

Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania Field Trips www.botsocwpa.org

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/(home); (724) 518-6022/cell or loreespeedy@gmail.com.

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 if you are not on the list.

Sunday, April 6, 2014, 1:00 PM

Cedar Creek Gorge, Westmoreland County

Leaders: Mark Bowers, 724-454-4012; 4beagles@verizon.net

Directions: From Pittsburgh, travel PA 51 south to its junction with PA 201 (just after Bills and Willowbrook Plaza). Continuing on PA 51, travel 2 additional miles to the traffic light for Concord Ln (gas station and Burger King on left) and turn left. (This traffic light at Concord Ln can also be reached by I-70 exit 46B and continuing north on PA 51 for a very short distance). Traveling on Concord Ln, bear right at fork and then turn right onto Municipal Dr. Continue about 0.6 mile past Timm's Lane, and turn left into the main entrance to Cedar Creek Park. Follow this road downhill, cross the bike trail, and turn left to continue through a series of parking lots until you reach the farthest parking lot, near the Gorge Trail.

There will be early spring plants popping out along the stream, but wear sturdy shoes if you wish to make the climb to see Snow Trillium.

Saturday, April 12, 2014, 10:00 AM

Buffalo Creek, Butler County

Leader: Ed Divers, Reach Ed at home at (412) 828-5154

Directions: From Pittsburgh, head north on PA-28 to Exit 17, PA 356. At the end of the ramp, turn right to head west on PA 356. Travel PA 356 for 6.5 miles to a

traffic light at Winfield Road (the road may be unmarked but there is a small convenience store on the left). Turn right onto Winfield Rd and travel 5.5 miles to the Armstrong Cement plant. As soon as you cross the highway bridge over a creek, turn left into a parking lot where we will meet.

This is a new location for exploring the flora and limestone of Buffalo Creek.

Saturday, April 19, 2014, 1:00 PM

Duff Park, Murrysville, Westmoreland County

Leader: Loree Speedy, 724-518-6022; loreespeedy@gmail.com

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.

Expect some uphill trail climbing in this lovely old-growth wooded slope.

Tuesday, April 22, 2014, 10:00 AM

Wolf Creek Narrows, Butler County

Leader: Dianne Machesney

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

Directions: From Pittsburgh take I-79 north to Exit 105. At the end of the ramp turn left on PA 108. Travel east on PA 108 for about 0.7 miles to West Park Rd (Dairy Queen on the right). Turn left onto West Park Road (SR 1015) and drive north about 1.8 miles to SR 1020 (you can see some large silos on the right). Turn right on SR 1020 (Miller Rd) and drive about 1.7 miles to the small parking lot on the right. (SR 1020 is a winding road and at an almost T intersection, turn right to stay on SR 1020.) If you reach the bridge, you have gone too far. The parking lot is just before you reach the bridge over Wolf Creek.

Wolf Creek Narrows is known for its spectacular display of spring wildflowers - Virginia bluebells and golden saxifrage in the hemlock hardwood forest and white

trillium in the mature stands of sugar maple, all along a high-quality stream meandering through towering cliffs.

Saturday, April 26, 2014, 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM

Raccoon Creek Wildflower Reserve, Beaver County

Leader: Shane Miller

Spring has finally arrived and with it the long anticipated and spectacular spring wildflowers. Join botanist and park educator Shane Miller for a guided tour of these short-lived beauties. The Wildflower Reserve has one of the most diverse populations of plants in the state. Be prepared for wet trails and moderate hiking.

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 at 10:00 a.m. or 2:00 p.m. in the parking lot.

Sunday, April 27, 2014, all day

Enlow Fork Total Ecology Extravaganza at the Enlow Fork Natural Area, Greene County

Contact Information: Larry Helgerman, bobolink3@verizon.net

The event starts at 8:00 am with a bird walk led by Margie Howard. At 10:00 am there will a flower/ecology walk. Fish and steam study will be ongoing throughout the morning. At 12:00 pm, picnicking is encouraged and there will be food vendors. At 1:00 pm, a butterfly/insect walk take place.

Tents will be set up at the main parking area with representatives from birding and environmental organizations. There will be a Chinese auction. A Port-a-John will be at the main tent area. Please bring a chair and stay into the afternoon.

Directions: From Pittsburgh, travel I-79 south to Washington to pick up I-70. Travel I-70 east to Exit 6

Claysville. Take US 40 east to Claysville. In Claysville turn right onto PA 231 south.

