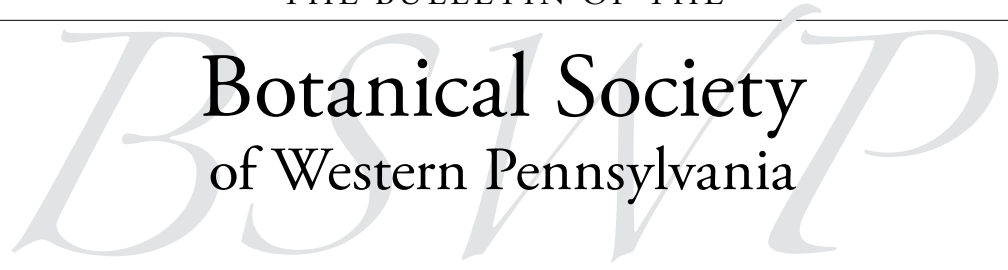


THE BULLETIN OF THE

# Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania



wildflowers



MAX HENRICI, A PROFOUND LOVER OF NATURE AND BSWP MEMBER, enjoyed a long career as a newspaper writer and editor. Inside this issue we reprint an article he wrote for the society's *Trillia* Volume 11 (1936–1946) publication.

## *March Meeting*

MARCH 14. Cynthia Huebner will present a talk titled “Outwitting Invasive Exotic Plants in Forested Ecosystems”. Her current research focuses on *Continued on Back Cover*

## *April Meeting*

APRIL 11. “Plants as Dyestuff” will be jointly presented by Millie and Rebecca Sass, a mother and daughter team who use natural dyes to create a wide *Continued on Back Cover*

MARCH  
APRIL  
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.*

*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.

# March & April

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.

## Sunday, March 20, 1 p.m.

### Little Sewickley Creek outside of Herminie, Westmoreland County

**Directions:** Take the PA Turnpike to Exit 67-Route 30/Irwin/Greensburg. Take the Route 30 East/Greensburg ramp. At the first stoplight on Route 30, turn tight onto Arona Road, then another right after 0.5 mile onto unmarked Wendel Road. Travel this road 3.7 miles to a T. Turn right at the T and continue 1 mile to Herminie to a 4-way stop (VFD on corner). Continue straight to the next stop sign and turn left. Proceed through 2 more stop signs, end at a T, and turn right. Continue past the Dairy Queen on your right and continue down a hill; we will meet just before the highway bridge. Park on the left side.

These directions are difficult as roads are unmarked and state roads through Herminie sometimes look like alleys. An important landmark is the Dairy Queen; once you locate that, head west down the hill.

**Notes:** A favorite spring walk with the Westmoreland Bird & Nature Club.

## Saturday, March 26, 1 p.m.

### Round Hill Park, Elizabeth Township, Allegheny County

**Leader:** Loree Speedy

**Contact Info:** 724-518-6022 (cell); 724-872-5232 (home)  
 mousemapper@verizon.net

**Directions:** We will meet at Round Hill Park and Farm main entrance and arrange appropriate car pools, as the actual site has limited parking.

From Pittsburgh, travel PA 51 south. About 3.5 miles from the bridge in Elizabeth, turn left at the intersection of PA 51 and PA 48. (This intersection can also be reached via I-70 Exit 46B/PA 51 and traveling north on PA 51 for 7 miles.) Turn left onto PA 48 and continue to the next intersection, Round Hill Road. Turn right onto Round Hill Road and continue to the main entrance of the Park and Farm, about 0.3 mile on the left.

**Notes:** Snow Trillium was recorded from this site in the early 1900's, but has not been documented since that date. The goal of this trip is to explore one or more ravines of Douglass Run to see if it can be relocated. Visits last year show that parts of the area still have high quality woods among the limestone outcrops. This area does not have maintained trails, and may be a bit rugged, but this trip is ideal for those who want to know more about searching and (perhaps!) documenting a state-listed plant.

