

Tsuga canadensis

Mohican Native Plant Society

Newsletter

Summer 2011

Vol 11, No. 3

Trip Reports



Jim Pry's Wood Lot - May 19, 2011

By Mike Klein

On cloudy Thursday, which threatened rain, and eventually it did rain towards the end of the trip, 8 members traveled to Jim Pry's woods on Remlinger Road in Crawford County. Jim has a large tree farm, bordering on the Sandusky River, close to its source in Leesville. He's a conscientious forester (lawyer by profession) who only sporadically cuts trees and then simply to encourage growth of larger trees. Consequently he has a very profuse woodland, not

only of various trees, but numerous spring ephemerals, which is what he wanted us to look at. We saw numerous beds of *Trillium grandiflorum*, which were past blooming, but were still impressive with their profusion. We also saw several large areas of Wild Hyacinth, *Camassia scilloides*, in bloom, which were quite an impressive sight, especially to Jim who didn't know they were blooming back in the woods. We also spotted Wild Geranium, just beginning to bloom, Baneberry, Mayapple, Appendaged Waterleaf (* - in bloom), Solomon's Seal (*). Solomon's Plume (*), Dwarf Ginseng (*), Virginia Waterleaf (*), Blue Cohosh, Spring Cress(*), Sessile Trillium (*), and Hepatica.

All in all, even though the weather did not cooperate much, we had a very good trip to a site previously not visited. Jim Pry is very knowledgeable, informative, and enjoyable to be around. He is quite familiar with tree species and the geology of the land, but as he admitted, he's

not real familiar



Wild Hyacinths



Photo by John Boggs

with the flowers of the woods. He also enjoyed our group very much and has cordially invited us back, even later this summer and earlier next spring to check out what flowers are growing.

Appendaged Waterleaf

by John Boggs



Wooster Memorial Park - Saturday, May 21, 2011

By Mike Klein

Nine members of the MNPS met at Wooster Memorial Park (Spangler Woods) on a sunny Saturday morning. We met with Cub Scouts from Stacy Bachman's Cub den to do a little botanizing with them. We took them for about a mile hike



Photo by John Boggs

along the Education Trail. Although a little late for many spring ephemerals, we did point out various plants and tried to help them learn a little about

plant identification. We saw Wild Geranium (* - in bloom), Solomon's Seal and Solomon's Plume, which were both in bloom and showed them the difference of the flowers, Spring Cress (*), Mayapple (*), Large-flowered Trillium (fading bloom), Hepatica, which we identified the leaves to them, Poison Ivy and Virginia Creeper, for which we discussed differences and identification, and we saw Wood and Christmas Ferns, which we discussed differences. Although this trail was on the ridge above the creek, and didn't have many plant species, the Cubs seemed to have a good time and appreciated our little tour.



Photo by John Boggs

After lunch, the plant group, sans Scouts walked the lower Trillium Trail along Rathburn Run. We saw Large-flowered Trillium in profuse abundance along the sides of the ridges, Shinleaf, Large-leaved Toothwort, and Yellow Birch along the creek bottom. What was most interesting, was the flood plain of Rathburn Creek covered with Virginia Waterleaf (in bloom) and Broad-leaved Waterleaf. Broad-leaved Waterleaf has leaves shaped like maples and the flower growing just below the overhead leaves. It was quite a display! We had a little trouble identifying the Broad-leaved Waterleaf at first.

Several notable fauna sightings - We saw black squirrels scampering in the trees on the ridges above the creek, which are not seen in many places. We also saw a black snake sunning itself about ten feet up in a dead tree, which was interesting. (See photo on page 4.)

A Thursday Night Riverwalk

Leaders: John & Ginny Boggs

We scheduled an old favorite for Thursday, June 2, at 6 pm: the Pleasant Hill Trail that runs just along the north bank of the Clearfork branch of the Mohican River near Loudonville. We are a Mohican club and Mohican State Park sounded like a good idea for an easy evening walk. I think we had about 13 of us. The trail is flat (after the first drop-off from the road at the covered bridge) and goes for 3/4 mile to the Pleasant Hill Dam. Weather was nice and water puddles from previous rain were not too bad. This is one of the prettier strolls in Mohican. You can sometimes glimpse a heron or even an eagle and the plant diversity is good. Along the north side of the trail, about halfway down, can be found one of the old cuts in the sandstone hillside (a cave?) where geologists in the forties surveyed the rocks before building the dam up the river.

One of the first things we spotted was the faithful old Toad Trillium where the 4-trunk tree is just beyond the first little creek. There wasn't much left of it from earlier spring, but we had to check it out. Some of us have been revisiting it for about 7 years now. Further down the trail, close to the Clearfork bank, was a mystery plant we couldn't figure out until days later when Joanne and friends (armed with a photograph) learned it was a Purple Rocket.

