



Cleveland Museum of  
NATURAL HISTORY

# Native Plants: The How and Why

Presentation by:  
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The Cleveland Museum of Natural History



- |                                  |                              |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Kelleys Island Preserves      | 15. Singer Lake Bog          |
| a. Coleman Tract                 | 16. Taber Preserve           |
| b. The Glade                     | 17. Hubbard Easement         |
| c. Long Point Preserve           | 18. Kickel Easement          |
| d. Scheele Preserve              | 19. Hadlock Preserve         |
| e. Sweet Valley Preserve         | 20. Cash / Hertrick Preserve |
| f. Woodford Woods                | 21. Kingsville Swamp         |
| 2. Fern Lake Bog                 | 22. Berger Preserve          |
| 3. Mentor Marsh                  | 23. Perkins Woods Garden     |
| 4. Medina Sanctuary              | 24. Dickenson Easement       |
| 5. Grand River Terraces          | 25. Mathews Easement         |
| 6. Groves Woods                  | 26. Holden Easements         |
| 7. Koelliker Fen                 | 27. Wendtwood Easement       |
| 8. North Kingsville Sand Barrens | 28. Grimm Easement           |
| 9. Cottonwood Hollow             | 29. Geneva Swamp             |
| 10. McCoy Preserve               | 30. Armstrong Swamp          |
| 11. Cathedral Woods              | 31. Cox Preserve             |
| 12. Chamberlin Forest            | 32. Floyd Preserve           |
| 13. Blakeslee-Barrows Preserve   | 33. Burkholder Preserve      |
| 14. Soubusta Sugarbush           | 34. Sparks Preserve          |

## The Museum's Natural Areas Program

# What are Native Plants?

- **NATIVE PLANTS (or INDIGENOUS PLANTS)** are plants that persisted locally before European colonization.

Photo by Judy Semroc

# Benefits of Native Plants

- They provide food and shelter for wildlife
- Are more tolerant of local soil conditions and weather
- Connects a fragmented landscape and creates wildlife corridors

Photo by Liz Russell

# Landscaping Uses for Native Plants

- Naturalizing
- Shade Gardening – Many showy native alternatives to traditional invasive groundcovers, especially if you have an area that is protected from deer
- Wildlife gardening
- Attracting pollinators and other beneficial insects