# Field Trips

**Sunday, April 3, 1 p.m.**

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## **Pumpkin Run in Rice's Landing, Greene County**

**Leader:** Mary Joy Haywood

**Contact Info:** 412-578-6175 (office); 412-708-4952 (cell)

**Directions:** From Pittsburgh, take I-79 South to Exit 19-Ruff Creek/Jefferson. At the end of the exit ramp, turn left to head south on US 19 for a short distance, then turn left to head east or south on PA 221. Travel PA 221 for about 4.7 miles. At the T, turn left onto PA 188 and continue 5.5 miles to the town of Dry Tavern and the intersection with PA 88. At this intersection, continue straight (across PA 88) and keep left at the next fork. Continue about 1 mile down the hill. Proceed under an underpass, then turn right onto Main Street. Meet at the picnic pavilion near the Rice's Landing borough building on the left.

Alternately, from south of Pittsburgh, travel south on I-43 (toll), which eventually turns into PA 88. Continue south on PA 88 until its intersection with PA 188 in Dry Tavern. Turn left and keep left at the next fork. Continue about 1 mile down the hill. Proceed under an underpass, then turn right onto Main Street. Meet at the picnic pavilion near the Rice's Landing borough building on the left.

**Sunday, April 10, 10 a.m.**

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## **Crouse Run near North Park, Allegheny County**

**Leader:** Loree Speedy

**Contact Info:** 724-518-6022 (cell); 724-872-5232 (home)  
mousemapper@verizon.net

**Directions:** From Pittsburgh, take PA 28 north to PA 8 North. Travel PA 8 for 6.6 miles to make a left onto Craighead Road (its southern intersection with PA 8). This left turn is about 0.7 miles after Harts Run Road. Travel Craighead Road a short distance and make a left onto Mount Royal Boulevard. After 0.4 mile, make a right onto Sample Road. Travel downhill 0.7 mile to a highway bridge and park on left just before Royal View Road. If you cross a second highway bridge you've gone too far.

From points north, take I-76 PA Turnpike Exit 39/Butler Valley and travel 1.8 miles south on PA 8 to make a right onto Craighead Road (its northern intersection with PA8). Travel Craighead Road a short distance and make a right onto Mount Royal Boulevard. After 0.4 mile, make a right onto Sample Road. Travel downhill 0.7 mile to a highway bridge and park on left just before Royal View Road. If you cross a second highway bridge you've gone too far.

**Notes:** The Botanical Society has made dozens of, if not a hundred, trips to "Wildwood Ravine" along Crouse Run. The first trip recorded in *Trillia* took place on November 6, 1915 and was led by John Bright. Crouse Run is a tributary of Pine Creek and is east of present-day North

Park in Allegheny County. In 1930 the stream was listed as Krouse Run, but by 1940 the stream was consistently referred to as Crouse Run. Local old-timers, however, maintain that the stream was also known as Grouse Run. Wildwood is also the name of the Baltimore and Ohio train station used to transport members to this site for many years. Remains of the Butler Short Line interurban electric railway can still be found in the stream valley among abundant native plants. Among those using the short line in the 1920's were Mary Scott Skinner, a biology professor at Pennsylvania College for Women, who took her students, which included a young Rachel Carson, to Crouse Run to examine wildflowers, birds and animals. Fortunately for us, in 1996 Hampton Township and the Pine Creek Conservation Trust set aside parts of this valley for a nature reserve.

**Sunday, April 17, 2 p.m.**

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## **Boyce Mayview Regional Park Upper St. Clair, Allegheny County**

**Leader:** Mary Ann Pike

**Contact Info:** 412-833-8651  
mapike@earthlink.net

**Directions:** From Pittsburgh, proceed south on US 19 (Washington Road) to Boyce Road which is 3.0 miles south of South Hills Village (at Fort Couch Road). Turn right onto Boyce Road and proceed 0.5 mile to the intersection with Morton Road on the right. Turn right onto Morton Road and continue about 1.5 miles to soccer fields on the left side of the road. Park here.

Alternatively, take I-79 south. Take Exit 54/ Bridgeville. At the end of the ramp, turn right onto Millers Run Road (PA 50) and proceed to the traffic light at the T-intersection with Washington Pike. Turn right onto Washington Pike and drive for 2.1 miles to the intersection with Boyce Road. Turn left onto Boyce and proceed 1.4 miles to the traffic light at the intersection with Mayview Road. Continue on

*Continued on Next Page*

## Field Trips *Continued from Previous Page*

Boyce Road for another 1.1 mile to Morton Road. Turn left onto Morton Road and continue about 1.5 miles to soccer fields on the left side of the road. Park here.

