

FIELD TRIPS OF THE CLUB

TRIP OF MAY 7, 1939, TO CROTON LAKE

Thirteen members and guests were present on this trip to the vicinity of Croton Lake, N. Y. This was the first time the Club has ever scheduled a trip to this precise locality and it was made possible this year through the kindness of the Gerding family, Mr. W. H. Oliver, and Miss Viola Richtberg, to whom the Club tenders its most sincere thanks. The day was spent in exploring the shores of a little artificial lake about half a mile from Croton Lake and in climbing over the cliffs and through the woods and swamps bordering it. In the waters of the lake quantities of *Utricularia macrorhiza*, *Callitriche palustris*, and *Isnardia palustris* were seen, and on the margins, *Scirpus lineatus*, *Ludwigia alternifolia* (last year's stems), and great quantities of *Lythrum salicaria* (last year's stems and small new basal shoots). In the swamps stands of *Symplocarpus foetidus*, *Veratrum viride*, *Caltha palustris*, *Viburnum cassinoides*, and the characteristic tussock sedge (*Carex stricta*) proved of interest, and, along little woodland streams, *Chrysosplenium americanum*, *Cardamine bulbosa*, and *Viola pallens*. In the woodlands some specimens of *Dicentra cucullaria*, *Hepatica americana*, and *Erythronium americanum* were still found in bloom, and hundreds of examples of *Anemonella thalictroides*, *Anemone quinquefolia*, *Panax trifolia*, *Oakesiella sessilifolia*, *Geranium maculatum*, *Benzoin aestivale*, *Arisaema triphyllum*, *Chimaphila maculata*, *Aralia nudicaulis*, *Trillium erectum*, *Viola conspersa*, and *V. triloba*. One plant of the color variant, *Trillium erectum* var. *flavum*, was observed. Among the rocks on the cliffs were found large stands of *Asarum canadense*, *Micranthes* (*Saxifraga*) *virginiensis*, *Arabis laevigata*, *Polypodium virginianum*, *Mitchella repens*, *Caulophyllum thalictroides*, and *Maianthemum canadense*, and scattered columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*). Common everywhere, and conspicuous because of being in full anthesis, were two sedges, *Carex pennsylvanica* and *C. platyphylla*, the wood-rush (*Luzula campestris* var. *multiflora*), and the sweet-fern (*Comptonia peregrina*). Two buttercups were found, *Ranunculus abortivus* and *R. hispidus*. Last year's fruiting-stalks of *Lespedeza hirta*, two species of pinweed (*Lechea villosa* and *L. minor*), *Verbena hastata*, *Oenothera biennis*, and *Gerardia purpurea* gave practice in

the identification of plants at seasons other than their blooming season. The matted panic-grass (*Panicum meridionale*) was found in recently filled-in soil. Discovery of *Viola rotundifolia*, *Mitella diphylla*, *Pinus virginiana*, *Camptosorus rhizophyllus*, *Cardamine pennsylvanica*, and two species of wintergreen (*Pyrola elliptica* and *P. americana*) formed one of the highlights of the trip. Both species of hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana* and *Carpinus caroliniana* var. *virginiana*) were abundant, as well as *Amelanchier canadensis*, *Azalea nudiflora*, *Diervilla lonicera*, *Rubus allegheniensis*, *R. occidentalis*, and *R. procumbens*, and numerous forms of mosses and lichens identified by Mr. G. G. Nearing. A few plants of *Fissipes acaulis* and a tremendously large tree of *Sassafras albidum* var. *molle* were observed. Among fungi were noted *Phyllosticta kalmicola*, *Bulgaria melastoma*, *Daedalea quercina*, and four polypores—*Coriolus pubescens*, *Hapalopilus gilvus*, *Piptoporus suberosus*, and *Pycnoporus cinabarinus*.

H. N. MOLDENKE

TRIP OF MAY 12 TO 14 TO MOHONK LAKE, N. Y.

The mid-spring outing to the Shawangunks was held May 12 to 14. It had been scheduled two weeks later than in the past several years in order to give a different aspect of spring flowers and birds. Due to the unusually late spring, many early blossoms had been held back with the consequence that both early and mid-spring flowers were in bloom at the same time. The weather during the trip was delightful for walking. On Sunday morning there was a white frost.

On Saturday about $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles were covered, the route leading off to the south down a heavily wooded slope into the dogwood country. It was cool enough so that a fire felt good at lunch time. Sandwiches from our box lunches were toasted. In the afternoon we walked through open country along the upper edge of the valley fields. Near an old Huguenot house foundation an outdoor Dutch oven was observed. Kleinekill Lake was visited.

The Sunday morning objective was Rhododendron Swamp. Here is found cool water and acid soil. In the brook leading out of the swamp a small oval stone was noticed. From its shape and general smoothness, (with a roughened area at one end), we guessed that it had once been an Indian pestle. It was easy to

imagine just how it might once have been held in an Algonquin squaw's coppery fingers. At the north end of the swamp two kinds of salamander eggs were noted. In stagnant pools there were several masses belonging to Spotted Salamanders. It is said to be exceptionally late to find the eggs of this species. Near an old rotted plank there was a cluster of eggs covered with leaves which may be something rare. A few have been collected for identification.

