

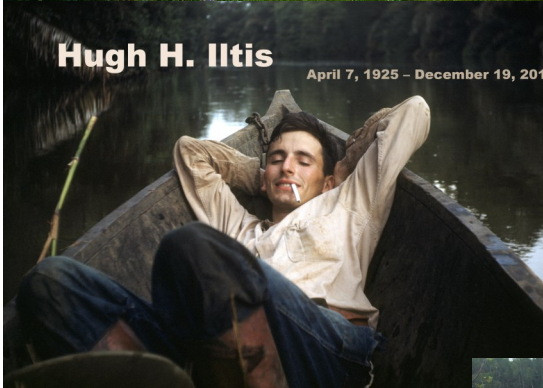


The Flora

Wisconsin's only organization dedicated to the study of our native flora.

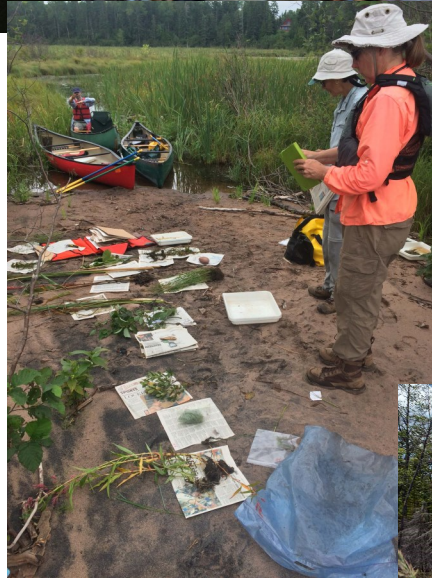
Spring 2017

What Kind of Year Has It Been?



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Top row from left: Arbutus Oaks SNA (Tom Eddy); calypso orchid (Paul Marcum); bunchberry (Tom Eddy); Hugh Iltis (Unknown); botanical trivia night in Madison (Kevin Doyle); botanists collect on the Brule River State Forest (Paul Marcum); club members in Penokee Hills during annual meeting (Tracy Hames); flooded swamp in Penokee Hills (Tom Eddy).

Note from the President



Photo by Tom Eddy

Greetings BCW Members,

Evidence that spring has sprung is in the migration air and in the green shoots emerging from the sodden ground of an abandoned orchard behind our home. Verdant patches of moss adorn the ground beneath craggy apple branches, soon to be followed by clusters of violets, wild geranium, false Solomon's seal, Jack-in-the-pulpit and of course, dandelions and more.

As we look forward to another growing season, we also need to look back. In some ways the past year has been a difficult one. Friends, colleagues and excellent botanists have died. At the same time, Club membership has dropped, the annual meeting was rearranged and a botany blitz was cancelled both due to inclement weather, and we failed to publish the quarterly newsletter. Despite the difficulties we are excited about what's ahead. Monthly botanical events held in Madison continue to be a success. Upcoming board nominations will infuse fresh perspectives into the Club. The slate of summer events looks to be as fruitful as ever. The Club is using social media tools like Facebook and iNaturalist to engage its members as never before. And the newsletter is back!

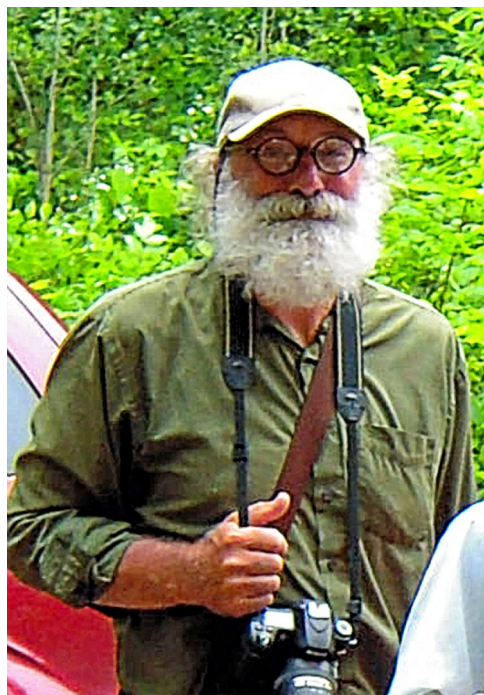
In these pages you'll learn about a number of BCW

events to look forward to in 2017. The core of this issue of The Flora, though, is dedicated to the memories of those we've lost in the last year through the touching (and sometimes hilarious!) words of those who knew them.

There is also some material that we just couldn't fit in this issue. I encourage you to refresh your phenological observations by reading botanist Dr. Peter Salamun's (formerly UW Milwaukee) 1968 report entitled "Wisconsin's Earliest Native Flowering Plant" (http://dc.uwm.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1000&context=fieldstation_bulletins).

Then, to honor the memory of Dr. Hugh Iltis, former UW Madison Herbarium Curator and uncompromising environmental advocate, take in his 1970 essay, "Man First? Man Last? The Paradox of Human Ecology" (<http://www.botany.wisc.edu/iltis/Man%20First%20Man%20Last.pdf>). Over 40 years since publication, Iltis's piece remains germane today.

