

Stewardship Network Notes 07/08/2008

The Stewardship Network meets the second Tuesday of the month at Bruegger's Bagels on North University, UM--Ann Arbor Campus, from 7:30 to 8:30 AM.

Topic: Poisonous Plants

Moderator: Jason Frenzel-Wright (NAP Volunteer Coordinator)

Attendees:

AC Tanner (volunteer); Jim Mohn (YMCA Storer Camp); Dave Borneman (NAP manager); Anna Shipley (NAP Adopt-A-Park coordinator); Don Lehr; Suzie Heing (Land Trust)

Summary: Obviously, the best way to avoid poisonous plants when working outdoors is to learn to identify them. To learn what is poisonous in any area, do a google search. By the same method or in a library reference search find out how the Indians dealt with poisonous plants.

Notes:

Poisonous plants of SE MI and surrounding areas:

- poison ivy--ground or climbing vine, not everyone allergic or allergic to the same degree, reactions can be medically serious
- poison sumac--in comparison with nonpoisonous sumac, the leaves are shiny and untoothed and the seed clusters droop, reactions can be as bad as poison ivy, even the smoke of burning poison sumac can sicken susceptible people
- deadly nightshade--a ground or climbing vine with pretty yellow/purple flowers, poisons milk of cows which eat it
- giant hogweed--easy to identify because truly giant, can be over 6', causes sun sensitivity
- stinging nettles and other wood nettles--while these are annoying, they are nutritious boiled
- spotted knapweed can also cause a rash
- good news: no poison oak in Michigan

Post-reaction remedies:

- Tech-nu reduces the reaction even after blisters have formed
- alcohol and Fels Naptha soap can remove the reaction-causing oil; use liberally

Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 12th on Streams.