

September 2007

Plant Parade

Indian Pipe



Scientific Name: *Monotropa uniflora*

Color: Entirely white

Habitat: Rich woods, especially pine and beech woods

Often mistaken for a fungus, Indian Pipe is actually a non-photosynthetic flowering plant. It is not green and does not produce chlorophyll. Therefore, it is unable to make its own food from the sun.

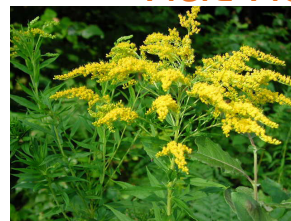
At one time it was considered a *saprophyte* because it was thought to gain its nutrition directly from the dead plant parts around it. Recently, however, it has been found to be an *epiparasite*. It actually gets its energy through a relationship with the mycorrhizal fungi in the soil which obtain their energy from the roots of surrounding trees.

Walk the River Trail, visit the River Point or the Wetlands Area bog to see this unique plant. As with all wildflowers, you should not pick these plants. If you do, they will reward you by turning black and mushy very quickly.

Visit the Information Desk or www.chippewanaturecenter.org for program information.

Nature Tidbits

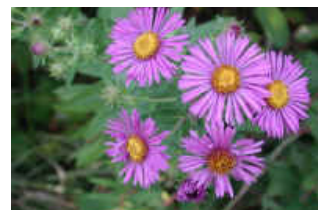
Field Flowers



• There are several species of these beautiful

yellow flowering plants here in Michigan. Contrary to popular belief, **goldenrod** is unlikely to contribute to seasonal allergies. The pollen is carried by insects, not in the wind like ragweed pollen.

• These showy purple flowers are called **New England Asters**. Growing between two and six feet tall, these plants are easy to find in fields and sunny forest edges.



The **Heart-leaved Aster** is delicate looking and can be found in shady woods and forest clearings.



Its flowers range from white to purple and can bloom anytime between August and October.