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BUS TRIP TO FAHNESTOCK STATE PARK, APRIL 17

Members of the Torrey Botanical Club joined with several other outdoor organizations in a trip by bus and automobile to Fahnestock State Park, in Putnam County, on Sunday, April 17. New York members of the various groups made the trip in two large busses, which proved a comfortable and speedy method of travel, one which our club might adopt more frequently, if a leader organizing such an excursion could be sure of filling a bus sufficiently to bring the cost down to a moderate figure. In this case, invitations to other clubs, resulted in filling two busses which made the round trip cost only \$2. Probably this could be done again, if other clubs were invited. These busses hold 29 and the cost for a 12 hour day is \$49. The method is recommended to the club, members of the field committee and field leaders, for further consideration.

When joined by members of the Westchester Trails Association, in private cars, the party numbered 99. The other groups represented were the Adirondack Mountain Club, Tramp and Trail Club, Inkowa Outdoor Club, Green Mountain Club, and some unattached individuals.

The party followed the Appalachian Trail north from the park, to a high viewpoint overlooking the lower country of Dutchess County, and beyond to the Shawangunks and Catskills. Spring flowers were few, the only ones in bloom being arbutus, and spicebush, but the leaves of skunk cabbage and poison poke showed some greenery along the brooks. However the open ledges on the summit of Mount Sekunna, disclosed some interesting lichens. One of them, *Stereocaulon paschale*, with beautiful silver-gray, closely packed cushions of feathery podetia, is a distinctly northern species, common at low levels in sub-Arctic latitudes, but found with us only on high bleak summits,—vanishing boreal islands. The writer has found it hereabouts only on Schunemunk Mountain, in Orange County, N. Y., and on Sky Top and Camelback Mountains, in the Poconos of Pennsylvania. It was very abundant on Mount Sekunna, several colonies occupying some square yards each being found.

Other lichens in considerable quantity and good development on the ledges were *Lecanora tartarea*, *Rinodina oreina*,

and *Caloplaca aurantiaca*, the last making a conspicuous orange band across a boulder, with its brightly colored disk apothecia and thalli. Several other crustose species were seen. Three of the Rock Tripes, *Gyrophora dilleuii* and *muhlenbergii* and *Umbilicaria pustulata* were common.

On the descent from the mountain one large spreading plant of *Juniperus communis* var *depressa* a plant much more common in the northern part of the state than in our region was found.

Another interesting botanical feature was the swamp filled with red spruce, *Picea rubra*, (rare in this latitude) in Fahnestock Park, south of the county highway. It was mixed with *Rhododendron maximum*, which is much less common east of the Hudson than west of it. Pitcher plants were also found in this swamp.

This is a very interesting region, and would reward study at other times of the year, especially the spruce swamp, which might yield other unusual species if explored in summer. The Park can only be reached conveniently by automobile, via the Albany Post Road, to McKeel Corner, 13 miles north of Peekskill, then six miles east on the county road to Carmel.

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