**Notes:** The Botanical Society visited Mayview annually from 1927 to 1936. The meeting minutes of June 10, 1936, from *Trillium* No. 10, report the following. "Miss Curtis indicated the possibility that Phlox is replacing *Collinsia* at Mayview. At the trip there [May 9, 1936] it was found that a sawmill had made inroads and destroyed much of the *Trillium sessile* and *Mertensia*."

In 1996 Upper St. Clair acquired 238 acres of the Mayview Farm property from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This property is directly adjacent to the township's 236-acre park property. Along with fields and open space, the two largely undeveloped properties contain woodlands and stream valleys that harbor a diverse habitat for native plants. Whether the site we visit today is the site where the sawmill made inroads in 1936 is uncertain, but it is fortunate that the community today values the *Trillium sessile* and *Mertensia* in this park's natural areas.

### **Saturday, April 23, 1 p.m.**

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#### **Limestone Run, S.G.L. 51, Fayette County**

**Leader:** Loree Speedy

**Contact Info:** 724-518-6022 (cell)

724-872-5232 (home); mousemapper@verizon.net

**Directions:** Exit the I-76 PA Turnpike at Exit 75/New Stanton and head south on US 119 to Connellsville. Continue through Connellsville on US 119 south; outside of town you will come to a traffic light with a Walmart on the right. Continue to the next traffic light, in the left lane, so that you can turn left. (There are no road signs here but you will see a Butchko Brothers Auto Parts on the left.)

Turn left and proceed downhill and through the town of Dunbar by following signs to Ohiopyle (right after the RR tracks, left at the stop sign). From the stop sign, proceed 3 miles on the state road (you will pass a shooting range

on the left) and slow down where the state road turns sharply to the left at a series of metal buildings and a brown "public hunting" sign. Turn right here onto a gravel game lands road and continue 1 mile to the parking area at the end.

**Notes:** These roads are not marked; mileage & landmarks must be heeded.

### **Saturday, April 30, 10 a.m.**

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#### **Raccoon Creek Wildflower Reserve, Beaver County**

**Leader:** Shane Miller

**Contact Info:** newmiller\_78@hotmail.com

**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.

**Notes:** The Wildflower Reserve at Raccoon Creek State Park has been a mecca for botanists, plant ecologists, photographers, and those who enjoy beautiful wildflowers for more than 80 years. The reserve has a network of trail that lead visitors through different habitats, allowing them to see different plants. Presently, over 700 species have been documented within the Reserve, making it a great place to learn and see plants in Western PA.

### **Sunday, May 1**

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#### **Enlow Fork Natural Area, Greene County**

**Time:** Nature events all day; 10 a.m. for the first wildflower walk

**Event Organizer:** Larry Helgerman

**Contact Info:** bobolink3@verizon.net

**Directions:** From Pittsburgh, travel I-79 South toward Washington and head west on I-70 West. Exit I-70 at Exit 15 (PA 40/Chestnut Street) and turn right to head east toward Washington. At the second stop light, turn right onto Franklin Farms Road and travel 1 mile to a T intersection with PA 18. Turn right onto PA 18 and continue a little over 14 miles to its junction with PA 231. (Note: do not take PA 221 which joins PA 18 from the right and leaves PA 18 on the left). At the junction with PA 231 (East Finley Drive), turn right and travel for 1.8 miles until PA 231 heads north (right) at a 3-way intersection. At this point, continue straight onto Enon Church Road and continue for a little over 4 miles to an intersection. At the intersection, continue straight across a bridge onto Walker Hill Road for 1.6 miles to a sharp right turn for the game lands (Smokey Row Road). Continue down Smokey Row Road to game land parking lots at the bottom of the hill.

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 to help, and for more information.

# Special Events

In the months leading up to the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of BSWP, we are developing special projects in which all members can participate. Consider this one. We'll place copies of *Wildflowers of Pennsylvania*, BSWP's labor of love, co-authored by Dr. Mary Joy Haywood and Phyllis Monk, in libraries in every one of Pennsylvania's 67 counties. We seek book donors. For the purchase price of a book (see back cover), a special book plate inside the book cover will display your name, if you wish, and a notation of your donation in honor of BSWP's 125<sup>th</sup>. To donate books, contact Dr. Haywood (contact info inside front cover). Book donation info will also be on [www.botsocwpa.org](http://www.botsocwpa.org).