T. L. Eddy, BCW President



Arbutus Oaks State Natural Area



Photo by Tom Eddy

On June 4th, 2016, the Botanical Club held a botany blitz at Arbutus Oaks State Natural on the border of Clark and Jackson counties. Despite a brief rain shower, the day was a success for the fifteen members that participated. An amazing 210 species were recorded! The complete species list from the trip can be found on the Botanical Club website under the Botany Blitz tab.

Arbutus Oaks hosts an interesting mix of natural communities, including southern dry-mesic forest, white pine-red maple swamp and even a sliver of prairie along Arbutus Lake. The confluence of floristic elements made for a great blitz. Like other sites in and around the Black River State Forest, a keen botanist can find plants of the boreal element (e.g., *Coptis trifolia*, *Linnaea borealis*), eastern forests (e.g., *Apios americana*, *Prunus serotina*) and Atlantic

Coastal Plain element (e.g., *Carex folliculata*, *Thelypteris simulata*, *Euthamia graminifolia*). We didn't find too many members typical of the Great Plains and further west (*Asclepias viridiflora*,



Penstemon spp.), but perhaps future surveys will turn them up.

Continued on page 5.

Navarino Cedar Swamp State Natural Area

On August 15th, 2015, 11 BCW members participated in a botany blitz of Navarino Cedar Swamp State Natural Area in Shawano County. Unlike the earlier blitz at LTC Old Growth, the weather was beautiful: a cloudless summer day with few bugs. A great day for botany!

Navarino Cedar Swamp is a 450 acre forested block embedded within the Navarino Wildlife Area. The majority of the forest is a Northern Hardwood Swamp dominated by 8-12 inch diameter black ash and a ground flora comprising a good diversity of graminoids, ferns and forbs. In the northeast and southwest corners of the SNA, the hardwood swamp gives way to a northern wet-mesic forest dominated

charismatic species. Even seasoned botanists are suckers for a good orchid.

In total, the club recorded 183 species of vascular plants, 8 bryophytes and 38 lichens. Of particular note were two lichens found by Jim Bennett. One, *Heterodermia squamulosa*, was not previously known from Wisconsin and the other, *Catillaria nigroclavata*, is only the second Wisconsin station. The complete species list, including abundance values can be found on the Botanical Club website.

Ecological Context

Navarino Cedar Swamp State Natural Area is at the ecological crossroads of two Ecological Landscapes: The Northern Lake Michigan Coastal and the Central Lake Michigan Coastal (Figure 1). The area has an interesting glacial history, placed at the northern end of Glacial Lake Oshkosh, which formed at the western edge of the Green Bay Lobe around 15,000 years ago.

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The gang of happy botanists. Front row from left: Kevin Doyle, Ted Cochrane. Middle Row from left: Chelsey Baranczyk, Tom Filipczak, Mary Bartowiak, Jim Bennett, Jeff Rose. Back row from left: Craig Anderson, Mary Ann Feist, Jim Reinartz. Photo by Heather Gentry.

by eastern white cedar. The cedar-dominated stand in the northeast appears even-aged, most trees being around 10 inches in diameter. A great scene developed when Craig Anderson discovered a large rein orchid (*Platanthera* spp). Everyone gathered around, some kneeling on the soggy moss hummocks, to key it out and/or take pictures. After a little debate, we settled on large round-leaved orchid (*Platanthera orbiculata*), and moved on to less

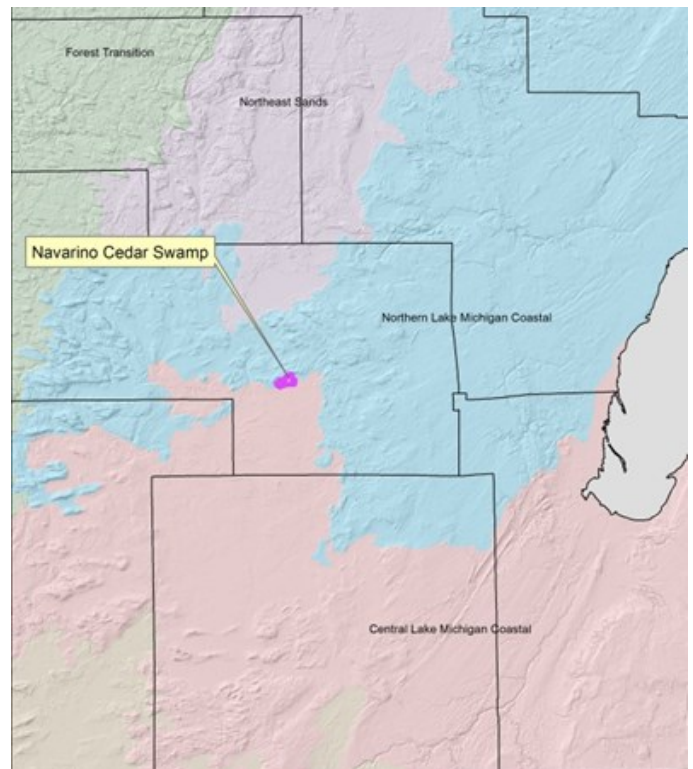


Figure 1. The land formation and Ecological Landscape context of Navarino Cedar Swamp State Natural Area. Notice the broad flat area south of the SNA, which marks the footprint of Glacial Lake Oshkosh.

Arbutus Oaks continued.