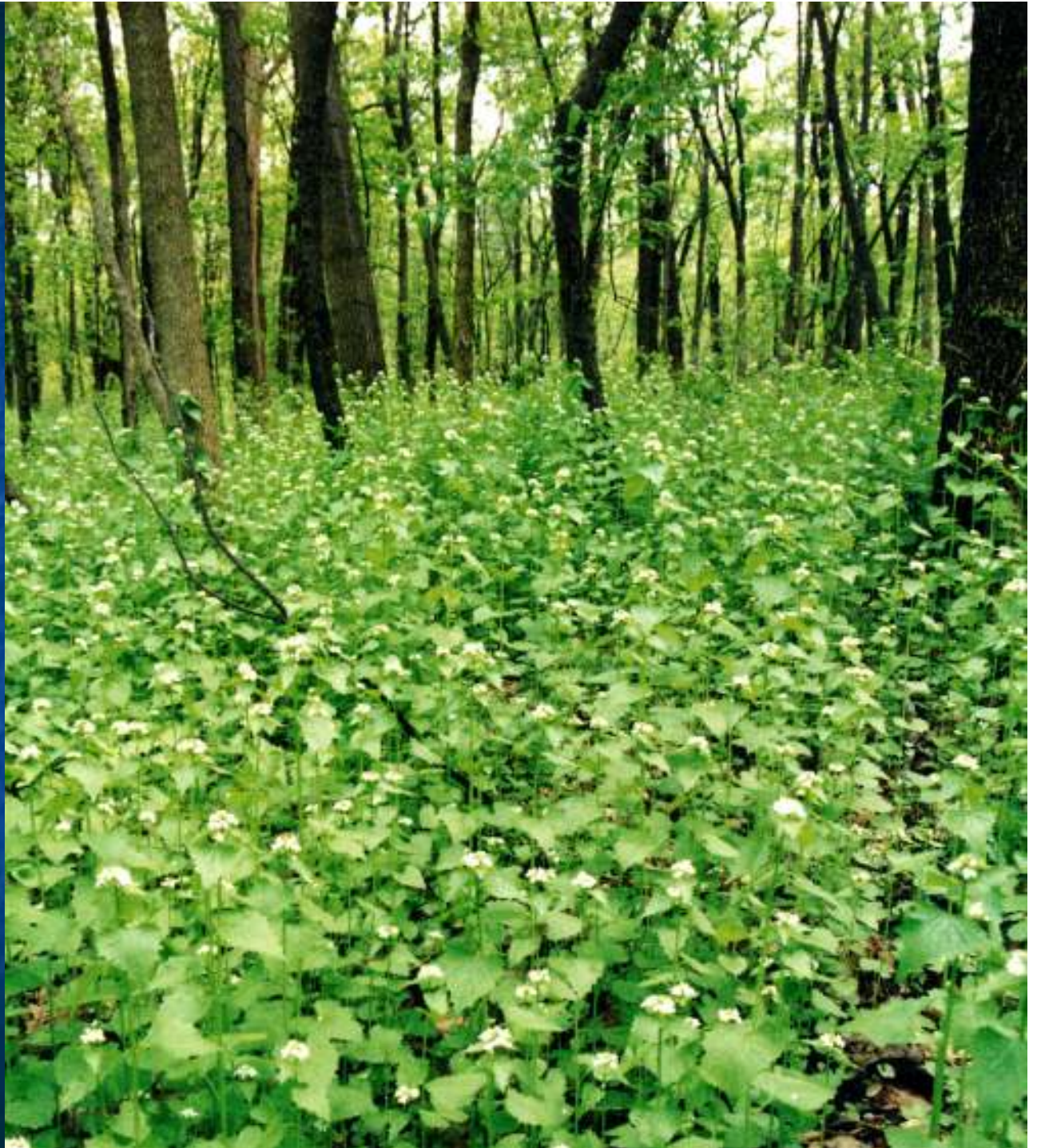


-- **EXOTIC PLANTS**

are plants that did not exist locally before human settlement (they are introduced species).

-- **INVASIVE PLANTS**

are plants that are exotic and extremely aggressive and may pose a threat to native ecosystems. Invasive plants become problematic because they lack natural predators, which keep them in check in their home range.



# Threats posed by Invasive Plants

- High cost of removal
- Negative impacts on native vegetation, because of competition and allelopathy
- Reduction in biodiversity
- Can quickly dominate home landscapes, choking out other plantings.

Photo by Keith Mo

# Invasive Plants to Avoid

English Ivy



Vinca minor (Myrtle)



Pachysandra



European Wintercreeper





# Invasive Plants to Avoid

Japanese Barberry



Common Privet



Japanese Honeysuckle



Porcelain Berry Vine



# Invasive Plants to Avoid

Burning Bush



Autumn Olive

Garlic Mustard



© Elaine Hout

# Invasive Plants to Avoid

Day Lily



Crown Vetch



Purple Loosestrife



Goutweed





# Plants for Dry Sunny Areas

Photo by Judy Semroc



© JM Semroc

Lupine  
(*Lupinus  
perennis*)

Photo by Judy Semroc



# Blazing Star (*Liatris spicata*)

Photo from the Richard A. Howard Image Collection, courtesy of Smithsonian Institution.

A photograph of a garden bed filled with purple coneflowers (Echinacea purpurea) in front of a house with green shutters. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, with some showing vibrant purple petals and others appearing more faded. The green foliage is dense and healthy. In the background, a window with white trim and green shutters is visible, along with a tall, thin grass-like plant on the right side.

