

## Monthly Meetings

### **Monday, April 8, 2013 – 7:15 pm**

**Linda MK Johnson**, Professor of Biology from Chatham University, will present "*The Cautionary Tale of Lobeline and the Weevil*." Dr. Johnson will discuss alkaloid production in our native Lobelias and their seed predators.

Dr. Johnson, originally from the Philadelphia area, studied horticulture at Temple University's Ambler campus where she managed their Native Plant Nursery. She was awarded both the MS in Environmental Science and the PhD in Biology from the University of Virginia. During her seven years in Tidewater Virginia, Dr. Johnson taught Horticulture and Biology classes at Christopher Newport University. She now teaches Plant Sciences, Ecology, and Native Plant Communities at Chatham University, occasionally accompanied by the dogs.

### **Monday, May 13, 2013 – 7:15 pm**

We will have with us **Richard Pell**, professor of Electronic and Time-based Arts at Carnegie Mellon University. He is also the founder and *Director of the Center for PostNatural History* (CPNH). The center is dedicated to the collection and exposition of life-forms that have been intentionally altered through selective breeding or genetic engineering. CPNH is dedicated to the advancement of knowledge relating to the complex interplay between culture, nature and biotechnology. In 1998 he co-founded The Institute for Applied Autonomy, a collective of engineers, artists and activists united by the cause of individual and collective self-determination. Mr. Pell received a BFA from Carnegie Mellon in 1999 and an MFA from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY in 2003.

### **Monday, June 10, 2013 – 7:15 pm**

**Alison Hale** of the University of Pittsburgh will present "*Mustard and fungi don't mix: Effects of invasive garlic mustard on native plants and their symbioses*."

Ms. Hale obtained her bachelor's degree from Wittenberg University in 2007 and her Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh in November 2012. Her research program focused on the unique chemical "weapons" of garlic mustard. Specifically, she investigated how these potent chemicals can disrupt the function of native plant symbioses. She has found that garlic mustard's chemicals can kill these soil fungi, and, ultimately, garlic mustard's disruption of this widespread symbiosis results in reduced photosynthesis, root growth, and reproduction for native forest plants. Ms. Hale is currently working as a postdoctoral associate at the University of Pittsburgh pursuing her broad interests in the management and protection of natural resources.

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## Botanical Society Field Trips

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 or [mousemapper@gmail.com](mailto:mousemapper@gmail.com). Wear shoes that can get wet or muddy. Water and a hat are recommended.

All members are invited to provide their e-mail addresses to receive information and periodic updates of additional field trips scheduled throughout the year. Please send an e-mail to [botsocwpa@gmail.com](mailto:botsocwpa@gmail.com) if you are not on the list.

**Saturday, April 6, 2013, 1 pm**

**Mingo Creek County Park, Washington County**

*Leader: Mary Ann Pike*

*Contact Information: [mapike@earthlink.net](mailto:mapike@earthlink.net);*

*cell: (412) 855-8239*

This trip can be adapted for all levels - The first half mile will be an easy stroll along the Hemlock Trail; one can return to the parking along the creek, or climb a steep hill back through the woods. Good boots are highly advised as the trails in Mingo are almost always wet.

**Directions:** From Pittsburgh via I-79: Take I-79 South to Exit 43. Turn right and follow to stop sign. Turn right on Route 519 South and follow to Route 136 East. Follow signs for Mingo Creek Park (left turn onto Sichi Hill Road, right on Sugar Run Road, quick right into the park). Continue to the intersection with Chapel Hill Road. Just past that intersection, turn left into a large parking lot with a playground and restrooms at the end of the lot.

Alternatively, take Route 51 South to PA Toll Route 43 South. Pay \$1 toll and take Exit 44. Turn right on Route 136 West. Follow signs for Mingo Creek Park (right turn onto Chapel Hill Road, turn right after crossing the small bridge over the creek and then a quick left into the parking lot). If you miss the turn onto Chapel Hill, continue to Sichi hill and follow the directions above.