As an example of early and late blossoms, *Arbutus* still had flowers, while not far away Pink Azalea was almost out. Both the Yellow and Pink Lady's Slippers were in bloom, the former is relatively rare except in a restricted area. Both Red and Painted Trilliums were noted. Many violets were seen, including one clump of *Viola rostrata*. Showy Orchis and *Polygala paucifolia* were in prime condition. Crinkleroot and False Gentian were seen in bloom in Rhododendron Swamp, but Clintonia and Goldthread were not yet in flower. Hobble-bush was fully out. The Dogwood (florida) was at its best and made a particularly fine display because of the great size of the bracts or "petals." Near some of the abandoned farms were a few apple trees, gone wild. In the natural setting their beauty was particularly impressive.

A total of 40 different species of birds were identified; the following are probably most worthy of note: Turkey Vulture, Ruffed Grouse (drumming), Mourning Dove in dense woods, drilling of the Pileated Woodpecker, Winter Wren in song, Hermit and Wood thrushes singing at the same time, Blackburnian Warbler abundant and singing, Myrtle Warbler (migration late), Magnolia Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush singing, Ovenbird flight song, White-throated Sparrows and Juncos.

DANIEL SMILEY, JR.

TRIP OF MAY 19 TO 21 TO BRANCHVILLE, NEW JERSEY

On this fifteenth nature conference at the Pines, eighty-two members and friends of the club, including members of the Newark Museum Nature Club, had a delightful weekend. The evening programs included illustrated talks by Dr. Kummel on Flowers of Florida and by Dr. Curran on Insects We Eat, and the showing of colored moving pictures of the Pine Barrens by Dr. Small and of California by Mr. Hastings.

Bird trips were led by Mr. Russel Evans before breakfast each morning, on Saturday and Sunday mornings and Saturday afternoon. The birds seen totaled 93 species, two being new record for these nature outings, bringing the total number of species seen during the fifteen years to 103. One of the birds seen for the first time was the short-billed marsh wren, two birds swung on the grasses and sang so that the whole group had splendid opportunity to see and hear them. The other new record was of the bald eagle. Two were seen circling over head and one perched on a dead tree in the swamp at the end of Culver Lake with red-wing black birds worrying it.

Insects were studied, under the leadership of Dr. C. H. Curran, in the woods, fields and the lake and brook. Besides observing a great variety in various stages of development, some members of the party tried photographing them.

Geology trips were led by Dr. Henry Kummel. This was the tenth year he has led these trips, for which he has always made careful plans so as to see as much of the geological history of Northern New Jersey as possible. The last of the geological trips was to High Point where the main features of the region could be observed, from the mountains of Pennsylvania beyond the Delaware River on the west to the mountain ridges of the Jersey Highlands on the east.

Botanical trips were about the grounds and in the woods near the inn, led by Dr. Graves; and to a swamp area south of Newton where a small lake was seen, the margins yellow with golden club, *Orontium aquaticum*, and water buttercup, *Ranunculus delphinifolius*. In the woods beautiful plants of the showy orchid, *Orchis spectralis* were seen. Sunday morning a trip was made to the Stokes State Forest. Near the forest on a rather barren bank were many plants of lupine, *Lupinus perennis*, and above at the top of the bank two scrub oaks, *Quercus ilicifolia* and *Q. prinoides*. The crest of the mountains in the Forest bears a pitch pine-chestnut oak association in which many pink lady's slippers, *Cypripedium acaule*, and birds-foot violet, *Viola pedata*, were found. On the slopes lower down the hemlocks and red oaks were the dominant trees with quantities of the fringed polygala, *Polygala paucifolia*, growing along the road side. Still lower was swampy ground with red maples and elms.

In hillside fields to the west of the forest were great masses of two members of the figwort family, the wood betony, *Pedicularis canadensis*, some plants with deep red flowers and red tinged leaves, others with pale yellow flowers and bright green leaves, and standing above them the brilliant painted cup or Indian paint brush, *Castilleja coccinia*, with scarlet tipped bracts below the greenish flowers.

In the same field three *Vacciniums*, *pennsylvanicum*, *vacillans*, and *corymbosum* and two *Gaylussacias*, *baccata* and *frondosa*, were in bloom.

At the Sunday dinner Professor Oliver P. Medsger told of the first Branchville Nature Outing which he organized in May, 1925. In the lobby of the inn a list of the plants collected on that first field trip was posted, the list was prepared by Dr. Gleason and Professor Medsger. Professor Medsger spoke of the interest in plants shown by Mr. Stephen R. Smith who joined the Torrey Club in 1925 and arranged for the accommodations of the Club on these nature outings. Since the death of Mr. Smith in 1937, Mrs. Smith has continued the arrangements for the comfort of those attending the conference. As in other years those attending found nothing left undone that might contribute to the success of the occasion. The thanks of the Club are extended to Mrs. Smith and to Mr. Wallace Husk, business manager of the Pines.

GEORGE T. HASTINGS

A CORRECTION

When the writer (Torreya 39: 6. 1939) recently listed *Alyssum gemonense* Linn. from Oneida Co., N. Y., he overlooked the earlier name, *A. petraeum* Arduini. The nomenclatorial citation should have read: *Alyssum petraeum* Arduini, Animadvers. botan. spec. alt. p. 30. pl. 14, 1764. (*A. gemonense* L. Mantissa plant. p. 92. 1767. *A. medium* Host. Fl. Austr. 2: 244. 1831).

ROBERT T. CLAUSEN



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