

IOWA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER JUNE 1995, VOL. 1, #1

A NOTE FROM THE ORGANIZERS

The Iowa Native Plant Society is becoming a reality! Read on in this Newsletter to get the results of the first informational meeting, learn about a native plant and an aggressive weed, and see what's coming up!

We are excited by the enthusiasm shown for the Society's organization! Your optimism, constructive comments, and "thank-you's" have helped us see that it takes all of us to make INPS a success! More than 150 have requested to be on the mailing list!

Several of you have sent us monetary contributions (ranging from \$5 to \$50) - THANK YOU! This has helped cover mailing costs for the "preliminary" correspondence and newsletter prior to setting "society dues" this fall. We are planning to get another newsletter out in late summer/early fall, prior to our organizational meeting. We would appreciate monetary contributions as well as any articles, poetry, illustrations, etc. for the fall and future newsletters. For now, these can be sent to Deb Lewis at the address above.

The organizational meeting is rapidly approaching (October 21st, details elsewhere in the newsletter). Be thinking about YOUR input into the Society, who can best serve in leadership positions and how these should be set up (officers, steering committee, board), which committees are needed right away, by-laws, changes to goals and objectives, etc. Again, success depends on all of us!

And a final plea - spread the word! If you know of others who should be on our mailing list, let us know. Ask your gardening buddies and hiking companions if they know about the Society. Feel free to copy this newsletter to share with others who might be interested.

Thanks, again, for all the contributions, comments, and pats-on-the-back!



Deborah Lewis



William Norris

NATIVE PLANT FEATURE: TWINLEAF

Common names: Twinleaf; rheumatism root

Scientific name: *Jeffersonia diphylla* (L.) Persoon - the genus name honors Thomas Jefferson, who was a naturalist as well as U.S. President; the species epithet means "two-leaves"

Family: Barberrry family (Berberidaceae)

Twinleaf is an early spring native on moist, calcareous slopes in rich woods. It is rare in Iowa and is known from only four northeast Iowa counties - Allamakee, Clayton, Dubuque and Fayette. In North America, the species ranges from western New York and southern Ontario to southeastern Minnesota, south to Maryland and Alabama. Throughout its range it is uncommon enough to cause excitement by any sighting of its white, bloodroot-looking flowers and its butterfly-wing shaped leaves.

There is only one other species in the genus - the other, having blue flowers, is found in Manchuria.

Among several other medicinal uses, tea made from twinleaf roots was considered good for rheumatism (hence the other common name).

Everett's *Encyclopedia of Horticulture* describes twinleaf and its culture in a wildflower garden:

"The shield-shaped leaves, only partially developed when the plant is in bloom, may eventually be 1-1.5 feet tall. Garden Uses: Jeffersonias are delightful for rock and woodland gardens... They are cultivated with comparative ease in any moderately good garden soil in part-shade, preferring earth that contains a generous proportion of leaf mold, peat moss, or other decayed organic matter. They can be grown from seeds. The maintenance of an organic mulch around them is **beneficial and** watering is **needed** in *d...y weather*."



informational website, www.inps.org, about a native plant and an aggressive weed, and see what's coming up!

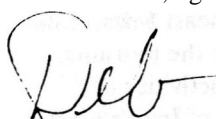
We are excited by the enthusiasm shown for the Society's organization! Your optimism, constructive comments, and "thank-you's" have helped us see that it takes all of us to make INPS a success! More than 150 have requested to be on the mailing list!

Several of you have sent us monetary contributions (ranging from \$5 to \$50) - THANK YOU! This has helped cover mailing costs for the "preliminary" correspondence and newsletter prior to setting "society dues" this fall. We are planning to get another newsletter out in late summer/early fall, prior to our organizational meeting. We would appreciate monetary contributions as well as any articles, poetry, illustrations, etc. for the fall and future newsletters. For now, these can be sent to Deb Lewis at the address above.

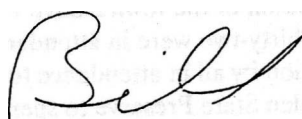
The organizational meeting is rapidly approaching (October 21st, details elsewhere in the newsletter). Be thinking about YOUR input into the Society, who can best serve in leadership positions and how these should be set up (officers, steering committee, board), which committees are needed right away, by-laws, changes to goals and objectives, etc. Again, success depends on all of us!

