at the Waterloo Wildlife Station, and the Eastern Spadefooted Toad, a rare and endangered species vertebrate, which was first discovered for the State of Ohio in Athens but then unfortunately extirpated by development and flood plain drainage in the 1960s. Scott Moody is currently searching for additional populations of this unique amphibian in southeastern Ohio as well as working to reestablish experimentally the species in Athens County.

During the past four years the HVAS has developed a strong role in environmental conservation under the leadership of Mary Pat Mann. We are strong supporters of recycling in the area and help with the quarterly recycling at the Athens Mall. Also, the city of Athens has curbside recycling in which we encourage people to participate. We have worked on two major projects during the past four years.

- 1. We have been instrumental in the development of the Wayne National Forest Management Plan. Three of our members (Ora Anderson, Brian Blair, and Scott Moody) served on the planning committee, and currently our group is formally appealing part of the plan to protect more adequately the old-growth areas.
- 2. We are opposing strongly the Army Corps of Engineers plan to channelize and introduce flood control measures on the Hocking River at Nelsonville and Logan. Several meetings have been held and the process of protest is continuing. The Hocking River was moved and channelized at Athens 20 years ago destroying a lot of beautiful topography and natural habitat in the name of progress.

Several members of HVAS are currently active in advising the development of a plan of usage of the fields and woodlands of the Athens Mental Health Center grounds, 671 acres which was recently acquired by Ohio University. Two proposals among many that are being considered are an Ecological Study Area (Nature Preserve) and an adjacent arboretum/botanical garden. If these proposals are accepted, then members of HVAS as well as the university and community, will have a beautiful area in Athens available for nature study and photography, bird-watching and hiking, etc.

THE TOLEDO NATURALISTS



Approaches to the Toledo area have been going on ever since we first decided to go statewide in 1985. It seemed that teach time someone thought they could get a chapter going, they were overwhelmed by an old and established group called the Toledo Naturalists Association. Finally, in the Fall of 1988, negotiations with then president Pete Montion resulted in the decision to affiliate

the TNA with the Ohio Native Plant Society. The Toledo group has had some outstanding botanists in their Association, not the least of which is Lou Campbell, who has a state preserve named after him. They have many year's of outstanding stewardship to their credit and we are very proud to have them with us.

Due to the fact that the Toledo Chapter information did not arrive by press time we will feature this chapter at a later date.

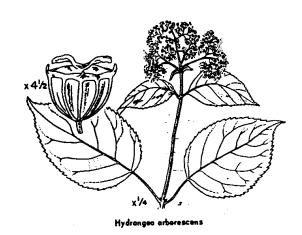
AN OCTOBER DAY AT BEAVER CREEK STATE NATURE PRESERVE

by Chuck Thomas

It was a sunny Saturday morning, when members of the Cleveland Chapter joined members of the Little Beaver Creek Natural History Society, our new Lisbon chapter, for an exploration of the gorge of Sheepskin Creek, a tributary of the North Fork of Little Beaver Creek in Columbiana County, Ohio. The area is located just to the north and east of Beaver Creek State Park, which is between Elkton, Williamsport and Fredericktown, all to the north of East Liverpool. This V-shaped valley is about a mile south of the edge of the glaciated section of the county, and it is located within an area of the Little Beaver Drainage that was influenced by outwash from pre-Illinoian glaciation (White, 1982).

Braun (1950) included the area within the Mixed Mesophytic Forest Region of the Cumberland and Allegheny Plateaus but near edge of the Beech - Maple Forest Region to the north. It lies within the area of the original mixed oak forest type (Gordon, 1966), which correlates with the mixed oak communities described in Braun (1950). A diverse flora would be expected in this area so near the edge of the above regional influences.

Sheepskin Creek gorge is part of an area of recent acquisition by the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves, Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), and it borders part of the corridor of Ohio's first designated Wild and Scenic River, which includes 20 miles of the West and Middle Forks and 16 miles of the North Fork of Little Beaver Creek. Our leader for the day, Emliss Ricks, Jr. of ODNR's Division of Natural Areas and Preserves (DNAP), met with us at scenic and historic Gaston's Mill. He explained our itinerary and the DNAP interest in preserving this prime



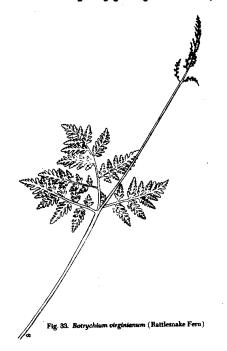
area for future generations. One of our goals for this day was to help locate and identify any unusual or unique plants or animals during our brief stay at the preserve. We pursued this with great zeal.