Travel PA 231 south approximately 3 miles to the "Y" in the road; stay right towards West Finley on SR-3029. Travel SR-3029 approximately 7.5 miles to a "T" in the village of West Finley. Turn left onto SR-3037 and travel approximately 3 miles to the first road past the closed bridge on right. (Note that the iron bridge at the bottom of Walker Hill Rd is closed.)

Turn right onto Iams Road and travel uphill. At the top make a right onto Nebo Ridge Rd. Travel a short distance and Walker Hill Rd will be on your right. Turn right onto Walker Hill Rd, then turn left on to Smoky Row Rd. Proceed down Smoky Row Rd, going under a new coal conveyor, follow to the end of the road, you will see the tents and parking. The GPS coordinates for the parking lot are 39.961, 80.461

Saturday, May 3, 2014, 10:00 AM

Foxburg, Clarion County & Parker Game Lands – Bear Creek Area, Butler County

Leader: Dianne Machesney

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

We will walk a nice paved trail that goes along the Allegheny River for about a mile and then turn back. Plan to have lunch at the Foxburg Inn; good food at decent prices and a glass walled dining room overlooking the river. After lunch, we will travel south about 3 miles to the Bear Creek area in the Parker Game Lands. We will walk along the road looking for wildflowers on the banks.

Directions: From Pittsburgh, travel PA 8 north to Butler. In downtown Butler, turn right onto Cunningham St to pick up PA 68 east. Travel PA 68 east for 1.5 mile to pick up PA 38 N. Continue on PA 38 N for 21 miles to PA 58. Turn right onto PA58 and continue about 7 miles to the Foxburg Bridge over the Allegheny River. Take first right after the bridge into the parking lot. Go to the far end and park. If using GPS, use the address for the Foxburg Inn, 20 Main Street, Foxburg, PA 16036.

Saturday, May 17, 2014, 2:00 PM

Spring Valley Community in Farmington, Fayette County

Leader: Members of the Spring Valley Community

Directions: Head to Uniontown by US 119 south or PA 51 south to pick up US 40. Travel US 40 east up the mountain. At the Summit Hotel at the top, note your mileage and continue 6 miles to the junction of PA 381 North (Joe's Gas 'n Go on corner) and turn left. Continue about 4/10 of a mile and turn right into a driveway with a sign for "Spring Valley".

Spring Valley is a religious community of the international Bruderhoff communal movement. The natural environment is important to the community, and members will show us the natural woodlands, meadows and wetlands of their village. We are also welcome to join them for a communal dinner after the field trip.

Saturday, May 24, 2014, 10:00 AM

Preston Park, Butler Township, Butler County

Leaders: Volunteers of Preston Park

Preston Park is an 88-acre English garden donated to Butler Township by Dr. Frank Preston, founder of Preston Laboratories, and Mrs. Jane Preston. Dr. Preston, a glass scientist, ornithologist, and ecologist, created and designed an English garden as a place to live, work and enjoy nature. Dr. Preston apparently walked the entire property daily at dawn, in accordance with his origins in England where a deep interest in nature is a great pastime.

Park Volunteers will introduce us to the park's significant historical and cultural resources, including Dr. Preston's glass research laboratory. Of special interest in May is the display of "rhodies" (rhododendrons). Preston Park is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is now maintained by Butler Township. For more information, visit <http://butlertwp.org/PrestonPark>

Directions: Travel I-79 north to Exit 83 – PA 528 toward Evans City. Travel PA 528 north for 2.6 miles to a T.

Turn right at the T and continue east on PA 68 for 9 miles to Whitestown Rd (the first traffic light after the Butler Farm Show on the right). Turn right onto Whitestown Rd and continue 1 mile to turn right onto South Eberhart Road. Park entrance will be on the left. The GPS address is 415 South Eberhart Road, Butler, PA 16001.

Saturday, June 7, 2014, 10:00 AM

Heart's Content Scenic Area, Warren County

Leaders: Joe and Bonnie Isaac,

Contact Information: cell: (724) 944-7160;

IsaacB@CarnegieMNH.Org

Directions: From Pittsburgh, take I-79 north, I-80 east and PA 8 north to Franklin to pick up US62. Travel US 62 for 31 miles to the Tidioute area. After the gas station (Keystone), turn right onto SR 3005 (look for signs to Hearts Content. If you reach the PA 127 bridge to Tidioute you have gone a short distance too far.) Follow SR3005 for 12 miles to SR2002. Turn right and continue on SR2002 for 3.7 miles to the Hearts Content Recreation Area, with picnic tables and restrooms, on the left.