And a final plea - spread the word! If you know of others who should be on our mailing list, let us know. Ask your gardening buddies and hiking companions if they know about the Society. Feel free to copy this newsletter to share with others who might be interested.

Thanks, again, for all the contributions, comments, and pats-on-the-back!



Deborah Lewis



William Norris

NATIVE PLANT FEATURE: TWINLEAF

Common names: Twinleaf; rheumatism root

Scientific name: *Jeffersollia diphylla* (L.) Persoon - the genus name honors Thomas Jefferson, who was a naturalist as well as U.S. President; the species epithet means "two-leaves"

Family: Barberry family (Berberidaceae)

Twinleaf is an early spring native on moist, calcareous slopes in rich woods. It is rare in Iowa and is known from only four northeast Iowa counties - Allamakee, Clayton, Dubuque and Fayette. In North America, the species ranges from western New York and southern Ontario to southeastern Minnesota, south to Maryland and Alabama. Throughout its range it is uncommon enough to cause excitement by any sighting of its white, bloodroot-looking flowers and its butterfly-wing shaped leaves.

There is only one other species in the genus - the other, having blue flowers, is found in Manchuria.

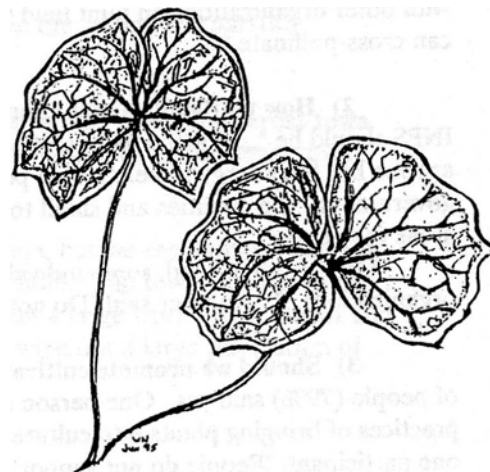
Among several other medicinal uses, tea made from twinleaf roots was considered good for rheumatism (hence the other common name).

Everett's *Encyclopedia of Horticulture* describes twinleaf and its culture in a wildflower garden:

"The shield-shaped leaves, only partially developed when the plant is in bloom, may eventually be 1-1.5 feet tall. Garden Uses: Jeffersonias are delightful for rock and woodland gardens... They are cultivated with comparative ease in any moderately good garden soil in part-shade, preferring earth that contains a generous proportion of leaf mold, peat moss, or other decayed organic matter. They can be grown from seeds. The maintenance of an organic mulch around them is beneficial and watering is needed in dry weather."

The catalog from Prairie Moon Nursery lists the species, but states their plants are "sold out" for the 1995 season. I didn't find it in any of my (admittedly limited) other native plants/seeds catalogs.

Have any of you tried this species in your wildflower garden? Did you get good results? Do you know of other sources of seed or plants from reputable nurseries or growers?



SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS (1995)

Two more informational meetings and field trips for 1995 have been scheduled as follows (the first, held in late April, is summarized in another article):

-- Rochester Cemetery Prairie (Cedar Co.), July 29th - a meeting to share information will begin at 10:00, and a field trip on the prairie will follow. Meet at the entrance to the cemetery. Bring a sack lunch. See map on page 4.

-- Backbone State Park (Delaware Co.), September 9th - informational meeting at 10:00, followed by a field trip. Meet at the picnic shelter near the camp store at the south end of the park. Bring a sack lunch. This meeting is in conjunction with the DNR Natural History Foray held Sept. 8th-10th. The foray headquarters is at Backbone State Park and will concentrate on Backbone, Bixby State Park, and Mossy Glen State Preserve.

-- Information about INPS will be available at The Nature Conservancy Annual Meeting at Broken Kettle Preserve, September 16th.

-- Note change from previously announced date! The Organizational meeting of the Iowa Native Plant Society is planned for Fort Dodge at Colonial Inn (off Hwy. 169) at 5:00 on Saturday, October 21st. Official organization of the Society, election of officers, discussion of committees, by-laws and membership will be addressed at this meeting. Field trips to Dolliver State Park and/or Woodman Hollow State Preserve will begin at 1:00 that day. For field trips, meet at Dolliver State Park at the picnic shelter near the group camp area at the south end of the park. Ferns will be the focus of these field trips, with possibilities of seeing as many as 16 species! Maps for field trips and to the Colonial Inn, and a registration form, for dinner will be included in the next Newsletter.



