

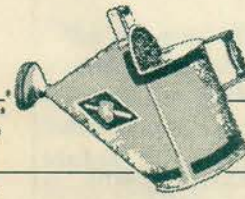
# INDIANA

## *Native Plant and Wildflower Society*

### NEWS

Volume II Number 3

Autumn 1995



## *Spring Plant Auction a Success!*

by Rolland Kontak, Auctioneer

"I've got 5, would-a-bid 6, now 7, gimme a 7, all in – all done? Sold for 6 dollars." So went the auctioneer's chant for about two hours on May 21 as several hundred native plants were sold for over \$1800 total.

Our third plant auction was held at the Lawrence Community Center, a fine venue, readily accessible, with a kitchen from which the committee provided complimentary snacks and beverages. Surrounding the audience were ten 8-foot tables loaded with fine Indiana native plants, many donated by INPAWS members who had propagated them in their own gardens. Several commercial sources also provided plants and a number of apparel and gift items.

The generosity of our donors was certainly overwhelming. Although it is risky to name names (possibly omitting someone) I hope you won't mind if I acknowledge with gratitude the 50 or so items donated by Juanita and Henry Graham. And the quality!! Four blooming ladyslippers, ginseng, purple flowering raspberries, ferns, and more. Thank you, gracious folks. (Maybe a couple of snow trilliums next year?)

Sun-loving prairie forbs were represented by several species of coneflowers, sunflowers, standing cypress, penstemons, rattlesnake master, queen-of-the-prairie, and many others. Shade lovers included jack-in-the-pulpit, green dragons, wild geraniums, pawpaw, spicebush, camass, *Trillium grandiflorum*, and dwarf larkspur. Water lovers included lizard's tail, arrowheads, and yellow pond lilies. Native grasses, ferns, and even a well-grown clump of moss were included.

Surely I have omitted many of the plant species, as there was a wonderful array to choose from. I hope that this summary will whet your appetite for our next auction, which will be held at Holliday Park, Indianapolis, on Sunday, September 24.

We need more unusual plants, trees, etc. Please contact your commercial friends for donations of plants and garden items. We can sell books, tools, garden videos, photos, and fine art. How about gentians? Also, consider making up 50-cent packets of cleaned and labeled native plant seeds for sale at the auction and future events.

We would like to recognize: Lynn Jenkins, Carolyn Harstad and Ruth Ann Ingraham for providing the refreshments, Mildred Kontak, who arrived early to set up, Phil and Brenda Milliren and Dorothy Gorman, who stayed to help clean up, runners Bill Brink, Sue Nord and Kevin Tunesvick, cashier Jean Victor, Doug Spence of Spence Landscaping who generously donated a prairie seedling collection to the elementary school he outbid, and Anne Wilson, our chairperson. Many thanks!

*Rolland Kontak is a charter member of INPAWS and is very active in propagating a wide variety of native plants at his residence in southern Marion County. Since he is a modest individual, he didn't bother to mention the many plants he has donated to INPAWS for every auction we've had. His professional services as an auctioneer are also greatly appreciated. Many thanks, Rolland!*



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# INPAWS Coming Events

## Saturday, August 12

Field trip to Falls of the Ohio State Park. Here we will see the world's largest exposed fossil reef and learn about the plant life of the Ohio River valley.

## Sunday, August 27

Indiana State Museum Auditorium (indoor program). Plans for the new museum in White River Park, and the intended use of native plants in landscaping the new facility.

## Sunday, September 10

Field trip to Willow Slough to view wetlands, savanna and prairie chicken habitat.

## Sunday, September 24

Seed and plant sale and auction at Holliday Park. Please call Anne Wilson at 812-342-6838 if you are going to attend, have something to donate, or for more information.

## Saturday & Sunday, October 7 & 8

Joint event with Indiana Audubon Society, Mary Grey Bird Sanctuary. Also Shrader-Weaver Preserve. Details have not yet been finalized.

