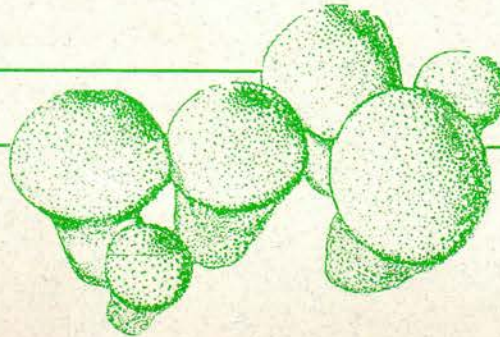


INDIANA Native Plant and Wildflower Society

NEWS

Volume I Number 3

Autumn 1994



Free for the Eating

by Dan Anderson

Late summer and fall, for the forager, is a time of gathering most of the larger fruits and virtually all the varieties of nuts produced by our walnuts, beech, hazel, hickory, and some oak trees. Since nuts are easily stored, we'll leave a discussion on their uses to a later issue, and concentrate on several more perishable items.

Purslane (*Portulaca oleracea*) is a well-known garden pest whose tiny yellow flowers produce enormous quantities of almost invisible seeds having incredible germinating powers. No matter how many purslane plants you pull, there will always be dozens of replacements coming up. The plant will continue growing until frost.

The more tender parts of the plant can be used in salads when mixed with other greens, preferably with a vinegar-type dressing to help offset the fatty taste of the purslane. Or, after a good washing to remove sand or grit, the tips can be boiled in water for ten minutes and served with butter and a touch of salt or salt substitute. Our favorite is a Euell Gibbons recipe modified by Sophia, my wife: Put the purslane pieces in the microwave for four minutes, then cut into small pieces and put in a blender until chopped up fine. Place in a mixing bowl, add an egg and mix thoroughly. Add Italian-flavored bread crumbs (or ordinary bread crumbs with oregano, basil, and Parmesan cheese), until all the liquid has been absorbed. Mix thoroughly, form into small balls, and bake in a moderate oven until brown on top. The purslane balls make excellent appetizers and are, to me, an adequate compensation for the presence of the plant in our vegetable beds.

Puffballs are considered one of the "safe" fungi, as they are known by most people and, with few exceptions, are edible. The most commonly-encountered ones are *Lycoperdon perlatum*, the small pear-shaped puffball, and *Calvatia sp.*, some of which may reach basketball size, although dinner-roll sizes are more common. To prepare a puffball, cut off the base and cut the fruiting body in half. If the flesh is white and

firm, it is usable. If not, discard. To prepare, remove the skin and slice about 1/4 inch thick, or just halve, for the smaller varieties. The slices can be served raw, French-fried, or incorporated in a casserole. The flavor is pleasant, but milder than that of many other mushrooms, and will be overwhelmed if the mushrooms are incorporated in a dish containing strong spices.

Papaw or pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*) is a tree found widely throughout Indiana and points south. The fruit, resembling a stubby green banana, is famous in Indiana folklore, but most Hoosiers of today have never seen one. Supermarkets don't carry them, probably for two reasons: the penetrating odor of the ripening fruit which would overwhelm even that of the potpourri department, and the large flat seeds occupying at least half the volume of the fruit. Papaw flowers appear before the leaves are out, and appear to attract few pollinators, so only a small percentage of the blossoms is able to produce fruit. The fruit that is produced is ready for picking in September. Trees may be shaken to dislodge the papaws,

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or they may be picked directly from the smaller trees. If the skin is green, let them ripen by themselves a few days until the skin is mottled with black.



Papaws may be eaten in hand, but are most conveniently used in the form of papaw pulp. By removing the seeds and skins, the pulp can be used immediately, or frozen in convenient

packages for later use. The pulp can be substituted for that of zucchini in breads and other baked goods, or the following recipe can be used:

Blend 1/2 cup Crisco and 1 cup sugar. Add 1 cup mashed papaw pulp and 2 eggs. Mix well. Sift in 2 cups flour, 1 teaspoon baking soda and 1 teaspoon salt. Add 1/2 cup nuts if you like. Mix everything together, place in a baking pan, and bake 1 hour at 350° F.

Persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*) is another Indiana tree bearing a fruit that is of delightful sweetness when ripe, but unbelievably puckery when just short of that state. Unlike papaws, persimmons will not ripen after picking and should not be picked from the tree unless they are very soft. The sweetest persimmons are those which appear to be well past their prime. The fruit keeps well, and persimmons can sometimes be found on the tree in late winter. As long as they are soft and not dried out, they are still edible.