Ecological Context

Arbutus Oaks sits on the west end of the Central Sand Plain ecological landscape. This area was shaped by the extinct Glacial Lake Wisconsin, which once covered a large portion of the central part of the state. The soils are sandy, derived from eroding sandstone and glacial outwash. However, in some areas such as the white pine-red maple swamps, a poorly drained layer of silt and clay underlies the sand and keeps water very near the surface. In these areas slight changes in elevation can allow ecologically disparate plants to establish. Thus, those on the Arbutus Oaks blitz could see a wetland plant like grass-leaved goldenrod (*Euthamia graminifolia*) growing adjacent to a drought tolerant species like bush-honeysuckle (*Diervilla lonicera*).

We will be heading back out to Arbutus Oaks SNA in August to pick up a few of the later-blooming species we missed last June. Join us!

Long sedge (*Carex folliculata*) is seen here growing in the foreground with Massachusetts fern (*Thelypteris simulata*) in the background. Photo by Kevin Doyle.

Navarino continued:

As a result, much of the area is a low-lying and flat (Figure 1), and the soils are dominated by lake-deposited calcareous clay loams and silty clay loams. These soils are poorly drained, explaining the numerous wetlands in the area. The surrounding uplands, however, grow on the sandy, loamy soils of the Athelstane Moraine (Figure 2), which was also created by the Green Bay Lobe but was not submerged by Glacial Lake Oshkosh.

At the time of European settlement Navarino Cedar Swamp was heavily forested, as it is today, by white cedar and black ash. The 1845 surveyors' notes, (e.g., "land all swamp...poor,") confirm this. Around the swamp, the early surveyors noted stands of upland forest dominated by beech, sugar maple and hemlock. Some of these more upland species can be found within the swamp as well, although they are limited to tiny islands elevated slightly (Figure 2).

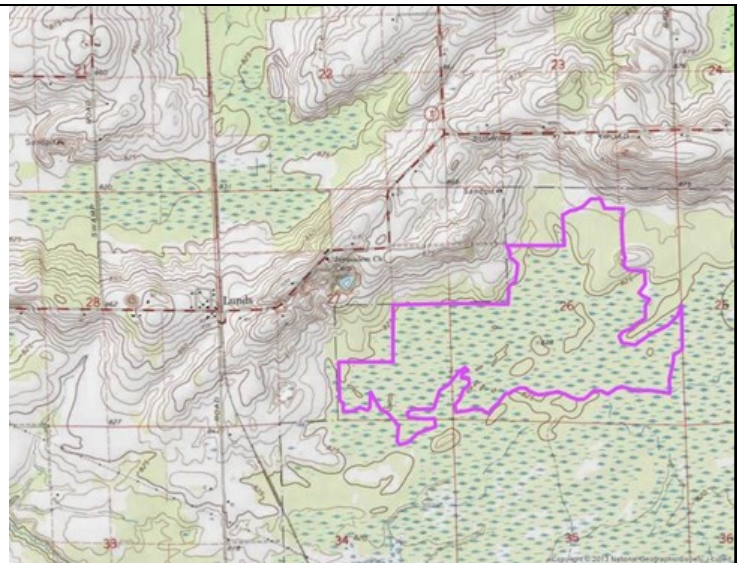


Figure 2. The hilly uplands surrounding Navarino Cedar Swamp are dominated by maple, beech and hemlock. This area has a slightly different glacial history, namely that it was not covered by Glacial Lake Oshkosh. Small upland islands can be seen within the swampy SNA.

In Memoriam

The Wisconsin botanical community lost a number of important botanists, good friends and respected colleagues over the last year or so. We would like to spend some time remembering them.



Emmet Judziewicz:

1981

I came to UW-Madison in 1981 as a callow, uncouth youth with a passion for plants, and somehow Hugh saw something in me and took me on as his graduate student. I took his plant geography class that year, the best college course of all time. Following the Hawaiian pedagogical maxim to “Open the eyes and ears, shut the mouth” I drank in every single word he had to tell us about plants. In October he invited me to accompany him to the prestigious Missouri Botanical Garden Systematics Symposium. We got a late start from Madison and as Hugh drove to St. Louis, I and other students got the full Iltis treatment on the importance of nature and plant taxonomy. He was spell-binding but it was the first and only time I ever drove cross-country with him, and for that I am grateful! In his enthusiasm, he alternately speeded and then slowed way down, veered into the other lane, and once got out of sync with his high-beams, turning them on to blind oncoming drivers, then off as they passed!

In St. Louis he introduced me to everybody, and I mean everybody, in the then-Cronquistian-Ravenian world of plant taxonomy. The many professional contacts I made at that meeting essentially made

my career, and I maintain them to this day. I owe all of that to Hugh.