The GPS coordinates for the parking lot are N 40 11.833, W 080 02.171. For a map of the park, see <http://www.co.washington.pa.us/DocumentCenter/View/496>

**Saturday, April 13, 2013, 10 am for Pittsburgh carpool, 11:15 am at trailhead**

**Indian Creek Gorge, Fayette County**

*Leader: Ed Divers*

*Contact Information: home: (412) 828-5154*

On a fun hike through a ramps-rich wooded gorge, Ed is sure to share his plant lore!

**Directions to carpool site – Harmarville Bob Evans (10:00 am):** From Pittsburgh, take PA 28 north to Exit 11. Turn right onto PA 910 and a quick right into Bob Evans. Alternatively, take Exit 48 (Allegheny Valley) of the PA Turnpike and travel west on Freeport Road for about ¾ mile to the major intersection of PA 910. Turn right and then a quick left into the Bob Evans parking lot.

**Directions to Indian Creek Valley trailhead (11:15 am):** From Pittsburgh, take the PA Turnpike to Exit 91 - Donegal. Turn east (left) on PA 31. Travel about 2 miles and turn south (right) on PA 381 at Sarnelli's Market. Travel about 11.5 miles on PA 381. Once you cross a bridge over Mill Run Reservoir, look for a Camp Christian sign and turn right onto the next unpaved road. At the Y, turn right and continue to a trailhead parking area.

**Sunday, April 14, 2013, 11:00 am**

**Sideling Hill Creek barrens and cliffs, Allegany County, MD and Fulton County, PA**

*Leaders: Mark and Loree Bowers*

*Contact Information: cell: (724)518-6022; home: (724) 872-5232; [mousemapper@gmail.com](mailto:mousemapper@gmail.com)*

We will visit Cliff Rd, the Nature Conservancy's Sideling Hill Creek Preserve, and, if there is time and interest, WPC's Sideling Hill Creek Shale Barrens in Fulton County, PA.

**Directions:** I-68 can be reached via I-70 south of the Turnpike's Breezewood Exit or US 220 south from the Turnpike's Bedford Exit. From US220 and I-68, head west on I-68 for 24 miles to Exit 72-High Germany Road. Turn right at the ramp to US40, and meet at the Aztec Food Mart. From I-70 and I-68, take Exit 1A for I-68 W toward Cumberland. Continue west for 8.7 miles to Exit 72-High Germany Road. Turn left at the ramp to US40, and meet at the Aztec Food Mart.

**Saturday, April 20, 2013, 1:00 P.M.**

**Duff Park in Murrysville, Westmoreland County**

*Leader: Pia van de Venne*

*Contact Information: [pia.parkprotector@gmail.com](mailto:pia.parkprotector@gmail.com);  
home: (724) 733-2770*

Come enjoy the show of spring ephemerals from one of the park's hardest working advocates. Expect some uphill trail climbing in this lovely old-growth wooded slope.

**Directions:** From Pittsburgh, take I-376 east (Parkway East) to its end at US 22 East - Murrysville. Travel US 22 for 5 miles to a traffic light and Sheetz at School Rd. Turn right onto School Rd, traveling about 1/8 of a mile, cross the bridge over Turtle Creek, and park in the parking lot on the right.

**Sunday, April 21, 2013, 2:00 P.M.**

**Raccoon Creek Wildflower Reserve, Beaver County**

*Leader: Shane Miller*

*Contact Information: [raccooncreek1@zoominternet.net](mailto:raccooncreek1@zoominternet.net)*

Bluebells, Violets, Trout Lilies, and Trillia "o" my. These are just a few of the beautiful, strange, and rare wildflowers that we will be seeing and learning about at Wildflower Reserve of Raccoon Creek State Park. Attendees will be guided along the trails by Shane Miller, who specializes in botanical education and interpretation at Raccoon Creek State Park. This area is known for having over 700 species of plants and beautiful spring wildflowers. Due to the uniqueness of this area, pets are prohibited on this hike.

**Directions:** From Pittsburgh, take the Parkway West (I-279 south/ US 22-30) to the Airport Expressway (PA 60). Continue past the Airport exit to Exit 7/ Clinton. At the end of the ramp, turn left and continue 1.1 miles to US 30. Turn right onto US 30 and drive 4.7 miles to the entrance for the Wildflower Reserve, on the right, just over a hill. Meet in the parking lot.