SUMMARY OF THE FIRST INFORMATIONAL MEETING

The first informational meeting for creation of the Iowa Native Plant Society was held in Northeast Iowa, Saturday, April 29th at Backbone State Park. Thirty-two were in attendance on a cool, overcast day. In the morning, Deb Lewis led a lively discussion with participation by all in attendance to address proposed goals and activities of INPS. After lunch, the group drove to Mossy Glen State Preserve to spend the afternoon hiking in one of Iowa's most pristine forests. In addition to the usual spring wildflowers we saw a large population of yellow trout lily, as well as scattered patches of squirrel corn. Leatherwood was also in peak bloom. A good time was had by all!

At the first meeting of the Iowa Native Plant Society, all participants were asked to respond in writing to six questions regarding the future direction of the society. Their responses are summarized below.

1) Should this society be entirely separate from existing organizations or should we become an arm of another organization, for example the Iowa Prairie Network? The majority (73%) of people who responded favored a separate identity for the INPS. However, many of those in favor mentioned that the INPS should cooperate actively with other organizations on joint field trips, projects, etc. In the words of one individual, "separate, though I'm sure we can cross-pollinate."

2) How politically active should the Society be? Responses to this question varied. One person said that the INPS should be "...as active as possible to avoid destruction...". Another stated that the Society should be "...as active as anyone has the energy to be...". One person suggested that the Society should "...work especially with the local government - the counties and small towns to make them aware of any cause to prevent destruction of the special areas they have."

On the other hand, some individuals argued against a political role for the INPS. "Don't be: it's damaged other organizations...". Another said "Do not favor political action. Early education in schools should be a priority".

3) Should we promote cultivation of wildflower gardens and use of Iowa's native species? A strong majority of people (79%) said yes. One person said "Yes; however, the promotion should be of plants already in culture or practices of bringing plants into culture without decreasing native populations or habitat". To sum up, in the words of one participant, "People do not support what they do not know."

4) Should we promote restoration of sites, as the Iowa Prairie Network has done? Again, most people (89%) responded in the affirmative.

5) How much should our annual dues be? Should they cover only mailing costs or should we anticipate future funding of such things as workshops, bringing in out-of-state speakers, etc...? Suggestions ranged from \$5 to about \$30 for annual dues. A few people suggested that families and students should be allowed to join the INPS at a

-- Backbone State Park (Delaware Co.), September 9th - ID1OrmaUODiU meeting at 1.U:UV, IUIIUWCU y a field trip. Meet at the picnic shelter near the camp store at the south end of the park. Bring a sack lunch. This meeting is in conjunction with the DNR Natural History Foray held Sept. 8th-10th. The foray headquarters is at Backbone State Park and will concentrate on Backbone, Bixby State Park, and Mossy Glen State Preserve.

-- Information about INPS will be available at The Nature Conservancy Annual Meeting at Broken Kettle Preserve, September 16th.

-- Note change from previously announced date! The Organizational meeting of the Iowa Native Plant Society is planned for Fort Dodge at Colonial Inn Gust off Hwy. 169) at 5:00 on Saturday, October 21st. Official organization of the Society, election of officers, discussion of committees, by-laws and membership will be addressed at this meeting. Field trips to Dolliver State Park and/or Woodman Hollow State Preserve will begin at 1:00 that day. For field trips, meet at Dolliver State Park at the picnic shelter near the group camp area at the south end of the park. Ferns will be the focus of these field trips, with possibilities of seeing as many as 16 species! Maps for field trips and to the Colonial Inn, and a registration form for dinner will be included in the next Newsletter.



SUMMARY OF THE FIRST INFORMATIONAL MEETING

The first informational meeting for creation of the Iowa Native Plant Society was held in Northeast Iowa, Saturday, April 29th at Backbone State Park. Thirty-two were in attendance on a cool, overcast day. In the morning, Deb Lewis led a lively discussion with participation by all in attendance to address proposed goals and activities of INPS. After lunch, the group drove to Mossy Glen State Preserve to spend the afternoon hiking in one of Iowa's most pristine forests. In addition to the usual spring wildflowers we saw a large population of yellow trout lily, as well as scattered patches of squirrel corn. Leatherwood was also in peak bloom. A good time was had by all!