## PENNSYLVANIA RARE PLANT FORUM

**Saturday, April 9 • 9:30 a.m. – about 2:30 p.m.**

### Jennings Environmental Education Center

All people interested in the conservation of Pennsylvania's native flora are encouraged to attend this meeting. The Rare Plant Forum is a function of the Vascular Plant Technical Committee of the Pennsylvania Biological Survey, and for over thirty years has served in an advisory role to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for issues related to the conservation of the native flora of Pennsylvania. In addition to discussing proposed changes to the list of Plants of Special Concern in Pennsylvania (POSCIP), there will be a few related presentations. This is an excellent opportunity to connect and work with other botanists, amateur and professional, who share your interest in the flora of Pennsylvania.

If you know of people who might be interested in attending, especially in NW Pennsylvania or adjacent parts of Ohio and New York, please extend this invitation to them.

The proposal form, an Excel spreadsheet, is downloadable at [www.paconserve.org/256](http://www.paconserve.org/256). Related documents such as the definitions of the status categories and the minutes from past meetings are also available here, and in the downloadable meeting announcement on the same page you'll find more details on group opportunities for: Friday dinner; camping — primitive group site, with water; and Sunday river running (these group activity details can also be found on BSWP website's calendar page: <http://www.botsocwpa.org/calendar.php>).

Please start working on your proposals right away, as John Kunsman and Steve Grund will need some lead time to help gather the data. Please submit your proposals by March 4. Proposals will be posted to the above URL shortly after they are received, and a summary will be distributed at least a week before the meeting along with an agenda.

You are encouraged to consider presenting on recent work you have done related to the conservation of the flora of our region. One of the advantages of holding the Rare Plant Forum is the opportunity to share the results of our work. This can increase the value of your work by allowing others to build upon it. It also encourages collaboration and minimizes duplication of effort. Email Steve, [sgrund@paconserve.org](mailto:sgrund@paconserve.org), or call him at 412-586-2350 with the subject and how much time you would like.

## FLORA'S LEXICON

**The Hunt Institute • March 25– June 30**

*Flora's Lexicon* explores the 19<sup>th</sup>-century European and American phenomenon of The Language of Flowers, the common understanding that plants and blooms were charged with sentiment and meaning and held the potential to express emotion or to communicate privileged messages within the strict confines of social etiquette.

So pervasive and popular was The Language of Flowers trend that it launched the introduction of the floral dictionary or *Language of Flowers* book, a small, beautifully bound and illustrated volume devoted to the decoding of each flower's secret meaning. This sentimental craze and the books associated with it originated in France, the most notable being *Le Langage des Fleures* of 1819 by Charlotte de Latour. The trend waned in the mid-1880s, shortly after English author and illustrator Kate Greenaway (1846–1901) published her charmingly illustrated floral dictionary, *The Language of Flowers* (1884).

*Flora's Lexicon* presents books from the Hunt Institute's Library and botanical portraits from the Art Department in an examination of the scope of The Language of Flowers phenomenon, from the influences on its beginning to its continued presence in 21<sup>st</sup>-century publishing. Differing approaches to the floral dictionary are displayed, while intricate systems of meaning are explored through artworks of many key 18<sup>th</sup>- and 19<sup>th</sup>-century botanical artists and illustrators.

In conjunction with *Flora's Lexicon*, the Hunt Institute will hold its annual Open House on June 26 and 27. There will be talks, tours and opportunities to meet one-on-one with staff to ask questions and see items in the collections.

Hours of operation are occasionally subject to change, so please call or email before your visit to confirm. For further information, contact the Hunt Institute at 412-268-2434 or go to <http://huntbot.andrew.cmu.edu>.

