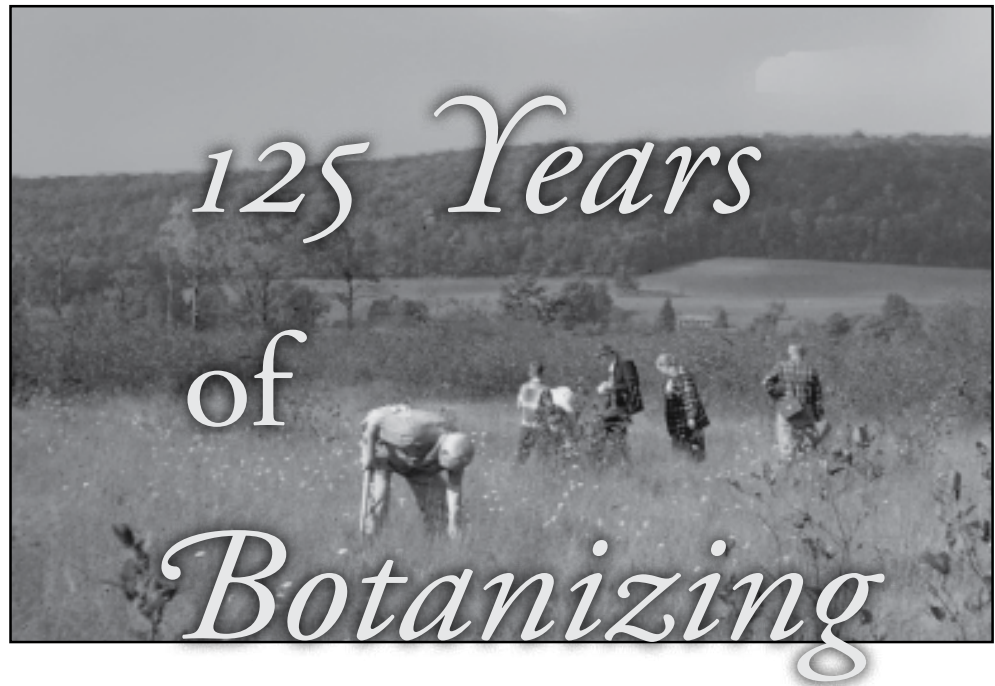


THE BULLETIN OF THE

# Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania



wildflowers

ON THE EVENING OF OCTOBER 7, 1886, A GROUP OF PEOPLE gathered near Pittsburgh and resolved to form a botanical society.

The name “Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania” was adopted for the second oldest such society in the United States.

*The object of this Society shall be to bring into communication those who are interested in Botany, to advance their knowledge of the subject, and to create a more wide-spread interest in the study of plants.*

Article 2, BSWP Constitution

JANUARY  
FEBRUARY  
2011

BSWP Meetings are held on Mondays at 7:15 p.m. at Kresge Theater, Carlow University, 3333 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA (Oakland). Kresge Theater is on the top floor of the Grace

Library and is accessed from the upper campus. Place a note on your dashboard saying “Botanical Society Meeting,” or use your parking permit.

*If the weather is inclement, a BSWP meeting will cancel if Carlow University cancels classes. To learn if that has happened, call the Carlow Weather Line at 412-578-6677.*

Blue-eyed Mary (*Collinsia verna*), 1981. Courtesy of Arabelle Wheatley, Illustrator.

*Wildflowers*, Bulletin of the Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania, is published bimonthly by the Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania. We welcome short articles of botanical interest, drawings, and notices of botanical events and group activities. Send to the editor at the address below. Deadline for submissions is the 16th of the previous month. *Wildflowers* is printed on recycled paper.



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The Society meets the second Monday of each month, September through June, at 7:15 p.m. sharp, at Kresge Theater, Carlow University, 3333 Fifth Avenue, Oakland. All are welcome to the informative program and business meeting.

#### MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Annual dues are \$10 for individual and \$15 for family. Students can join at half-rate. To join, mail your name, your address, and check payable to "Botanical Society of W PA" to Judy Boyer, 211 Lee Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15237. Your membership includes a subscription to the bimonthly bulletin *Wildflowers*.

The Botanical Society was founded in 1886.

The object of the Society shall be to bring together those who are interested in Botany and to encourage the study of this science and a knowledge of plants.

