

FIELD TRIPS OF THE CLUB

Field Trip of October 5th. Mr. R. C. Geist, vice president of the Metropolitan Council of Geography Teachers, sends a report of the field meeting at Cross River, Westchester County, which was a joint excursion of the Torrey Botanical Club and council. Fourteen members and guests made the trip starting from the Bronx Botanical Garden in three automobiles. Dr. Michael Levine was the leader, and the subject, Fall fungi, which were studied in the woods about West Lake, on Cross River. A small rattlesnake was seen. Luncheon was enjoyed in one of the shelters in the Pound Ridge Reservation of the Westchester County Park Commission. The Fall coloring offered another subject for study. The automobiles were furnished by Dr. Levine, Miss Mabel E. Rice of the Julia Richman High School and Mr. Alexander L. Jessup, president of the Catskill Mountain Club; several members could not join for lack of additional motor accommodations.

WEEK-END TRIP OF OCTOBER 11 TO 13

The convenience, flexibility and speed of automobile transportation, for covering a wide field of botanical study, was demonstrated, for a small party, in one car provided by Mr. Louis W. Anderson, of Elizabeth, N. J., on the Columbus Day week end at Delaware Water Gap. Headquarters were made at Witzel's Killmont Farm, at Columbia, N. J. On Oct. 11, the party of five climbed Mount Minsi, on the Pennsylvania side of the Gap, and followed the Appalachian Trail westward, including the fire lookout, which gives splendid views up and down the river and over the Blue Ridge and Poconos. On the 12th, Mount Tammany, on the New Jersey side, was climbed, and the party inscribed their names and that of the club in the register placed on the summit by Clement Haupt of Belvidere, N. J. A new stand of Walking Fern was found on Dunnfield Creek, on a sandstone stratum, probably rather high in lime. In an abandoned slate quarry, south of Mount Tammany, remarkable sheets of the Liverwort, *Conocephallus conicus*, were found, colonies ten feet long and four feet wide, with unusually large lobed fronds, on smooth faces of the highly tilted slate, wet by dripping water.

On the 13th, leaving the farm house, the party rambled over 200 miles of New Jersey roads, before reaching home. High Point State Park was visited, and a few additional remaining plants of *Potentilla tridentata*, surviving from the construction of the war monument, in its only stand in New Jersey, were found, so that it promises to persist, as most visitors do not know its rarity. The Wallkill Meadows, along the west side of Pochuck Mountain, were next visited. The fringe of Lizard's Tail, *Saururus*, which borders the Wallkill in these Drowned Lands, was noted. On a limestone knob rising out of the meadow, near Owen, Walking Fern, Maidenhair Spleenwort and American Yew were found. An addition to one's list of Walking Fern occurrences is always a delight and we found two on this trip. After luncheon on the high plateau, north of Stockholm, the last visit of the day was made in the Cedar Swamp on the Wawayanda Plateau, west of Greenwood Lake where the Southern White Cedar, *Chamaecyparis* was seen in great numbers. *Coptis trifolia*, the Goldthread also occurs in the swamp.

Such motorized trips of the club always prove interesting, for their variety and scope, and it would enlarge the programs of the field meetings immensely if more of them could be arranged, and motor transportation obtained for larger numbers. Parties can reach more remote places, in a day's outing, than by rail and foot.

RAYMOND H. TORREY

FIELD TRIP OF OCTOBER 19TH TO CEDAR PONDS

About eighteen members of the club joined half again as many of the Paterson Ramblers on a trip to the Cedar Ponds. From Greenwood Lake the party followed through the woods, noting many interesting plants and the colors of the trees which seemed to tint the light that sifted through. At a fork in the trail part of the group turned off to visit the fire tower, the others kept on towards the ponds. As a maze of paths and old wood road spread through the woods it is not surprising that only after walking a number of miles did the party realize that they had gone beyond the ponds. After lunch they turned back, but again divided at a fork in the trail, some to take the shorter way to Sterling Forest, some to find the ponds. At last seven of the original forty five reached the goal. Close to the pond there

is a fringe of small red spruce, further back where the land is low a good growth of the southern white cedar. Pitcher plants were abundant in the sphagnum of the pond border. It was interesting to note that most of the leaves contained lumps of ice. Just why water should freeze in the leaves of the pitcher plant and not in the pond nor in the pools in the moss is hard to understand. Possibly transpiration from the leaves lowered the temperature the fraction of a degree necessary to bring it below the freezing point. No trace of sundew could be found, apparently it had disappeared earlier in the season. Along the trails were large patches of various *Lycopodiums* (*lucidulum*, *inundatum*, *obscurum dendroideum* and *complanatum*), all with abundant fertile branches. In some of the swampy ground the Virginia chain fern and the Massachusetts fern were found with numerous other commoner species.

