

*Tsuga canadensis*

# Mohican Native Plant Society

## Newsletter

Winter 2012

Vol 12 , No. 1

### “Preserving Ohio’s Natural Heritage”

by Dick Moseley

with Guy Denny

at Annual Dinner Meeting

Sunday, February 26, 2012

at Gorman Nature Center

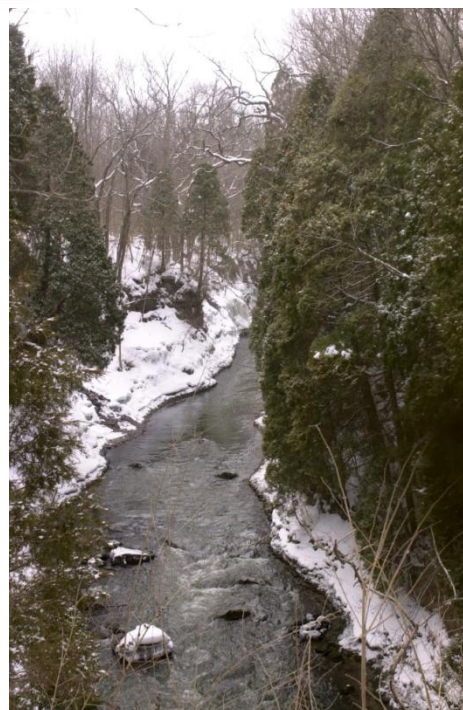
2:30 Socializing

3:00 Dinner

4:00 Speaker

5:00 Business Meeting

- Bring table service and a dish to share
- Coffee and tea will be provided



Clifton Gorge photo courtesy of Rick Gardner

**Dick Moseley** was the first chief of the DNAP and headed the program for nearly 21 years. He retired from the Department of Natural Resources as Deputy Director. Dick graduated from the Ohio State University with B.S. degrees in Nature Interpretation and in Science Education in 1963 and 1964. He was elected to the Conservation Hall of Fame in 1993.

**Guy Denny** was the third chief of the DNAP and was a member of the Division for 24 years. Guy also served as assistant chief during Dick's term as chief. Guy is a graduate of the University of Toledo and is an outstanding naturalist and has received many honors for his work in this field. Both Guy and Dick are presently serving as volunteers for the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves.

They will discuss the history of the preservation movement in Ohio including the creation and history of the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves. They will highlight their successes and failures in preserving the significant natural features of the state.

## **MNPS Field Trip Schedule For 2012**

Thursday evening, **April 19**

### **PRY WOODS**

Saturday, **April 28**

### **HOG HOLLOW TRAIL IN MOHICAN**

A Saturday in May

### **CR 3364 SOUTH OF MOHICAN**

Some of you have already sent your \$10 dues to Mary Lou Bricker. Most of you pay at the Annual Dinner Meeting. If you cannot attend the meeting and have not yet paid, there is a form on the last page of this newsletter for your convenience. Thanks to those who have already sent in your dues.

Meet at **6 pm** at the **McDonald's** in Crestline on old route 30. We visited this woods last spring in mid-May in the rain. Mike Klein (440-693-6678)

There is Trailing Arbutus at the upper end of this trail and many other spring wildflowers along the way. Meet at the covered bridge. Time? Leader? Difficulty Level 2

This is a little-used road in Mohican State Forest that is very interesting to walk. There is quite a variety of plants including ferns near a large rock. Need a leader, a date and time, and a place to meet.

**Trip Schedule, cont.....**

**Saturday, June 23**

**CRANBERRY BOG SNP**

**10 am** on site. Leader, **Rick Gardner**.  
Difficulty Level 1

**Saturday, July 21**

**PEE WEE HOLLOW**

**10 am** on site. Leaders, **Rick Gardner, with Fritz and Alice Schmitthenner**. This is a joint trip with the Native Plant Society of Northeast Ohio. Difficulty Level 2.5

**Saturday, August 18**

**DAUGHMER SAVANNAH SNP**

**1 pm** on site. Leader, **Roger Troutman**.  
Difficulty Level 2

September

**GUY DENNY'S PRAIRIE**

**Saturday, October 27**

**ANNUAL MOHICAN COOKOUT AND HIKE**

**1:30 pm** at the usual shelter house at the end of the road above the covered bridge accessible from the north entrance.