The fruits make a tasty nibble, but the pulp is more easily handled. Squeeze it out using a colander or strainer, to remove skins and seeds. As with papaws, the pulp can be

packaged and frozen for later use. Two favorite uses of persimmons are in the forms of persimmon pudding and persimmon breads, recipes for which are given below:

Persimmon Pudding

Mix 2 cups persimmon pulp, 4 eggs, and 2 1/2 cups of sugar. In a separate bowl, sift together 2 1/2 cups flour, 1 teaspoon each of baking soda and baking powder. Add about 4 tablespoons of melted butter or margarine. Pour into baking dish and bake for about 45 minutes at 250° F. Raise temperature to 300° F and bake for another 45 minutes or until a knife blade comes out clean.

Persimmon Nut Bread

Mix together 2 cups flour, 1 teaspoon soda and 1/2 teaspoon salt. Blend together 1 1/2 sticks of margarine or butter and 1 cup sugar. Add 2 beaten eggs to the butter-sugar mixture, then add the dry ingredients and 1 cup nut meats in small pieces. Mix well, then place in buttered loaf pan and bake in 325° F oven until the top is firm when touched.

(Bear Wallow Books, of Nashville, Indiana, has published a booklet called "Old Fashioned Persimmon Recipes", which contains numerous recipes featuring persimmons. I assume it may still be available in some of the tourist spots in that community.)

Hope you have a chance to sample some of these goodies!

Dan Anderson and his wife Sophia are charter members of INPAWS who have enjoyed a wide range of edible wild greens, mushrooms, nuts, fruits and an occasional snapping turtle or muskrat over the past thirty years.

Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society Newsletter

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Published periodically by the Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society for members.

The Mission of the Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society is to promote the appreciation, preservation, conservation, utilization and scientific study of the flora native to Indiana and to educate the public about the values, beauty, diversity and environmental importance of indigenous vegetation.

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Submission of articles

Information for the newsletter is supplied by Society members and others interested in sharing information about Indiana native plants. Articles or drawings should be sent to the Editor, Chris Carlson, 6330 N. Park Avenue, Indianapolis IN 46220.

The Friesner Herbarium of Butler University

by Dr. Rebecca Dolan

Did you ever make a leaf collection? The Friesner Herbarium is a systematic collection of over 100,000 dried, pressed and preserved plant specimens. The Herbarium, third largest in the state, grew out of the personal collections of Dr. Ray C. Friesner, Professor and Chair of the Department, 1920-1952. Other Butler faculty along with many students have contributed plants through the years. The specimens, with their carefully documented labels, comprise a reference library on historical distribution, habitats, and timing of flower and fruit production. The collection's voucher specimens serve to verify plant identification.

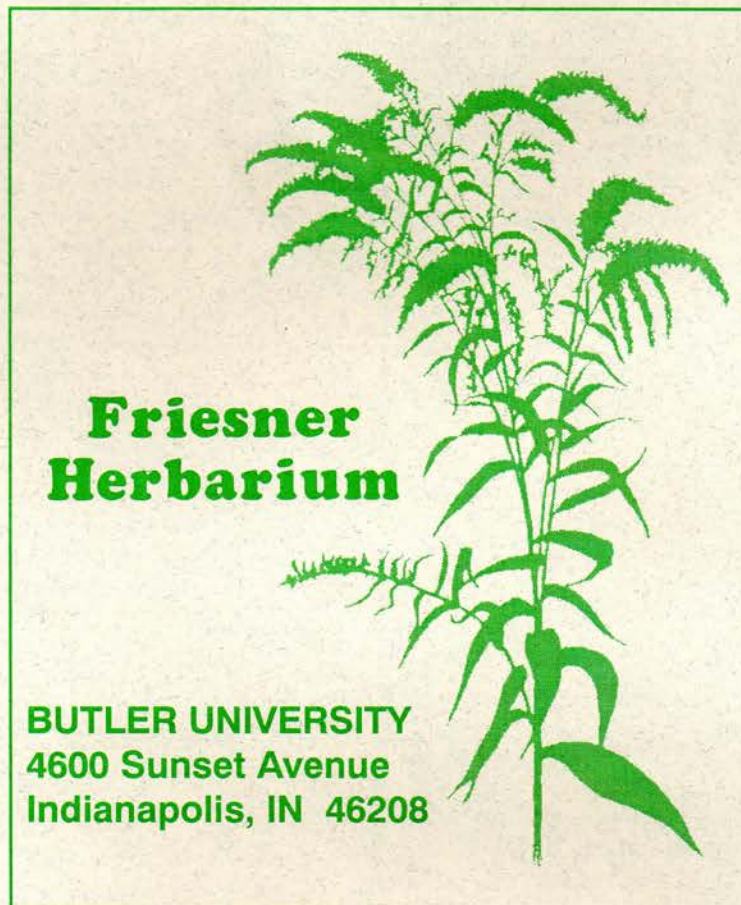
Although the Herbarium contains plants from around the world, the collection emphasizes plants of Indiana. There are samples of 96% of the approximately 2500 taxa of native Indiana plants. Multiple specimens are present for most plants, providing more information than single drawings or photographs from books to assist in learning what a plant looks like. Most of our collections were made during the first half of the century and now constitute documentation of Indiana's historical vegetation. They also provide information on the habitat (e.g., woods, swamp, prairie) where plants were collected and would likely be found again.

