

ON THE FRINGE

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NORTHEASTERN OHIO



Founding Chapter of
**THE OHIO NATIVE
PLANT SOCIETY**

Thomas A. Sampliner,
Local President and Editor
2651 Kerwick Road
University Hts., Ohio 44118
(216) 321-3702

VOLUME 13

1st Quarter 1995

NUMBER 1

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

This journal marks the modernization of our newsletter thanks to a volunteer and board member, Brian Gilbert, who has graciously come forward to type via computer and similarly arrange and computerize our mailing list. It relieves me of one more burden I assumed in the mid to late 1980's when my predecessor departed the Society. We all thank you, Brian.

Please renew your dues at this time. Please also calendar now our scheduled events. Nothing frustrates your board more than to hear the pleas of ignorance about activities scheduled. We will quarterly remind you, we can not calendar or call you.

Note one new venture is a fall mushroom foray. Requests and inquiries have convinced several of us the time is ripe for a local mushroom club. While the Ohio Mushroom Society is fine for what they do, merely gathering and having a select few later identify the harvest and exchanging recipes is not satisfactory to those who want to learn the biology, medical and health findings, photography of, and legends, myths or lore associated with these important members of the natural ecosystems. Sweeping clean the forest floor will also not be one of our methods. The foray will be used to springboard an organizational meeting. Invitations will be made to all interested.

To insure event success we are more strongly urging you to call the day before an event to let us know you will come, how many and thus to learn of any last minute changes, requirements, limits and gain yourself a window of waiting time if late. Help our trip leaders help you! A phone number of each leader is set forth by each event. Invite guests.

The Indoor Gardening Society is engaging in a propagation project hoped to commence this summer to grow and make locally available interesting even rare native plants. Those of this group interested in helping for the benefit of yourself, Lantern Court, and maybe even the public, contact me. Eventually I hope to have a project that can introduce the public to their natural heritage, provide relief to the hard workers at Holden, and also relieve some pressure on wildflowers dug by the unscrupulous. See you in the field,

Tom Sampliner, President

1995 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

It is advised that participants bring a brown-bag lunch on all field trips and to all workshops.

SATURDAY, APRIL 29. 10:00AM TO 2:00PM - POLAND WOODS (POLAND, OHIO). Duane Ferris and Randall Jones will lead this trip. Various rare herbaceous species occur in this area, eg. *Trollis laxus* (Globe Flower) and *Plantago cordata* (Plantain). The locality is, approximately, a two-hour drive from Cleveland. From Cleveland, drive east on Interstate Rt. 80; where 1-80 intersects with 1-76, get off the turnpike but continue east on 1-80; turn onto 1-680 and continue east and then south on 1-680, passing through Youngstown; turn left (east) onto Rt. 224 and drive into Poland; turn right (southeast) onto South St.; turn right again (southwest) onto College St.; drive

to the end of College St. and park. Duane and Randall will meet you there. Telephone Duane Ferris before the trip, to tell him you will be coming (216) 834-8536.

SUNDAY, MAY 7, 2:00PM TO 4:30PM - HOGBACK RIDGE (LAKE CO., OHIO).
Duane Ferris will lead this trip. Highlights of this area include both species of spring beauty (*Claytonia virginica* and *Claytonia caroliniana*; the latter species is rare in our area) and species of Trillium. The locality is, approximately, a 45-minute drive from Cleveland. From Cleveland, drive east on Interstate 90. Near Madison, Ohio, turn right, (south) onto Rt. 528; turn left (east) onto Griswold Rd. ; turn left (north) onto Emerson Rd. and continue to the end of this road and park. Duane will meet you there. Telephone Duane before the trip, to tell him you will be coming (216) 834-8536.

SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 9:30AAM TO 12:00PM - PLANT/NAURE PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP (SHAKER LAKES, COVENTRY ROAD, CLEVELAND HEIGHTS, OHIO) Tom Sampliner will lead this trip. The locality is, approximately, a 15-minute drive from Cleveland. Bring your camera(s), film and ancillary equipment. From Cleveland, drive east on Cedar Rd.; after the first steep rise of Cedar Rd., turn right right (south) onto Coventry Rd.; continue on Coventry Rd., pass Fairmont Blvd. and immediately after that you will encounter a three-way intersection between Coventry Rd., North Park Blvd., and a small road extending to Shaker Lake. Turn left (east) at this intersection and park along the small road, aforementioned. Hike, approximately, 1/8 mile eastward along the south side of Shaker Lake, to the boat launch area. Tom will meet you there. Telephone Tom Sampliner before the trip, to tell him you will be coming (216) 321-3702 or (216) 371-4454.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, 9:00AM TO 12:00PM - WORKSHOP ON THE IDENTIFICATION OF NATIVE PERNS (LANTERN COURT, HOLDEN ARBORETUM, 9203 KIRTLAND-CHARDON RD. , KIRTLAND, [LAKE CO.], OHIO) Tom Yates, staff member of the Holden Arboretum, will present this workshop. The locality is, approximately, a 30-minute drive from Cleveland. From Cleveland drive east on Interstate 90 to Exit #193, onto Rt. 306. Proceed southward on Rt. 306, to the bottom of a long hill. Turn left onto Kirtland-Chardon Rd.; cross Booth Rd. and continue, approximately, 1 mile further on Kirtland-Chardon Rd. ; turn left into the driveway of Lantern Court (the address of Lantern Court in indicated above.) Park to the left of the mansion at the end of the driveway. Telephone Tom Yates before the workshop, to tell him you will be coming (216) 256-3463.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23. 9:30AM- ?:OOPM - FIELD TRIP TO OBSERVE SPECIES OF SPIRANTHES (LADIES' TRESSES; ORCHIDACEAE [ORCHID FAMILY]). Tom Sampliner will lead this trip. Participants will travel by automobile to various locations to observe different, and in some cases, rare species of this genus of elegant orchids. Telephone Tom Sampliner before this trip, to tell him you will be coming as well as for meeting place (216) 321-3702 or (216) 371-4454.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, 10:OOAM-2:00PM - FIELD TRIP TO OBSERVE SPECIES OF FALL-BLOOMING COMPOSITAB (SUNFLOWER FAMILY). George

Wilder, Professor of Biology at Cleveland State University, will lead this trip. Emphasized, will be the identification of asters and goldenrods. Participants will travel by automobile to various locations to observe diverse species of Compositae. Telephone George Wilder before this trip, to tell him you will be coming (216) 687-2395 or (216) 932-3351. At that time he will tell you where to meet him.

FALL (Exact date to be determined as growing season develops.) FALL - FUNGUS WORKSHOP. (COVENTRY ROAD, SHAKER LAKE, CLEVELAND HEIGHTS, OHIO). Tom Sampliner will present this workshop. Telephone Tom Sampliner before the workshop, to tell him you will be coming (216) 321-3702 or (216) 371-4454. It is hoped that this trip will constitute a basis for a local fungus society.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, ANNUAL MEETING AND BANQUET, CLEVELAND BOTANICAL GARDEN, 11030 EAST BLVD., CLEVELAND, OHIO. A speaker remains to be selected. The social hour will be at 5:30 PM, the banquet will start at 6:30 PM, and the dinner speaker will begin speaking at 8:00 PM. The Cleveland Botanical Garden is located along Cleveland Oval, across from the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Parking spaces are available directly outside of, and beneath the building of the Cleveland Botanical Garden.

FOREVER FORAYS BY THAT FUNGUY

Tom Sampliner

While we pay most of our attention to flowering plants, we should also take some interest in the fascinating, colorful world of fungi. You know, those things kids and dogs like to kick, toss, or just squish underfoot.

Their assigned role in the nature of things may be partly to blame for the low esteem accorded them. Maybe it is also partly associated with the myths and folklore they inspire.

Native plant enthusiasts should give them their due. Many orchids as well some trees require a mycorrhizal relationship with a fungus to grow and stay healthy. The lack of an appropriate fungus companion has the direst of consequences for a dependant species.

Another critical role played by mushrooms, or fungi, is as an agent of decomposition amidst vegetative matter. The process helps provide a growing medium for plant life to come.

In Cleveland, we have a rich heritage of fungi in our various ecosystems.