*Flyers containing details of each program will be sent in advance of the event. For more information call any officer or committee chair.*

## Annual Meeting to Come

Mark your calendar for the second  
INPAWS Annual Meeting

**Saturday, November 4, 1995**

beginning at noon at  
Dow Elanco, Indianapolis

### Nominations for 1996-97 Officers:

President	Carolyn Harstad
Vice President	Kevin Tungesvick
Recording Secretary	Rebecca Dolan
Corresponding Secretary	Gil Daniels
Treasurer	Jean Vietor

*Submitted by Jan Lacy, Nominations Chair*

The meeting will feature the election of officers, panel discussions, workshops, displays, photo contest, dinner and keynote speaker

### **Ken Druse,**

internationally recognized author, award-winning photographer and acknowledged founder of the natural gardening movement. He is garden editor of *House Beautiful* magazine and the author of *The Natural Garden*, *The Natural Shade Garden* and *The Natural Habitat Garden*. He won two *Quill and Trowel* awards from the Garden Writers Association of America for *The Natural Garden* (for writing and photography).

**More detailed information to follow.**

### Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society Newsletter

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

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### 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.

#### Newsletter Committee

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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, Dan Anderson, 7412 Graham Road, Indianapolis, IN 46250.

## President's Message

Summer is in full swing now and I'm sure many of you are working in your gardens, yards and woods. How much time do you have to devote to the continuing battle against exotic species? Garlic Mustard is setting seed now so it is too late to effectively stop this species this year, but there is still European honeysuckle, bouncing bet, purple loosestrife and a host of other non-natives which we have time to fight this year.

I recently gave a presentation about the dangers of exotic species to a gardening association. It was extremely surprising to find these gardeners were only barely aware of exotic species! If these experienced people are only slightly aware of the problem, the general public may be totally unaware of this insidious problem which is ruining their natural heritage and altering the world around them.

We set up some garlic mustard in our booth at Orchard in Bloom. Many folks passing by were shocked to learn this "pretty white flower" was responsible for the decline of many of the native plants we had displayed on the other side of the table.

There is so much to do and to teach. Native plants and communities need societies like INPAWS now more than ever! We need to raise awareness of native plant issues in a public which has forgotten the importance of their ties with the natural world.

So please get active with INPAWS. There are a lot of great ideas just waiting for someone to pick them up and give them life. I hope you've responded to Colletta Kosiba's call in the last newsletter for people to become speakers. We are getting many requests for speakers and information on INPAWS. It would be great to start some youth projects also. What ideas do you have?

Join me in making INPAWS a strong champion for native plants. This society will live or die by your participation.

### What Flowers When? with Hints on Home Landscaping

by Janice Glimn-Lacy

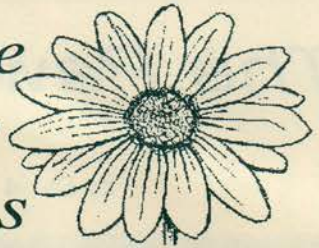
Discover the actual flowering periods of over 200 hardy trees, shrubs, and perennials in USDA Zone 5, recorded in Indianapolis, and helpful home landscaping advice on planning, choosing plants, making flower beds, grooming your garden and keeping records. A resource you'll reach for again and again. Paperback Book \$19.95 (5% IN tax; S&H \$3.50, more \$1 each).

*The Flower and the Leaf*, Mail Order Service

P.O. Box 53514

Indianapolis, Indiana 46253-0514.

## Welcome New Members



The following folks have demonstrated their interest in native plants by joining our group during the past three months: Judy and Donald Armstrong, Phyllis Benn, Mary Berghoff, Steven Worth and Cathy Clark, Ann Cox, Diantha DeGraw, Michael Eoff, Dorothy and Charles Finney, Cindy Florek, Kathy Goble, Rev. Mark Gottemoeller, Eloise Hamp, Roger Hedge, Chris Hossler, John Maier, Jo Ellen Miller, Mary Jo Mills, Bruce Nelson, John and Karen Packer, Ralph Parker, Merlissa Schmidt, David and Katrina Seitz, Eric Spangler, Jaci Spaulding, Nancy Sharpe, Rose Marie and Michael Stiffler, Juliette Spears, Lynn Wiseman, Alice Young, and Mrs. Victor Vollrath. We hope that all of you will become active members and take part in our many field trips and seminars throughout the year.