Blue-eyed Mary (*Collinsia verna*), 1981.  
Courtesy of Arabelle Wheatley, Illustrator.

# 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. Wear shoes that can get wet or muddy. Water and a hat are recommended.

## January 15, 9 a.m.

### Buffalo Creek and Limestone Caverns near Sarver, Butler County

**Leader:** Ed Divers, 412-828-5154

**Directions:** We will meet at the Bob Evans Restaurant (rear lot) in Harmarville at 9 a.m. 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  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile to the major intersection of PA 910. Turn right and then a quick left into the Bob Evans parking lot.

**Notes:** Enjoy a loop hike of 4 or 7 miles (depending on the weather) near Sarver. Lunch, with campfire, will be along Buffalo Creek. We will stop for a short look into a large limestone cavern along the trail. This is one of Ed Diver's famous winter hikes with the Sierra Club. The trip will take place, rain, snow or shine! A carpool fee of \$3.00 is suggested for the 20-mile drive (each way) to our hiking trailhead.

## February 12, 1 p.m.

### Dead Man's Hollow, Boston, Allegheny County

**Leader:** Loree Speedy, mousemapper@verizon.net; 724-872-5232

**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, immediately turn right, then turn right again. We will meet at the Yough River Trail parking lot. Alternatively, take PA 51 south to the Elizabeth bridge over the Monongahela River. Continue about 3.5 miles to PA 48 (near Round Hill Park). Turn left (north) on Route 48, and follow it for 7 miles to a 5-way intersection in Boston, just before the bridge. Turn left, then immediately right, into the Yough River Trail parking lot.

**Notes:** This remote area is known for ghosts, so let's hope ghosts keep away another Snowmageddon. This 3+ mile hike may be canceled due to poor driving conditions or icy trails. If weather conditions are uncertain, call 724-872-5232 for a message about whether the trip will take place.

## In Memoriam

Lee Tosh, a dear friend of the Botanical Society, died peacefully at her home on October 31, 2010. Lee's generosity and her love of wildflowers, especially those she shared with us on field trips near her cottage, will be missed by all. At her request, Lee's family and friends will be invited to attend a Celebration of Her Life, to be held Saturday, July 16, 2011, at her cottage on Lake Stony Creek near Shanksville. Details of the service will be announced in the upcoming BSWP newsletter.

### ANDREY AVINOFF: IN PURSUIT OF BEAUTY

February 26–June 5. Works on Paper Gallery

Carnegie Museum of Art presents the first exhibition in more than 50 years devoted to the visionary art of the brilliant and talented Andrey Avinoff (1884–1949), who believed that beauty will save the world. His exotic story, from the court of the Russian tsar to the mountains of Tibet, from an upstate New York dairy farm to the laboratories of Pittsburgh and the salons of Park Avenue, has never been told in full. Best known for his scientific research on butterflies, Avinoff created a rich body of watercolor paintings that express ideas about metamorphosis, transience, and change.

Botanical Society members know Avinoff as illustrator of the two-volume *Wild Flowers of Western Pennsylvania and the Upper Ohio Basin*, by O.E. Jennings. In 1941 Avinoff began an ambitious project with friend and Curator of Botany Otto E. Jennings. They wanted to describe and illustrate the flora of western Pennsylvania, based on Jennings' lifelong study of the region. Jennings and his colleagues brought in the living plants, fresh and unwithered. Avinoff worked quickly to capture accurately the color and manner of growth.

On Thursday, March 10, 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Louise Lippincott, curator of fine arts, discusses the exhibition *Andrey Avinoff: In Pursuit of Beauty*. Lunch is included. For more details, go to <http://web.cmoa.org/?p=2183>. Call 412.622.3288 to register.



### JENNINGS PRAIRIE IMPROVEMENT DAY

Shake off those mid-winter blues by pitching in at Jennings Environmental Education Center on Saturday, January 15 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., for the eleventh annual Prairie Improvement Day. The Jennings staff is looking for individuals willing to spend a Saturday morning outdoors to help manage the unique prairie ecosystem. For lunch, generous local restaurants will provide plenty of warm, hearty soup. Each participant will receive a commemorative soup mug as a special thank-you. Participants must be age 12 or older and should dress for the weather, including gloves and warm, waterproof boots. Please register for this program no later than January 7 by contacting the Center at 724-794-6011 or online at [www.dcnr.state.pa.us/calendar/list.asp](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/calendar/list.asp).