As temperatures rose to the mid-80's on this first day of October, we became increasingly aware of and impressed by the coolness afforded by the many springs and deeply shaded areas of the gorge. Access to the area was via a steep-side embankment, which was sometime ago. It was interesting in itself, being with numerous species characteristic of an early successional stage of development. Here we found dense growths of hydrangia (Hydrangia arborescens), a species near the northerly edge of its range, most common to those of you in southern areas of Ohio, but quite special to those of us from the northeast! Yellow birch, ninebark, and sycamore combined with luxurious growths of poison ivy to dominate the vegetational cover. Along the way, we identified four species of goldenrods, three species of asters, trifoliate rattlesnake root (Prenanthes trifoliata), lady's tresses (Spiranthes cernua), American bellflower, blue curls (Trichostema dichotomum), and goatsbeard (Aruncus dicicus). Closed gentian (Gentiana clausa) was blooming at its peak. A nearby growth of mountain laurel was cause for excitement. There were five species of ferns including hayscented and a leathery, obliquely dissected form of rattlesnake fern (Botrichium virginianum), which very much resembled the evergreen grape fern (B. dissectum var. obliquum). All of this and many more species were encountered in proximity to the rusty rails and rotting ties of this area. Emliss tried to move us along, lest we miss the gorge itself!

Our descent was steep. We moved downward at a point upstream of where the creek is conveyed through a culvert beneath the old rail line. Loose gravels contrasted with shales and sandstone outcrops, and some of us speculated about copperhead activity in the area. Red elderberry, wild ginger, large leaf waterleaf, yellow impatiens and stonecrop were indicators of a much different environment ahead.

Tall sycamores and American elms dominate the forested floodplain, and hemlocks, yellow birches and witchhazel occur on lower slopes. These give way to increasing numbers of sugar maples, beech and chestnut oaks. We observed acorns from both chestnut and red oaks, in spite of the summer's drought.

Emliss directed us over talus and around huge sandstone rocks that supported growths of polypody ferns, maple-leaf viburnum and fragile ferns. We observed



mosses and mushrooms in abundance - turkeytail (Polystictus sp.), coral fungus (Polyporus sp.), shaggy moss (Rhytidiadelphus sp.), starmoss (Mnium sp.), windswept moss (Dicranum sp.), puffballs, several crustose and foliose lichens, and possibly two species of liverworts (Marchantia sp.). As we traipsed around the floodplain, Emliss encountered a large population of the red eft stage of the red spotted newt. On closer examination, the moist leaf litter at the edge of the floodplain contained some of the largest wood millepedes seen by most of the troupe. So much diversity, and so little time to study!

We moved upstream between large sandstone boulders to a sizable population of very robust, dark green Goldie's ferns, growing in a sheltered area rich with leaf mold. Nevada Laitsch of the Lisbon Chapter related some of her memories of past explorations in the area, especially with regard to the many unusual species of ferns. We lingered here, enjoying the prospect of what the spring flora would present next year . . . wild geraniums, an abundance of three- and fivelobe forms of the sharplobed hepatica, virginia waterleaf, Solomon's plume and Solomon's seal, skunk cabbage, violets, blue cohosh, sanicle and more. Maidenhair ferns, silvery glade fern, and foamflowers grew nearby.

As we paused to view the first of two impressive waterfalls, Gordon Vujevic of the Cleveland Chapter spotted walking ferns (Camptosorus rhizophyllus) climbing on a rock covered with mosses. Normally abundant in areas with calcareous rocks, here was a population growing on sandstone.

We bid some of our members goodbye from the top of the falls as we moved upstream searching for more discoveries. Then there was a great find . . . sorta looked like an ash, well maybe a lot more like the bark of a butternut, well maybe the leaves looked like red elderberry, but some leaves looked like hickory . . . we were puzzled. Oh well, for the time being, we would call it "Gordon's butter-ash", taking care to preserve some leaves and twigs for later identification". 1

The forest began to change with increasing numbers of red maples, tuliptrees, bigtooth aspens, some beeches and flowering dogwoods, and more youthful growths of sycamores and American elms. Slopes were more steep with slides of trees and soils becoming increasingly common. At one elbow of the creek, we observed a shale and siltstone exposure with a pronounced coal seam at its center.