Space does not permit the listing of names and addresses at this time, but a new directory will be published at the beginning of next year, and all new members will be included. Carolyn Harstad, Membership Chair, announced at a recent board meeting that INPAWS now has 458 members in 356 individual homes.

You asked for it – clip and save  
by Janice Glimn-Lacy

## V i b u r n u m s

### Native

<i>Viburnum acerifolium</i>	Maple-leaved Viburnum, Arrowwood
<i>V. alnifolium</i>	Hobblebush, American Wayfaring Tree
<i>V. dentatum</i>	Arrowwood
<i>V. lentago</i>	Nannyberry, Black Haw
<i>V. prunifolium</i>	Black Haw, Sweet Haw, Sheepberry
<i>V. trilobum</i>	Cranberry Bush, Highbush Cranberry

### Non-Native

<i>Viburnum x Burkwoodii</i>	( <i>V. Carlesii</i> x <i>V. utile</i> ) Korea, China
<i>V. x carlcephalum</i>	( <i>V. Carlesii</i> x <i>V. macrocephalum</i> ) Korea, China
<i>V. Carlesii</i>	Koreanspice Viburnum
<i>V. x Juddii</i>	( <i>V. bitchiuense</i> x <i>V. Carlesii</i> ) Japan, Korea
<i>V. lantana</i>	Wayfaring Tree, Twistwood, Eurasia
<i>V. macrocephalum</i>	Chinese Snowball, China
<i>V. opulus</i>	Cranberry Bush, Eurasia
<i>V. plicatum tomentosum</i>	Doublefile Viburnum, China, Japan
<i>V. x rhytidophylloides</i>	( <i>V. lantana</i> x <i>rhytidophyllum</i> ) Eurasia, China
<i>V. sieboldii</i>	Japan

# The Pawpaw Paradox

by David J. Ellis

(Reprinted with permission from the February 1995 *American Horticulturist*).

How has a tree bearing the largest fruits native to North America come to be known to most Americans only as a reference in a whimsical folk song? Native to the eastern half of the United States, the pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*) bears exotic-flavored and nutritious fruits which can be eaten in hand or made into desserts. Its bark and seeds contain potent compounds with promise as organic pesticides and cancer-fighting drugs. Some feel that its graceful form and almost-tropical foliage make it an outstanding ornamental plant for landscaping.

Drawbacks of the pawpaw fruit include a thin, soft skin, which makes it perishable and difficult to market, highly inconsistent flavor of the wild fruit, and the 10-12 large seeds that make the fruit difficult to eat. Its proponents claim, however, that selective breeding could, in the next 20-30 years, improve the quality to encourage sales in specialty markets and to promote use in desserts in better restaurants from coast to coast.

The genus *Asimina* contains the only North American representatives of the Annonaceae, the custard-apple family. Seven of the eight species are confined to Florida or the South Atlantic and Gulf Coasts, and are smaller than *A. triloba*.

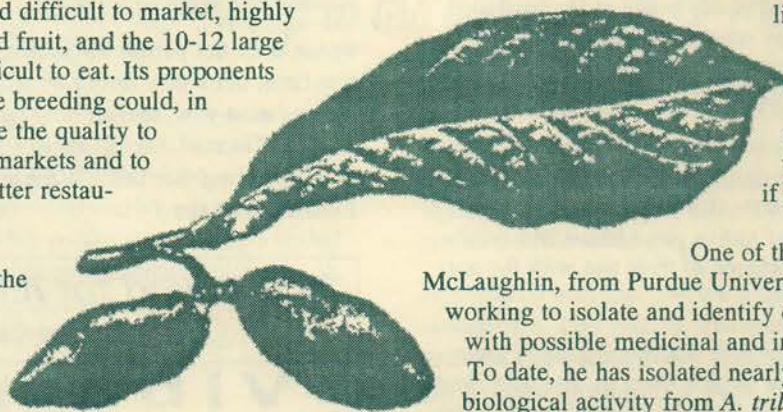
When grown in the open, pawpaw trees are 15-30 feet tall, and roughly pyramidal in shape. The glossy, dark leaves droop from the branches somewhat in the manner of magnolias. In early spring, before the trees leaf out, the triangular-petaled flowers appear. Curving downward off short stems, the flowers have three outer petals framing three smaller, fleshy inner petals. Initially green, the flowers turn brown to purple and exude a disagreeable musky odor as they mature. The roughly oval fruits are from three to six inches long and weigh from eight to twelve ounces. The green outer skin changes purple or black as the fruit ripens. Unfortunately, many stands of wild pawpaws bear only a small amount of fruit, as the trees are usually self-incompatible, and a genetically-different tree is needed for successful pollination.