Purple Coneflower  
(*Echinacea purpurea*)

Photo by Garrett Ormiston



Black Eyed  
Susan

*(Rudbeckia  
fulgida)*



# Native Plants for Wet Sunny Areas



Photo by Garrett Ormiston



Cardinal  
Flower  
(*Lobelia  
cardinalis*)

Photo by Garrett Ormiston



Wild Bergamot  
(*Monarda fistulosa*)

Bee Balm  
(*Monarda didyma*)

Photo by Judy Semroc



Helen's Flower  
(*Helenium  
autumnale*)

Ironweed  
(*Vernonia gigantea*)



Photo by Steve Cagan



Prairie Dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepus*)



Switch Grass (*Panicum virgatum*)



Big Bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*)



Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*)

# Native Shrubs



Photo by Garrett Ormiston



Bayberry (*Myrica pensylvanica*)

Photo by Garrett Ormiston

# Dogwood (*Cornus sericea*)







Native Hydrangea  
(*Hydrangea arborescens* var.  
'Annabelle')



Mountain Laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*)



ROSE-SHELL AZALEA (*Rhododendron prinophyllum*)



PINXTER AZALEA (*Rhododendron periclymenoides*)



FLAME AZALEA (*Rhododendron calendulaceum*)



SWAMP AZALEA (*Rhododendron viscosum*)

# Shrubby Cinquefoil (*Potentilla fruticosa*)



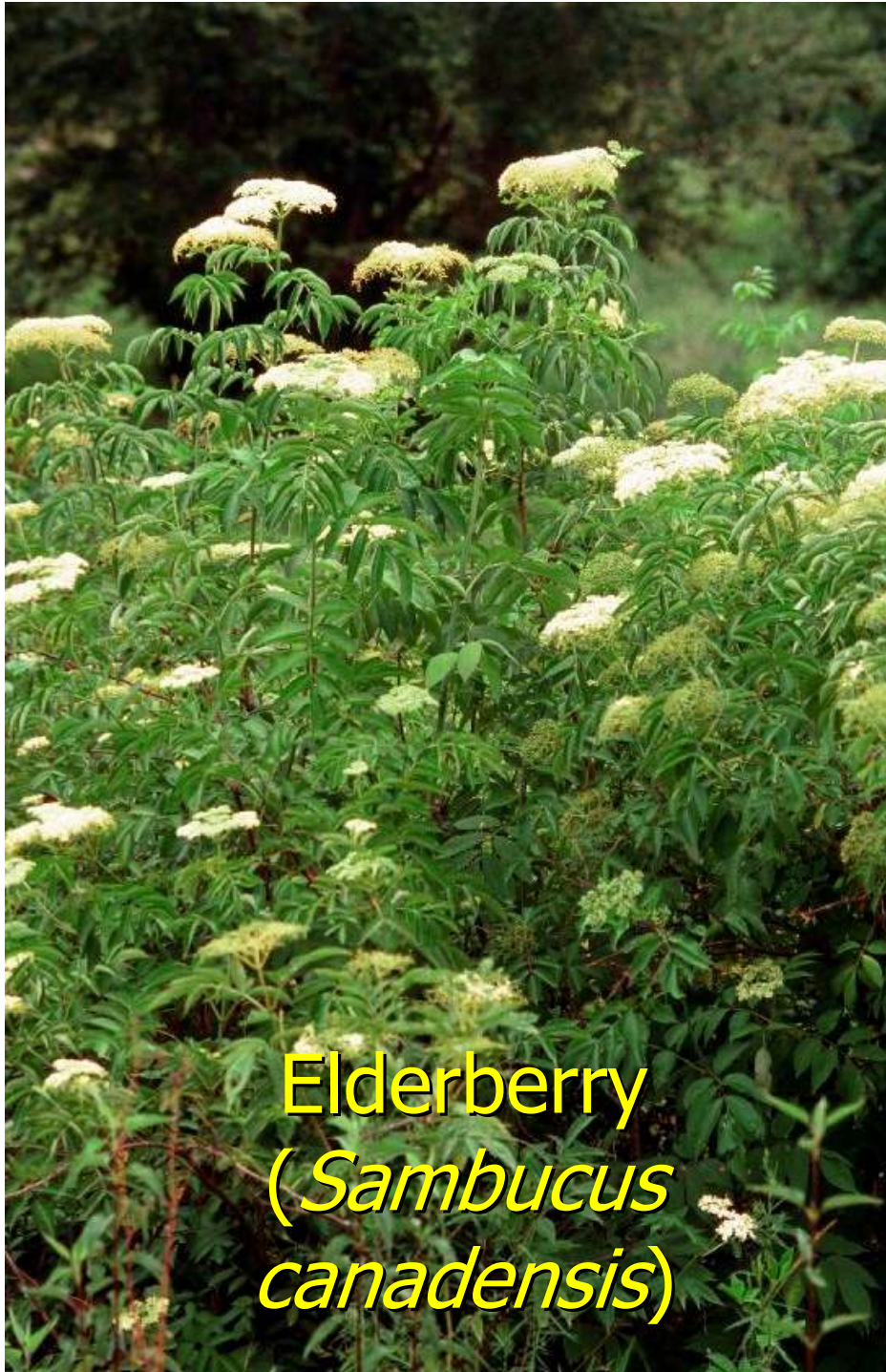
# Eastern Ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*)