**Saturday, April 27, 2013, 10 am or 2:00 pm**

**Raccoon Creek Wildflower Reserve , Beaver County**

*Leader: Shane Miller*

See Sunday, April 21. There is no reason to miss the Wildflower Reserve this year.

**Sunday, April 28, 2013, all day**

*Enlow Fork Extravaganza at the Enlow Fork Natural Area, Greene County*

*Contact Information: [bobolink3@verizon.net](mailto:bobolink3@verizon.net)*

The Enlow Fork Total Ecology Extravaganza is a multi-organizational event with multiple leaders in all fields. There will be birding at 8 a.m., wildflower walks at 10 a.m., and much more throughout the day. Picnicking is encouraged, but food will be available. Contact Larry Helgerman, [bobolink3@verizon.net](mailto:bobolink3@verizon.net) to help, and for more information. Enlow Fork Natural Area is a high-quality riverbottom forest and a meeting place for midwestern and southern species of wildflowers; trillium and twinleaf grow on the hillsides, and the bottomlands are filled with Blue-eyed Mary.

**Directions:** From Pittsburgh, travel I-79 South to Exit 14-Waynesburg. Follow PA 21 west through Waynesburg and Graysville for approximately 19.5 miles to Nebo Ridge Road. Turn Right and travel Nebo Ridge Road for 2.7 miles. Make a right onto Walker Hill Road, then turn left onto Smokey Row (look for the SGL sign). This road leads to the state game lands parking lot.

(A bridge at the other end of Walker Hill Road is now closed, so previous directions may not work.)

The GPS coordinates for the parking lot are 39.961, -80.461

**Sunday, April 28, 2013, 1:00 pm**

**Wildflowers on the Newbold Estate, Warren County**

*Leader: Lee Ann Reiners*

*Contact Information: [larch@zoominternet.net](mailto:larch@zoominternet.net); home: (814) 282-1512 (email preferable)*

The Newbold Estate is now publicly owned and there is a wonderful flat loop trail where we can explore the wildflowers of early spring. Afterward, if there is interest in hiking the more rugged trail of Anders Run to the big trees across the road from Newbold, we'll do ~2 miles on a loop trail, birding and listening to the babbling brook.

Contact Lee Ann in advance to let her know if you plan to attend and to learn of any possible changes.

**Directions:** From the US6/US62 bypass west of Warren, leave US6 to continue on US62 south. Cross a railroad overpass, then just before the bridge over the Allegheny River, turn right toward the town of Irvine onto National Forge Rd. Go about a mile and turn left onto Althom Rd. You'll go up a hill, past the parking lot for the Anders Run Trail, down the hill, and after the road bears to the left, you'll see the stone house on the left. (Last time I was there, the stone house had begun to fall in on itself, so by the time of this field trip, it may be torn down. Look for Lee Ann's car, a pale green Outback with Florida plate WE BIRD.). Meet here..

**Saturday, May 4, 2013, 10:00 am**

**Powdermill Nature Reserve, Westmoreland County**

*Leaders: Joe and Bonnie Isaac*

*Contact Information: cell: (724) 944-8770; [IsaacB@CarnegieMNH.Org](mailto:IsaacB@CarnegieMNH.Org)*

This is the second in a series of field trips to create a reference collection for Powdermill Nature Reserve. This trip will enable you to learn and enjoy the flora, as well as to learn about plant collecting and documentation of our flora.

**Directions:** From Pittsburgh, take the PA Turnpike east to Exit 91/Donegal. At the end of the tollbooth

ramp, turn left (east) onto PA 31. Follow PA 31 east for 2.7 miles. Turn left onto PA 381 North. Follow PA 381 North for 6.4 miles to the Nimick Nature Center on your left.

**Sunday, May 12, 2013, 1:00 pm**

**Charles F. Lewis Natural Area, Clark Run Trail, Indiana County**

*Leader: Loree Speedy*

*Contact Information: [mousemapper@gmail.com](mailto:mousemapper@gmail.com); cell: (724) 518-6022; home: (724) 872-5232*

**Directions:** From Pittsburgh, take US22 east to the PA 403 Exit (This exit is about 11 miles from Blairsville Walmart). Turn right to travel PA403 south. Continue 3.5 miles, and reduce speed to be ready to turn into a Gallitzin State Forest parking lot for the trailhead on the left.