Flowering raspberry, rockcress, slender woodland grass (Brachyelytrum erectum), Christmas ferns, greenbriar, bottlebrush grass (Hystrix patula), bristly greenbriar



(Smilax hispida), Maryland figwort (Scrophularia marilandica) and tall meadowrue were encountered. There were growths of alternate-leaf wingstem, willow-herb, green-headed coneflower, wild mint, and roughleaf goldenrod. Wood nettles (Laportea canadensis) false nettles (Boehmeria cylindrica), Pennsylvania cress (Cardamine pennsylvanica), white vervains and white grass (Leersia virginica) grew streamside.

Two special observations included dodder (Cuscuta gronovii), a parasitic plant, in flower and with fruits growing on its host, a jewelweed. The other observation was a rose-colored turtlehead (Chelone glabra var. elatior), which was growing streamside.

A riparian or stream associated environment is generally more diverse in numbers of species

than surrounding areas, affording habitats such as seeps, outcrops and riverwash areas in proximity to the more stable hills, ridges or other topographically high areas. The instability of a harsh, floodprone environment may also inhibit the growth of more common plants in favor of rarer species (Rawinski, 1988). Streams may often be vehicles of plant introductions in an area, and it would be expected that many more plants will be identified with more thorough examination. We could not view spring ephemerals, and the site possesses enough micro-habitats in its rugged topography that it may be some time before all parts are explored in a systematic manner.

Well, we were just about "species'd out" when we arrived at the second waterfall, a pleasant cascade that ended our upstream advance. This warm afternoon had waned, and we began retracing our steps. Like all good visits, we hoped to return again soon . . . maybe next spring when the vernal flora would afford more fine memories. Past the rose-colored turtleheads, past the seam of coal. For some, it was one last photo of a special cascade. We walked a slightly higher course along the floodplain and encountered whorled smilax (Smilax echirrhata) growing on a shaded floodplain with rich humus. Its fruiting stalk was still in evidence.

As we climbed the steep embankment of the rail line, the warmth of the mid-80's temperatures greeted us, and we recalled the coolness of the protected ravine below. This was a truly rewarding day!

Chuck Thomas is the Environmental Affairs Officer for the Cuyahoga County Engineers in Cleveland.

¹Gordon's butter-ash was later identified as a form of red ash (**Fraxinus pennsylvanica var. pennsylvanica**) based on twig and bud characteristics (Core & Ammons, 1958; Harlow, 1946) and based on leaf and stem morphology (Weishaupt, 1971; Gleason & Cronquist, 1963).

Other identifications of plants follow these and Beswick (1987), Fernald (1950), Bailey & Bailey (1976), and Braun (1961 and 1967). A copy of the list of vascular plants observed in this brief survey has been furnished to Emliss Ricks, DNAP. Thanks to all who contributed to the many fine observations of this trip.

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Center

WILDFLOWER SYMPOSIUM AT THE GARDEN CENTER OF GREATER CLEVELAND

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15 and 16, 1989
(A 2-day symposium co-sponsored by Garden Center and Native Plant Society)

PROGRAM

Wednesday	Thursday
8:30 a.m Registration	8:30 a.m Registration.
9:00 a.m The W's of Wildflowers: what are they, why are they important, where are they found. Guy Denny	9:00 a.m The Ethics of Plant Con- servation. Richard Lighty, PhD
10:00 a.m Wildflowers: Their Place and Use in the Home Land- scape. Viki Ferreniea	10:00 a.m Ohio Prairie: Our Vanish- ing Natural Resources. Paul Knoop, Jr.
11:00 a.m Habitat Plantings of the	10:45 a.m Break
Myrtle S. Holden Wildflower Garden. Sources of Wildflowers and Propagation of Techniques. Brian Parsons and Thomas Yates.	11:00 a.m Plants of the Ohio Peat- lands. Barbara Andreas, PhD.
12 - Noon - Lunch	11:45 a.m Lunch
1:00 p.m The Wildflower Garden at the Garden Center of Greater Cleveland. Gary Farkas	12:45 p.m Native Plants and Their Pollinators. Lazarus Macior, PhD
1:45 p.m Ohio Prairie Species in the Home Garden. Brian Parsons	1:45 p.m Natural Areas and Plant Protection for the Future.
2:30 p.m Break	Anton Reznicek, PhD
2:45 p.m Mixing Native Plants into the Garden. Tom Yates	2:45 p.m Human Activity and Thriving Rare Plants.
3:30 p.m Overlooked Native Perennials. William Brumback	James Bissell 3:45 p.m Where Have We Come
7 to 8:30 - Endangered Species; a multi- media program. Guy Denny	From and Where are We Going? Richard Lighty, PhD

THE SPEAKERS

Barbara K. Andreas is a Professor of Biology at Cuyahoga Community College, East Campus in Cleveland, Ohio and an Adjunct Professor of Biology at Kent State University in Kent, Ohio. She earned her Doctor of Philosophy at Kent State University and has done major floristic studies in northeastern Ohio.