*More Special Events Continued Inside Back Cover*

# Raccoon Creek and Its

by Max Henrici, reprinted from *BSWP Trillia*, Volume 11, 1936 – 1946, published in 1951

For Pittsburghers the Raccoon Creek valley is one of the most interesting localities for botanizing because one finds there not only flora characteristic of many other parts of the Eastern United States but also several mid-Western species such as the snow trillium (*Trillium nivale*), the purple rocket (*Iodanthus pinnatifidus*), the cup plant (*Silphium perfoliatum*), the wild valerian (*Valeriana pauciflora*), and the Miami mist (*Phacelia purshii*), which reach their Eastern limit in Pennsylvania.

In an article published in *The American Naturalist* in 1905 on the various zones of vegetation in Eastern America, Dr. Edgar N. Trauseau of the department of botany at Ohio State University spoke of a prairie peninsula which projects across Ohio into Southwestern Pennsylvania. Presumably the Raccoon Creek valley—or part of it—lies in this prairie peninsula.

The flora of the Raccoon Creek valley is influenced by peculiar geological and climatic conditions. This is mentioned by Edmond W. Arthur in the July 1923 issue of the Sewickley Audubon Society's former magazine, *The Cardinal*. Mr. Arthur says:

“Streams like Raccoon or Chartiers Creeks which in their general courses cut at right angles to the axis of strata rise, are deflected hither and yon into very crooked and winding gorges ... Throughout the district a notable characteristic of the smaller streams is that their tributaries from the north are in general from three to five times longer than those from the south. The crest of the southerly watershed may be but a half mile from the stream, while that of the northerly watershed is several miles away. This is particularly noticeable in the larger tributaries of Raccoon and

Chartiers Creeks and Montour's Run ... The result of this has been to afford far more southerly and sunny exposure than northerly and shady exposure on the hills, hence a perceptibly warmer climate than would result if the length of the slopes were reversed.

That such is the fact is evidenced by the United States Weather Bureau temperature charts, which show for the district south of the Ohio-Brush Creek watershed and east of the Ohio-Raccoon Creek watershed and north of the Panhandle railroad an average temperature for the several seasons of the year averaging from one to two degrees higher than that of the country west and north and south. The effect is apparent on vegetation ...”

Raccoon Creek rises in Washington County near the headwaters of Chartiers Creek. George Washington, who visited the valley in 1770 to study the fitness of the land for settlement, remarks in his journal entry for October 21 of that year that on Raccoon Creek, “where the branches thereof interlock with the waters of Chartiers Creek, there is, according to Col. Croghan's account, a body of fine rich level land,” but that “the unsettled state of this country renders any purchase dangerous.”

Raccoon Creek flows northward through Washington and Beaver Counties, coming close to Allegheny County at Murdocksville. It flows northward in a course so meandering and zigzag that often it will be found headed towards the east or west or even, after a big bend, to the south. Some of its chief affluents, as one proceeds from its source to its mouth, are Brush Run, Potato Garden Run, Big Traverse and Little Traverse Creeks, Reardon's Run, and Service Creek. Raccoon Creek empties into the Ohio River about five miles below Monaca.

The Botanical Society has made field trips in recent years [early to mid-1940s] not only to Raccoon Creek itself but to Big Traverse Creek where it passes through the Raccoon Creek State Park, and to Potato Garden Run.

To a large extent the farms that were formerly worked in the Raccoon Creek valley—at any rate in that part of it which lies in Beaver County—have been abandoned and the land permitted to revert to a wild condition. Many of the inhabitants are now employed in coal mines or in the mills at Aliquippa and Ambridge. I know a road in the valley where one can walk for two and a half miles without seeing a house or a cultivated field. Independence Township in Beaver County, where the Botanical Society goes on its Raccoon Creek field trips, extends for five or six miles along the creek and is several miles wide in the transverse direction, yet had only 633 inhabitants in the 1940 census. And it borders on Allegheny County and is scarcely 25 miles from Pittsburgh!

Raccoon Creek formerly was noted for its aquatic fauna. As recently

# Flora

Many of the scientific names used in the article are not those recognized by the scientific community as the most current nomenclature.

as 1908 Dr. A. E. Ortman of the Carnegie Museum said in a report on stream pollution submitted to the American Philosophical Society:

“Raccoon Creek, which empties from the south into the Ohio below Vanport, is in very good condition for most of its length; only way up at its sources, in Washington County, is it slightly polluted with mine water. This creek used to be rich in all forms of life, and is yet so here and there, but as has been said, its fish fauna has greatly suffered in consequence of illegal fishing.”