Jennings Environmental Education Center has the only preserved prairie in Pennsylvania. A variety of management techniques are used to preserve this distinctive prairie habitat. One such technique is to clip and remove the woody invaders that may eventually out-compete native flowers and grasses. This activity is best accomplished in winter when the soil is frozen and vegetation is reduced. With the help of volunteers, this undertaking can be completed much more quickly and effectively. The fruits of this winter labor will be on vivid display during the spectacular prairie bloom of the coming summer.

RENEW YOUR  
BSWP MEMBERSHIP AND  
NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION  
FOR 2011, OUR 125<sup>TH</sup> YEAR!

Fill out the form, detach with scissors and send  
your check to:  
Judy Boyer, 211 Lee Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15237

**Yes, please renew/initiate my/our annual BSWP membership!**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

New member? Yes \_\_\_ No \_ OR: New mailing address? Yes \_\_\_ No \_

**Your check of \$10/person or \$15/family is payable to the BSWP.**

## 2ND LAUREL HIGHLANDS SUMMIT SET APRIL 4

Several local and regional conservation organizations have come together to create a four-county coalition of grass-roots conservation and environmental groups. The purposes of the coalition will be to support funding for conservation efforts, provide information about key issues and network.

The economic impact of tourism, recreation and green space will be the focus of the second Summit for the Laurel Highlands Conservation Landscape Initiative scheduled from 9 to 4 on Monday, April 4, at the Fred Rogers Center of St. Vincent College in Latrobe.

The Conservation Coalition of the Laurel Highlands has teamed up with trail advocates to put together the program for the day. A special focus will be on how to develop trails because the Summit is being supported in part by a small grant that the Pennsylvania Parks and Recreation Society received from the state Department of Conservation and Recreation to provide trail workshops.

The previous meeting, held September 30, 2010, provided information about efforts to renew Growing Greener and dedicate much of the proposed gas-extraction tax to conservation, along with plans to provide information about conservation needs to legislators across the region. Marcellus shale was the subject of an informative session.

Representatives from watershed groups and conservancies, chapters of Trout Unlimited, Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever and Audubon Society; conservation districts; and trail groups, sportsmen's organizations, garden clubs, cleanways chapters, state agencies and other organizations interested in helping to conserve the natural resources of this beautiful region were present.

If you are part of such an organization, please plan to attend or find someone else from your organization who can attend future meetings. Or if you know people involved in such

## NATIVE PLANTS JOURNAL

The University of Wisconsin Press recently announced the addition of *Native Plants Journal* to its publishing program. The Press will begin publishing the journal in 2011 with volume 12.

*Native Plants Journal* is a forum for dispersing practical information about planting and growing North American native plants for conservation, restoration, reforestation, landscaping, highway corridors, and related uses. It is edited by R. Kasten Dumroese of the USDA Forest Service at the Rocky Mountain Research Station.

"We are very excited to begin working with the *Native Plants Journal* editorial staff. This title is a perfect fit for our publishing program as it joins our other environmental and land management publications: *Landscape Journal*, *Ecological Restoration*, *Land Economics*, and our many books in these fields," said Pam Wilson, UW Press journals manager.

Editor Kas Dumroese stresses that "The goal of *Native Plants Journal* is to 'cross pollinate' researchers and field restorationists, therefore we publish refereed research manuscripts as well as general technical articles that share the real-world experiences of field personnel."

*Native Plants Journal* is published three times per year in full color and is available in both print and electronic formats. In addition to offering subscribers online access to new issues and all back issues, UW Press provides direct links to the Propagation Protocol Database. The first five volumes are freely accessible online. The journal is also included in Project MUSE. Please visit <http://npj.uwpress.org> to browse and search content, sign up for alerts, or subscribe.

The journal was founded in January 2000 as a cooperative effort of the USDA Forest Service and the University of Idaho, with input from the USDA Agricultural Research Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The current publisher, Indiana University Press, was to oversee publication through volume 11 (2010).

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an organization in Westmoreland, Fayette, Somerset or Cambria Counties, please forward this notice to them.

Questions may be addressed to [laurels@pec-pa.org](mailto:laurels@pec-pa.org), or call Brad Clemons at 814-659-3465. Information on upcoming meetings will be posted at [www.pecpa.org/Laurel\\_Highlands/](http://www.pecpa.org/Laurel_Highlands/).