James K. Bissell, Curator of Botany at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History has studied and published extensively on the flora of northeastern Ohio and western Pennsylvania. He serves on the National Board of Governors of the Nature Conservancy and is a Trustee of the Ohio Chapter.

William E. Brumback, the propagator for the New England Wildflower Society's Garden in the Woods in Framingham, Massachusetts, is a Longwood Graduate Program Fellow and former head propagator for Bluemount Nurseries, Inc. in Maryland.

Guy Denny is Assistant Chief, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Natural Areas and Preserves. He has published several papers on bogs and fens in Ohio and is a noted educator/naturalist.

Gary Farkas is the Grounds Superintendent of The Garden Center of Greater Cleveland. His extensive experience with plants and garden design have earned him high esteem in the horticultural community. He is also an instructor at Cleveland State University.

Viki Ferreniea was born in Sussex, England and graduated from Swanley Horticultural College. She developed the wildflower gardens at Longwood Gardens and the New Canaan Nature Center and has served as Director and Horticulturist of the Garden in the Woods. She now is the Assistant Horticultural Director at Wayside Gardens.

Paul E. Knoop, Jr. is Director of Education at Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm in Dayton. He has been involved with the development and management of Aullwood's outstanding prairie. His keen interest in native plants and their uses led him to found the Miami Valley Native Plant Society.

Richard W. Lighty, Director of the Mt. Cuba Center for the Study of Piedmont Flora, is well-known for developing and administering the Longwood Graduate Program and for directing horticultural research at Longwood Gardens. Since 1983 he has been developing the estate of Mrs. Lammot du Pont Copeland into a display of plants native to the Piedmont region of eastern North America.

Lazarus Walter Macior is a Professor of Biology at The University of Akron. Since receiving his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin, he has developed an international reputation for his studies of the coadaptation of flowers and their insect pollinators, with special focus on rare and endangered species of plants.

Brian Parsons, Natural Areas Coordinator at the Holden Arboretum, is responsible for Holden's wildflower garden and prairie. Holden is part of the national network of the Center For Plant Conservation.

Anton A. Reznicek, Director of the Matthaei
Botanical Gardens and Associated Curator of the
University of Michigan Herbarium, is currently
researching the large and complex genus Carex and
the phytogeography of the northeastern North
American flora, concentrating on the Great Lakes
region. He is an exceptionally well-published scholar
on the flora of the Great Lakes region.

Thomas A. Yates is the supervisor for Lantern Court at the Holden Arboretum, with its beautiful naturalistic plants. An avid naturalist, Mr. Yates is extremely knowledgeable, specializing in the flora of northeastern Ohio.

1989 TAX CHECKOFF PROGRAM

Taxes and nature: how do the two go together? Some might say it's the nature of government to be taxing. However, these subjects relate in another, more enjoyable way. Since 1983, Ohioans have had the opportunity to donate part or all of their state tax refunds to "nature preserves, scenic rivers, and endangered species protection."

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- o construct and improve visitor facilities such as trails, boardwalks, interpretive displays, and parking lots at 14 sites;
- o print 4 new brochures, reprint 10 old ones, and publish a bi-monthly division newsletter;
- o award 16 research grants to fund studies relevant to our natural areas;
- continue 50+ projects to monitor rare plant species and develop management plans for their protection;
- o continue to inventory the state's rivers and natural areas for potential new sites;
- o continue evaluation of data for the Breeding Bird Atlas, to be published in 1989;
- o continue to monitor the quality of Ohio's ten designated scenic rivers, and much more.

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Those not receiving a refund can contribute by sending a check to: Division of Natural Areas and Preserves Special Account, Division of Natural Areas and Preserves, Fountain Square, Bldg. F-1, Columbus, OH 43224.

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T. Richard Fisher is Professor Emeritus of Biology at Bowling Green State University (Ohio). He is the author of <u>Introduction to Horticulture</u> and numerous articles.

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