But in the summer of 1924 the acid drainage water from the coal mines destroyed all life in Raccoon Creek from Cherry Valley in Washington County to the Ohio River, and the stream has remained foully polluted and completely devoid of animal life ever since. This seems, however, to have had little or no effect on the flora of the valley.

Living near Raccoon Creek, I have botanized there rather extensively during the last five years. My trips have been confined, however, to those parts of the Raccoon Creek drainage basin that lie in Findlay Township in Allegheny County, Independence, Hanover and Raccoon Townships in Beaver County, and Robinson and Hanover Townships in Washington County. The following remarks on the flora are based on observations in that section. I am not qualified to discuss the flora of other parts of the Raccoon Creek valley.

Being neither a mycologist nor a bryologist, I am forced, too, to omit the fungi and mosses, and to limit myself to the vascular flora.

Of the ferns, there are to be found on Raccoon Creek most of the common species of Western Pennsylvania and a few that are not so common. I know three stations there of the adder’s tongue (*Ophioglossum vulgare*), of which Lewis S. Hopkins says in his *Ferns of Allegheny County* (published by the Botanical Society in 1914) that far more botanists have seen it as a dried specimen in herbaria than as a living plant. I am acquainted, too, with three stations on Raccoon Creek of the rather uncommon moonwort called *Botrychium ramosum*. Near Patton’s Point on Raccoon Creek there is a station of the tall stately ostrich fern (*Onoclea struthiopteris*). This is, I believe, probably the closest to Pittsburgh that the ostrich fern is known to grow. Goldie’s fern (*Aspidium goldianum*), the silvery spleenwort (*Asplenium acrostichoides*), the maidenhair spleenwort (*Asplenium trichomanes*), and the walking fern (*Camptosorus rhizophyllus*) are other interesting pteridophytes on Raccoon Creek.

Of the fern allies, we have on Raccoon Creek four of the clubmosses—*Lycopodium lucidulum*, *L. clavatum*, *L. obscurum*, and

*L. complanatum* var. *flabelliforme*—and two horsetails—*Equisetum arvense* and *E. hyemale*.

Proceeding now to the phanerogams, we have on Raccoon Creek a flora so rich that I can mention only a comparatively few species—only those which to me personally seem outstanding in interest.

The red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) is to be found here, and there is also a station of indigenous white pine trees (*Pinus strobus*). Hemlock of course is abundant. Of the angiospermous trees the only one that occurs to me that may warrant mention is a particularly massive native cucumber tree (*Magnolia acuminata*) in the 6,000-acre Raccoon Creek State Park. Hundreds of thousands of trees, shrubs and vines of considerably more than a hundred species were planted in the Park area, by the way, by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the early part of the administration of President F. D. Roosevelt.

Apropos of introduced flora, I might add that in the same Park area, on Big Traverse Creek, Miss Sally Anderson seems to have established, temporarily at least, a flourishing colony of the blue-eyed Mary (*Collinsia verna*) with plants which she collected on one of the Botanical Society’s field trips to Wheeling Creek several years ago.

After the skunk cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*) the first flower to bloom on Raccoon Creek in the spring is the snow trillium. I have known it to be in full flower there as early as March 16. Within a day or two after the snow trillium, the harbinger-of-spring (*Erigenia bulbosa*), coltsfoot (*Tussilago farfara*) and the narrow-leaved spring beauty (*Claytonia virginica*) appear.

The Botanical Society has been accustomed to visit the flood plain of Raccoon Creek

*Continued on Next Page*

## TAKE BACK THE WOODS: BATTLING INVASIVE SPECIES

**Saturday, April 23 • 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

### Jennings Environmental Education Center

Help restore native habitats in your state park. Invasive plants are a major factor in the decline of native plant species. Jennings is looking for interested individuals willing to spend a spring day pitching in at the park to help manage invasive plants. Lunch and tasty samples of some recipes featuring invasives will be provided. Participants must be age 12 or older and must register for the program by contacting the Center at 724-794-6011 no later than April 15. Participants must be prepared to work outdoors at the Center, located at 2951 Prospect Road, Slippery Rock, PA.

