

# TORREYA

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John Torrey 1796-1873

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GEORGE T. HASTINGS

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## FIELD TRIPS OF THE CLUB

### TRIP OF MARCH 22, TO THE PINE BARRENS AT LAKEHURST, VICINITY OF WRANGEL BROOK

Each trip through the Pine Barren Region of southern New Jersey has brought to my attention traces of the successive inroads that civilization has made in exploiting this area.

The first settlers who touched the western edge of the Barrens were the Swedes who came in 1638 to establish trading posts. About this same time the Dutch had received grants in the Cape May Peninsula and had commenced to clear acreage for farms. With the surrender of New Amsterdam in 1664, a large influx of English settlers came from Connecticut and Massachusetts to settle the coast at Tuckerton, Barnegat, and elsewhere.

Before the year 1700 thriving villages along the Delaware and the coast sought communications across the Pine Barrens. An old Indian trail which started from Great Egg Harbor and followed the river northwestward and then to the Delaware was used by the early surveyors and timber cruisers. One of the first routes opened by the whites extended from Barnegat through Cedar Grove and South Pemberton to Burlington on the Delaware.

In those days the Pitch Pine grew to 75 feet in height, while now, chiefly due to repeated fires, it seldom reaches 50 feet. The White Cedar, due to its lightness and durability, was timbered to such an extent in the Cape May section that Benjamin Franklin in his Poor Richard's Almanac in 1749 advocated judicious reforestation. Yet even today white cedar is cut for local consumption.

The damming up of streams to make cranberry bogs materially affected the flora. The natives also found that nurseries were a ready market for dried sphagnum moss to use as packing material.

At one time American Holly was carted away by the crate for Christmas greens as was also Laurel, and Mistletoe. When in bloom Water Lilies, Sweet Bay, Arbutus and the Pink Azalea suffered depredations.

Finally we came to the real estate promoter who slashed out huge developments with avenues and streets, labeling them

with inviting names. But today the Pitch Pine fills the streets, covering up the scars, persisting in spite of the axe, fire and farming.

As the group followed the sand roads, there was ample evidence that the Barrens are still a retreat for wilderness lovers.

Buds of the following were studied: *Clethra alnifolia*, *Nyssa sylvatica*, *Magnolia virginiana*, *Azalea viscosa*, *Rhus vernix*, *Lyonia mariana*, *Vaccinium corymbosum*, *Comptonia asplenifolia*, *Sassafras officinalis*.

In low sandy ground the evergreen clumps of *Xerophyllum asphodeloides* were noted. Where the water table was just below the level of the ground *Kalmia angustifolia* and *Chamaedaphne calyculata* blanketed large meadows. In favorably exposed places the first buds of *Pyxidantha barbulata* showed white. Blueberry buds were swelling; red maples opened to show their stamens and the buds of sweet bay had waxed fat with the lengthening days.

Lichens of the genus *Cladonia* had not reached maturity. *Cladonia papillaria* podetia appeared as whitish dots on the grayish green thallus. *C. verticillata*, *calycantha*, *fimbriata* and a new form of *caroliniana*, probably *prolifera*, were encountered in a cedar swamp. The tar-like patches covering the bare sand everywhere in the Barrens are a lichen, *Lecidea uliginosa*, later covered by sessile apothecia no larger than pinheads.

It seemed hardly possible that in the midst of such perfect isolation we were only 70 miles from New York.

GEORGE F. DILLMANN

FIELD TRIP OF SATURDAY, APRIL 18, TO SITE OF  
DR. JOHN TORREY'S HOME, PALISADES, N. Y.

About twenty members of the Torrey Botanical Club enjoyed an unusual field trip on Saturday, April 18, to Palisades, Rockland County, N. Y., to visit the site of the home occupied by Dr. John Torrey, about 1858, above the Palisades cliffs south of Sneden's Landing. This interesting excursion was offered through the hospitality of Mrs. Robert C. Hill, member of the club and active in the Garden Club of America, whose country home, Niederhurst, adjoins the estate of Thomas W. Lamont, which includes "Torrey's Cliff," above which stood