



NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NORTHEASTERN
OHIO

9500 Sperry Road Mentor, Ohio 44060

(216) 338-6622

ON THE FRINGE

VOLUME 2

JANUARY 1984

No. 1

JANUARY PROGRAMS AND EVENTS:

10th Board Meeting - 7:30 at Marian Larson's

14th FIELD TRIP - with Nate Finck, Naturalist with the Geauga County Parks. Meet at Big Creek Park, Maple Grove Shelter at 10am. To get to Big Creek Park go north of Chardon on North Street 1 mile to Woodin Rd. Right on Woodin for 1 mile. Left on Robinson for 1 mile.

FEBRUARY PROGRAMS AND EVENTS:

5th MEETING at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, at 2 p.m. WHERE HAVE ALL THE WILDFLOWERS GONE? is the title of Dr. Robert Mohlenbrock's talk. Dr. Mohlenbrock is a Professor of Botany at the University of Southern Illinois and author of a current best-seller of the same title. He has penned more than 25 books including the FLORA OF ILLINOIS. His new book will be available for autographing. Fee: \$2.00.

25th WORKSHOP at The Holden Arboretum. 9-12 a.m. - 1-4 p.m. led by Dr. Donald Dean, retired professor of Biology at Baldwin Wallace College in Berea, Ohio. This will be of interest to people who love plants but know very little about how they live, what they need to exist, their composition, their names and some interest-lore about them.

The title of Dr. Dean's workshop is, THE QUESTION IS NOT WHAT YOU LOOK AT, BUT WHAT YOU SEE - Thoreau.

It will be a short and basic course on how to identify plants starting with Plant Families and going through plant parts, using keys, etc. This will be a Hands-On course using lab materials and Wieshaupt's VASCULAR PLANTS OF OHIO, which you may want to purchase. Reservations: 338-6622; Fee: \$5.00.

SO YOU THINK BOTANY IS STUFFY!

by Dr. Donald Dean, retired Professor of Biology.

Why do so many people who love plants speak of the science of Botany as though it were some esoteric mystery closed to the ordinary mortal? What have we biology teachers done to make botany seem so sterile and formal, so much a recitation of Greek and Latin and chemical formulas? Botany is exciting and vital, a celebration of the wonders of nature.

It is exciting to know why a plant bends toward the light and why the shoot grows up and the roots grow down.

It is exciting to know that scientists can now fuse the cells of plants of different species and produce plants with characteristics of both species; potato and tomato, for example. Think where this could lead us.

There is strong evidence that the green chloroplasts in plant cells, which produce all of the food for virtually all living things, descended from parasitic organisms that invaded the earliest ancestors of modern plants.

Isn't it remarkable that the DNA that carries the genetic code in a single cell could encode all the books in a 200,000 volume library? How did such a marvel get set up? Wouldn't you like to know? I would.

Did you ever think that anything as solid as an oak tree was assembled from something as unsubstantial as the carbon dioxide in the air and the water in the soil - with just a soucon of minerals?

Did you ever consider that the carbon atom in the tip of your nose might once have been part of a cabbage that obtained it from the decay of a bluejay that got it from eating an acorn that ...

Have you heard that the most expensive condiment in the world comes from the dried stigmas of crocuses and that salicylic acid of aspirin was first found in the bark of willow trees (*Salix*)? Have you heard that dandelions get their name because the flower resembles "une dent de lion"?

Have you read about the evidence that the strange behavior that caused the untimely end of Salem ladies may have been caused not by witchcraft, but by a halucinogenic fungus attacking the grain that they ate?

Did you know that the plant that killed Socrates was not like the hemlock growing in the beech-hemlock woods in nearby Metroparks, but a relative of dill and Queen-Anne's lace? Have you considered how the halucinogenic essence in Amanitas has figured in the religious practices in various countries?

Have you seen the two-inch willow trees in bloom above the tree-line in the tundra of the Rocky Mountains where the cold and the winds destroy taller trees? Have you seen pictures of the orchids that look so much like female moths that the male moths pollinate them in their lustful frenzy? Do you ever wonder how such things come to be?

Do you realize that about twelve kinds of plants stand between the human race and starvation and that the most important of them are grasses? Have you heard how the failure of one of those twelve plants, the potato, was responsible for the deaths of thousands of Irish and the great migration of Irish to this country?

Do you know why your Christmas tree keeps its needles and stays fresh if you cut off a few inches of trunk under water before putting it on display in a bucket of water? You would learn that in a botany course.