If and when the pawpaw does achieve the recognition its supporters envision, much of the credit will belong to the PawPaw Foundation, a 300-member non-profit organization

devoted to furthering research on and interest in the pawpaw. The group was founded by R. Neal Peterson, an agricultural economist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C.

Several commercial nurseries are breeding and selling increasing numbers of pawpaw seedlings and grafted plants, and this year field tests of 28 varieties will begin at 15 university sites in various sections of the country. Data will be recorded on variables such as tree growth, blossom and fruit set, fruit attributes, and water and fertilizer requirements.

Biologically-active compounds are found in the skin and flesh of unripe fruit, the seeds, twigs and bark. Animals which eat unripe pawpaws are likely to become nauseated, and will most likely leave unripe fruits alone in the future. A small percentage of humans is sensitive to the fruit, particularly if it is underripe.



One of that number is Jerry McLaughlin, from Purdue University. Ironically, he has been working to isolate and identify compounds from pawpaws with possible medicinal and insecticidal applications.

To date, he has isolated nearly 30 compounds having biological activity from *A. triloba* and 45 from *A. bullata*, a close relative found in Cuba. One of his extracts, in very low concentration, has shown activity in killing cancer cells, but is also toxic to normal cells unless the concentration is tightly regulated. Another extract kills pests such as nematodes, tomato hornworms, bean beetles and potato bugs.

R. Neal Peterson believes that, if successful applications for pawpaw compounds are found, increased cultivation will be able to supply the demand until synthetic compounds become available. In the meantime, improvements in the quality of the fruit might earn pawpaws a place in supermarkets and specialty stores alongside other exotic fruits as kiwis and mangoes.

For further information about pawpaws, write to the

*Pawpaw Foundation*

*P.O. Box 23467*

*Washington, D.C. 20026*

or call 202-484-1121.

*David J. Ellis is assistant editor of American Horticulturist.*

# Free for the Eating

by Dan Anderson

The middle and latter days of summer provide the forager with a somewhat reduced choice of edibles, as many of the herbaceous plants have become tough and stringy, and have begun to go to seed. However, for the mushroom fancier, there are still a number of excellent species to be found.

Many mushroom hunters confine their efforts to hunting morels in late April and early May. (See *Morel Mania* in the spring 1995 issue of this newsletter). Morels are considered sufficiently distinctive to be "safe," although the false morel *Gyromitra esculenta*, vaguely similar in appearance, is questionable as to edibility and may be poisonous to some people.

The mushrooms to be described here range from pleasant-tasting, as in the case of puffballs, to true gourmet quality, in the same league as the more famous morels. All are distinctive in appearance, and are readily distinguished from inedible or noxious species that might be found at around the same time.

## ***Cantharellus cibarius***

The chanterelle, *Cantharellus cibarius*, is usually found in small groups on the forest floor during July and early August, although this year I found some just coming up on June 30th. Unlike the morels, its dull orange color makes it fairly easy to spot from some distance away, unless there is a scattering of yellow leaves on the forest floor. The shape of the mushroom is somewhat irregular, and the edges are often curled downwards, and there is no definite demarcation between the stem and the cap. A poisonous species resembling the chanterelle is the Jack O'Lantern, *Omphalotus olearius*. This species grows in clusters of several to many mushrooms arising from a single base, instead of singly, as with the chanterelle. A comparison using illustrations from a good mushroom book is necessary if you are not familiar with the species.

Chanterelles should be cut in half through the stem and soaked in salt water for 15-20 minutes to help remove any small critters that might be present. They have a somewhat lower water content than other mushrooms, so will not shrink as much when cooked. They can be sauteed or used in casseroles or gravies. Any liquid remaining from their cooking is a precious commodity, and should be used for special occasions in cooking.