The collection is of great value to professional botanists; information can be shared through a network of exchange and loan of specimens. Students, faculty, and staff from Butler's Department of Biological Sciences use the Herbarium as a reference. In addition, the Herbarium holdings are available to enrich teaching and laboratory exercises for students in biology classes.

Recent examples of use of the Friesner Herbarium include a local allergist who wanted to collect pollen from allergy-causing grasses and a USDA researcher who was looking for locations for *Cuphea*, a native plant with seed oil properties similar to coconut oil. Currently there is no domestic source of coconut oil. We helped him locate a site near Bloomington where the plant was collected in the 1930's. He was able to find the plant still growing on the same roadside. This summer we helped a junior high school teacher inventory plants in a woods on the property of a new school building, identified shrubs in a Butler faculty member's yard, and helped several people from the community to identify wildflowers.

The Herbarium is open to the public by appointment. Call 317-283-9413 to arrange a visit. The staff can assist with identification of plants you bring in and can also help you to locate sites where plants you wish to find may grow.

Dr. Dolan does research in plant ecology at Butler University in Indianapolis and is currently working on a population biology of rare indigenous plants. She is Director of the University's Friesner Herbarium, oversees Butler's 5.5-acre prairie and has put together a census of campus flora.



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Landscaping with Natives

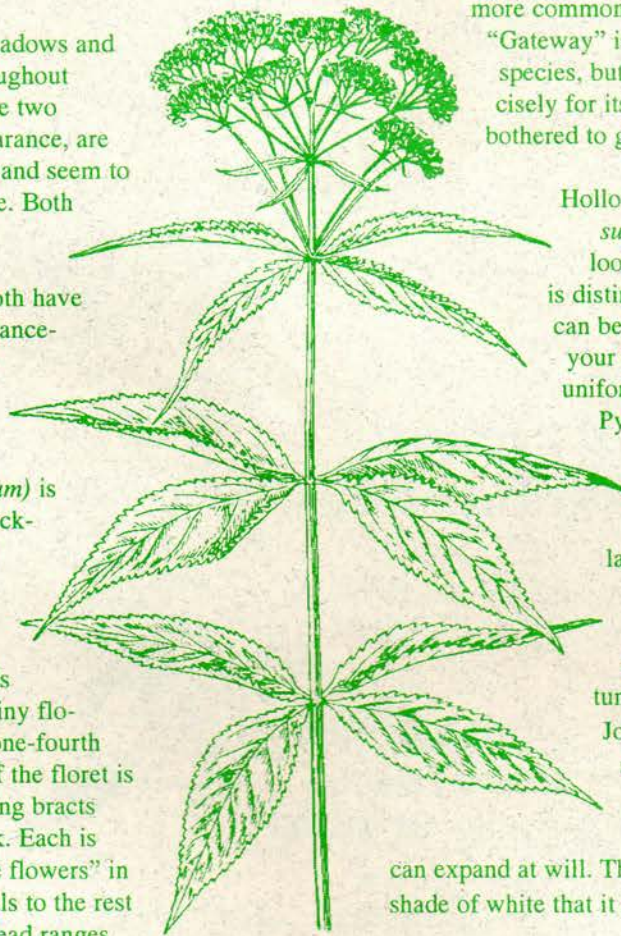
Joe Pye Weed

by Barb Kaczorowski

Legend has it that Jopi was an Indian medicine man who cured typhoid fever around New England with a concoction of *Eupatorium maculatum* or *E. purpureum*. Jopi, one assumes, became Joe Pye in the Yankee vernacular, and Joe Pye weed it has been ever since. And while the plant's historical pharmaceutical uses are legion, today we grow this handsome perennial not for the medicine chest but as a lovely addition to the late summer garden.