When you read this by electric light have you thought how long ago those primitive plants from which come electricity, captured the energy from the sun and stored it until today? Have you seen how beautiful the fossils of these fern-like plants are?

Is Botany dull stuff? Not unless you make it that way. Take a moment to look afresh at any living plant and wonder how it got that way. Any living plant is a botany text without compare.

* * * * *

SHORT BIO of Dr. Donald Dean, author of the above article.

He taught for 35 years at Baldwin Wallace College and holds a Ph. D. from the University of Michigan. He spent time in India in an effort to improve the teaching of college Biology.

He is the Director of the National Association of Biology teachers and is in WHO'S WHO IN AMERICA.

We are off to a great start on the New Year! Now only do we have outstanding programs and field trips scheduled, but we are gaining NATIONAL recognition. Friends that the Society has made in the last year have gone out and publicized us and membership requests are coming in from as far away as Oklahoma. Several letters from within Ohio indicate that we are fulfilling a very real need. Hope we can keep the momentum going.

By now you will have received the Program/Field Trip flier. Each newsletter will give you more details relative to the two-month period. As we promised, you will see that we have made a concerted effort to make programs easier for more of you to get to by having two centrally located at the Natural History Museum, one on the west side of the city, and one in the southern part. In addition we have varied the day by throwing in Sunday and Friday programs. The June field trip to the Corry area in Pennsylvania will enable us to see some very rare areas and plants not seen in this part of Ohio. The August trek to Windsor, Ontario will introduce you to some plants not here, also. That is a weekend to plan to stay in that area overnight and take in some of the outstanding preserves in nearby eastern Michigan or at Pt. Pelee. We'll list the alternatives in the July newsletter.

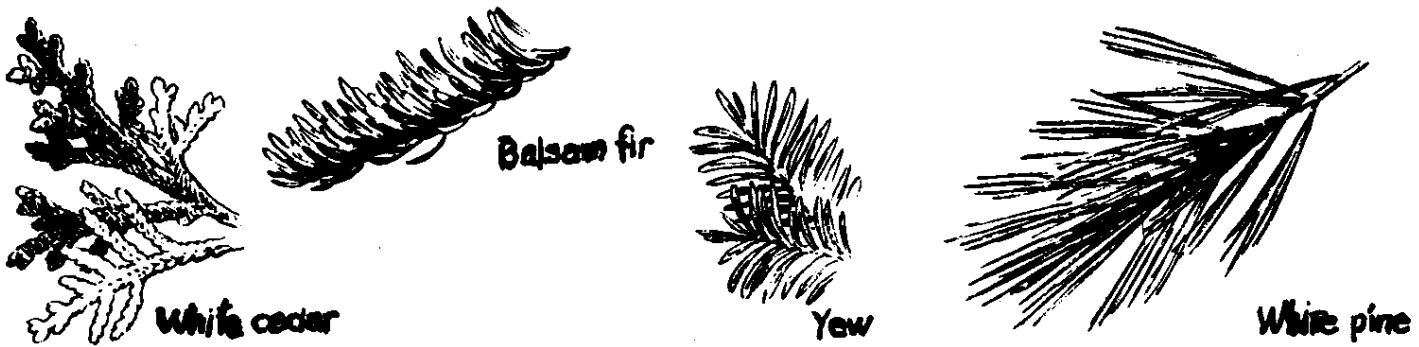
So, get your renewals in so that you don't miss any of the fun and learning that are on the agenda. We need new members, too, and you can help by advertising us wherever you go.

MANY, MANY thanks to those of you who have sent renewals in so early and have generously increased your contribution to the Society.

A sincere THANK YOU to Cleveland Welders Supply Company for its generous contribution of \$150.00 to our speaker's fund.

HERE'S TO A YEAR FILLED WITH SUNSHINE AND FLOWERS!!.

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TREES IN WINTER

by Nate Finck, Naturalist for
the Geauga County Parks

The coming of winter means the loss of one of our most relied upon clues for the identification of our deciduous trees, their leaves.

However, this is not the case with most of our native conifers or "evergreen trees."

Growing often along or near cool ravines we find our most common member of this group, the Eastern Hemlock. Its needles are flat with whitish lines on the underneath surfaces and it produces very small cones.

Although more common in earlier days, there are still stands of native white pines in Northeastern Ohio.

Pines have long needles which are usually found in clusters. White Pine has its needles in groups of five. There is a whitish hue to its needles which are quite pliable and soft to the touch.

An especially fine grove of native white pines can be seen at Indian Point, one of the Lake County Metroparks which is locate on Seely Road.