## ***Pleurotus ostreatus***

The oyster mushroom (*Pleurotus ostreatus*) grows on the sides of trees or fallen logs much in the same manner as the more familiar bracket fungi or shelf mushrooms, but unlike them, has gills instead of pores. As with the chanterelle, there is no definite cap, the latter being a gradual enlargement of the stem which then folds over. Most oyster mushrooms are white, although I have seen tan or olive-colored tops if the mushrooms have grown in a sunny environment. The gills and stem are white. Oyster mushrooms can be found throughout the year, whenever the weather is warm and there have been recent rains. Several crops each year can be gathered from the same tree or log.

This species tends to deteriorate fairly quickly, so select only specimens that are firm and with little or no insect infestation. Cutting and soaking (as above) are recommended. Use in any of your favorite mushroom recipes, or saute and serve on toast.

## ***Lycoperdon perlatum***

### ***Calvatia gigantea***

Fall brings the tribe of puffballs, ranging in size from the small pear-shaped puffball (*Lycoperdon perlatum*) through the dinner-roll size, to the giant puffball (*Calvatia gigantea*) which may attain or exceed the size of a basketball. Puffballs are edible provided the interior is firm and white. The flavor is not as pronounced as that of other mushrooms, so they would not be effective in flavoring meats, gravies, or other dishes. They can be used best by slicing to about 1/4 inch thick or slightly less, sauteing or dipping in batter and deep-frying or microwaving, then serving as you would fried potatoes.

I hope that some of you will have the opportunity to sample one or more of these treats before the end of the year!

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

# Multiflorae

## DNR Outdoor Recreation

The DNR is inviting volunteers 18 or older to enjoy a "volunteer vacation" working alongside the South Streams and Trails field crew to help maintain and improve the 58-mile Knobstone trail, which runs through several state forests in Clark, Scott, and Washington Counties. Volunteers will meet Sunday evening, September 3, at the Clark State Forest campground. Workdays will be 9 A.M.-3:30 P.M. on the following Monday through Friday. Work will include clearing trail, setting steps and waterbars, incutting, and cleaning. The week will end with a Friday afternoon "thank you cookout." Anyone interested must bring camping gear and food; work tools will be provided. An application must be submitted by August 7, 1995. If you receive this word late, or would like more information, please call DNR Division of Outdoor Recreation at 317-232-4070.

## Return of the Goldenrod

The Falls of the Ohio State Park will, after more than 100 years, again be the home of a rare species of goldenrod, Short's Goldenrod (*Solidago shortii*). The plant was discovered on Rock Island in the Falls area on the Kentucky side, but was found on the Indiana side two years later, in 1842. Rock Island no longer exists, but other suitable habitats exist on the Indiana side. Seedlings from the Kentucky site, Blue Licks State Park, will be planted in those sites and carefully tended by park naturalists until rooting takes place.

## Barb's Heirloom Vegetables

Did you see the food section of the Indianapolis Star for June 21st? INPAWS member Barb Kaczorowski was featured in an article describing the "heirloom" varieties of vegetables and fruits with which she works. These are varieties with special characteristics, which are not suited to large-scale farming and commercial use, but have been passed down from one generation to another as prized heirlooms. Great picture and excellent article!

## Tippecanoe Plants Checklist

*An Annotated Checklist of the Plants of Tippecanoe County* is a new 92-page book which has recently been released by the Sycamore Audubon Society. The book lists over 1000 species of flowering plants and 500-600 non-flowering plants found in the county from the earliest botanical studies to date. It covers mushrooms, algae and rusts along with the more well-known flowering species. The author is John McCain, who received his doctorate at Purdue from the Department of Botany and Plant Pathology. He worked at Purdue as a teaching assistant and as an assistant curator in the Purdue herbaria. He is currently affiliated with the Cereal Rust Laboratory, USDA-Agricultural Research Service, in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Copies of the book are available at Goodness Grocery, Von's Bookstore, University Bookstore, and Follet's Bookstore, all in West Lafayette. They may also be ordered by mail for the price of \$10.00 plus \$1.00 postage from:

Sycamore Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 2716  
West Lafayette IN 47906.