GPS Coordinates: N 41 41.437, W 079 15.277

Camping is available at Hearts Content Campground, which is just down the road from the picnic area.

Hearts Content National Scenic Area is a lovely, old growth, remnant timber stand with 300 to 400 year old white pine, hemlock, and beech. Dr. Todd Ristau spoke to the Botanical Society in March and informed us that the herbaceous vegetation is increasing in diversity.

Monday June 9, 2014 10:00 AM

Greenock Portion of the Great Allegheny Passage (GAP) Trail, Allegheny County

Directions: From Pittsburgh, take I-376 (Parkway East) to Exit 78A - Forest Hills/ US 30. Travel US 30 west about 7 miles to PA 48. Turn right (south) on PA 48 and travel 6 miles to the Boston Bridge. Cross the bridge over the Youghiogheny River, turn left onto E. Smithfield Street. Go approximately 2.1 miles, and turn right onto Moray Lane. Immediately past the

"Ray's Way Bar" turn left into the driveway. Go to the back and park in the lot for the baseball field.

The closest GPS address is: 525 Moray Dr., Greenock, PA 15047.

There is a picnic shelter with tables. We will start our walk at the 21.5 mile marker of the trail. We will walk about 2 miles toward the 24 mile marker, turn around and return to a picnic shelter. Bring a bag lunch and water.

Saturday, June 14, 2014, 9:15 AM

Blair Brothers Railroad Trail, Westmoreland County

Directions: From Pittsburgh, travel the PA Turnpike to Exit 91 - Donegal. Follow PA 31 east for 3 miles and turn left onto PA 381 North. (Ignore the right-hand turn for PA 381 South). Soon after the left-hand turn, turn left into a trail parking lot, just before the highway bridge.

(Westmoreland Bird and Nature Club members are meeting at the 2nd parking lot in Donegal Lake at 9:00 a.m. if you wish to caravan.) This is an easy walk through woods and wetland along an abandoned railroad grade.

Saturday, June 28, 2014, 10:00 AM

Markleysburg Bog, Fayette County

Leader: Loree Speedy, 724-518-6022; loreespeedy@gmail.com

Directions: The intersection of US40 & PA381 can be reached by traveling US40 east from Uniontown, or by traveling PA 381 south from PA Turnpike Exit 91 - Donegal (travel PA 31 east 2 miles).

At the intersection of PA 381 and US 40, travel US40 east 6 miles. Look for an oversized sign on the right reading "Truck Warning-Steep Grade." Turn right at the foot of this sign onto a blacktop driveway into the Mountain Fellowship Center, marked with a blue sign. Continue past the community building on the left and park along the right side of dirt road.

Prepare for wet feet. Protection at least 4 inches over the ankle is recommended as the bog is not deep.

Monday & Tuesday, May 12-13, 2014

Lakeside Daisy & Alvar Workshop, Marblehead Peninsula, Ohio.

Flora-Quest is teaming with Ohio Natural Areas & Preserves Association to present a Lakeside Daisy & Alvar Workshop in Marblehead Peninsula, Ohio. Marblehead Peninsula offers the best examples of a unique and rarely seen habitat & plant community. There are 2 days of field trips with 2 luncheons and workshops with guest speakers.

Field trips include: 1.) the Lakeside Daisy Preserve 2.) a private Marblehead Alvar with incredible glacial grooves. 3.) Marblehead Lighthouse, the most photographed location in Ohio, and 4.) Meadowbrook Marsh.

At the Luncheon Workshops, botanist Allison Cusick will discuss "What is an Alvar? Why are they important?" Jennifer Windus from the Ohio Division of Wildlife will present "Lakeside Daisy: A Rare Midwest Gem from Marblehead."

Trips will be filled on a first-come first-served basis, so be sure to register early! The workshop price of \$90.00 includes all field trips to four locations & luncheons on Monday & Tuesday. If you have questions about the workshop, call 419-683-8952 (9am -9pm) or e-mail cheryl.harner@flora-quest.com.

Full details are found at www.flora-quest.com.

Dues Notice

Annual dues are \$10 for individual, \$15 family. Students can join at half-rate. We need you name, address and e-mail (optional, see below). Make your check payable to the BSWP and mail to: Mark Bowers, BSWP, 279 Orr Road, West Newton, PA 15089.

Indicate whether we can use your e-mail to notify you of the upcoming field trips. Members still have the option to receive a list of upcoming field trips by U.S. mail. Please indicate whether you would like a list of upcoming field trips sent to you by U.S. mail.