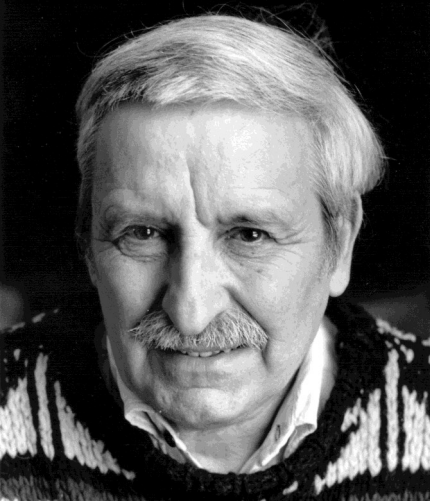
1999

I was working in the Madison herbarium for Paul Berry, and had refused to speak with Iltis for four years owing to my lack of satisfaction with his progress on the “Flora of Wisconsin” project. I basically hated his guts in those days! One evening as I went to make a copy in the herbarium library, I noticed a brittle, brown type-written letter that someone had left in the copier. It was dated 1936, from Princeton University, was in German, and appeared to be a fan letter praising an anti-Nazi pamphlet entitled “The Myth of Blood and Race” that Hugh’s father Hugo had written. I looked at the signature at the bottom... Albert Einstein! Clearly Hugh had forgotten to remove it. I could easily have stolen that letter, or at least delayed returning it to Hugh out of spite. But there was no way I was going to do that to this great man. Despite our differences at that time, I immediately returned the letter to his campus mailbox with a short note, regretting only that I had not made my own copy.

About 10 years later, after we had long reconciled, Hugh surprised me by presenting me with a copy of the Einstein letter even though we had not mentioned it since the initial incident in 1999.

2014

On a pleasant July day in 2014, I visited Hugh. On the spur of the moment we decided to visit Curtis Prairie. I got him into my RAV-4, packed his wheelchair in the backseat, and we spent a wonderful time on the paths surrounding the McKay Visitor Center. It was a pleasure to see Hugh’s satisfaction at seeing old prairie friends – mostly legumes and robust composites – in their full floral glory. He was blessed in that his pleasure at seeing plants never left him, and fortunate to have spent his final days surrounded by them at his Arboretum house.



Mark Jaunzems:

1976

I met Hugh Iltis during his Plant Geography class. I actually took the class twice, as I did not want to get just a B in what I must have known already would be my favorite course

of all time. So much to say about that class but the command that he had of the students can be judged by the simple fact that he could get us all to chant *Liriodendron tulipifera* over and over as a poetic tribute to scientific names. At the end of that class he even convinced me to join the Peace Corps, not especially to attempt to do good, but he told me frankly and wisely that I would be a fool to not spend my next two years in Central America. Indeed, it was a more educational experience than any other thing I ever did. These were also the favorite two years of my life, at least so far. He was a great teacher.

1989

I was applying for a job at a university in Scandinavia and needed a decent letter of reference. It was not a botanical position, but Hugh wrote me an amazing and very personal letter. He praised my plant collections, which he even claimed to have recently been looking at. I think it must have been the best letter that was ever written about me. I did not get that particular job but expect the letter ended up helping me get a job that I was actually better suited for at that same institution's botanical garden.

2014

I had the opportunity to meet him again on a visit together with Emmet Judziewicz. It was my last visit with my favorite teacher. To be truthful he did not really remember me well, but that was not the point of my visit. Even as his mental powers were fading he enjoyed our visit. He had been reviewing his field

notes from an expedition into the mountains of South America and reminiscing about those exciting days with his friends and students. Fine memories indeed!

Richard Podolsky:

Iltis, as we always called him, was hands down the most charismatic professor I ever had. He was brutally honest but always compassionate and so passionate! A rare combination that worked its magic on all his students. For his Plant Geography class, I wrote my term paper on "Disjunct Distribution in the Palms". He gave me a B+ with the comment at the top, "not bad for someone who knew nothing about palms." I still have and cherish that paper.

Iltis was notoriously cranky, which could be both frightening and amusing. If a student walked into his lecture a few moments late, he was known to whip an eraser at you, and he had a pretty good aim too! "*If you can't get here on time, don't bother to come at all.*" Other students would put objects on his lectern to evoke a reaction. On one occasion, Iltis was greeted by a rather gaudy plastic flower. He leered at this abomination, picked it up and dropped it out the second story window. We roared and cheered with laughter!

This led to an even more ambitious prank. Some smart-ass zoology student arranged some rat tails into a small plant pot in a rather convincing looking pose and placed it on the lectern. Iltis picked up the pot, took out his hand lens and examined it for quite some time and finally looked up and said, "*what is this, a Euphorb or something?*"

In any case, only professors that are deeply loved get that kind of mistreatment! I feel I can speak for the other students I knew who took his classes – *he was a deeply loved and admired professor*. He was a true master of his field who shared his wisdom and his enormous passion for botany so generously.



John Thomson (left) with Hugh Illtis. Archive photo.

Ted Cochrane:

I first encountered Dr. Illtis when he wandered into Dr. Thomson's plant taxonomy class in the fall of 1964. Looking over my shoulder and seeing that I had collected an amaranth, he told me to take it next door and show it to Dr. Sauer. Plant in hand, I sidled into Sauer's office, to which Illtis had by then migrated, and waited patiently, not wanting to interrupt their conversation. Soon, Illtis looked at me and growled, "What are you doing in here?" The following spring I enrolled in his legendary plant geography class, which immediately became my favorite course and subsequently led me to ask whether he would accept me as his graduate student.