Have you ever noticed the abundant fruiting of mushrooms in the center strips of divided highways? Throughout summer and well into fall I regularly find an edible species in the *Coprinus* or inky cap group; *Coprinus comatus* is commonly called the shaggy mane or lawyer's wig. Look for it along the Rapid Tracks on Shaker Blvd. and Fairmount Blvd.'s median strip.

In appearance, once matured, the fruiting body is cylindrical with white sometimes shading to brown with scales exfoliating from the cap. Gills are free. The

entire cap autodigests into a black liquid. Spore print is black. Reputation has this as a choice edible. However, as with the other *Coprinus*, avoid alcohol before, during or after for a reasonable time. Sometimes the fruitings have been so heavy I wish there were a way to funnel the crops to local hunger centers. Mushrooms are excellent sources of proteins. It seems so wasteful to watch them dissolve into black ooze. You don't suppose this is the same ooze which gave rise to those teenage mutant ninja turtles do you?

Perhaps many of you believe that the portion of the mushroom you see is the important part. Actually, this is merely the housing for the reproductive portion. Beneath, sometimes on top of, the soil is the most critical portion of the fungus. Threadlike devices called mycelium not only anchor but gather and transport the necessary nourishment needed. What we call the mushroom is a fruiting body arising under the right conditions to produce and dispense spores.

Another frequently encountered, closely-related two species are the close relatives of the most common commercial mushroom in the groceries. *Agaricus* is the genus of all three. *Agaricus bisporus* is the store species with *Agaricus campestris*, the meadow mushroom, and *Agaricus arvensis*, the horse mushroom, are encountered in lawns and grassy areas. In my experience, these are truly delectable and worthy of pursuit. These mushrooms are white to off-white caps which can become quite large. The gills are pink when young turning brown with age. Caps are smooth in texture atop a white similar stalk. Gills are free from the stem which is ringless. Spore print is dark brown.

Hey, what is this spore print jive anyway? The significance is as an identification factor. The method for creating one is decapitate the mushroom, place it flat atop a sheet of white paper, take a plastic cup with some moisture already present and place atop the cap. Hopefully, this humidity machine works like a greenhouse causing the spores growing between the gills to drop onto the paper creating a colorful imprint that varies with the group to which your subject belongs. This test obviously can't be done on-site in the field.

Let's see what our woodlands offer. Throughout our area, whether Metropark or private property, I find most frequently some of the following : in mature forest, a regular denizen is the radish mushroom, *Oudemansella radicata*. Tall for a mushroom both cup and stem are gray-brown to tawny with white gills often viscous or sticky to the touch. It is named partly for it's long, rigid tap root as well as vegetable odor. The name (thank taxonomists) has changed several times in recent years. It's edible, but one look or touch and who cares.

If you're in conifer forest, look for Amanitas. This group contains many that are poisonous. Just because a squirrel, chipmunk or deer nibbles away at these doesn't mean you can. Amanitas are characterized generally by having arisen from an egg-like sac called a vulva which often leaves fleshy particles that resemble patchy warts on the cup after it fully emerges and expands. Gills are free and spore prints are white. Some species are quite colorful. The fly agaric, for example, *Amanita muscaria* is bright orange to red with white patches on the cup. It has wonderful folklore mostly based upon it's hallucinogenic properties. Purportedly this is that which Alice ate from in Lewis Carol's classic, "Through the Looking Glass." It was used by various peoples in ritual. Rasputin was rumored to be a regular user.

If you are to learn one of these as an example of what to stay away from, learn the destroying angel, *Amanita virosa*. A most beautiful white-white with a large flaring ring atop the stalk just beneath the cap. Kidney and liver are what the toxin targets with symptoms taking 24-48 hours to manifest. Because of a superficial resemblance to desirable agarics, this species demonstrates the need to dig to find out if the sac is present as well as the important spore print. Some people are so taken with it's glowing beauty on fall forest floor leaf litter they figure it must be good - yeah, for the poison control boys it is.

In mixed forest of a more open canopy, I frequently find the honey mushrooms growing at the base of trees and stumps. Whether it is the ringed *Armillariella mellea* or ringless *Armillariella tabescens* both are good eating. Caps are brown sometimes shading toward reddish brown or yellow, dry cap, with whitish gills clustered on wood which can even be buried.