## Nature Walks at Butler

Dr. Rebecca Dolan, director of the Friesner Herbarium of Butler University, has provided the schedule of free fall nature walks on or near the Butler campus.

Tuesday, September 12

will feature a visit to the Butler prairie.

Wednesday, October 11

the theme will be *Mushrooms and Other Fungi*, and

Tuesday, November 14

*How to Identify Common Evergreens*.

Walks will begin at noon and will last about 50 minutes, with the starting point behind Gallahue Hall near the greenhouse. There may be some muddy walking involved, so please be prepared.

## IMA Lectures

The Indianapolis Museum of Art Horticultural Society will sponsor a series of free lectures this fall in the DeBoest Lecture Hall on the lower level of the IMA.

Tuesday, September 12

*Transforming an Estate Garden from Private to Public*

Tuesday, October 17

*New Flower Varieties from Seed*

Monday, November 20

*Horticulture on the Internet*

Monday, December 4

*Renovation of Garfield Park Conservatory*

All lectures will begin at 8:00 PM. If you would like additional information, please call Wendy Ford at 317-334-1932.

## Flowering Handbook

Janice Glimn-Lacy, INPAWS member, has just published a softbound handbook, *What Flowers When?* This reference will give the actual flowering periods of more than 200 species and the actual dates of flowering in Indianapolis over the past six years, and will be of value in planning color combinations and ensuring a colorful garden all year long. Please see ad on page 3 for ordering details and more info.

## INPAWS July Field Trip

About 50 INPAWS members and guests made a trek through portions of Hancock, Madison and Henry counties during a triple-header event on Sunday, July 9th. Our first stop was Bill Arnold's Indiana Field Guide Park. Bill and associate Billy Wilcox create animal and bird sculptures from wire, and place them in natural settings with special attention to native plants. Next, we saw the prairie restoration projects conducted by the DNR at Province Pond, just west of Mount Summit. Finally, the caravan drove to the home of Kevin Tunesvik, Plant Rescue Chairman. Kevin showed off his recreated strip of prairie and some of the native plants with which he has been working. Kevin also hosted a hot dog roast with salads, fruit, pretzels, chips and other goodies. Rolland Kontak auctioned off four plants from his garden. Thanks to Kevin and everyone else who helped make the day such an enjoyable event!

## Holliday Park Programs

Holliday Park in Indianapolis is offering a series of informal nature hikes every other Saturday, beginning at 10 AM. No registration is required and the whole family is invited.

September 9 *Parachutes and Tag-Alongs* (a study of seed dispersion)

September 23 *Fabulous Fall Wildflowers*

October 7 *Unmasking Trees* (tree identification)

October 21 *Take a Peek at the Peak* (fall colors)

*An Appointment with the Doctor* with Dr. Rebecca Dolan

September 23 *Fascinating Ferns* 1 to 2 PM

November 4 *Native Trees* 10 to 11 AM

November 9 *How Plants Get Their Names* 7 to 8 PM

To register for this series please call 317-327-7180.

## INPAWS Newsletter Goes to the Library

Our newsletter has been approved for inclusion in the reference section for all branches of the Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library. If you live in an area served by another library system, we invite you to take a copy of the newsletter to your local library and show it to the reference librarian. We will be glad to put your local library on the mailing list if the librarian approves. This will help spread the word about INPAWS and make available to a wider audience the articles and information from our contributors.

## 4-H Members Enter Wildflower Exhibit

Congratulations to the 4-H members who entered a wildflower exhibit in the 1995 Marion County Fair. The exhibits included pressed plants and flowers, drawings and photographs.

1. Grace Metzler, age 11, Champion.
2. Claire Stroodtbeck, age 11, Reserve Champion.
3. Erica Daming, age 10, First.
4. Katie Klein, age 14, First.
5. April Schelske, age 11, First.
6. Brigitte Watkins, age 17, First.
7. Julia Meyer, age 10, Second.