Celebrate spring ephemerals by climbing (at botanical pace) a mountain stream trail. Wear your hiking boots or shoes to climb slowly in elevation to enjoy seasonal changes. This hike, while rugged, can accommodate those who are willing to hike slowly and carefully. One can turn around and return at any time.

The GPS coordinates for the parking lot are 40.4114, -78.9851.

**Saturday, May 18, 2013, 10:00 am**

**Butler Freeport Trail – Monroe Road Trailhead, Butler County**

*Leader: Bob and Dianne Machesney*

*Contact Information: [DIANNEM15237@aol.com](mailto:DIANNEM15237@aol.com); cell: (412) 523-0368; home: (412) 366-7869*

This is one of the best rail trails for botany. There are not restrooms at the trailhead, so use the Sheetz.

**Directions:** From Pittsburgh: take PA-28 North to Exit 17 (PA-356/Butler/Freeport). At end of ramp, turn right to travel PA-356 for a little less than a mile. At the Sheetz, turn right onto Monroe Road and travel about 0.8 mile and turn left into a driveway for an unmarked building, just before the bike trail.

The GPS coordinates for the parking lot are N 40 11.833, W 080 02.171. For a map of the park, see <http://www.co.washington.pa.us/DocumentCenter/View/496>

**Saturday, May 25, 2013, 1:00 pm**

**State Game Lands 178, Lawrence County**

*Leader: Joe and Bonnie Isaac*

*Contact Information: cell: (724) 944-8770;*

*IsaacB@CarnegieMNH.Org*

**Directions:** From Pittsburgh, take I-376 west past New Castle. Continue to Exit 9 – Mitchell Road to PA18. Follow Mitchell Road east (it only goes one way) for approximately 2.5 miles (you will cross over PA 18) past Neshannock High School and Hess Ice Rink to Sunset Valley Road; go straight through the stop sign onto Sunset Valley Road.

Follow Sunset Valley Road to the next stop sign (about ¼ mile). Make a right onto Valley Road (no sign at corner). Follow Valley Road for about ½ mile to Sunrise Drive. Turn left at Sunrise Drive and follow to SGL 178 parking area.

**Saturday, June 1, 2013, 10:00 am**

**Wissahickon's Birds, Butterflies, Wildflowers and Creek Critters at Mingo, Washington County**

*Contact Information: Dianne Machesney at DIANNEM15237@aol.com; cell: (412) 523-0368; home: (412) 366-7869*

The Wissahickon Nature Club has arranged a day of nature walks and picnicking at Shelter 2 in Mingo County Park. The club will supply hot dogs, plates, condiments; please bring your own beverage and a side dish to share. Also a chair would be a good idea. Meet at Shelter 4, Mingo Creek County Park, 12 miles east of Washington PA.

There will be scheduled nature walks throughout the day; for birds, butterflies and wildflowers and creek critters, beginning at 10 a.m. Please RSVP to Dianne before June 1 so we know how many hot dogs to buy.

Directions: From Pittsburgh via I-79: Take I-79 South to Exit 43. Turn right and follow to stop sign. Turn right on Route 519 South and follow to Route 136 East. Follow signs for Mingo Creek Park (left turn into park) and the Park Office. Just past the Park Office (office on right), make a left to Shelter 4, through the Ebenezer Covered Bridge.

Alternatively, take Route 51 South to PA Toll Route 43 South. Pay \$1 toll and take Exit 44. Turn right on Route 136 West. Follow signs for Mingo Creek Park (right turn into park) and the Park Office. Just past the Park Office (office on right), make a left to Shelter 4, through the Ebenezer Covered Bridge.

**Sunday, June 2, 2013, 5:30 pm**

**Evening Vespers on the Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail, Westmoreland County**

*Leader: Tim Vechter*

*Contact Information: [tdvechter@gmail.com](mailto:tdvechter@gmail.com) cell: (724) 708-2771.*

We will hike the LHHT to the new bridge over the PA Turnpike and back, about 4 to 5 miles. Expect to see Clintonia, possibly both species.