var. 'Dart's gold'



var. 'Summer Wine'



Elderberry  
(*Sambucus  
canadensis*)



Purple-flowering  
Raspberry  
(*Rubus odoratus*)

# Native Trees

Photo by Judy Semroc

© JM Semroc



Redbud  
(*Cercis  
canadensis*)

Photo by Judy Semroc





# Witch Hazel

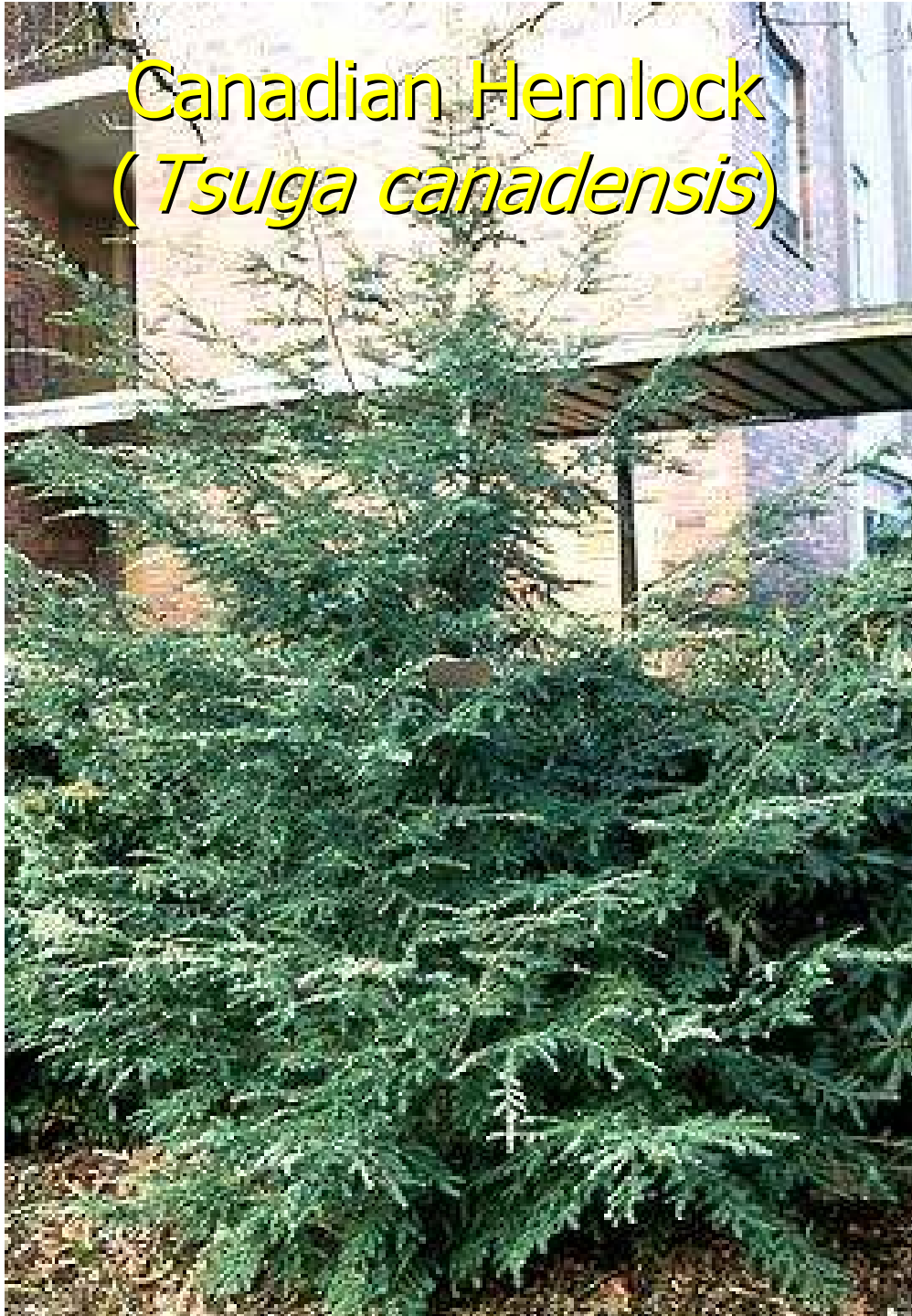
*(Hamamelis  
virginiana)*





Flowering Dogwood  
(*Cornus florida*)

Canadian Hemlock  
(*Tsuga canadensis*)



Eastern White Pine  
(*Pinus strobus*)