There are gaps in our schedule that need to be filled. We need more trips and leaders. You don't need to know all the plants at a location to lead the group there.

This planning guide appeared in the October 1994 Mohican Native Plant Society Newsletter.

#### PLANNING A TRIP

Your Name

Place to Visit

Trip Date and Time

Alternate meeting place & time, if any

Is this place on private property?

Permission needed to enter, if any

Person to contact

Outside leader needed, if any

How much travel time needed

Parking available, how many cars

Level of difficulty of walk and type of terrain

Approximate length of time of walk

Some plants we might expect to find

Nearest Restrooms

Nearest Ice Cream place (optional)

#### **Difficulty Levels of Hikes:**

*1-Easy, mostly level; may have boardwalk*

*Ex. Fowler or Johnson's Woods*

*2-Mostly level, some inclines; paths*

*Ex. Lowe-Volk Park, Camp Mowana*

*3-Moderate hills and inclines; level off-trail*

*Ex. Lyon's Fall, Conkle's Hollow*

*4-Some difficult areas, steep or no trails*

*Ex. Nelson's Ledges, Christmas Rocks*

*5-Most extreme: steep hills and cliffs; off-trail*

*Ex. Buzzard's Roost, Stebbins Gulch*

#### **MNPS Steering Committee**

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Ginny Boggs

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*This article is excerpted from the December 1993 Mohican Native Plant Society Newsletter. Ed MacArthur was a biology teacher and charter member of the MNPS. He died in 2009.*

## WINTER GREENS

by Edward MacArthur

When the dreary days of winter settle upon us, we might tend to neglect our botanizing excursions and choose instead to remain indoors by a cozy fire. We yearn for spring and the return of the wildflowers.

But winter walks can be rewarding for the botanist. Delicate though they may seem to be, there are a number of our native ferns that can withstand the rigors of winter, and their fronds remain fresh and green throughout the winter season. For winter botanizing, why not take up the study of ferns?

The most conspicuous of our evergreen ferns is the **Christmas Fern**. A very tolerant fern that can withstand a variety of habitats—moist woodlands or even brushy second growth areas—a pioneer fern in a sense. This fern is well-fitted to serve as a decoration in winter. The fronds are deep green and polished, and each pinna (leaflet) is serrated and has a triangular projection on the upper side at the base—presenting the illusion of a stocking or sock. Some imaginative mind no doubt associated this resemblance to the “stocking that hung by the chimney with care”, and the fern was dubbed the Christmas fern. Because the fronds are so enduring, they were extensively used in floral decorations. Perhaps the name Christmas fern was derived because of its use during the winter holidays.

The **Marginal Wood Fern** has thick, almost leathery fronds that are dark blue-green above and lighter beneath. The fruit dots (sori) are arranged in rows

### Ebony Spleenwort



close to the edge (margin) of the pinnules. This fern was used extensively by the florist trade, and also by butcher shops to decorate the display cases for various cuts of meat.

Another group of evergreen ferns includes ferns we call spleenworts. The most common spleenwort in our area is the **Ebony Spleenwort**. So-called because its rachis (stem) is a very dark, shiny brown, it delights to grow in thin, stony soil, and grows at its best in half-wooded areas in tangles of small bushes and brambles.

The **Common Grape Fern** may be overlooked because of its retiring habits. It favors abandoned farm lands or a brushy pasture or a second growth woodlot. It may be half hidden among fallen leaves. The frond is much divided and triangular in shape. At the approach of cold weather, the frond takes on a rich bronze hue and braves the frost and snow.

So winter walks need not be unrewarding. There are always the ferns to perk up our spirits. Even if we do not know their names, we can take delight in the fact that nature has provided a green freshness for an otherwise drab winter landscape.

*“The green and graceful fern,  
How beautiful it is,  
There’s not a leaf in all the land,  
so wonderful.”*

—Twamley

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 Mary Lou Bricker

Fill in information below and include a check payable to Mohican Native Plant Society (\$10 per year per family) and mail to:

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