Pickaway County Naturalist
Ready To Share Knowledge

OUTSIZE WISTERIA — Floyd Bartley shows some outstanding examples of bloom on the fence at his home on Route 4. Some of these blooms are a foot long. They have really put on a display this year.

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To give Floyd Bartley a title would be difficult — farmer, botanist, conservationist, ornithologist would all apply.

However, I think teacher would fit him best of all.

He is really a teacher in the true sense and meaning of the word. He is always ready to help someone learn about his beloved nature. He gets great pleasure from sharing something new on the way to being interested in his hobbies.

Many famous people have attributed to him their beginning interest in nature and plant life. Dr. Harold Robinson of the Smithsonian Institute, Washington D.C., and Dr. Gustav W. Hall, professor of Biology, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Va. are two who give him credit for their beginning interest.

TO MENTION all the honors that have come to this gentleman would take all day and fill many volumes. A few of the organizations to which he belongs are: Wheaton Bird Club, Southern Appalachian Ins., N. Y. Botanical Garden, Smithsonian Institute, Brooks Bird Club, Society for the Preservation of Southern Ohio and Circleville Garden Club. He was recently awarded a life membership in the Ohio Academy of Science.

Bartley has had a moss named for him. He found a new genus and new species. It is named Bartleya. A few years ago he found a new species of grass, Callamagrostis bartleya.

Ohio University, Athens, boasts having one of his collections. The 'herbarium' of Ohio University is named for him.

A passerby would scarcely believe that the small yard in front of the modest frame house East of Thatcher on Route 56 holds such a wealth of rare and beautiful plant life.

On a recent visit with Bartley at his invitation to see the Wisteria Vine, Tree Peonies, and the Silver Bell Tree in bloom, I found that these were only the highlights.

To give you some idea of the wealth of plant life in his front yard I'll mention just a few of the things I saw. There was the rare Stellate Solomon's Seal, Asian shrub, Elagatus, wild larkspur, wild geranium, yellow Ladies Slipper (wild orchid), Yellowroot (goldenseal) Japanese snowball, Pervivine, Korean barberry, Ginkgo tree, Virginia bluebells, also a pink variety, Herb Robert, the Jeffersonian Diphylleium, the rare Disporium, wild white geranium, meadow rae, helterwoot, wild ginger, and all kinds of Trilliums (including the rare double-flowered kind).

There are also azaleas and many many other shrubs, plants and trees that are rare and unusual.

TO TOP off the visit I photographed and showed me his newest interest. That is collecting fossils. He has already given two collections away. This man really keeps young in spirit by new interests and enthusiasms.

He is always ready to give of his time to teach and instruct. He not only can identify each item and knows its Latin name but knows the history and background and where it is to be found, whether it be plant or fossil. It is truly an education and pleasure to chat with Floyd Bartley any time.