Joe Pye weed is native to moist meadows and woodland edges and openings throughout most of eastern North America. The two species differ only slightly in appearance, are virtually identical in garden effect, and seem to be thoroughly mixed up in the trade. Both are statuesque, attaining heights anywhere from four to ten feet, with rigid stems that never flop. Both have bold foliage, with rough-textured, lance-shaped leaves from three to twelve inches long, arranged in whorls around the stem.

Spotted Joe Pye weed (*E. maculatum*) is so called because the stems are speckled or blotched with dark red. The stem terminals as they approach the flower heads are often solid red. The leaves are borne in whorls of three to six. Flower heads are flat-topped, comprising many tiny florets of rosy mauve. Each floret is one-fourth to one-third inch long. The body of the floret is cylindrical, consisting of overlapping bracts which are an iridescent purple-pink. Each is topped by a cluster of mauve "tube flowers" in botanical parlance, tiny, fuzzy petals to the rest of us. The entire terminal flower head ranges from four to eight inches tall, expanding as the flower ages. Secondary heads open later from lower leaf axils. Spotted Joe Pye weed seems to predominate on calcareous soils and is the prevalent species in the northern part of the state, where it begins blooming around the third week in July and continues through August.



Sweet Joe Pye weed (*E. purpureum*) is so called because its leaves have a sweet - to some, vanilla-like - aroma when bruised. Its stems are green, and the leaves are arranged in whorls of three to five. Rather than flat-topped, its flower heads are dome-shaped and even bigger than those of spotted Joe Pye weed, often twelve to eighteen inches tall and two-thirds as wide. Their distinctive shape always reminds me of fireworks exploding against the sky. The flowers are a pale, frosty pink which is reminiscent of those lipstick colors Twiggy favored in the sixties. Sweet Joe Pye weed prevails on acidic soils. It begins blooming in my experience a little later than spotted Joe Pye weed, and often continues into

September. It is found throughout the state but is more common in the southern part. The cultivar "Gateway" is supposedly more compact than the species, but because I value Joe Pye weed precisely for its statuesque proportions, I haven't bothered to grow "Gateway."

Hollow-stemmed Joe Pye weed (*E. fistulosum*) has a similar distribution and looks much like Sweet Joe Pye weed. It is distinguished by its hollow stem which can be felt by pressing the stem between your fingers. Also, its stem is more or less uniformly purple, while that of Sweet Joe Pye weed is greenish.

Hardy ageratum (*Eupatorium coelestinum*) is another native and late-blooming member of the genus, reaching only about two feet in height, with flowers that look almost identical to the annual ageratum of grocery store flats. But unlike Joe Pye weed, it is aggressively stoloniferous, spreading rampantly especially in moist areas, and should be planted only where it can expand at will. The cultivar 'Alba' is of such a dirty shade of white that it is to my mind worthless.

Joe Pye weed is easy to grow. Although native to moist places, it flourishes in the perennial border with average watering. Nor is it particular about soil; I've seen it growing in soil ranging from sandy to heavy clay. Of course, as for any plant, you'll get stockier, more vigorous growth by enriching the planting bed with ample organic matter. Joe Pye thrives with no care at all beyond occasional watering

during dry spells. In five years of growing the plant I've never had a disease or insect problem. But I have attracted droves of butterflies to my garden; I've counted as many as five on a single flower head.

Although some sources say to divide Joe Pye weed every three or four years, my clumps are beautifully vigorous without the central dieback that many perennials develop with time. Just be sure to allow plenty of room for it to attain its grand stature. (If desired, Joe Pye's height can be controlled a little by judicious pinching of terminals in early summer.) My plants are four feet in diameter after as many years. Should you want to divide it do so in early spring when new growth is just emerging. Alternatively, new plants are easy to raise from seed. Just plant the seed after it ripens in early fall. Seedlings will bloom in their second year.

