

BSWP Field Trips • October – December 2010

Registration for Botanical Society field trips is not required. Everyone is welcome, including non-members. Trips last 3 to 4 hours but one can leave at any time. For questions, call the field trip leader or Loree Speedy at 724-872-5232. Wear shoes that can get wet or muddy. Water and a hat are recommended.

Saturday, October 9, 10 a.m.

Ohiopyle State Park, Fayette County

Leader: James Nusser; birdmanjen@verizon.net
412-728-0935 cell

Directions: This fall hike begins at the Cucumber Falls parking lot. From Pittsburgh, take the PA Turnpike to Exit 91 (Donegal). Turn left onto PA 31 East and travel 2.1 miles. Turn right at a traffic light onto PA 711 / PA 381 South and continue 10 miles to a T in Normalville. Turn left onto PA 381 and continue 11 miles to Ohiopyle. Drive through the town and make a right onto SR 2019 (Kentuck Road). Travel less than a half mile and turn right into a parking lot for Cucumber Falls.

Thursday, October 14, 10 a.m.

Forbes State Forest, Fayette County

Leader: Bob McBride, Forbes State Forester.
Contact Loree Speedy at 724-872-5232 or 724-518-6022 (cell) or mousemapper@verizon.net if you have any questions.

Forester Bob McBride will host us for an informative day at Forbes State Forest, beginning with a video about the history of Pennsylvania's forests followed by varying levels of strolls to demonstration forests.

Directions: Meet at the Summit Inn parking lot at 10 a.m. Travel US 40 east about 8 miles from Uniontown, to the top of the Chestnut Ridge. The historic Summit Inn is on your right at the top of the ridge. Alternately, from the intersection of US 40 and PA 381 south of Ohiopyle, travel west on US 40 for 6 miles. Summit Inn is on your left at the top of the ridge. An alternative to entering the parking lot from US 40: turn on Skyline Drive, immediately west of the Inn's main entrance, and then turn right into the parking area.

We will caravan to the Forbes State Forest Maintenance Building on Skyline Drive (about ¾ mile past the turnoff to Laurel Caverns). We will watch an excellent short video about the history of Pennsylvania's forests. From there we will travel a short distance to demonstration forests in the Forbes State Forest; Bob McBride will be available to discuss silvicultural practices and issues and can answer our questions.

This walk is appropriate for all fitness levels. Those who do not wish to continue on more rugged terrain may enjoy the video and the first part of the demonstration forest tour. Please bring a bag lunch.

Notes: This is the new date and new meeting place for the trip originally scheduled for September 7.

Saturday, October 16, 1 p.m.

Todd Sanctuary, Butler County

Directions: From Pittsburgh, take PA 28 north to Exit 17 (PA 356, Butler-Freeport). Turn right at end of exit ramp to proceed north on PA 356 toward Sarver. Travel a little less than a mile to the first traffic light across from South Pike shopping plaza and turn right onto Monroe Road. Follow Monroe Road for 1.2 miles to a fork in the road, and bear right onto Kepple Road past Buffalo Golf Course. After 1.8 miles, the Todd Sanctuary is marked by a sign on the right. Park in the lot to the right.

Notes: Todd is a 176-acre nature preserve of the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania in the Buffalo Creek drainage. Its trails wind through oak, hickory and hemlock, and offers a variety of ferns and fern allies for fall botanizing.

Sunday, December 5, 2 p.m.

Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation Oakland, Pittsburgh, PA

Join us to enjoy the 13th International Exhibition of Botanical Art & Illustration.

Directions: From north, west and south of Pittsburgh, travel on I-376 East (Parkway East) to Exit 72A (Forbes Ave/Oakland). Continue on Forbes Avenue 1.4 miles to Forbes and Morewood Avenues. Continue past this intersection to a parking garage entrance on Forbes and Beeler Street on the right. From east of Pittsburgh, take I-376 to Exit 77 (Edgewood/Swissvale). Turn right onto Braddock Avenue and continue approximately one mile to Forbes Avenue. Turn left onto Forbes and follow it approximately 3 miles to the Carnegie Mellon campus. The parking garage entrance is at Forbes and Beeler Street to the left.

Hunt Institute is located on the campus of Carnegie Mellon University. The Institute is on the fifth floor of the Hunt Library, a 5-story aluminum and glass structure located on Frew Street and facing the "Cut" (the large grassy field in the center of campus). We will meet in the entrance lobby of the Hunt Library on Sunday at 2 p.m.