

# The Native Plant Society of Northeastern Ohio Awards



## Tom Yates The Gentian Award for 2018

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Tom worked at the Holden Arboretum for forty years, from 1970 to 2019, eventually becoming superintendent of Lantern Court. While at the Arboretum, Tom was also involved in educational programming, leading tours of the natural areas. In his first few years, he added nearly 20 beds to the gardens, including the Primrose Valley, his favorite. His coworkers agree that to a very large extent, the uniqueness of the grounds of Lantern Court reflects the interests and commitments of one man: Tom Yates. As a consultant from Holden, he played an instrumental role in designing the Penitentiary Glen Nature Center butterfly gardens. Today he continues to volunteer at Lantern Court in addition to the butterfly garden at Penitentiary Glen. His knowledge and skills are immense, and he continues to teach those around him.

Tom has been involved with the Native Plant Society from its early years, attending the organizational meeting in 1981, as well as writing one of the first newsletter articles. We are indebted to Tom for the years he has given to the society and the native plants of Ohio. Thanks Tom!

The plaque has a picture of a Fringed Gentian and says:

Gentian Award

For Dedication to the Native Plants of Ohio

Tom Yates

2018

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This tribute was given by Judy Barnhart, president of the society, and is a composite of material from Judy, Caitlin Ambrose (Interpretive Manager of The Lake Metro Parks), Amy Gaeletz, and the Holden Arboretum. Thanks to them all.