## NATIVE PLANTS CONFERENCE

**June 1–4 • Millersville, PA.** Online registration beginning March 15. Go to [www.millersvillenativeplants.org](http://www.millersvillenativeplants.org), email [nativeplants@millersville.edu](mailto:nativeplants@millersville.edu) or call 717-871-2189 for info.

2011 speakers include: Rick Darke on “The Layered Landscape”; Lee Reich on “Edible Native Plants”; Mace Vaughan on “The Future of Pollinators”; Gary Smith on “The Future of Public Gardens”; Angela Palmer on “Marketing to Future Generations”; and Nina Bassuk on “Native Trees for Urban Sites”.

Raccoon Creek and Its Flora *Continued from previous page*

between the Lincoln Highway and Patton’s Point late in April or early in May. At that time this area is a veritable flower garden, colorful with the sessile trillium (*Trillium sessile*), yellow and white trout lilies (*Erythronium americanum* and *E. albidum* respectively), hundreds of bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*), several kinds of violets, purple cress (*Cardamine douglassii*), toothwort (*Dicentra* [sic] *laciniata*), crinkleroot (*Dentaria diphylla*), the blue phlox (*Phlox divaricata*), bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*), and other flowers.

At the base of the high steep ridge or “hogback” at Patton’s Point we find *Trillium grandiflorum*, *Trillium erectum*, *Trillium declinatum*, the dwarf larkspur (*Delphinium tricorne*), the wood anemone (*Anemone quin-*

## WESTERN PA GARDENING & LANDSCAPING SYMPOSIUM and Garden Marketplace

**Saturday, April 16, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.** The 16<sup>th</sup> annual Western PA Gardening & Landscaping Symposium, presented by Penn State Extension, Phipps Conservatory and Chatham University, will be held at Chatham University. Internationally acclaimed educators and authors will treat attendees to an entire day of presentations.

They are: Adrian Bloom on *Bloom’s Best Perennials and Grasses*; Cole Burrell, *Natives for Tough Places* and *The Sustainable Garden: Magic, Myth or Reality*; Lee Reich, *Cold-Hardy Pest-Free Fruits*; Barry Glick, *Woodland Wonders* and Mike Raupp, *Linking Diversity and Sustainability in Residential Gardens*.

The Garden Marketplace is free and will be open to the general public, as well as those registered for the Symposium, 8 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. The Marketplace will feature unusual, hard-to-find annuals, perennials and shrubs, heirloom vegetable plants and seeds, natives, carnivorous plants, bonsai specimens and garden accessories. Browsing and shopping the Garden Marketplace has never been easier, as it is entirely indoors, located in the Athletic and Fitness Center on the CU campus.

For further details, visit [www.landscapesymposium.org](http://www.landscapesymposium.org). Register for the Symposium by calling Phipps Garden Center at 412-441-4442.

The spirit of the Millersville conference is to build human communities among a broad range of participants by designing a conference affordable to all, encouraging formal and informal exchanges of information and providing opportunities for social interaction. The conference is held on the campus of Millersville University in Lancaster County, PA.

The event also has a Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/?ref=logo#!/pages/Native-Plants-In-the-Landscape-Conference-Millersville/309895589268?v=info>.

*quefolia*), the round-lobed hepatica (*Hepatica triloba*), rock cress (*Arabis lyrata*), Dutchman’s breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*), and one of the largest and thickest colonies of squirrel corn (*Dicentra canadensis*) that I have ever seen.

To revert to the blue phlox, this may be an opportune moment to mention two other species of phlox that grow in the Raccoon Creek basin—the moss pink (*Phlox subulata*), which is to be found in mid-spring on sandy or gravelly slopes near Service Creek, often in association with the wild pink (*Silene pennsylvanica*), and the garden phlox (*Phlox paniculata*), which is thoroughly naturalized along Raccoon Creek and blooms there in riotous profusion in summer and early autumn.