Wherever you put it, Joe Pye weed will enliven your late summer garden year after year with its froth of frosty pink flowers and beautiful bold foliage, commanding attention but requiring none.

INPAWS Calendar

Trek to the Tefft Savannah Nature Preserve at Jasper-Pulaski Fish & Wildlife Area near Medarryville IN

Saturday, September 3, 1994

At the sand oak savannahs near the famous J.P. marshes, we'll see native grasses, goldenrod, asters, blazing star, standing cypress, winterberry, wild rice and more. There is good birding here also.

The field trip will be led by Tom Post of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Nature Preserve Section.

Meet at 10 AM at the Headquarters Building at Jasper Pulaski Fish & Wildlife Area. Or, meet at 7:30 AM sharp to carpool from the Indianapolis Museum of Art Greenhouse parking lot.

For more information call Bill Brink at (317) 255-0166.

Plant Auction Report

The second annual plant auction and sale by the society was held Saturday, June 4, in a shelter house at Garfield Park in Indianapolis under beautiful skies and a pleasant temperature.



Auctioneer Rolland Kontak starting the bidding for twinleaf (Jeffersonia diphylla)

The promise of great variety, quality and rarity of native plant material became evident as members began arriving early with donations from their own collections. (We emphasize that no plants should be dug from the wild.) There were also donations of fine art and garden and nature-related items.

Again, auctioneer for the occasion was Rolland Kontak, a charter member of the society. Rolland artfully enticed bidders to vie for the wonderful specimens of unusual and rare, as well as familiar, native plants. There were bargains to be had also at the sale tables where plants were arranged by price: \$1, \$2 and \$3!

Tasty and elegant box lunches consisting of croissant sandwiches, julienned raw vegetables, fruit salad and snack chips were catered by Hansford Enterprises.

Many thanks go to those who helped make the second auction even more successful than the first: Rolland and Mildred Kontak and their friends, Mrs. Maci who lent her expertise as auction recorder, and Nick Lucas who cheerfully assisted in any area as needed.

Would you like to have plant auctions/sales regularly? Where else could you find in one place such a variety of native plants (including orchids, prairie grasses and unusual ferns,) camaraderie, good food, and an opportunity to further the mission of INPAWS?

We would like to hear from you, our members.

Please call Anne Wilson (812) 342-6838 with your ideas, or write to her at 14701 Bellsville Road, Nashville IN 47448.

News from the Eastern Native Plant Alliance

Membership in The Eastern Native Plant Alliance is open to organizations that promote or demonstrate native plant conservation in the eastern U.S. or southeastern Canada and to individuals committed to serving as liaison to an appropriate organization or audience.

The Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society is a member of ENPA and, as such, receives regular communications from them including a newsletter and notices of conferences, symposia and meetings. In future INPAWS newsletters, we will try to include some pertinent and timely topics and information received from ENPA. Following are a few items from the April, 1994 ENPA newsletter.

Invasive Species, Exotic and Native

White Flower Farm will not offer purple loosestrife after this spring, the current catalogue announces, because it has become a major pest along waterways throughout America, "crowding out native plants that don't share its vigor." To the nursery's credit, the statement adds, "Because marshy areas in the Northeast have been filled with *Lythrum* for as long as we can remember, we were slower than we should have been in taking the problem to heart."

Changes over the last several years in the catalogue's description of purple loosestrife provide a glimpse of the way this nursery's decision evolved. Throughout the late '80's "good for naturalizing" was given as one of loosestrife's merits.

For several years the description said, "Yes, there are wetlands in the Northeast where *Lythrum* is a common weed and some will stick their nose in the air at it for this reason." In the Fall, 1990 catalogue that statement was replaced by "Yes, there are wetlands in the Northeast where *Lythrum salicaria* is a common weed and it should not be encouraged by further planting." By 1992, the suggestion of defensiveness was gone, and the listing emphasized that the plants offered were not *L. salicaria* but sterile hybrids of *L. virgatum*, "no threat to wetlands."

Last year the catalogue, noting bans on the sale of *Lythrum* in some states, expressed the opinion that existing vast populations would "almost certainly overwhelm" local control efforts, and that the circumstances "were not occasion for excluding *Lythrum* from all gardens." It did warn, however, that the "self-sterile hybrids" offered "can and will interbreed with local populations if not deadheaded." Meanwhile the

number of states to which the varieties offered in the catalogue could not be shipped had grown from one, Minnesota, in 1989, to six in 1993 and eight in 1994, four in the Midwest, one in the Southeast, and three on the west coast.