Yew, a shrub which superficially resembles the Hemlock, is found sparingly along ravines in wooded areas. Its small size and lack of white lines on the underneath surface of its leaves distinguishes it from the Hemlock which frequently grows on the same site.

Rather than a cone, its seeds are enclosed in a red berry-like cup. It is often planted near homes.

A deciduous conifer frequently found near bogs is the Tamarack or larch. Its pine-like needles are borne in large clusters. It reaches its southern limit in northern Ohio.

With the leaves no longer present on the majority of our

trees, we must look to other characteristics.

One which is easily accessible is the bark. Though frequently variable, a little practice will help you to identify many of our trees. One needs to pay attention to both texture and color. Almost everyone can easily identify the tight fitting light grey bark of the Beech or the peeling bark of the Birch.

Wild Black Cherry as it ages forms very conspicuous dark reddish-brown rough plates. One can notice the orange streaks in the grooves of Red Oak trunks.

Sometimes the manner in which the trunk has grown can help us as in the often remarkably straight growth of the Tulip trees. Last year's seed cones at the top of these trees are often another clue for identifying this tree.

If the branches are at arms reach, the bud can be examined. Long-pointed brown buds identify the beech. Reddish buds found in opposite pairs are a key to the Red Maples.

Twigs can help as in the Spice Bush which has conspicuous little bumps.

Another important factor is the habitat. Many trees prefer growing in specific places. The Hemlock, Yew and Birch in and alongside cool ravines; red and white oaks on well-drained soils and often at the top of slopes; beech and sugar maple on moderately well-drained soils; red maple, white ash and elm in wet forests and cottonwoods, sycamores and willows along flood plains are some examples.

So, you can see there are a great many aids to rely on in getting to know the trees in winter.

One not yet mentioned is going on a winter walk with a local naturalist. You will have that opportunity on Saturday morning, January 14th beginning at 10 am. at Maple Grove Shelter in Big Creek Park which is located on Robinson Road three miles northeast of Chardon.

SEE YOU THERE

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Big Creek is located 3 miles N of Chardon on Robinson Road. By driving 1 mi. N of the square in Chardon on North Street which becomes Painesville-Ravenna Road (old Rte. 44), you will reach Woodin Rd. Right on Woodin for 1 mile, then left on Robinson for another mile. The main park entrance will be on your left.

JEWELS OF THE PLAINS: WILDFLOWERS OF THE GREAT PLAINS, GRASSLANDS AND HILLS by Clause A. Barr (University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, c1983); xxv + 236 p., 119 colored photographs, glossary, and index, plus an essay on Barr's botanical contributions by Ronald R. Weedon.

This is a highly personal and readable discussion of the flowering plants native to the plains area west of the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains, north into parts of Manitoba and Saskatchewan and south into Missouri, Oklahoma, northern Texas and adjacent New Mexico. Barr, who died in 1982 just before his 95th birthday, after busy, strenuous years as a cattle rancher and proprietor of a plant and seed business in South Dakota, fell in love with flowers as a boy. Educated in classics, he began photographing and writing about wildflowers during the dustbowl years when the ranch was struggling for survival. Eventually, through years of study and collecting, he became a well-known expert on the taxonomy of Great Plains wildflowers, and his plant and seed company did business worldwide. His book discusses many more plants than are illustrated, and his comments include not only the plants' identifying characteristics but also their horticultural requirements and desirability (some, he warns, can be difficult to control).

It is not a book I found easy to sit and read through as one might a novel, because it is somewhat technical and densely packed with information, although clearly and elegantly written. However, I recommend it highly as a reference work, particularly for anyone who plans to go to that area to see those plants for him/herself. It would be equally valuable for anyone interested in gardening with these plants, but Barr's plant and seed business has closed and the book suggests that a new company is needed to take its place.

REMINDER: Be sure to make your check mark on your Income Tax Return so your dollar goes to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources - Div. of Natural Areas and Preserves.

INTERESTING STATISTICS

Perhaps you were wondering why we started keeping attendance records in October. Some interesting facts appeared when we went over the sheets. Keep in mind the data is from only two meetings, both in the fall and both at the Holden Arboretum.