At the first meeting of the Iowa Native Plant Society, all participants were asked to respond in writing to six questions regarding the future direction of the society. Their responses are summarized below.

1) Should this society be entirely separate from existing organizations or should we become an arm of another organization, for example the Iowa Prairie Network? The majority (73%) of people who responded favored a separate identity for the INPS. However, many of those in favor mentioned that the INPS should cooperative actively with other organizations on joint field trips, projects, etc. In the words of one individual, "separate, though I'm sure we can cross-pollinate."

2) How politically active should the Society be? Responses to this question varied. One person said that the INPS should be "...as active as possible to avoid destruction...". Another stated that the Society should be "...as active as anyone has the energy to be...". One person suggested that the Society should "...work especially with the local government - the counties and small towns to make them aware of any cause to prevent destruction of the special areas they have."

On the other hand, some individuals argued against a political role for the INPS. "Don't be: it's dalilaged other organizations...". Another said "Do not favor political action. Early education in schools should be a priority".

3) Should we promote cultivation of wildflower gardens and use of Iowa's native species? A strong majority of people (79%) said yes. One person said "Yes; however, the promotion should be of plants already in culture or practices of bringing plants into culture without decreasing native populations or habitat". To sum up, in the words of one participant, "People do not support what they do not know."

4) Should we promote restoration of sites, as the Iowa Prairie Network has done? Again, most people (89%) responded in the affirmative.

5) How much should our annual dues be? Should they cover only mailing costs or should we anticipate future funding of such things as workshops, bringing in out-of-state speakers, etc...? Suggestions ranged from \$5 to about \$30 for annual dues. A few people suggested that families and students should be allowed to join the INPS at a reduced rate. Many individuals mentioned that they would like to see the INPS sponsor workshops in the future.

6) Any other comments and/or suggestions? One person suggested that the INPS should produce a newsletter. Another mentioned that the Integrated Roadside people need to be included in the happenings so they stop using non-native seeds. A third said that the zoning boards of some Iowa communities need to be monitored to safeguard botanically sensitive areas.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES SPONSORED BY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

The Iowa Prairie Network and the Iowa Field Office of The Nature Conservancy sponsor many field trips through the year. To get information about these, contact the Iowa Prairie Network at 515/858-3878 (Shirley Shirley) and the Iowa Field Office of The Nature Conservancy at 515/244-5044. Some of the major, statewide or regional meetings include:

-- Iowa Prairie Conference sponsored by University of Northern Iowa, July 22, UNI, Cedar Falls. For more information contact Daryl Smith at 319/273-2238.

-- Iowa Prairie Network Annual Meeting and Prairie Celebration, August 18-20, Red Oak. Anderson Conservation Area. Plans include prairie tours, discussions of prairie management, and fun. For more information contact Shirley Shirley at 515/858-3878.

-- Hayden Prairie Rededication, September 8, 2 p.m., north entrance to Hayden Prairie (Howard Co. northwest of Cresco), sponsored by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. For more information contact Daryl Howell at 515/281-8524.

-- Annual Natural History Foray, September 8-10, headquarters at Backbone State Park, with emphasis also on Bixby State Park and Mossy Glen State Preserve. Note our special meeting and field trip above in conjunction with the foray! The foray is sponsored by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Contact Daryl Howell at 515/281-8524 for information and maps.

-- The Nature Conservancy Annual Meeting, **September 16, 9-5 pm.**, Loess Hills, Broken Kettle Grasslands Preserve in NW Iowa. For more information contact the Iowa Field Office of The Nature Conservancy at 515/244-5044.

-- Midwest Oak Savanna Ecosystem Conference, September 27-29, Springfield, MO. This conference is sponsored by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and others. Contact Ken McCarty, Missouri DNR, at 314/751-8660 for a registration packet or more information.