As a first term graduate student, I was a teaching assistant in Dr. Illtis's summer plant taxonomy class. One of our field trips was to TNC's outstanding Spring Green Preserve. After explaining that a prairie is an ecological system dominated by grasses a major point made by Illtis was that fire is a natural element in the ecosystem. Thereupon, he decided we'd try a demonstration burn. He lined students up into a square and tossed a match onto the short grass. Never mind that there was no preparation of any kind: no firebreaks

or equipment, no consideration given to the amount of fuel or wind and moisture conditions, no discussion as to how to handle the operation. And none of us (maybe not Illtis himself) had ever seen let alone conducted a prescribed burn. Soon after we had succeeded in putting the fire out by stomping on the flames and beating them with our jackets, a fire truck from Spring Green arrived on the site, because someone called and reported a fire.

In the early 1970s TNC asked me to lead a field trip to Spring Green. When my group had assembled on the steep southwest-facing bluff, I launched into a discussion of the nature and distribution of prairies in Wisconsin that was apparently too long and boring for Illtis to tolerate. He interrupted, and possessed of what the Army calls "command presence," unceremoniously assumed control over my batch of participants, reducing me to the role of a tagalong.

No matter how long I live or who I meet in life, "the most unforgettable character I've ever met" will always be Hugh Illtis. A unique and complicated character, Illtis was many things: egotistical, opinionated, irreverent, and abrasive, but also charming, supportive, inspirational, and passionate. He did not suffer fools gladly and was rather short-tempered; he could be mean, and he could be the most generous of people when one needed help and support. It should be noted that his character did evolve into being less on edge and more agreeable as the years went by. On a personal note, I want everyone to know how much I owed him, how much I admired his intellect, knowledge, and wisdom, but we developed a working relationship based on mutual respect and shared love of plant diversity rather than sincere friendship. Be all that as it may, it is fair to say that around him there was never an idle moment or a boring one. Above all, he wanted his students to develop into independent critical scientists and well-educated citizens who hopefully would carry on his war against human ignorance and stupidity and fight for the protection of the environment and natural world.



Bob Kowal

April 23, 1939-August 3, 2015

By Theodore S. Cochrane

Dr. Robert Raymond Kowal, affectionately known as “Bob” to his friends, colleagues, and students, died in Middleton, Wisconsin, on August 3, 2015, at the age of 76 after suffering from the effects of multiple brain tumors. He was a Professor of Botany at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (1971–1997). Kowal, who was born and raised in Paterson, New Jersey, developed a love of nature as a young boy. Armed with basic equipment, he collected butterflies in the vicinity of home, carefully “relaxing” and spreading his specimens before mounting them. Having led a rather introverted life while a youth, Kowal “really bloomed” (in the words of his brother Norman) once in the college environment at Cornell University, majoring in botany, minoring in biometry and statistics as well as genetics, and graduating as class valedictorian in 1960. He continued his academic training at Cornell, pursuing graduate studies under the guidance of Robert T. Clausen, and in 1968 earned his doctorate

in plant taxonomy and ecology. Kowal was also greatly interested in cytotaxonomy and numerical taxonomy, and he developed a good working knowledge of the *International Code of Botanical Nomenclature* (while it was still known by this longer title).

He held a post-doctoral fellowship in the biomathematics program at North Carolina State University during 1967–69. His first academic appointment was a visiting assistant professorship in biology at Kansas State University in 1969–71, where he was a colleague of fellow *Senecio* enthusiast Theodore M. “Ted” Barkley. In the fall of 1971 he accepted a faculty position in the Department of Botany at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, retiring in 1997. His dual interests in botany and statistics served Kowal well, and he was nationally recognized for his expertise in the use of biomathematics to understand the genetic variability of natural plant populations. Although traditional in his own working methods, he was always open to new developments and familiarized himself with modern trends in botanical research.

A dedicated teacher, Kowal regularly taught a high-enrollment general botany course to an entire generation of UW students, and he won the appreciation and fondness of undergraduate majors and graduate students who took his advanced courses on the spring flora of Wisconsin, dendrology, advanced plant taxonomy, community analysis, biological diversity, and plant geography, as well as

seminars on plant taxonomy and workshops on the taxonomy and evolution of the Compositae.



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Packera insulae-regalis is a species of ragwort discovered by Dr. Kowal and only found on Isle Royale in Michigan. Illustration by Kandis Elliot.

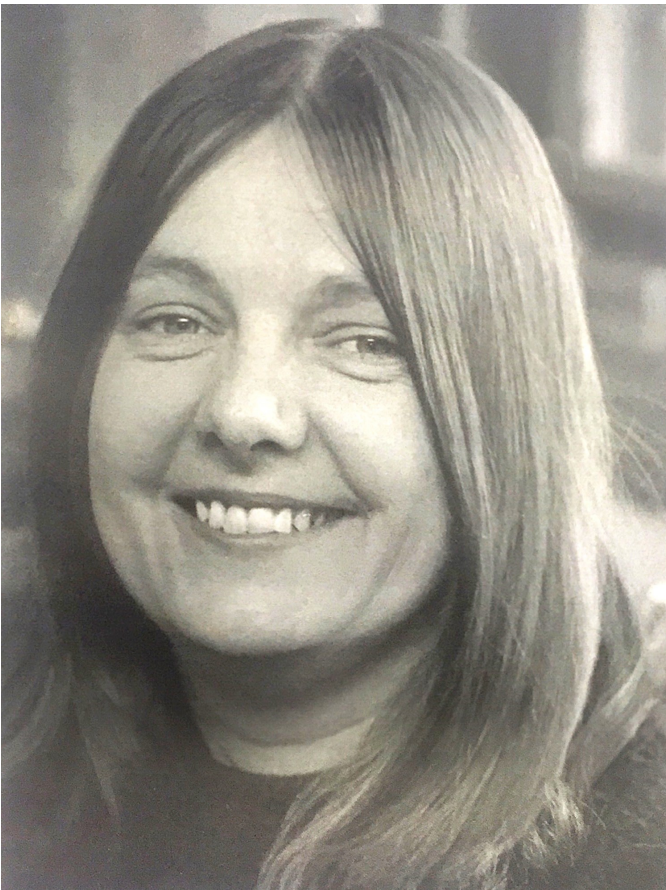
Kowal continued.