Suburban Development Shapes Habitats

The proliferation of disturbance-loving native species as ever-widening suburbs move into once-wild areas is a threat that deserves more attention, some ecologists believe. A *New York Times* article by William K. Stevens (3/1/94), building on a report in the March issue of *Conservation Biology*, outlines some of the changes that enable species such as white-tailed deer, raccoons, crows, and Canada geese to take over "semi-natural" areas, crowding out many native plants and less adaptable native animals. Developers and suburban dwellers commonly reduce the tree canopy, remove dead trees, substitute mowed lawns and paving for brushy growth and introduce domestic animals. Adding structure, cultivated plantings and feeders, they also provide wildlife with new dwelling places and a readily-available year-round feast. Thus, unintentionally they shape the plant and animal community, and reduced diversity as a result is becoming evident.

Back-Yard Apothecary

Plant-based drugs to treat heart and circulatory problems are described in materials developed by the Endangered Species Coalition. Released for Heart Month in February, they are a part of the Coalition's work to help the public understand how "obscure" species benefit people and thus the value of protecting biological diversity. The source plant, medicinal use, and history are briefly discussed for eight drugs. If you'd like a copy, send a self-addressed stamped (29c) envelope to Eastern Native Plant Alliance, P.O. Box 6101, McLean VA, 22106.

Go Native

The Natural Habitat Garden, a new book by Ken Druse, with Margaret Roach, uses text and stunning photographs to encourage gardeners to model home landscapes after the habitats natural to their own regions. It is "a plea to give back to our environment some of the beauty and pleasure it has given us," Druse writes. It can be a tool to help gardeners create niches, however small, that considered together can expand the realm of indigenous plants and animals." Besides chapters on grassland, dryland, wetland and woodland communities, the book includes information on plant sources and propagation, a discussion of integrated pest management, a listing of native plant societies and public gardens and suggested readings. (Clarkson-Potter, 1994; 256 pages, \$40.)

Falls of the Ohio Flora

by Bill Adams

Most people who come to Indiana's 20th State Park come to explore the world-famous Devonian fossil beds, nearly 400 million-years-old. Located along the north bank of the Ohio River at Clarksville, the new State Park and \$4.9 million Interpretive Center feature perhaps the best exposed Devonian fossil bed in the world. In our recent one-year study, my wife and I discovered that the Falls of the Ohio is also home to some interesting and unusual flora.

Few areas in the US have been so closely examined by naturalists for so long as the Falls of the Ohio. In the early 19th century, famous naturalists came from all over the world to study and classify the unique fossils, birds, fish, and flora of the Falls of the Ohio. Among them were John James Audubon, Constantine Rafinesque, and Louis Agassiz. Dr. Asahel Clapp of New Albany extensively collected the flora at the Falls, sending specimens to such famous botanists as John Torrey, Asa Gray, and Thomas Nuttall.

At least two plants were first described from the Falls of the Ohio, although neither one appears to be found there today. *Psoralea stipulata* (a scurf-pea), was found on Rock Island and nowhere else in the world. Rock Island is now inundated. *Psoralea stipulata* was last seen in 1860 and is believed to be extinct. *Solidago shortii* (Shorts Goldenrod) inhabited dry open places at the Falls and was first described in 1842. It was last seen there in 1949, but has since been found at Blue Licks State Park in Kentucky.

Notable species at the Falls today include *Passiflora incarnata* (Passionflower) and *Diodia virginiana* (Buttonweed), both of which appear on the latest Indiana Department of Natural Resources list of rare or threatened species. *Bignonia capreolata* (Cross Vine), *Amorpha fruticosa* (False Indigo), *Salix caroliniana* (Ward Willow), and *Desmanthus illinoensis* (Prairie Mimosa) are all at or near their northern range limits at the Falls.

Also notable at the Falls is an abundance of natural food plants. This fact, along with the unique fishing and mussel

collecting opportunities presented by the Falls, no doubt helps to explain the presence of Native American people here dating back several thousand years BC. In our study we found nearly fifty plants known to have been part of the Native American diet, including such staples as *Helianthus tuberosus* (Jerusalem Artichoke), *Sagittaria latifolia* (Arrowhead), *Typha latifolia* (Cattail), *Amaranthus hybridus* (Amaranth), *Apios americana* (Groundnut), *Celtis occidentalis* (American Hackberry), and *Chenopodium album* (Lamb's Quarters). Other plants important to Native American people such as *Arundinaria gigantea* (River Cane) and *Juglans nigra* (Black Walnut) are also found.