Sometimes the black thread-like rhizomorphs can be seen on trees they obviously are vining upon and eventually killing. A desirable edible, watch out for the resemblances to the Jack-O-Lanterns and Big Laughing Gym; respectively: *Omphalotus olearis* *Gymnopolus spectabilis*. The former poisonous, the latter merely hallucinogenic. I regularly find honey mushrooms at Shaker Lakes. Of course, I also find the hallucinogenic Jack-O-Lanterns there too. Maybe I've had one too many of the latter? Seriously, once you see them, the similarity is superficial. Jacks are very orange, have a creamy yellow white spore print and are distinctive.

It seems no matter where I go and in such widely varied habitat, from open areas to closed canopy, I can depend on finding one of the red Russalas. These colorful fungi have a bright white stalk and free white gills while the cup is bright red to pink. *Russala silvicola* is the most locally common dry woods red russala with *Russala emetica* in the wetter boggy areas. Gills are attached to the stem close and brittle to the extent they crackle and break off if you run something over them. Spore print white to yellow white. Dispute exists as to edibility, so avoid them. A green cap russala, *Russala aeruginea*, with its tacky green cap and yellow-white gills and stalk is a good edible regularly collected by one of our members.

I have yet to mention any polypores, the bracket or shelf fungi. Let's look at a couple.

Fortunate are those who happen upon the bright yellow-orange zoned shelf fungi commonly called the chicken mushroom or sulphur shelf polypore, *Laetiporus sulphureus*. Even the pores are yellow in the shade of the mineral sulphur. These are choice edibles with nothing really similar in appearance. However, keep in mind allergic reactions can occur even to the choicest of mushrooms. The photographic possibilities are great as these bearers of color call out from overlapping clusters of deciduous trees.

Another colorful forest species would be the glossy mahogany to red of the varnish shelf polypore, *Ganoderma tsugae*. Find these on coniferous trees, mostly dead or dying, hemlock being our most common local host. Contrast this with the artist's conch, *Ganoderma applanatum* which is gray to brownish on top, white underneath and very woody. The white undersurface gave rise to the common name due to the ability to etch into the white pores which then dries leaving whatever design the artist creates.

At the base of deciduous trees or stumps, particularly of oaks, one can find clusters of brown white stalked polypores arising from a base. This is the hen of the woods, *Grifolia frondosus*, edible and heavily collected in our area as is the chicken mushroom. Both are readily found, for example the Metroparks and Shaker Lakes both come to mind.

I hope this brief vicarious foray will wet some appetites for the real venture this fall. At that time I anticipate the formation of a group interested in the fascinating world of fungi, both filled with good spores.

THE HERBARIA OF NORTHEASTERN OHIO

Brian D. Gilbert

One of the most important tools for botanists through the years has been the herbaria. A herbarium (singular) is a systematic collection of dried plant materials. A list of the larger herbaria of the world can be found in "Index Herbariorum", a single volume work which is updated periodically.

Herbaria serve four major purposes: (1) floristic studies where the existence and location of plant species is recorded, including the preparation of local floras, (2) taxonomic studies plants names and groupings are revised, (3) phylogenetic studies where evolutionary relationships are examined, and (4) reference uses where the herbarium specimen provides a standard against which an unknown (or uncertain) species is compared.

The largest herbarium in Ohio is at Ohio State University and holds over 500,000 specimens. Northeastern Ohio has a number of fine herbaria. The largest in our area is probably Kent State University with 63,000 specimens. Youngstown State University is second with about 61,000 specimens. The Cleveland Museum of Natural History is a close third with over 60,000 specimens. Oberlin would have been the fourth largest with 36,000 specimens, but it's collection has been donated to Ohio State University. All four of these herbaria are listed in "Index Herbariorum."

But our part of Ohio has quite a few smaller herbaria which help document our native plant heritage. It may even be a good idea to have these records of our plants stored in many smaller herbaria rather than in just a few larger ones. The history of botany is replete with stories of plant collections lost to fire, other natural disasters and waning support from institutional administrators with fluxuating priorities.