His laboratory and field research focused on plant taxonomy and evolution; he traveled throughout the U.S., southern Canada, and Mexico, researching the tribe Senecioneae, especially his passion, the aureoid senecios (*Packera*). Although not a prolific collector, he always insisted on producing complete, good-quality specimens and labels. Kowal, who long chaired the Department of Botany's Greenhouses and Garden Committee, eagerly shared his delight in plants with staff, friends, and neighbors alike. His exuberant home garden was stocked with a wide range of plants but was most notable both for its ornaments and for the range of daylily, peony, and hosta cultivars. For his house and office he favored bold plants like *Alstroemeria*, *Amaryllis*, *Clivia*, and *Hibiscus*, the brightly colored flowers of which demand admiration. Besides being utterly fascinated

with plants, Kowal was an avid swimmer and sometime jogger and flute player, and he loved classical music (especially opera) and reading. He recognized the need to protect the plants he loved and their habitats and was a longtime generous supporter of environmental organizations and other good causes. In accordance with his wishes, Kowal's body was donated to the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine. An individualist with his own obsessions, Kowal was unrepentant about his shabby dress, and even though he disliked bureaucracy and was uncharitable toward shaky ideas, sloppy botany, and slipshod writing, departmental staff will nonetheless remember him as a remarkably gentle and patient man. He always found time to assist students and others who came to him with questions and requests. Above all, he was an excellent botanist.

Sally Kauss Freckmann January 14, 1944 – December 2, 2015

By Virginia Freire



Sally K. Freckmann was Emeritus Plant Taxonomy Professor, Bob Freckmann's dear wife, and Research Associate in the Biology Department at University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. Sally was born in Tigerton, a small town in Shawano County, in 1944 and taught school during her earlier years. She became interested in bryophytes and got a M.S. at UWSP surveying the mosses of Portage County. She published her findings in *The Bryologist* and later co-authored the "Atlas of Wisconsin Bryophytes" with UWSP Emeritus Professor Frank Bowers. Sally amassed a large collection of Wisconsin mosses and accumulated a fine bryological library, with classic books and journals. Both her plant collection and library will be donated to the Robert W. Freckmann Herbarium as part of the inauguration of the Bryology section in the new UWSP Science Building destined to house it.

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Freckmann continued.

Sally was also an active member of the Botanical Club of Wisconsin for many decades, attending numerous field trips with Bob, and preparing delicious baked goods as snacks for UWSP students who attended the evening BCW talks that have been held several times each semester for many years on campus. She created a beautiful and impressive herb garden at her house, and my ethnobotany students enjoyed it every fall; she taught them about culinary, ornamental, medicinal, and natural dye plants, giving a hands-on opportunity to prepare and plant their own cuttings. Students always left her garden inspired, with aromatic herbs in their hair and pockets, and smiles on their faces.

Sally inspired me to oversee the creation of the Ethnobotanical Garden at UWSP (in the courtyard of the present Science Building); she generously donated several useful plants from her garden.

Sally was passionately involved in Stevens Point community affairs and volunteered her time and energy to various organizations, such as the League of Women Voters, Intrastate Recycling, Monteverdi Chorale, and the Central Wisconsin Symphony. A significant portion of her time went to the Portage County Chapter of the Ice Age Trail Alliance; for many years Sally was coordinator and newsletter editor. Her contributions to this group were recognized with a formal ceremony in her honor shortly before her death. She was kind and generous and loved to entertain guests, for whom she would prepare wonderful meals, sending everybody home with leftovers, as well as gifts from Bob and her vegetable garden. Sally was a beloved friend and a source of inspiration to many. She is dearly missed.

Plant Profile: Spring-flowering Grasses

By John Zaborsky

We've reached that time of year when (I assume) most of us are completely sick of winter; bring on the thawing of the ground and melting of snow! We all look forward to seeing those first bloomers of spring: skunk-cabbage, silver maple, spring-beauty, and even weeds like creeping Charlie and chickweed. While all these plants are showy and colorful, there's one group in our spring flora that gets little attention from winter-weary botanists: grasses. Most of us think of grasses as components of prairies and savannas, adding aesthetic backgrounds to showier plants like goldenrods, asters, and blazing-stars. However, we have a number of native grasses that are found exclusively in the shady understories of forests. Wisconsin has ~30 species of native forest grasses and a few of them flower early in the spring. Here, I cover three of these overlooked plants in an attempt to get you (even more) excited for spring as well as to hopefully help you appreciate a group that few people might think have "beautiful" flowers.