Purple Rocket (*Iodanthis pinnatifidus*)

This pretty pale violet flower is a member of the Mustard family. It is a native perennial that is not in Newcomb or Peterson. It was identified for us by Rick and Steve from this photo.



Preferring partial sun to partial shade, this plant likes wet areas and is often found in flood plains along rivers. So it is well-suited to the area in which we found it. Often fragrant, it attracts bees and butterflies, especially the Cabbage White. The upper leaves are simple and slightly toothed, while the basal leaves can be lobed. JW

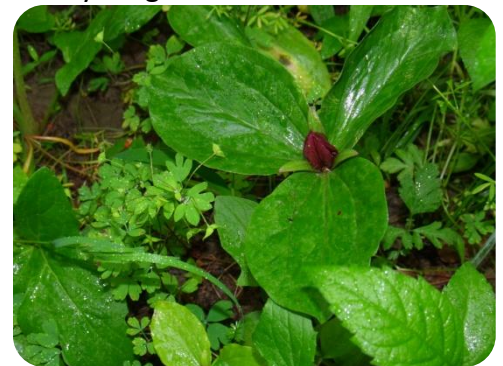
The walk along the cool, shady trail gave us about forty noteworthy flowers and plants to jot down including Horsetails, Blue-eyed Grass, Cow Parsnip,

Alum Root and Wood-betony. Near the dam we saw Wild Clematis (Virgin's Bower), Oxeye Daisy and Corn Salad in an elevated meadow at the foot of the dam. Nearby, where the high river water had inundated about 50 feet of the trail, there was a fine Purple-flowering Raspberry shrub about 15 feet high, a Ninebark in bloom, and close to that, standing in the water, was a spectacular string of Great Angelica plants taller than John.

Some other plants spotted (not all in flower) were Cup Plant, Clustered Snakeroot, Golden Alexanders, Heart-leaved Alexanders, Wild Ginger, Stonecrop, White Violets, Skunk Cabbage, Intermediate Wood Fern, Christmas Fern, Spinulose Wood Fern, Sensitive Fern, Multiflora Rose, Daisy Fleabane, Yellow Cinquefoil, Wild Geranium, Miterwort, Golden Ragwort, Bloodroot, Canada Anemone, Wingstem, Honewort (maybe), Tall Buttercup, Solomon's Plume

(False Solomon), Field Hawkweed and, of course, the ubiquitous Garlic Mustard.

We also flushed a young Louisiana Waterthrush who sat calmly in a bush while a parent scolded from a distance.



Toadshade Photo by John Boggs

Trip to Camp Ravenna, July 16

By Rick Gardner



The snake at Wooster Memorial Park (Black Rat Snake??)

Mullein Foxglove (*Dasistoma macrophylla*)

This is another plant that is not in our field guides. On June 2, while walking along the river in Mohican State Park, we were curious about its highly divided basal leaves and tall, dried seed stalks from last year when we saw it across the trail from the Purple Rocket. It is partially parasitic on other flowering plants. This picture was taken on July 26, as this is a summer bloomer. JW



The group in the parking lot outside Camp Ravenna JW

First site we visited was a seepage meadow with some rare and uncommon species including the endangered variegated scouring-rush (*Equisetum variegatum*), large cranberry (*Vaccinium macrocarpon*)*, round-leaved sundew (*Drosera rotundifolia*)*, and Hickey's clubmoss (*Lycopodium hickeyi*). **For me, the most exciting find of the visit was Larry spotting the endangered brush-tipped emerald dragonfly, a new record for Camp Ravenna.** Larry and Judy have been inventorying the dragonflies and damselflies of Camp Ravenna for the last 5+ years.



Wadsworth Glen by Ami Horowitz of the NPS of NE Ohio

After visiting the meadow, we headed to the most scenic part of the facility, a small gorge called “Wadsworth Glen.” This hemlock gorge with its Sharon Conglomerate sandstone cliffs is a beautiful area with many uncommon and rare species. The main objective was to find long beech fern (*Phegopteris connectilis*), a potentially threatened species. We found a few dozen plants growing on the cliffs. We also spotted several shrubs of the potentially threatened, hobblebush (*Viburnum molle*) growing on the steep slopes above the cliffs. Glen had a nice diversity of ferns including: hay-scented fern (*Dennstaedtia punctilobula*), evergreen woodfern (*Dryopteris intermedia*), marginal woodfern (*Dryopteris marginalis*), common polypody fern (*Polypodium virginianum*), New York fern (*Thelypteris nova-boracensis*), and Mackay’s brittle fern (*Cystopteris tenuis*).