All of the herbaria in this listing are open to public inspection with prior arrangements with their curators. While many individual plant collectors have provided the bulk of specimens found in herbaria, it is the long-term support of our community institutions which maintain these collections for us today. The following is a list of northeast Ohio institutions which maintain herbaria.

1. UNIVERSITY OF AKRON

Department of Biology

Akron Oh, 44325

Dr. Warren P. Stoutamire, curator

(216) 972-5864

SPECIMENS: about 4,000

STRENGTHS: spring local flora of the Akron area

COLLECTORS: E. Claypole, W. P. Stoutamire

PURPOSE: primarily for teaching

OLDEST: late 1800's

ADDING: no

2. BALDWIN-WALLACE COLLEGE

Department of Biological Sciences Berea, OH 44017 Dr. Steven Billiard, curator and Chairman of the Biology Dept. (216) 826-2900

SPECIMENS: about 4,200
STRENGTHS: local flora of northern Ohio
COLLECTORS: D. Dean
PURPOSE: primarily for teaching
OLDEST: most date from 1940-1960
ADDING: no

CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

1 Wade Oval Drive, University Circle

Cleveland, OH 44106

James K. Bissell, curator

(216) 231-4600

SPECIMENS: about 60,000

STRENGTHS: flora of northeast Ohio and northwestern Pennsylvania

COLLECTORS: L. D. Stair, J. K. Bissell

PURPOSE: reference and research

OLDEST: 1745

ADDING: yes, aggressively

4. CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY

1983 East 24th Street

Cleveland, OH 44115

Dr. George J. Wilder, curator

(216) 687-2395

SPECIMENS: about 2,500

STRENGTHS: flora of northeast Ohio

COLLECTORS: G. J. Wilder

PURPOSE: teaching, reference and research

OLDEST: about 1950

ADDING: yes, aggressively

5. CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Eastern Campus, 4250 Richmond Road

Warrensville Twp., OH 44122

Dr. Barbara K. Andreas, curator

(216) 987-2000

SPECIMENS: about 1,000

STRENGTHS: spring flora of northeast Ohio

COLLECTORS: B. K. Andreas

PURPOSE: teaching and reference

6. HIRAM COLLEGE

Biology Department Hiram, OH 44234 Dr. Matt Hils, curator (216) 569-5265

SPECIMENS: about 1,700

STRENGTHS: flora of northeast Ohio; spring flora

COLLECTORS:

PURPOSE: teaching and reference
ADDING: yes

7. THE HOLDEN ARBORETUM

9500 Sperry Road
Mentor, Ohio 44060
Peter Bristol/ Ethan Johnson, co-curators
(216) 946-4400

SPECIMENS: about 1,500

STRENGTHS: voucher specimens for plants in the Holden living collections and from plants collected on trips to China and Korea.

COLLECTORS: Holden staff

PURPOSE: research and reference

OLDEST: about 1980 (an old collection of native flora from northeast Ohio has been donated to the Cleveland Museum of Natural History)

ADDING: yes, about 150-200 new specimens per year from local sources and 150-200 per year from foreign trips.

8. KENT STATE UNIVERSITY

Department of Biological Sciences
Kent, OH 44242-0001

Tom S. Cooperrider, curator
(216) 672-2453

SPECIMENS: about 63,000

STRENGTHS: flora of Ohio: flora of Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area; flora of east central Ohio counties

COLLECTORS: B. K. Andreas, T. S. Cooperrider, W. Cusick, A. N. Rood, G. M. Silverhorn

PURPOSE: reference and research

OLDEST: about 1921

ADDING: yes

9. LAKE ERIE COLLEGE

Biology Department
391 West Washington Street
Painesville, OH 44077

Dr. Paul Belanger, curator
(216) 639-4708

SPECIMENS: about 150

STRENGTHS: local flora

COLLECTORS: the present location of an old collection is unknown; current collection has many contributions from students
PURPOSE: primarily for teaching
ADDING: no, but would like to expand

10. LAKELAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Biology Department

7700 Clock Tower Drive
Kirtland, OH 44094
Paul Catalano, curator
SPECIMENS: about 500; current location is unknown
STRENGTHS: flora of northeast Ohio
COLLECTORS: E. J. P. Hauser
PURPOSE: primarily for teaching
ADDING: no

12. LORAIN COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Elyria, OH 44035 Carol Lenninger, curator (216) 365-4191 . SPECIMENS: about 250
STRENGTHS:
COLLECTORS: E. J. P. Hauser, C. Lenninger PURPOSE: primarily for teaching
OLDEST: about 1965

13. MALONE COLLEGE

Dept. of Science and Mathematics
515 25th Street
Canton, OH 44709
Stephen Diakoff, curator
(216) 489-0800, ext. 499
SPECIMENS: about 500
STRENGTHS: local flora of the Canton area
COLLECTORS: S. Diakoff
PURPOSE: teaching
OLDEST: about 1980
ADDING: yes, but not aggressively

14. MT. UNION COLLEGE

1972 Clark Avenue Alliance, OH 44601 Dr. Charles McClaugherty, curator (216) 823-3655
SPECIMENS: about 3,000
STRENGTHS: most are northeast Ohio spring flora
COLLECTORS: D. Brown PURPOSE: teaching
OLDEST: late 1920's
ADDING: yes, but not aggressively - most contributions are made by students taking Botany course.

15. URSULINE COLLEGE

Biology Department
2550 Lander Road
Lyndhurst, OH 44124
Dr. Glen Hanniford, curator
(216) 644-8159
SPECIMENS: small collection
PURPOSE: teaching
ADDING: no

16. WALSH UNIVERSITY

Department of Biology

2020 Eastern Avenue

Canton, OH 44720

Conrad Gutermuth, curator

(216) 499-7090 ext. 22

SPECIMENS: about 500-1000

STRENGTHS: local flora; aquatic species; woody species especially *Acer* and *Quercus*.

COLLECTORS: C. Gutermuth

PURPOSE: teaching (local flora and field botany)

OLDEST: about 1964

ADDING: yes, but not aggressively

17. COLLEGE OF WOOSTER

Department of Biology

Wooster, OH 44691

Dr. James Perley, curator

(216) 263-2556

SPECIMENS: about 5,000

STRENGTHS: flora of Wayne County

COLLECTORS: G. Holden, G. D. Hulst, R. H. Ingraham, A. D. Selby

PURPOSE: teaching and reference

OLDEST: late 1800's, Ohio State has an old collection from Lucas County

ADDING: no

18. YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

Department of Biological Sciences

410 Wick Avenue

Youngstown, OH 44555

Dr. Carl F. Chuey, curator

(216) 742-3000

SPECIMENS: about 61,000

STRENGTHS: ferns and fern allies especially

North American; flora of Ohio especially Mahoning County and Pennsylvania

COLLECTORS: G. Culberston, J. Laitsch, A. Rood, E. W. Vickers, B. Isaac, J. Isaac, and C. F. Chuey

PURPOSE: research, reference and teaching

OLDEST: about 1965 A

ADDING: yes, aggressively

REFERENCES

Cusick, Allison W. and J. A. Snider. 1984. Survey of Herbarium Resources of Ohio. Ohio Journal of Science. 84 (4): 175-188.

Holmgren, P. K., N. H. Holmgren, and L. C. Barnett. 1990. Index Herbariorum. Part I. The Herbaria of the World. Eighth Edition. International Association for Plant Taxonomy and the New York Botanical Garden. Bronx, New York.

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NORTHEASTERN OHIO
2651 Kerwick Rd.,
University Hts., OH 44118

Founding Chapter of
THE OHIO NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

Annual Dues and Membership Category - Check One () Active \$10.00

() Sustaining \$25.00

() Family \$15.00

() Patron \$50.00

() Life Membership \$500.00

Make Check Payable to the NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NORTHEASTERN OHIO
and mail with this form to:

Thomas A Sampliner, President
Native Plant Society of Northeastern Ohio
2651 Kerwick Road
University Hts., Ohio 44118

Name: _____
Phone: _____
Address: _____
City/State: _____ ZipCode: _____

Scanned and digitized by Jane McCullam 1-19-2010