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John Zaborsky

Grasses continued.

Rough-leaved rice grass (*Oryzopsis asperifolia*)

This clump-forming grass is easily spotted and identified at all times of year. Its long, thick, dark green leaves are evergreen, with the upper surface being bluish in color due to a layer of cuticular wax. It inhabits forests of all kinds but is most common in drier ones dominated by pines and oaks. It is widely distributed throughout the state, but is absent or rare in most southern and eastern counties. It is most common in the Northwoods and central Wisconsin. The spikelets are plump, green, and contain one floret, which has a long awn at its tip. They are held on a tall, stiff peduncle that overtops the leaves. This is probably our earliest blooming native grass and I have seen it in full flower in Portage County as early as mid-April.



John Zaborsky



John Zaborsky

Mountain rice grass (*Piptatheropsis pungens*)

This small, slender grass is closely related to *Oryzopsis asperifolia* and was once included in that genus. It often occurs in the same habitats but will also be found in even drier woods. However, its distribution in the state is more local, being found in the Northwoods, central Wisconsin, and the northwestern part of the state. It is extremely easy to overlook due to its very graceful, slim habit. Like its aforementioned cousin, this grass has spikelets with one floret and each one is topped with a short awn. The lemmas are finely hairy while the glumes are usually suffused with a gorgeous purple blush. The inflorescence is slender, but as it matures the branches of the panicle spread out, making the grass a bit easier to spot. This species blooms a bit later, usually in mid-May.

false melic grass (*Schizachne purpurascens*)

This medium-sized, erect, clumping grass occupies the same habitats and general range as *Oryzopsis asperifolia*. It can also be found in richer forests. Its inflorescence is very graceful, with an arching aspect that blows in the slightest spring wind. Its spikelets have multiple, green florets, each one with a long, slender awn. The glumes of this species are dark purple to maroon and this feature might give it the designation of "most colorful grass in our flora", which is saying a lot! It begins blooming in early May.

John Zaborsky



Upcoming Events



Thomas Meyer

Botany Blitz—Jackson Creek SNA

Date: May 20th, 2017

← The spring botany blitz is always a good time to see some spring ephemerals and this year will be no different. Jackson Creek supports incredibly diverse lowland forests of black ash and white cedar as well as upland sugar maple-hemlock stands.

We will return to Arbutus Oaks SNA to complete the blitz we started in 2016. We'll focus on new areas we didn't get to last year and species that weren't in bloom last June.



Joshua Mayer

Botany Blitz—Arbutus Oaks SNA

Date: August 19th, 2017

You and your family and friends are cordially invited to the **2017 annual meeting of the Botanical Club of Wisconsin** at The Ridges Sanctuary in Door County.



The Ridges features numerous unique habitats, supports one of the most concentrated areas of rare plants in the Upper Midwest, and is recognized as a National Natural Landmark. Be certain to pack your camera.

Schedule—July 15, 2017

10:00am: Patrick Robinson, UW-Green Bay and UW-Extension, will provide an update on the status of restoring the vegetation cover in lower Green Bay.

10:50am: Brian Forest from The Ridges Sanctuary will discuss the ongoing orchid restoration efforts.

1:00pm: Catered lunch.

After lunch: A tour of The Ridges Sanctuary will be led by Brian Forest.

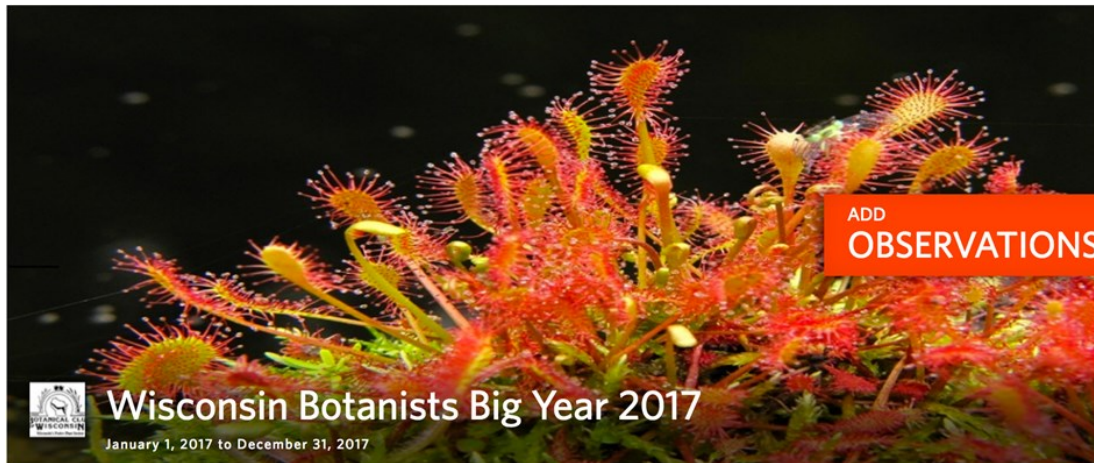
The annual meeting convenes on the grounds of The Ridges Sanctuary.



