



# *The Fringe*

Newsletter of the Native Orchid Preservation and Education Society

<https://nativeorchidpreservationeducationandsociety.com>

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## Letter from the President

Hello everyone,

It's hard to believe how quickly the summer has passed by! We are now moving into fall where the *Spiranthes* species start to shine.

We have been busy looking for a place to hold our Members Meeting and we found a place in Milford. The building is owned by Valley View which is another nonprofit organization, and they are happy to let us use the building on November 8! So, mark your calendars and be on the lookout for emails with the details!

We're also starting to plan our orchid trips for next year and the plan is to have a couple of trips in different areas and to have guides leading the hikes. If you have an orchid that you would like to see or someone you know who leads orchid hikes let us know!

I look forward to seeing everyone in November!

Teresa Huesman

## Spring Hikes



On May 20th we drove out St. Route 50 past Hillsboro to see two orchids. The first stop was at Fort Hill where we found the green form of *Aplectum hyemale* which weren't green this year, but more yellow. I suspect that the dry spring affected the color.

Our second stop took us longer to get there than it should have, we will blame it on GPS.

Going by GPS coordinates and memory we finally found the spot that has *Spiranthes lucida*. This is the first *Spiranthes* to bloom in the spring and is easy to identify by its yellow throat.

Teresa Huesman



# Cranberry Glades Botanical Area Trip

John Jaworski

On 6/24/23 several NOPE members visited Cranberry Glades Botanical Area also known as the Glades that protects the largest area of bogs (five small bogs totaling approximately 100 acres) in southwestern Pocahontas County, West Virginia. The area is at around 3400 feet in the Allegheny Mountains. The Cranberry Glades Botanical Area lies in part of the Monongahela National Forest and is comprised of 750 acres with bogs that are typically found in the northern regions of the United States and Canada. Bogs are acidic wetlands with the ground being made up of spongy partially decayed plant material called peat. The Glade bogs are most similar to the Canadian bogs. The Cranberry Glades Botanical Area was designated a National Natural Landmark in 1974.



Approaching the Cranberry Glades Botanical Area. Photo by Jeanne Rhinehart

Geologists have dated the Glades to be over 12,000 years old.

Not only do native orchids grow in these bogs but also include unusual plants like carnivorous plants feeding on many different types of insects.

The Glades also support the growth of cranberries, sphagnum and skunk cabbage among others. The Glades are also at the southernmost limits for many to types of animals.

The group visited the Cranberry Mountain Nature Center and were delighted to hear a presentation on the Native Orchids of the Cranberry Glades Area by



Sundew photo by Jeanne Rhinehart



naturalist Rosanna Springston. Rosanna also guided us to some of the areas where we could see these wonderful plants in their natural environment. There are about 48 native orchid species common and not so common in West Virginia and twelve or more species can be found along the Cranberry Glades boardwalk.



Jan getting some closeup photos of a blooming Grass Pink on the edge of the boardwalk.  
Photo by John Jaworski



A closeup of a wet Grass Pink photo by John Jaworski

Our group was lucky enough to be able to see 11 of the 48 West Virginia native orchid species. These included *Calopogon tuberosus* (Tuberous **Grass Pink** or Grass Pink), *Epipactis gigantea* (Stream Orchid) leaves only, *Goodyeara pubescens* (Rattlesnake Plantain Orchid), *Liparis lilifolia* (Purple Twayblade), *Liparis loeselii* (Loesel's Twayblade), *Neottia smallii* (Kidneyleaf Twayblade orchid ) Leaves about the size of a dime, *Platanthera flava* (Tubercled orchid) buds only, *Platanthera grandiflora* (Greater Purple Fringed Orchid) color forms from light to dark lavender, *Platanthera orbiculata* (Round Leaved Orchid), *Pogonia ophioglossoides* (Rose Pogonia) and *Spiranthes lucida* (Shining Ladies' Tresses).



Purple Twayblade photo by Jeanne Rhinehart



Round Leaved Orchid photo by Jeanne Rhinehart



Greater Purple Fringed Orchid light lavender color form. Photo by John Jaworski



Greater Purple Fringed Orchid dark lavender color form. Photo by John Jaworski





Greater Purple Fringed Orchid dark lavender color form with Flower Fly having a snack and hopefully doing some pollinating. Photo by John Jaworski



NOPE members on an Orchid Hunt. Photo by Cheryl Jaworski



Background with Rose Pogonia. Photo by Jeanne Rhinehart



Shining Lady's Tresses photo by John Jaworski





Red Eft salamander found in Cranberry Glades.  
Photo by Jeanne Rhinehart



Bentley's Coralroot Orchid that Jeanne took a photo of 3 years ago. Photo by Jeanne Rhinehart

One species, *Corallorhiza bentleyi* (Bentley's Coralroot Orchid) has only been found in five counties (WV and VA) near The Glades and nowhere else in the world. We will have to come back another time to find this gem.

While traveling home from a wonderful and educational trip we passed the entrance to a park in West Virginia that recently became a National Park called the New River Gorge National Park and Preserve in 2020. Looks like a great place for NOPE members to visit one day for that illusive rare orchid. A special thanks to Jan and Jeanne for leading us on this adventure and Jun Lao for coordinating our speaker, Rosanna Springston.



Driving home past the New River Gorge National Park and Preserve

## Along the Blue Ridge Parkway in Memoriam of Jim Fowler

– Angela Carter

Many of us followed Jim's blog faithfully and enjoyed his passion, knowledge, and photography skills. Over the years I have saved and memorized some of the blogs and locations. We chatted a few times but unfortunately, I never made it out into the field with him before he passed away.