The exhibits followed guidelines in the Marion County 4-H wildflower booklet written by Carolyn Harstad (INPAWS founding member) as a Master Gardener's project, and updated by Dan and Sophia Anderson (INPAWS charter members). Workshops for 4-H members were offered by the Andersons at the Marion County Extension Office. They were assisted by Joe and Ruth Ann Ingraham (INPAWS founding members).

# Wildflower Photography

by Tom Potter

Late summer and autumn pose special challenges to the craft of wildflower photography. A cluttered image is the most common problem at this time of year. The fundamental rule of good wildflower photography is *keep it simple!*

As we all know, the flowers of late summer and fall are, for the most part, composites. These plants tend to have numerous flowering stalks and heads, making it difficult to capture the essence of the structure and the beauty of the flower in a non-cluttered image. Thus, you will need to seek out a plant in a somewhat isolated setting. This is not easy, but they are out there, and the effort will pay off.

When you look through the viewfinder, be sure to look edge to edge and see the entire image area, not just that to which your eye and brain are psychologically tuned into at the moment. You can easily isolate what you like, but the film records all detail in a scene. That is why so many anticipated images come back from the processor as disappointments. It takes only a second to click the shutter - but more time to achieve the composition that will provide a lasting, high-quality image.

Photograph your subjects early or late in the day. The light is warmer then, adding to the richness of color saturation. The breeze is generally lighter, causing less swaying of the flowers. (The movement prohibits the use of slower shutter speeds, which help define the desired depth of focus. See previous article on depth of field or request another for your review).

When you can isolate a sunlit subject from a shaded background, that is ideal. That is often the case when the sun is at a low angle, in early morning or in late afternoon. Often in fall a morning dew will enhance the subject, adding a special dimension to the image, such as a jewelled spider web or insect.

For the detail and snap that you want of these complex flowers, use a slow-speed film that provides both high resolution and fine grain. The slower films also produce the best color saturation. Choices include Kodachrome 25 and 64, Kodak Ektachrome 100, Fujichrome Velvia and Fujichrome Provia 100.

For a more ethereal look, consider a high-speed film providing more grain to the image. The same result can be obtained by using a finely meshed screen material or special filter over the front of the lens. The viewfinder should allow you to see the results before shooting.

To photograph an entire field of ironweed or daisies, the control of field depth is important, so use as small an f-stop as possible, say f11-f22, depending on your lens of choice. Wide angle lenses provide the best depth and allow you to place the near objects very close to the front of the camera. This will provide a seemingly vast sweep of flowers, often exaggerating the scene - a great technique.

If you tilt your camera to show just a little sky, the flowers will seem to sweep to the horizon! It is best to use a tripod at all times, especially when you are using slow shutter speeds with low f-stops.

A telephoto lens can provide a tighter image for a field of composites. This type of lens compresses images, creates a sense of compactness. Try putting this lens on and observing the image it creates in the view finder. A good technique is to alternate the telephoto and wide-angle lenses when working in a field of flowers.

Since many fall flowers are tall, consider a vertical format. Try setting up your equipment at a low level to give an even setting for the tall plant, placing the flower head toward the top of the scene.

In conclusion, to create the desired images for this season, remember to:

1. Work early or late.
2. Select uncluttered scenes.
3. Watch for, and use, dark backgrounds.
4. Select a high-quality, low-speed film.
5. Use a tripod.
6. Try a wide-angle lens for sweeping fields of flowers.
7. Use a telephoto lens for compressing a scene.
8. Use a vertical format for tall plants.
9. And above all, BE PATIENT!

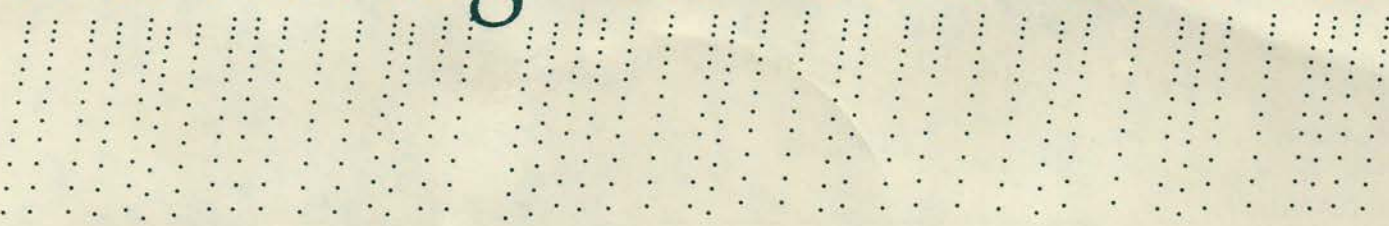
*Tom Potter is a professional photographer and INPAWS charter member living in Martinsville.*

“... the flowers will seem to sweep to the horizon!”