Other species observed on the trip include: Virginia mountain-mint (*Pycnanthemum virginianum*)*, narrow-leaved mountain mint (*Pycnanthemum tenuifolium*)*, verticillate mountain-mint (*Pycnanthemum verticillatum*), shrubby St. John’s-wort (*Hypericum prolificum*)*, swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*)*, common milkwort (*Polygala sanguinea*)*, whorled milkwort (*Polygala*

verticillata), ridged yellow flax (*Linum striatum*)*, stiff yellow flax (*Linum medium*)*, Indian pipe (*Monotropa uniflora*), and ground-cedar (*Diphasiastrum digitatum*).

* In bloom



Wadsworth Glen by Rick Gardner

Do You Know Where Any Wild Hazelnuts Are Growing?

As part of their ongoing research, the Hybrid Hazelnut Consortium is working to develop a hybrid plant that is disease resistant and able to thrive across diverse regions and a variety of growing zones. They want your help in increasing the genetic diversity of their breeding pool by locating wild American hazelnuts (*Corylus Americana*) in your area. Check out arborday.org/wildhazelnuts for helpful photos and information on what to look for. Then email the requested information to hazelnuts@arborday.org. Thank you for your help.

Mohican Native Plant Society

2011 Field Trip Schedule

Sunday, August 14 – 2:30 pm – Level 3 –

BRINKHAVEN OAK BARRENS – Rick

Gardner (614-638-0013) Carpool at Gorman Nature Center at 1:30 or meet at the site at 2:30. From Danville at the junction of St. Rt. 514 & US Rt. 62 (4-way stop) travel 4 mi. on US 62. After passing through Brinkhaven, you will travel approximately 3 miles and slowly ascend up hill the last 0.9 mi. to Jct. of St.Rt. 206 (note St.Rt. 206 starts at this point and heads south) and turn left on Co. Rt. 75 (which is opposite of St.Rt. 206). Drive about 0.8 mi. and turn left at the first intersection. The road is a gravel road and you will follow this road for about 1.1 mi. to a concrete railroad bridge overpass. Go under the overpass and about 150 ft. from the bridge turn right into a small gravel parking lot (note: the entrance to the parking lot does frequently washout after a heavy rain. If this is the case, park along the edge of the road adjacent to the parking lot). Or, turn around at the first drive on the left, go back under the overpass and park along the side of the road past the road junction (Twp. Rt. 13 & Twp. Rt. 5).

This unique site contains oak openings with many rare species.

Saturday, August 27 - 9:00 a.m. – Level 4 –

FERN VALLEY (MOHICAN)

Mike Klein (440-963-6678) - Meet at Gorman at 9:00 a.m. - Alternate meeting site - Burger King at intersection of I-71 and SR 97 at 9:15 - This is a combined MNPS and Gorman Nature Center hike, led by **Steve McKee** and **Brian Gara** to Fern Valley in Mohican State Park to see the many ferns. Meet the GNC group at 9:00 a.m. and then we will meet Brian Gara at the Burger King at I-71 and SR 97 interchange (Exit 165). This will be a somewhat

strenuous hike down a steep-sided ravine, over some downed trees. It is difficult, but the ferns are worth seeing and with both Steve and Brian, we will spot numerous different ferns. Bring a lunch and we can see more of Mohican, if we choose. Hiking sticks will be helpful.

Sunday, September 11, -- 2:00 pm.

STEVE MCKEE'S ANNUAL WORKSHOP

– “**Best Fronds Forever**” - a workshop to learn about the “wood ferns” in Richland County - with the Mohican Native Plant Society - at the Mohican Outdoor School field trip center on Bunkerhill Road.

Saturday, October 1 – **GRASS**

WORKSHOP at Gorman Nature Center from 1 to 4 pm led by **David Brandenburg**. **REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED**. Contact Rick Gardner to register. (614-638-0013) or Rick.Gardner@dnr.state.oh.us

Sunday, November 6, 1:30 pm –

ANNUAL MOHICAN COOKOUT AND

HIKE – Meet at the usual shelter house at the end of the road above the covered bridge. Bring table service, a covered dish to share, and meat to cook if you wish.

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FYI: Cleveland Museum of Natural History Conservation Symposium - Thurs-Sat, Sept. 8-10 Topic: Conservation and Climate Change: Strategies for the Future. Field trips - Thurs. and Sat. morning, Presentations & speakers - Friday. Fee: \$15 (includes 1 field trip). For further information, registration, field trips, speakers, etc. go to www.cmnh.org/site/conservation