Annual Meeting

Date: July 15th, 2017

More Club News



Calling all Wisconsin botanists, plant lovers, and nature enthusiasts! **The Botanical Club of Wisconsin is sponsoring a contest to see who can find and document the most plant species in Wisconsin in 2017!** In addition, as a club, we will be competing against the Illinois Native Plant Society to see which club can find the most plant species in their respective state!

How to join in the fun: Add your plant observations to the iNaturalist.org website or [iPhone/Android](#) app and it'll automatically count toward the contest if it meets the rules below.

Rules

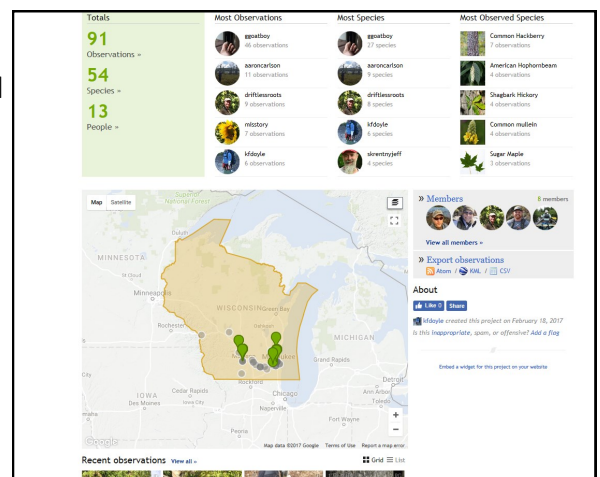
1. Must be a plant (bryophytes and vascular plants – native and non-native species are accepted)
2. Observation must be within Wisconsin
3. Must be observed between the dates of **January 1st, 2017** and **December 31st, 2017**

Observation must be “research grade.” That means it must be wild/naturalized and that you need a photo, date, location, species identification, and for someone else to confirm your species identification’s accuracy

Nature newbie? No worries – we will help identify any plants you see. Don’t have a smartphone? You can upload photos through the website without need for a smartphone. Just snap a photo and upload it to iNaturalist.org and identify as best as you can, even if that’s just “plant.”

[Help others get to research grade by confirming their observations!](#) Find the most plant species in Wisconsin and win! Help the Botanical Club of Wisconsin rack up more species than the Illinois Native Plant Society and rejoice in Wisconsin state pride!

View Illinois’ 2017 results at <http://www.ill-inps.org/illinois-botanists-big-year-2017/>



The Wisconsin Botanist Big Year dashboard as of March 18th.

BCW Board of Directors – Call for Nominations!

The Botanical Club of Wisconsin is a non-profit organization that aims to: 1) encourage individual and group study, scientific research, fellowship, and the dissemination of information concerning plants through meetings, publications, field trips and other mechanisms, and 2) promote the preservation of the flora and habitats of the Wisconsin region. The club is governed by a Board of Directors composed of both elected and appointed officers. The elected officers are President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, and they are to be selected annually by the membership by means of ballots published in one of the club's periodicals or by special mailing. This election will take place in June, and the terms of all elected officers will begin at the close of the annual business meeting on 15 July 2017. At this time, **we would like to open up nominations for the following positions: President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.** We are especially interested in receiving nominations for the position of Vice-President, as our current Vice-President, Paul Skawinski, has announced that he will not run for re-election this year. The primary roles of the Vice-President include attending Board Meetings and to planning the BCW Annual Meeting. See all position descriptions below.

If you have questions about any of these positions or the nomination process, please contact Mary Ann Feist, Chair of the Nominations Committee, at botanicalclubofwisconsin@gmail.com.

If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else follow this link to make an anonymous nomination: <http://goo.gl/e68eX6>, or send an email to the Nominations Committee at botanicalclubofwisconsin@gmail.com. **Nominations will be accepted until 15 May 2017.**

Botanical Club of Wisconsin Elected Officer Descriptions:

President: 1) Calls and presides at the annual meeting and such additional meetings as he and other officers deem necessary. 2) Appoints the chairman and membership of the standing committees, 3) presents a short annual report on current and future programs at the general membership meeting. 4) Appoints the standing and ad hoc committees and newsletter editor.

Vice-president: 1) Assists or substitutes for the President when called upon to do so; 2) plans the annual general membership meeting.

Secretary: 1) Takes minutes of all meetings and keeps records of club activities, 2) organizes the public relations and public education activities of the club, 3) issues meeting notices and carries on all general correspondence 4) maintains up-to-date copies of the constitutions and by-laws and supplies copies of these documents to members upon request 5) shall keep on file written committee reports.

Treasurer: 1) Receives dues and maintains records of income and expenditures, 2) pays authorized bills, 3) maintains the membership lists, 4) distributes membership lists, including addresses, to the newsletter Editor upon request 5) Prepares and distributes Treasurer reports to the officers at each Board meeting and to the membership at least once annually.



Wisconsin's only organization dedicated to the study of our native flora.

Founded in 1968 as an affiliate of the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters, the Botanical Club serves the interests of amateurs and professionals, toward the common goal of learning more about our state's diverse vegetation.

Check us out on the web at <http://sites.google.com/site/botanicalclubofwisconsin/> And on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/BotClubWis>

Mailing Address:

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c/o Robert Freckmann Herbarium

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