Orchid season is naturally one of my favorite times of the year and I planned a week in NC at the end of June for orchids and other delights along the Blue Ridge Parkway. My timing coincided with both *Neottia smallii* and *Platanthera psychodes* that Jim frequently photographed. In his blog, he commented that *N. smallii* was likely more common than thought since they prefer rhododendron thickets near streams. With that in mind, I checked what looked like appropriate habitat near Linville Falls and found *N. smallii* in bud. Later I decided to explore one of the popular trails that has a mountain bog as well as being a short distance from the BRP; I enjoyed seeing some of my favorite wildflowers and found a couple small populations of *N. smallii* near the riverbanks.



One of the most iconic locations that I associate with Jim is Mt. Mitchell, where he annually photographed *P. psychodes* and left us unexpectedly. I easily spotted the population and stopped to remember him, grateful for all the joy and inspiration that his life gave to orchidophiles and botanists.



I was excited to learn that Jim's personal bog garden has now become a permanent installation at the South Carolina Botanical Gardens at Clemson; in addition, there will be an exhibit of his photos along with books for sale for several weeks starting September 14, 2023. Hopefully Walter, who is aware of the website issue, will be able to restore Jim's website, [jfworlphotography.com](http://jfworlphotography.com), that has been down for some time; his photographs and comments on Flickr and Facebook will continue to inspire us all.

## HAZELL DELL MEADOW AS IT WAS Aug. 10th, 2023

By Tom Sampliner

On a humid August day, a group of six orchid aficionados rendezvoused to set up two cars each with three people to travel to an orchid rich destination in Kentucky. Our morning departure was uneventful. The ride down from Hamilton County, Ohio met occasional rain to mate with high humidity only to clear up again. The stickiness factor would whimsically raise and lower throughout the journey.

Camaraderie established we drove through the Kentucky countryside to reach our destination. This was my first visit to this wet prairie/meadow habitat. I had been informed that I should expect the main target, the so-called, Yellow-fringed orchid, *Platanthera ciliaris*, to be in prime bloom. Neither I nor the other members of the group would be disappointed. Our group were all members of N.O.P.E.S., (the Native Orchid Preservation and Education Society).





The entrance path into the preserve is through a woodland corridor. It is only a brief walk. Along the way, we encountered a woodland orchid, the Crane-fly, *Tipularia discolor*. This fascinating spring to summer blooming species has a largely Appalachian distribution for its range. The spire-like racemes of maroon and brownish-yellow host a number of florets. Each flower is twisted off center either to the left or right.

This evolutionary adaptation is fascinating. Each floret places the pollen stalks on either the left or right eye of the incoming crane-fly visitor.

Another fascinating thing about this orchid is that they blend in so well with the other vegetation of the dark woods that they can be hard to pick out. Even once your eyes have adjusted to the dim light, once you spot one, if you step to the left or right you can easily lose track of it. Move again in another direction and you pick it out once more. You can easily conclude there is something wrong with your vision. Attached is an image of this orchid species as encountered.



*Tipularia discolor* from Clermont County



Partial raceme of *Tipularia discolor* from the woods at Hazel Dell in Kentucky.

I had been fortunate to have now seen this species two days in a row on this trip. I had driven down from my home in a suburb of Cleveland to join the ladies from NOPES on the excursion to Hazel Dell. The day before my hostess and I explored a couple sites in Clermont and Hamilton Counties where I got to see more crane-fly.

From the place in the woods where we found the crane-fly we proceeded a short distance to where there was a pathway allowing easy entry into the wet prairie meadow. Upon entry one immediately was attracted to the vibrant attention getting orange of the Yellow fringed orchid, *Platanthera ciliaris*. Whoever gave the orchid its common name clearly had issues with color. The orchid is orange not yellow. Even in faded condition I would not call that color yellow. There were literally hundreds of flowering stalks in various stages of bloom. Some showed buds upon the stalk. Others were mostly past prime. Some were in perfect bloom. There were short racemes and tall ones. There were various degrees of color saturation. Some showed a deep rich orange while others were quite light. I will show a few to give vision to all of these observations.

There were many other plants of interest. The diminutive carnivorous dwarf sundews were marked with sunken white metal

stakes. Plants such as Meadow Beauty and Green Milkweed gave us camera buffs plenty to work with. Following our packed lunches break back at the cars we had to return for more botanical adventures.





A tightly packed fresh raceme of *Platanthera ciliaris*



Fresh raceme of a light orange colored *Platanthera ciliaris* showing some of the stem and upper bracts.



I had to congratulate this swallowtail; I told it, “now that’s using your head”.



I consider this one of my prize compositions for the trip, a prime light- colored *P. ciliaris* hosting a *Spiranthes lacera* var. *gracilis*. The spiranthes told me the ciliaris was a gracious host.





Since I brought it up, I better show what a *Spiranthes lacera* var. *gracilis* looks like. So, using macro lens here is one up close. We also so this the day before during our excursion to Adams County back in Ohio.



Whenever I give a talk or teach a class I encourage folks to learn a few companion bloomers. It helps with habit recognition. Here we see Maryland Meadow Beauty, *Rhexia mariana*.



I want to add a photography tip or two. Several techniques allow you to create an image jumping out of the frame at you. One is to use flash to isolate and give correct color rendition. Another is to use an artificial background of black velveteen.



I have yet to show you an entire plant of *P. ciliaris*. Here we start almost to the substrate and travel upward toward the inflorescence.





Looking across the wet prairie meadow you see how tight the vegetation is packed. The bottom image is of one of the milkweeds.





Near the preserve entry sign this one and only interpretive mural gives some context to what one sees.



Glancing down upon the crowded substrate, orchids in various shades of orange mingled with boneset, grasses, sedges and broad-leaved shrubs.