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|---------------------|----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| <u>OCTOBER 27th</u> | <u>10 mi. radius</u> | <u>15</u> | <u>20</u> | <u>30</u> | <u>40</u> | <u>50</u> |
| 32 members attended | 3 | 15 | 11 | | 2 | 1 |
| 2 guests attended | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------|---|----|---|---|---|--|
| <u>NOVEMBER 17th</u> | | | | | | |
| 25 members attended | 3 | 18 | 2 | 1 | 1 | |
| 1 guest attended | | | | | | |

The meetings sceduled for 1984 are on different days and in different location. Hopefully, this will enable more of our members to attend.

CONSERVATION
ALERT

Letters from our members and concerned friends are needed to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources in support of state scenic river status for Big Darby Creek. This river is a beautiful, free-flowing stream in west-central Ohio that is unusually high in aquatic life. Scenic river status would provide Big Darby with some protection from construction projects as well as land-owner assistance, education and water quality monitoring and improvement. The Big and Little Darby Creeks run through the Darby Plains, a large remnant of the great plains area that used to make up west-central Ohio. Now largely obscured by farm lands and communities, there are still several small preserves left where one can go to see rare plants. We will tell you how to see them in a later issue.

Conservationists made an enormous effort during the previous administration to obtain scenic river status for this river, but the request was denied. The Celeste Administration is genuinely interested in protection for Big Darby. PLEASE WRITE NOW TO:
MYRL H. SHOEMAKER, DIRECTOR, OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES,
FOUNTAIN SQUARE, BLDG. D., COLUMBUS, O. 43224

Please enroll me as a member of the NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF
NORTHEAST OHIO. ACTIVE - \$5.00 SUSTAINING - \$15.00
FAMILY - \$10.00 PATRON - \$25.00

PLEASE RENEW at the highest category possible for you. Patrons are
not limited to \$25.00

MEMBERSHIP runs from January through December AND IS NOT PRO-RATED.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

HOLDEN ARBORETUM-NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

SEND TO: NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
6 Louise Drive
South Russell, Ohio 44022

* MARCH NEWSLETTER will not be mailed to members who have not re-
newed their membership by February 29th, 1984.

NEW MEMBERS:

Barbara A. Lipscomb, Shaker Heights
Cliff Berger, Jr., Plymouth, Indiana
Maribelle Brehmen, Bucyrus, Ohio
Gordon J. Mitchell, Columbus, Ohio
Larry E. Morse, Washington, D. C.
Charlotte S. Munch, Hiram, Ohio
James R. Aldrich, Indianapolis, Ind.



Renewals:

| | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|---------------|
| Jay Beswick | Jeanne Furst | Marian Larson |
| Bob Bartolotta | M/M Hugh Gibson | Kent Scott |
| Elizabeth Boyer | Clinton Hobbs | Gene Spohn |
| Edith Conzett | Hilda Hanratty | Beverly Stamp |
| Ellen Daus | Randall Jones | Kathy Smith |
| Donald Dean | Wilma Kupfer | Ruth Taylor |
| Bob Faber | Tom Kozusko | Maude Ochs |
| Tom & Alice Faren | Larry & Laurel Giblock | Kathy Yates |
| Duane Ferris | Ralph & Phyllis Haehn | Tom Yates |
| Andrew Fondrk | Judy & Charles Klaus | Ann Mack |
| Betty and Joseph Koellicker | | Bruce Mack |

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NORTHEAST OHIO-1984

OFFICERS:

| | |
|----------------|------------------|
| President | Ann K. Malmquist |
| Vice President | Larry Giblock |
| Secretary | Marian Larson |
| Treasurer | Kathy Smith |

| | |
|-----------------|------------|
| Member-at-Large | Nate Finck |
| Member-at-Large | Jack Selby |

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN:

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| Membership/Volunteer | Jeanne Furst |
| Assistant | Ann Mack |
| Newsletter | Gene Spohn |
| Publicity | |
| Education/Special Projects | Brian Parsons |
| Fund Raising/PR | Laurel Giblock |
| Program/Field trips | Larry Giblock |
| Hospitality | Ann Mack |

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If you should be interest in volunteering to serve on one of these committees, indicate your choice on your membership renewal or send word to the Society c/o Ann Mack

3209 Meadowbrook Blvd. #5
Cleveland Heights 44118

MORE MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS:

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Frank & Phyllis Leonetti | Mr. & Mrs. Henry Norweb |
| Donald & Margaret Lynch | Mr. & Mrs. L. Skeggs |
| Bruce & Ann Mack | Bob McCullough |
| Ruth & Laurence Schwartz | |
| Florence & Jack Selby | |

SNOW BUNTINGS SOMETIMES TRAVEL IN FLOCKS OF SEVERAL HUNDRED BIRDS.