AGGRESSIVE ALIEN ALERT

Common name: Garlic mustard (so named because it smells like garlic)

Scientific name: *Allyria petio/ata* (Bieb.) Cavara & Grande. (= *Allyria officina/is*)

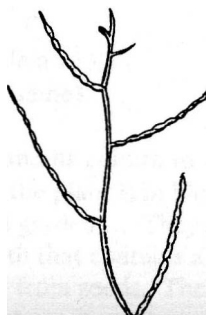
Family: Mustard family (Brassicaceae)

Killer bees! Fire ants! Luckily these haven't invaded Iowa yet, but we do have an imported European scourge in our woodlands - it is called GARLIC MUSTARD! This biennial plant is easily identified, with its heart-shaped, coarsely toothed leaves. In the spring, it has white, four-petaled flowers, and later in the season has narrow, segmented fruits at the end of each stem.

Although now known only from scattered localities in Iowa, garlic mustard is rapidly spreading across Iowa. For example, large patches now occur in Backbone State Park and numerous other woodlands in northeast Iowa where it is displacing other native plants.

How can we control the spread of garlic mustard? We **have** no simple answers, but we **recommend** that you pull it up whenever you see it (if possible, before it sets fruit) so that it doesn't take hold. The Iowa Chapter of the Nature Conservancy thinks the garlic mustard problem so serious that it recently sent a large work force of staff and volunteers to Retz Memorial Woods (Clayton County near Elkader) to completely wipe out a large population of garlic mustard in this preserve.

Let's declare war on garlic mustard now!



-- Iowa Prairie Conference sponsored by University of Northern Iowa, JWy 22, UNI, Cedar falls. For more information contact Daryl Smith at 319/273-2238.

-- Iowa Prairie Network Annual Meeting and Prairie Celebration, August 18-20, Red Oak. Anderson Conservation Area. Plans include prairie tours, discussions of prairie management, and fun. For more information contact Shirley Shirley at 515/858-3878.

-- Hayden Prairie Rededication, September 8, 2 p.m., north entrance to Hayden Prairie (Howard Co. northwest of Cresco), sponsored by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. For more information contact Daryl Howell at 515/281-8524.

-- Annual Natural History Foray, September 8-10, **headquarters** at Backbone State Park, with emphasis also on Bixby State Park and Mossy Glen State Preserve. Note our special meeting and field trip above in conjunction with the foray! The foray is sponsored by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Contact Daryl Howell at 515/281-8524 for information and maps.

-- The Nature Conservancy Annual Meeting, **September 16, 9-5 pm.**, Loess Hills, Broken Kettle Grasslands Preserve in NW Iowa. For more information contact the Iowa Field Office of The Nature Conservancy at 515/244-5044.

-- Midwest Oak Savanna Ecosystem Conference, September 27-29, Springfield, MO. This conference is sponsored by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and others. Contact Ken McCarty, Missouri DNR, at 314/751-8660 for a registration packet or more information.

AGGRESSIVE ALIEN ALERT

Common name: Garlic mustard (so named because it smells like garlic)

Scientific name: *Al/iana petio/ata* (Bieb.) Cavara & Grande. (= *Al/iana ojficialis*)

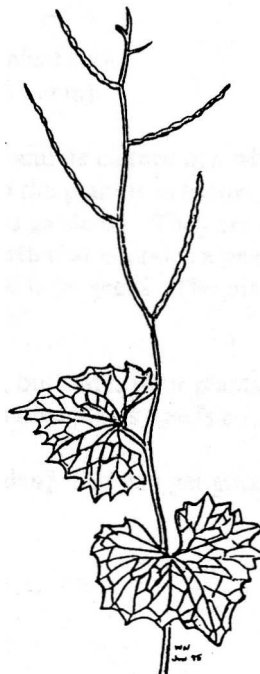
Family: Mustard family (Brassicaceae)

Killer bees! Fire ants! Luckily these haven't invaded Iowa yet, but we do have an imported European scourge in our woodlands - it is called GARLIC MUSTARD! This biennial plant is easily identified, with its heart-shaped, coarsely toothed leaves. In the spring, it has white, four-petaled flowers, and later in the season has narrow, segmented fruits at the end of each stem.

Although now known only from scattered localities in Iowa, garlic mustard is rapidly spreading across Iowa. For example, large patches now occur in Backbone State Park and numerous other woodlands in northeast Iowa where it is displacing other native plants.