Directions: From Pittsburgh, take the PA Turnpike east to Exit 91/Donegal. Turn left onto PA 31 and then, after a short distance, left onto PA 711. Continue on PA 711 north for about 9 miles. Turn right onto Darlington Road (this may be unmarked) and travel about 1 mile to its junction with PA 381. Continue straight onto PA 381 for a short distance, and then turn right onto Linn Run Road. Travel through Linn Run State Park to the top of the hill to parking for Spruce Flats Bog and Wolf Rocks in Laurel Summit State Park, where we will meet.

**Saturday, June 15, 2013, 1:00 pm**

**Dotter Scour along the Allegheny River near Emlenton, Venango County**

*Leader: Steve Grund*

*Contact Information: [sgrund@paconserve.org](mailto:sgrund@paconserve.org).*

Join Steve for a riverside grassland community on the open floodplain and scour zone of the Allegheny River.

Blue false-indigo (*Baptisia australis*) will be blooming. Wear very sturdy shoes and expect adventure along the tall grasses and river cobble!

**Directions:** From Pittsburgh, take I-79 north to Exit 116A for I-80 east. Travel I-80 east for 22 miles to Exit 42 for PA38 Emlenton. Continue 2 miles to Emlenton. At Main St (PA38 turns to the right), leave PA38 and continue straight one block. Bear left onto Kerr Ave and continue 7/10 mile. After a water treatment facility on the right, bear left onto Dotter Rd. Continue on Dotter Road for 3 1/2 miles to parking for the Allegheny River Trail. Dotter Road after about 1 mile bears left and eventually becomes a dirt road.

**Sunday, June 23, 2013, 10:00 am**

### **Wattsburg Fen , Erie County**

*Leaders: Loree Speedy ([mousemapper@verizon.net](mailto:mousemapper@verizon.net); cell: (724) 518-6022) and Tim Lyons ([timclyons@verizon.net](mailto:timclyons@verizon.net))*

This wetland preserve, cared for by the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, has both alkaline and acidic environments that allow for an unusual diversity of native plants.

**Directions:** From Pittsburgh, take I-79 north to Exit 166 (US 6N Albion Edinboro). Head east on US 6N for 9.8 miles to its intersection with PA 19 & US 6. Continue straight on US 6 to Union City. After taking the turn out of Union City (continuing on PA 6), drive 5.7 miles to the intersection of PA 89 and PA 6, where we will meet at a drive-in theater on the left (the northeast intersection).

### **Trillia, Volumes 1 -8, online**

Trillia: Proceedings of the Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania, Volumes 1 – 8, is available on the web as an e-book. The 8 volumes, spanning the proceedings of the Society from 1910 to 1911, were digitized by Cornell University in 2010. The e-book can be downloaded as a pdf ; the file is huge, and is not searchable.

Four additional volumes of Trillia were published by the Society, the final being No. 12 covering the period 1946-1963. Our former President, Dr. Mary Joy

Haywood, intends to publish the Society's proceedings since that date as a digital publication.

Enjoy this fascinating look at our history!

<http://books.google.com/books?id=4klMAAAAYAAJ&pg=PP8#v=onepage&q&f=false>

### **A Call for Flower Scouts**

#### **To members of the Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania**

My name is Emma Strong and I am working with the Allegheny Trail Alliance, the group that oversees the Great Allegheny Passage rail trail.

We are launching a facebook campaign to track wildflowers blooming on the Great Allegheny Passage and the C&O Canal Towpath -

<http://www.facebook.com/PetalPeepers>

We are currently searching for Flower Scouts - a dedicated core of volunteers that will go out on the trail at different sections weekly, take photos of what is blooming, and post the photo and the milemarker so that other nature lovers and trail users can too enjoy the beauty that these two trails have to offer.

I wanted to reach out to you to see if the Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania wanted to be at all involved in this project by either joining in the effort and taking photos when members are out on the trail, helping to identify the varieties of flowers that people find, identifying invasive vs. native species, or any other suggestion you might have. We would love to work with you on this project to make individuals in this region more knowledgeable about our amazing local ecology, as well as to keep visual records of our changing landscape.

Please, feel free to check out our facebook page and contact me if you are interested in being involved or if you have any suggestions for this project.

Emma Strong, ATA Special Projects Assistant, 412-901-6150 or [EmmaEMStrong@gmail.com](mailto:EmmaEMStrong@gmail.com)