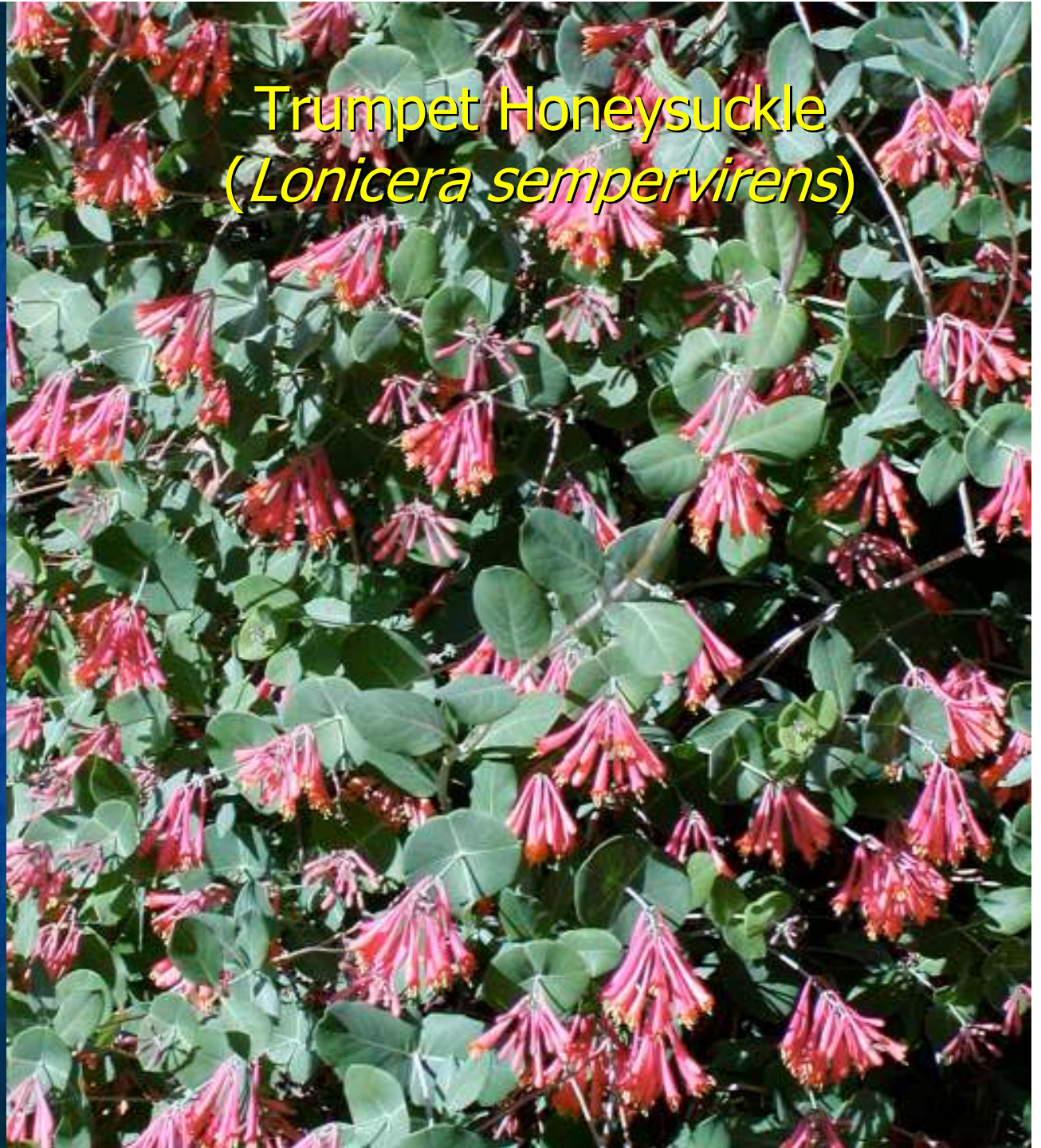
# Native Vines and Groundcovers

# NATIVE HONEY- SUCKLES

Limber  
Honeysuckle  
(*Lonicera dioica*)



Trumpet Honeysuckle  
(*Lonicera sempervirens*)