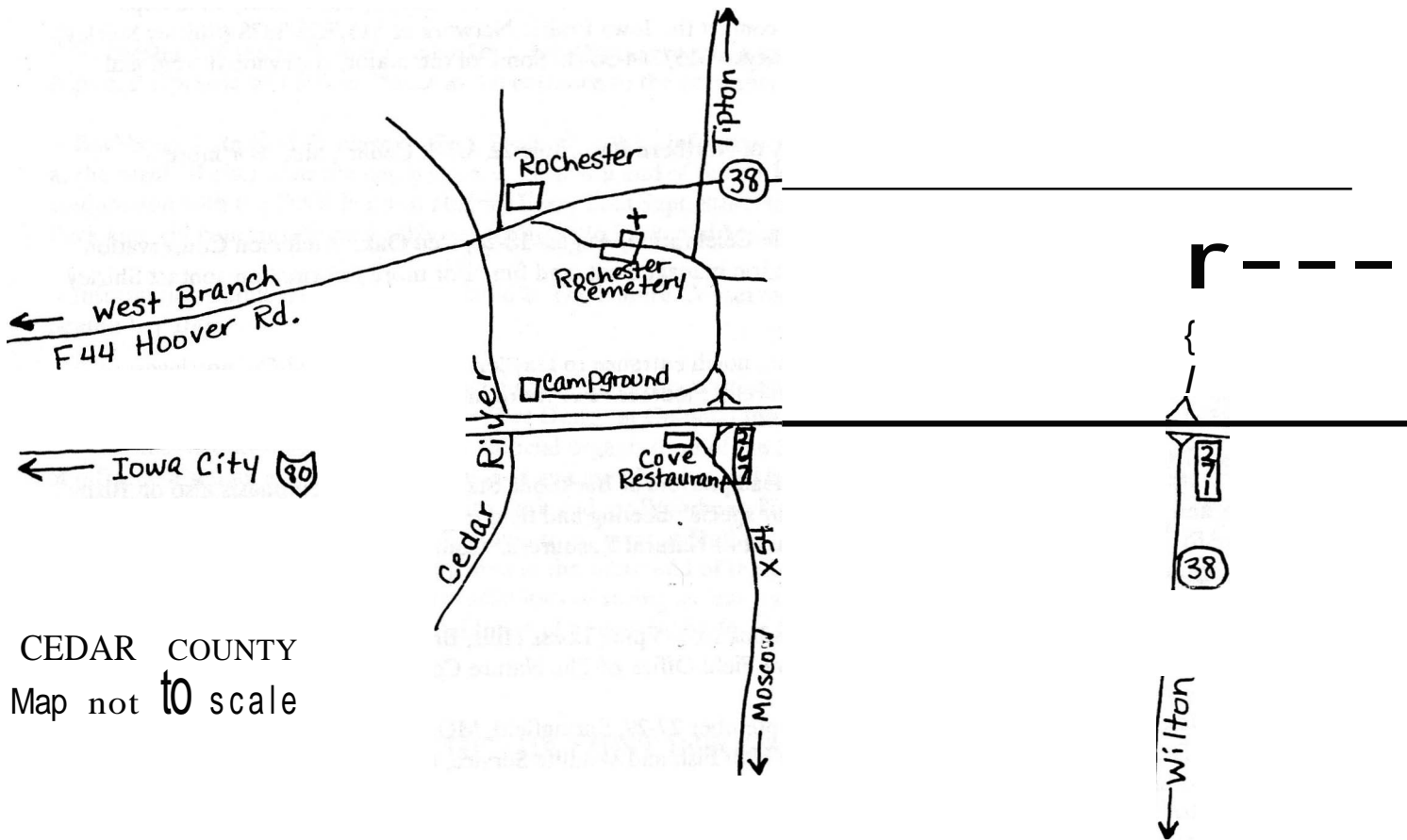
How can we control the spread of garlic mustard? We **have** no simple answers, but we recommend that you pull it up whenever you see it (if possible, before it sets fruit) so that it doesn't take hold. The Iowa Chapter of the Nature Conservancy thinks the garlic mustard problem so serious that it recently sent a large work force of staff and volunteers to Retz Memorial Woods (Clayton County near Elkader) to completely wipe out a large population of garlic mustard in this preserve.

Let's declare war on garlic mustard now!



MAP TO ROCHESTER CEMETERY PRAIRIE

(Courtesy of Jim Scott)



CEDAR COUNTY
Map not to scale

Iowa Native Plant Society
c/o Deb Lewis
Department of Botany
Iowa State University
Ames, IA 50011-1020