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# Walking in the Rain



by Bob Frantz (August, 1990)

It is nearly dark and I just came in from a delightful walk in the rain. This has been a summer when rain has been plentiful and we have the promise of good crops of corn, soy beans and hay. We have already had an abundance of wildflowers, grass, mosquitoes and wild raspberries. Incidentally, I broke my 1985 record of raspberries picked in one season – eighty-four pints. My old record was seventy-four, which I didn't think would ever be broken, at least by me. I started to write about walking in the rain, but became distracted by the subject of raspberry picking. I am sure that in the minds of most people, one is about as foolish as the other.

Alice and I have always enjoyed walking in the rain, but on most of our rain walks some of the pleasure was taken away by rain suits that didn't always keep us dry and made us sweat like hay makers in July. Now, thanks to encouragement and Christmas money from our children, we have rain suits with a lining made from a miracle synthetic fabric called Gore-Tex®. The manufacturer tells us that it contains nine billion (no, I didn't make an error in the number) mis-aligned pores per square inch. This figure boggles our minds, but as long as it keeps the rain out and we don't perspire, we won't worry about how it is made or how it works.

This evening I wandered on some of our woodland trails as the gentle drops of rain filtered through the trees making a comforting sound, not unlike a soft breeze. I walked near the Big Swamp and watched the myriad little splashes as the drops ruffled its surface. Most years in August, the swamp is nearly dry and I can find my way across it on the trail I made a couple of years ago. Now it is near to overflowing, and I am sure that I would have a hard time finding my way through the lush growth of swamp grass and button bush, even if I could wade through the water. I paused a bit and tried, with my eyes, to penetrate this jungle-like area of Wildwood. I wondered what might be hiding just beyond my view. Perhaps wood ducks or mallards or green herons or muskrats or maybe even a great blue heron seeking some unlucky frog or small snake with which to feed its young.

I stepped into an open grassy area where a deer was nibbling grass in the rain, but it really didn't appreciate the invasion of its privacy and quickly dashed from sight. I spent an hour or more, with the rain falling steadily, looking into open fields, perchance to see more deer, and into the dense woodlands which became a completely different world in the rain.

I paused again to reflect a bit in the wet woods and revel in its peaceful isolation. I felt so far away from the turbulence of highways and cities. I thought of far-off places and some not so far, where people fear for their lives, where guns might threaten them or bombs blow them into eternity. I wished that everyone could share my peaceful experience once. It could change their lives. Then I brought myself back to reality. The birds, which I knew were all around me, were quiet and the wind was not stirring. I heard only the steady patter of the rain on the trees. The rain started coming a little harder, but I was still dry, except where a few of the cool drops found their way down my neck to the front of my shirt. It is still early in the season for puffballs, but I waded the puddles of water on the trail where they grow. I found no sign of them – perhaps in two or three weeks they will appear.

It is now the morning after and I am looking out of our den window into the lush and very dense woods. It is not raining and it is impossible to recall and describe the feeling of actually being in it. Putting into words the experience of walking in the rain might be compared to describing a sunset or a snow drift or frost on a window pane. If you really want to know how it feels to take a woodland walk in the rain, you must do it yourself. There is no other way.

*Bob Frantz and his wife Alice are dedicated to preserving a 90-acre "wasteland" as much as possible in its natural state. Named Wildwood, it is a portion of a former family farm near Silver Lake, Indiana, and is comprised mostly of woodlands and swamps. This essay comes from Bob's collection of writings entitled If You Stand Very Still...Thoughts and Experiences from the Woods.*

# Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society

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*Coming in November – the Annual Meeting – see page 2*

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