GEORGE T. HASTINGS

FIELD TRIP OF NOVEMBER 9TH TO SILVER LAKE

A party of nearly sixty, members of the club, of the Inkowa Club and of Teachers' Training School, made the trip through the woods around Silver Lake, White Plains. Along the paths were found numerous individual flowering plants—left-overs from earlier in the season. There were several golden rods (*Solidago juncea*, *speciosa*, *aspera* and *bicolor*), a few asters (*Aster cordifolius*, *novae-anglae*, *novi-belgii*, and *multiflorus*) the common dandelion, yarrow, pepper-grass (*Lepidium virginicum*), one turnip plant by the roadside and some small seedlings of another mustard. In the woods a few small trees of witch hazel were covered with blossoms while others near by were entirely past flowering. Attention was given to the many devices for seed scattering; the erect capsules of black snake-root (*Cimicifuga racemosa*) swaying in the wind; the winged seeds of tulip tree and sugar maple thick on the ground; the fluffy pappus balls of the asters, goldenrods, dandelion and others; the feathery seeds of the milk weed; the grapples of bidens, burdock and cocklebur; the berries of viburnum, spice bush and bitter sweet; the nuts of hickories, beech and oaks. Some of the beech trees bore abundant fruit that was tested and found good by the party. After lunch near the "hermit's cave" the group, rested on a sunny bank while Captain Paul Schaefer told of the plant, bird and animal life of Northern

Greenland. He told of stalking like a giant through a forest of dwarf willows in Northern Labrador. Of the large flowers of the little arctic poppies only a few inches high, of the saxifrage whose leaves furnished a salad to the explorers, of the blueberries that often ripened under the snow. All the plants blossom together about as soon as the short arctic summer begins. The color of the arctic is not prevailingly white, the captain said, but often brilliant red or purple due to the lichens which cover the rocks. His description of the birds and mammals was as interesting as that of the plants, especially of the little auks or dovebies which were noisy all day long during the nightless summer months so that sleeping was difficult and of the burgomeister gull that frequently caught and devoured the dovebies while in flight. The talk was the high spot of a day perfect as to weather and full of botanical interest. The rocky hills with the fine forest covering, the curious swamps in the depressions on the hill tops, the patches of hemlock and the varied undergrowth make the region one of unusual charm. White Plains is to be complimented on keeping such a region in a wild, unspoiled condition.

GEORGE T. HASTINGS

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB

MEETING OF MAY 21, 1930

The meeting was called to order at The New York Botanical Garden at 3:30 P.M. by President Sinnott. Minutes of the meetings of April 16 and May 6 were read and approved. Twenty-two members were present. As Dr. Harris of Cold Spring Harbor has passed away a motion was made and seconded that resolutions be prepared and recorded in the minutes of the Club. The chairman appointed a committee of three consisting of Dr. John Hendley Barnhart, Dr. A. F. Blakeslee and Dr. Howard J. Banker to prepare such resolutions.

A motion was made and seconded that we appoint an endowment committee to take care of the Endowment Funds.

The following were unanimously elected to membership in the club: Miss Elizabeth Aldrich, 136 West 12th Street, New York City; Dr. Paul W. Graff, Research Dept., Corn Products Refining Company, Edgewater, New Jersey; Miss Frieda Lichtman, 128 Fort Washington Avenue, New York City; and Miss



Torrey, Raymond H. and Hastings, George T . 1930. "FIELD TRIPS OF THE CLUB." *Torrey* 30(6), 159–162.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/100249>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/348945>

Holding Institution

New York Botanical Garden, LuEsther T. Mertz Library

Sponsored by

The LuEsther T Mertz Library, the New York Botanical Garden

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Public domain. The BHL considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection.

Rights: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/permissions/>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.