The overall picture of the Falls flora can best be described as riparian. It can however be sectioned into at least seven distinct habitats, differing principally in moisture availability and degree of disturbance. We found species diversity to be greatest in the higher habitats, such as the Upper and Lower Woodlands and lowest in those near the waters edge, such as Rock and Marsh. Periods of prolonged flooding in these lower habitats place severe restrictions on what may grow there. Both extended submersion and physical disturbance by the strong river current are believed to be limiting factors. In spite of this, the Marsh habitat is surprisingly rich and contains several micro-habitats including sloughs, seep springs, and swamps. *Alisma subcordatum* (Small Water Plantain) and *Bidens cernua* (Nodding Bur Marigold), both uncommon in southern Indiana, were found here. A small, but distinct, rock and sand section was classified as a prairie by early naturalists. Grasses, including *Andropogon gerardii* (Big Bluestem) clearly dominate this area and trees are limited to a few stunted willows.

Wildflowers include species such as *Physostegia virginiana* (Obedient Plant) and *Apocynum cannabinum* (Indian Hemp).

The Ohio River corridor has long been recognized as a pathway along which many plants (both native and especially alien) have extended their ranges. In our initial survey we have identified a little over 200 species in three separate study areas, excluding grasses, sedges, ferns, and fungi. In years to come, as we continue to observe the Falls of the Ohio flora, perhaps adding additional study areas, we expect this number will grow.

Bill Adams is a naturalist at the Falls of the Ohio State Park in Clarksville. He and his wife Maggie have been active with the Sierra Club and The Nature Conservancy for many years and are property stewards at the Hardin Ridge Nature Preserve in Floyd County.



Wary Wildflower Buying

by Barb Kaczorowski

As advocates of growing native plants, some of us may be unwittingly contributing to their demise in the wild. How? By buying plants from nurseries that are selling wild-collected stock. Whether you're buying native plants from a local nursery or mail-order sources, *always* make sure that the plants you want are *nursery-propagated* before you buy.

Collecting native plants from the wild and selling them (cheaply) to local nurseries has been a long-standing way for rural families to supplement their incomes. While there are a few nurseries in the Southeast which "buy in" and "grow on" plants collected from sites about to be developed, it is virtually impossible to distinguish them from the larger number of nurseries which buy collected plants indiscriminately.

How can you be sure that your commerce in native plants is not contributing to the demise of wild populations? First, be especially wary of nurseries in the southeastern and southwestern United States. While there are some top-notch nurseries in these areas which specialize in propagating native plants, the vast tracts of public lands and low population in these regions mean fertile ground for collectors and "plant bandits." Inordinately low prices are a pretty good indicator that the plants offered for sale were collected.

Nurseries which are propagating native plants invariably state that fact prominently in their catalogues. Propagating many of these plants is an art as well as a science, and these nursery people are justifiably proud of their efforts and of the fact that they are not depleting wild populations. But a note of caution: read carefully. Don't be fooled by a nursery offering "nursery-grown" plants. Aware of the furor surrounding wild collection, some disreputable nurseries persist in buying collected plants. They grow the plants on in nursery containers, and then market them as "nursery-grown," in hope that the savvy consumer will be duped. If the catalogue wording provokes any doubt in your mind, call the nursery and ask to speak to their propagator. A few pointed questions should suffice to tell you whether the nursery is actually propagating native plants.

Mail-order plant retailers - companies which are just merchandisers of plants grown by other nurseries - are a bit harder to sort out. Your safest bet is to stick with those who state clearly in their catalogues that their plants are nursery-propagated.



Likewise, the origins of native plants sold by local garden centers can be difficult to ascertain. Ask to speak to the manager, or better yet, the owner about his or her native plant sources. While you can't expect them to give you their wholesale sources, be on the alert for defensiveness or obfuscation, both of which may be your clues that the plant's origin is either unknown or uncertain.