PLACES TO GO

If we are blessed with snow this January and February, there is a marvelous place to go for X-country' skiing in Southern Ashland County. Get yourself to Wooster, take Rte. 3 south to Loudonville, Take Rte. 97 west, just south of Loudonville. About 2 miles west on Rte. 97 you will see a small Memorial Building on the left (south side of 97). Pull into the parking lot.

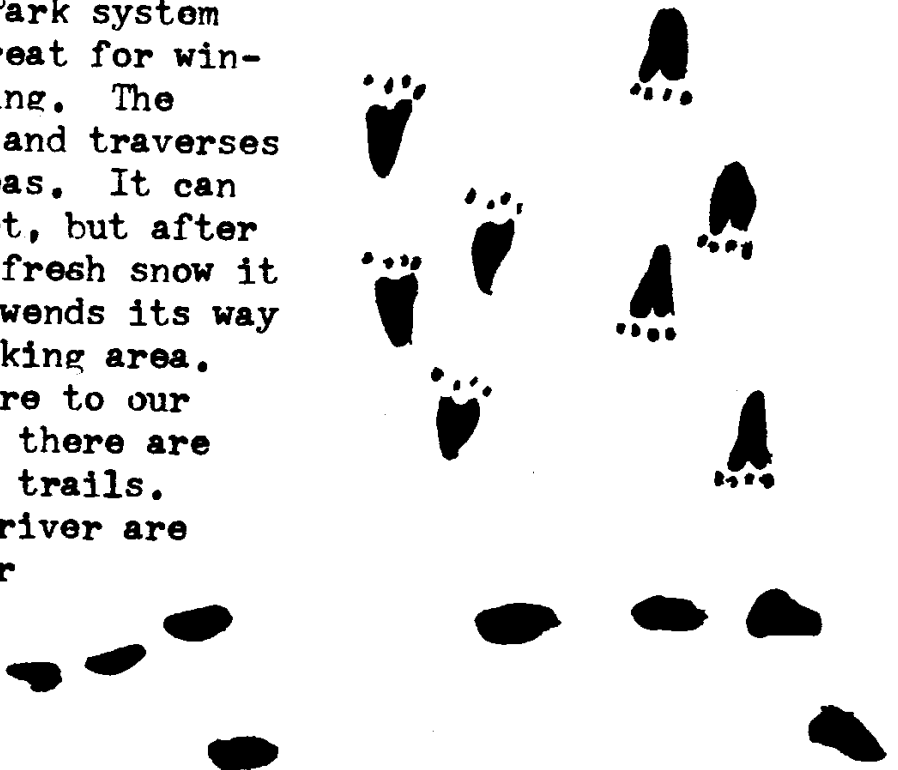
We were lucky enough to be there on a day when the sky was a deep blue and the snow was filtering off the pines like glittering jewels. The trail is through deep pine woods and very lightly used so you can truly enjoy the silence and watch for the winter birds or even an occassional deer. The trails are fairly level with only one or two hills that can be avoided (NO downhill for Me!).

This area is the Mohican Memorial Forest reight next to the Mohican State Forest, so take some extra time to hike the gorge area and test yourself on winter tracks.

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BURTON LANDING in the Geauga Park system between Rtes. 87 and 422 is great for winter hiking and XX-country skiing. The trail follows the river south and traverses several different kinds of areas. It can be tricky if the weather is wet, but after a good spell and with lots of fresh snow it is a delight. It eventrually wends its way west and back north to the parking area. The huge old white pines so rare to our area are on the trail back and there are lots of little critters making trails. The weeds and trees along the river are fun to try to identify in their winter state. So, don't let the winter doldrums get you.

GET OOT AND ABOUT!!!!



MENTOR, OHIO 44060

9500 SPERRY ROAD

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NORTHEASTERN OHIO

EDITOR'S CORNER

I must admit I am enjoying this job, thanks to all those who have been so generous with their time, suggestions and help.

First and foremost, what would I have done without Laurel and Larry Giblock? They did all the struggling last year and passed their knowledge on to me. I truly am indebted to them.

To Donald Dean, Nate Finck, Wilma Kupfer, Ann Malmquist and Perry Peskin, my sincere gratitude.

I know there are many more of you out there who talents for writing and in the art field. If any of you would like to submit an article or pen and ink drawing, or a book review, know a good PLACE TO GO or something of importance to which we should all be alerted, please feel free to write it up (or draw it up) and mail it to me: Gene Spohn

74 Paw Paw Lake Drive
South Russell, Ohio 44022