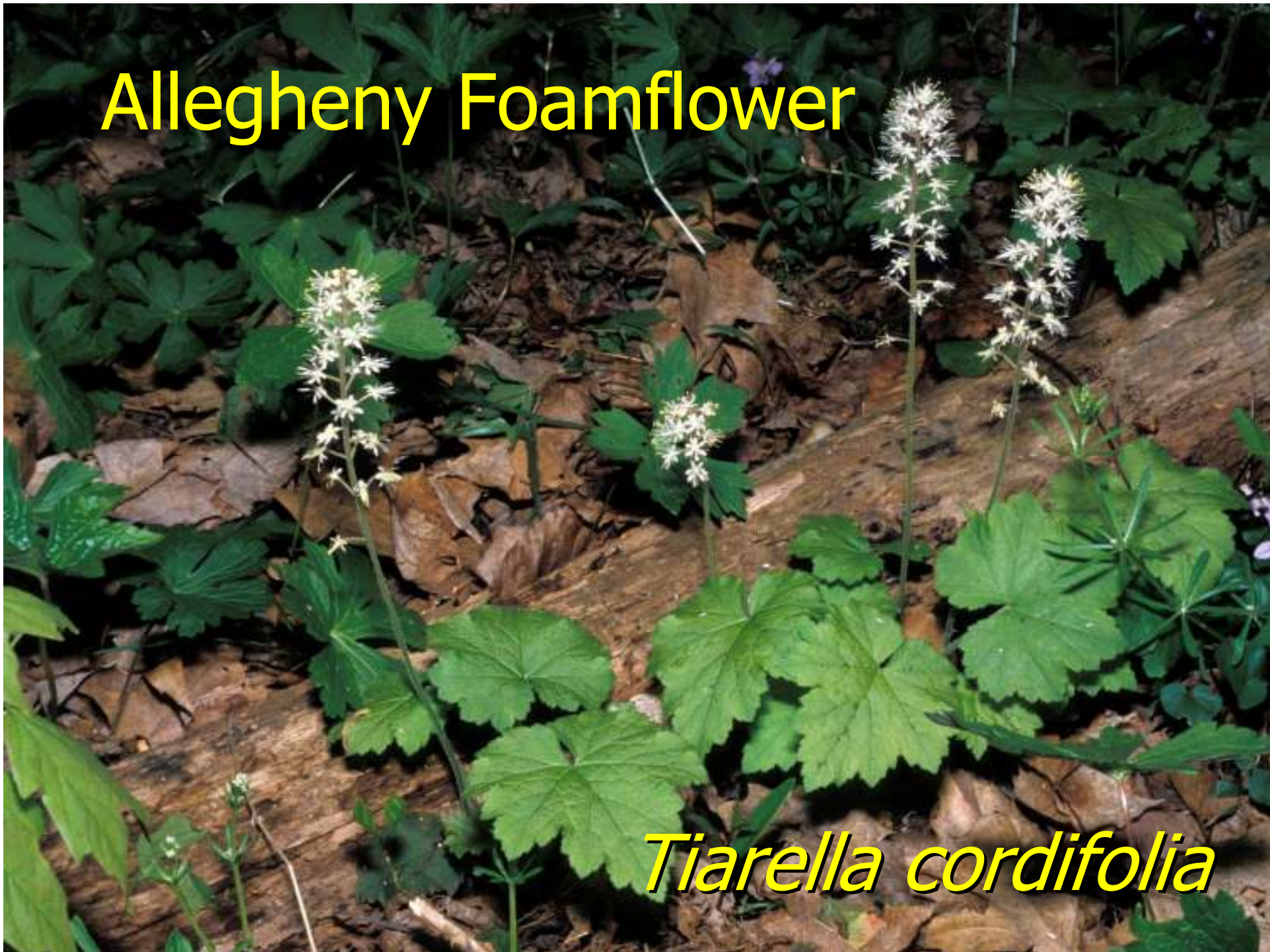




# SHADE PERENNIALS

# Allegheny Foamflower

*Tiarella cordifolia*





CINNAMON FERN (*Osmunda cinnamomea*)



CHRISTMAS FERN (*Polystichum acrosticoides*)



ROYAL FERN (*Osmunda regalis*)



MAIDENHAIR FERN (*Adiantum pedatum*)





Photo by Steve Cagan

Trillium  
(*Trillium  
grandiflorum*)

Wild Geranium  
(*Geranium  
maculatum*)



Photo by Steve Cagan



Halberd-Leaved Violet  
(*Viola hastata*)

Common Blue Violet  
(*Viola sororia*)



Bugbane  
(*Cimicifuga racemosa*)



# Promoting Native Plants

- Many Native Plants are highly ornamental but have not caught on as landscaping plants as of yet
- Many native plants are still very difficult to find in the nursery trade.

Buffaloberry (*Shepherdia canadensis*)





Flowering  
Spurge  
(*Euphorbia  
corollata*)

Running Strawberry (*Euonymus obovatus*)



# LEAP Native Plants of the Year 2011



Funding provided by the Native Plant Society of Northeastern Ohio



Photos courtesy of Gary Popatnik (above) and Judy Senroc (below)

## Blazing Star (*Liatris spicata*)

Blazing star's upright purple flower spikes provide a bright long-blooming accent in the garden in July and August. An excellent cut flower, *Liatris* attracts butterflies and is a good native plant alternative to purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*).



Long-blooming flowers attract butterflies.



Photos courtesy of Judy Senroc

## Allegheny Serviceberry (*Amelanchier laevis*)

This small to medium-sized tree is one of the first to flower each spring and also provides stunning fall color. The sweet red-purple berries in June attract many species of birds. Serviceberry is a great tree for landscapes and can be utilized as a native alternative to the invasive callery pear (*Pyrus calleryana*).



Sweet berries in June attract many species of birds.



Photos courtesy of Judy Senroc (above) and Ann McCallab (below)

## Common Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*)

Common winterberry produces brilliant red berries that attract birds late into the winter. Cut branches offer a colorful accent to holiday wreaths and decorations. Native to swampy areas, winterberry is a low maintenance plant that will thrive in wet or well-drained sites. Both male and female plants are required for fruit set; one male is sufficient to pollinate ten female plants.



Bright red berries attract birds late into the winter.



# 2011 Native Plant Sale!!

May 20-21, 2011 – Pre-Orders Are Required. Visit <http://www.cmnh.org/site/PlantSale.aspx> for Details!  
Search for 'Native Plant Sale'.





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