While nursery-propagated plants are almost always more expensive than collected ones, they're well worth the premium. Not only are you helping to protect wild populations with your willingness to pay for propagated plants, but you're getting a better value for your garden as well. Collected plants have notoriously poor survival rates. Collectors typically use rather crude and savage digging techniques, leaving many of the plants' roots behind. Then there are the many opportunities for the roots to dry out during transport from the site and on to the ultimate retail destination. All in all, the collected plant has suffered repeated traumas by the time it is shipped to you, and the stress of shipping is often the *coup de grace*. Nursery-propagated plants, on the other hand, have an intact root mass from being raised in a container. Their survival rate is many times that of collected plants.

Finally, make sure your protection of native plants extends beyond national boundaries. A case in point: the small bulb trade. Many of the small bulbs - anemones, cyclamen, species crocus and tulips, and countless others - have been collected from their native habitats to the brink of extinction in Greece, Turkey and surrounding nations. Reputable bulb companies have begun stating in their catalogues that they sell only nursery-propagated bulbs. Make sure you give your business to them, and only to them.

Barbara Kaczorowski is a landscape designer and horticulturist with a longstanding interest in native plants. A writer for Rodale Press and contributor to Horticulture magazine, she is co-owner with her husband Michael of Accent Gardens, a central Indiana landscape and nursery business.

Going Native on Hoosier National Forest

by Ellen Jacquart

Imagine Black-eyed Susans nodding in the wind and butterflies gracefully pollinating milkweeds and blazing stars. That's the picture you will see at a new kind of plantation planned for the Brownstown Ranger District of the Hoosier National Forest. The "plantation" is a native seed nursery to provide seed for various reclamation and restoration projects in south-central Indiana. It will be a joint effort with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, local students, and other volunteers.

"We have a variety of restoration and reclamation projects for which we'd like to be able to use native species," said Bruce Slover, District Ranger for the Brownstown district of the national forest. He added that it would be desirable to restore a number of old fescue fields to a mix of native species, but there are no commercially available native seed sources located near south-central Indiana.

Nurseries in Illinois, Wisconsin and Missouri can supply the seed, but the national forest would prefer local sources, which may differ genetically from the same species grown in other areas. Non-local plants may not be well adapted to southern Indiana growing conditions and may not survive, or they may become too well adapted and displace local plants.

This native seed nursery will be the second in Indiana following the success of a similar nursery in the Jasper-Pulaski Fish and Wildlife Area. Phil Delphey of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has been coordinating the state-wide effort, along with a number of other agencies, to provide native seed sources.

The Jasper-Pulaski nursery is intended to serve the prairie areas of northern Indiana, while the new nursery will serve the south-central area of the state. The location will be the Hardin Ridge area of Hoosier National Forest, just south of Bloomington. A forest clearing dominated by grasses and other flowering plants will be planted next year with species including little bluestem, partridge-pea, bush clover, tick trefoil and butterfly weed. Seeds will be collected this summer and fall from local populations; seedlings grown in greenhouses at area schools will also be used. Come spring, the students will assist in planting the seedlings in the plowed strips at the nursery.

If you would like more information about the nursery, or would like to collect or grow seed, please call Ellen Jacquart at the Brownstown office, 812-358-2675.

Ellen Jacquart is ecosystem team leader for the Brownstown ranger district.

Wildflower Photography Part 3

by Tom Potter

Even though summer is fast departing, there is still time to take some good photographs of the fall composites. To help you prepare, I am recommending some basic techniques which will help you create more pleasing images.

When the subject is a tall slender flower, as many of the composites are, try to use a vertical format for the image. The tall stem/flower will look more natural using this composition.

Watch out for cluttered photographs, those that have so much detail surrounding the central image that the subject gets lost in the totality of it all.

Try to avoid bright backgrounds. They overpower the subject, and the viewer's eye is attracted to them rather than to the subject.

Study the flower or flowers to find a suitable background. Sometimes using an f-stop of about f4 (wider open lens) will blur the background out of view.

With the taller fall flowers, photographing in the morning helps to avoid the breezy conditions that occur later in the day and which make photography of the taller flowers more difficult.

Keep in mind that the sun is at a lower angle as fall progresses. This means that your photos will be richer or warmer in color, a pleasing effect.

I hope you have hours of pleasure with the challenging fall flowers and your camera. If you have any questions, please let me know. I offer photography workshops on wildflowers, usually during the spring months. If you would like a schedule of future workshops, please write me a note at 4305 Belt Lane, Martinsville, IN 46151.

Tom Potter is a professional photographer living in Martinsville.

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