### About the CLI

The Laurel Highlands Conservation Landscape Initiative (CLI) is a partnership that strives to raise the region's quality of life while crafting a model of sustainable development tied to the natural and cultural assets of the region. The initiative connects communities and partners in the area with state agencies and funding partners to conserve and protect the high quality assets and enhance the region's economic viability.



# Some Brush Creek Observations by Frank R. Alker, BSWP President 1916–17

*This appeared in the annual BSWP publication later named Trillia, published 100 years ago (Issue Number 1, 1911).*

The territory in which these notes\* were made consists of a series of abandoned fields near the headwaters of Brush Creek, lying between and gradually rising towards a line of low hills, forming a most charming valley, through which the tortuous creek, frequently overflowing its banks, finds its way into the Connoquenessing. Three miles long by one mile wide this valley advances in a northwesterly direction from Douthett, Marshall Township, Allegheny County, to a point slightly west of Crider's Corners, Cranberry Township, Butler County, and lies from 1,000 to 1,200 feet above sea-level. Nowhere else within the same radius of Pittsburgh does so great a diversity of vegetation exist — the whole district, somewhat primeval in aspect, making a paradise wherein any botanist might revel.

Throughout the somewhat marshy lowlands many aquatic and semi-aquatic plants find luxuriant homes. The Forget-me-not (*Myosotis laxa*) with its exquisite blue flowers; the Brook-weed (*Samolus floribundus*); and the Water-plantain (*Alisma plantago-aquatica*) fairly choke the shallow watercourses with their rank growth, leaving the less wet spaces for occupancy by the Marsh Marigold (*Caltha palustris*), that golden gem of the spring; the beautiful-leaved Hellebore (*Veratrum viride*); and the graceful Dog's-tooth Violet (*Erythronium americanum*). Higher up, in close proximity, the Virginian Bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*); Blood-root (*Sanguinaria canadensis*); and the Wild Leek (*Allium tricoccum*), whose two or three lance-shaped leaves wither before the flowers appear, have taken residence. During July and August the Turk's-cap Lily (*Lilium superbum*), found here by the thousand, exhibit a wonderful display of flowers, many of the stalks, on account of the tall jungle-like thickets wherein they are located, attaining the unusual height of nine feet. Showering itself and its neighbors with pollen, this lily, seeding freely, ripens its large melon-shaped pods about October. Less showy, but more beautiful, the orange-flowered variety of the Canadian Lily (*Lilium canadense*), frequenting the open ground and producing from five to twenty flowers, rarely exceeds five feet. Never advancing into nor occupying the dry upper ground, the Stemless Trillium (*Trillium sessile*), brown-flowered and spotted-leaved, carpets the floor of the damp lower woodland. (Although normally structurally three-parted, two four-leaved specimens were found within ten feet of each other). Nearby, in far less shade, the Nodding Trillium (*Trillium cernuum*), conceals itself at the base of trees and alongside the fallen logs. In company with

the Blind Gentian (*Gentiana andrewsii*), colonies of which thickly dot the meadows, the huge-leaved pale Indian Plantain (*Cacalia atriplicifolia*) finds a home.

Magnificently offset by a bright green background of trees and shrubs, the Oswego Tea (*Monarda didyma*), stiffly parading its brilliant flowers, completely outshines its cousin and neighbor, the Wild Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*). Over on that slope among the trees is quite a patch of the Sweetscented Violet (*Viola blanda*), while farther on, but more exposed, occurs the singularly elegant American Cowslip\*\* (*Dodecathron meadia*). Barely noticeable among the litter of the forest dwells the Pipsissewa (*Chimaphila umbellata*) together with the Shin Leaf (*Pyrola elliptica*), whose nodding flowers, deliciously fragrant, are ever welcome. Vast clumps of the Canadian Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*), promiscuously scattered in every direction, guarantee a continuance of the species by their generous yield of seed.

Extremely plentiful, the queenly Swamp Rose (*Rosa carolina*), in season one mass of enormous pink flowers, fringes the shrubby bottomlands, extending itself along the fence-lines and displaying in autumn a multitude of scarlet pips.

With the exception of the Swamp Rose (so prominent that it could not easily be left out) trees and shrubs have been purposely disregarded in this account, and only those plants which are conspicuous or unique have received mention. There are very few plants found elsewhere within the same distance of Pittsburgh that are not represented in this Brush Creek region and the vigorous manner in which they run riot is sufficient evidence of the favorable character of the soil.

the creek, about one-quarter of a mile from Douthett Stop, and here were discovered a number of fine flowering specimens of the *Dodecathron meadia*. A few specimens were collected and these now are to be found in the Herbarium at the Carnegie Museum. Mr. Alker's station for this species is perhaps a mile farther north of this first spot, thus extending somewhat our range for this rare species in the state of Pennsylvania. —O. E. Jennings.

\* Since these notes were taken, over 1,000 acres of this district have passed into the hands of the Juvenile Court, and it is to be regretted that this "Botanist's Paradise" will soon become a thing of the past. —Author [Frank R. Alker].

\*\* The American Cowslip or Shooting Star mentioned here by Mr. Alker has a general distribution: "Woods, prairies, and moist cliffs, Pa. and Md. to Man., and southw." — *Gray's Manual*. Prior to the year 1909, however, the species had been reported from Pennsylvania only from the extreme southeastern part — from Perry, Lancaster, Montgomery, and Philadelphia Counties. On June 5, 1909, while attending one of the field-trips of the Botanical Society, the writer of this note, in company with Prof. L. S. Hopkins, had wandered apart from the rest of the members down into the wet woods near

## Wildflowers

January–February 2011

Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania

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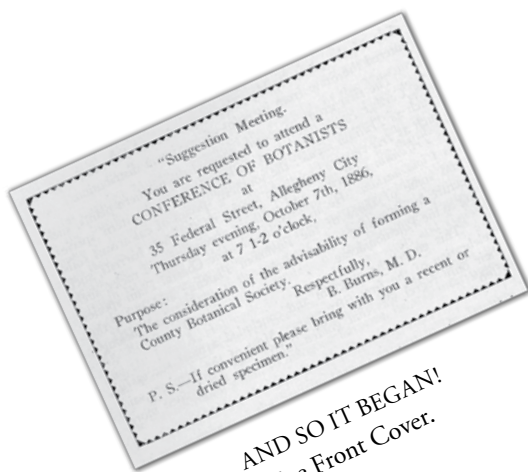
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AND SO IT BEGAN!  
See Front Cover.

**Wildflowers of Pennsylvania** (400 pages, 612 color photos) can be purchased for \$20 (plus \$1.40 sales tax for PA residents). Add \$2 postage and handling for one book, \$3/two, \$4/three, \$4.50/four. Forward your check, made payable to Botanical Society of Western PA, and your request to Dr. Mary Joy Haywood, RSM, PhD, 3333 Fifth Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3165; 412-578-6175; [mhaywood@carlow.edu](mailto:mhaywood@carlow.edu)



## January 10 Meeting

This evening's lecturer is member Luc Berger. In his talk, "Botanical, Historical, and Photographic Curiosities: Adventures with Field Guide and Camera", Luc addresses topics such as local plants associated with the names of friends of Linnaeus, why cultivated plants differ from natives, interesting facts about the Nightshade and Laurel families; and offers advice for beginners on wildflower identification. Artistic pictures of plants obtained with Luc's special photographic techniques will be shown.

Luc was born near Lausanne, Switzerland. After completing his education, he came to Pittsburgh in 1960. He retired from teaching in 1995 from the Physics Department of Carnegie Mellon University.

## February 14 Meeting

Michael Fialkovich will present "The Plants of Presque Isle". Mike has been a member of the Botanical Society for over 10 years, enjoying field trips and learning about plants from members of the society. He has taken plant identification courses, and conducted surveys, describing forest communities.

Mike earned a BS in biology from the University of Pittsburgh and a Certificate in Conservation Ecology from Chatham College, and served there on the faculty for that program. He currently works in the Quality Assurance/Applications Technical Department for an international printing company.

Over the years Mike has been involved in other surveys for Home-wood Cemetery, the *Pennsylvania Herpetological Atlas*, the second *Breeding Bird Atlas of Pennsylvania*, and the PA Ornithological Records Committee. He serves in several ongoing roles for the journal *Pennsylvania Birds*, Three Rivers Birding Club, of which he is a founding member, and is eBird Editor for Allegheny County.