May brings the pink lady’s slipper or moccasin flower (*Cypripedium acaule*) into bloom in hemlock forests at several points in the Raccoon Creek valley. Among other orchidaceous plants in the valley are the showy orchis (*Orchis spectabilis*), discovered by Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Mason; the whorled pogonia (*Pogonia verticillata*), discovered by Mrs. E. B. Burgess; the round-leaved orchis (*Habenaria orbiculata*), the pale-green or-



## OHIO BOTANICAL SYMPOSIUM

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**Friday, March 25 • Villa Milano, 1630 Schrock Road. Columbus, OH**

Presented by the Ohio Division of Wildlife, in cooperation with the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, The Nature Conservancy, and The Ohio State University herbarium, the Ohio Botanical Symposium brings together people of various backgrounds who share an interest in Ohio's flora, wildlife, and natural history. Quality speakers will present on botanical topics related to Ohio and adjacent states. Vendors will be present selling native plants, books, and other items.

Early registration is recommended and pre-registration is required. Registration fee includes a buffet lunch. Registration will be accepted until March 21. For more information and to download a brochure with registration form, go to [cmnh.org/site/obs.aspx](http://cmnh.org/site/obs.aspx).

## ALLEGHENY MOUNTAIN GREEN FEST

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**May 14 • University of Pittsburgh Johnstown's Living Learning Center**

The theme of the first annual Allegheny Mountain Green Fest is: Going Green Starts at Home. The mission of the Allegheny Mountain Green Fest is to propagate an enthusiastic, green spirit, prompting the people of the Allegheny Mountains to take personal action and care for our local environment, global community and future generations.

The event will be held both indoors and outdoors at UPJ's Living Learning Center, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. It will include a Native Plant Sale, several workshops, a Kids Patch area for environmental education activities and an Eco Expo of green organizations, businesses and agencies. The keynote speaker for this event will be host of NPR's You Bet Your Garden, Mike McGrath. Keep an eye on the Outdoor Heritage Month website, <http://ohmonth.com/greenfest.shtml>, for more details.

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**NEW: Our website's calendar page, [www.botsocwpa.org/calendar.php](http://www.botsocwpa.org/calendar.php), links to a downloadable PDF list of the current newsletter's meeting and field trip info.**

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chis (*Habenaria flava*), the twayblade (*Liparis liliifolia*), the rattlesnake plantain (*Epipactis pubescens*), and lady's tresses (*Spiranthes cernua*).

The wild columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*), the marsh marigold (*Caltha palustris*), the fire pink (*Silene virginica*), the yellow star grass (*Hyppoxis hirsuta*), the wild blue flag (*Iris versicolor*), and the barren strawberry (*Waldsteinia fragarioides*) help to make the valley gay in late spring. A little later the wild roses (*Rosa humilis* and *R. carolina*) and the wood lilies (*Lilium canadense* and *L. superbum*) add their contributions to the gaiety.

The Botanical Society does not visit Raccoon Creek in summer, but that season offers species scarcely less interesting than the flora of early spring. Offhand I think of such inter-

esting and not too common plants growing there as the leather flower (*Clematis viorna*), the devil's bit (*Chamaelirium luteum*), golden seal (*Hydrastis canadensis*), the large Canada anemone (*Anemone canadensis*), pipsissewa or prince's pine (*Chimaphila umbellata*), and the great Indian plantain (*Cacalia reniformis*).

Late summer and early autumn bring to Raccoon Creek the cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*), the tall wild larkspur (*Delphinium exaltatum*), dittany (*Cunila origanoides*), the turtle-head (*Chelone glabra*), the leaf-cup (*Polymnia canadensis*), the bottle gentian (*Gentiana andrewsii*), many kinds of sunflowers, asters, and goldenrods, and fruits of striking appearance such as the staring doll's eyes of the white baneberry (*Actaea alba*) and the ornamental two-toned red and orange fruits of the wahoo or burning bush (*Euonymus atropurpureus*).

Even winter offers floral beauty on Raccoon Creek, for I know of few scenes more charming than the thickly clustered red berries of the so-called "black alder" (*Ilex verticillata*) against a background of snow in the swamp beside the creek near Murdocksville.

## FRICK ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER'S NEW EARTH DAY EVENT

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**Saturday, April 16 • Frick Park  
A Day of Walks and Workshops**

Spend a day outdoors celebrating nature by attending various family-friendly, nature-oriented walks and workshops at Frick Environmental Center, 2005 Beechwood Boulevard, in Pittsburgh's Squirrel Hill area.

- Opening Ceremony: 11:30 a.m.
- Walks and Workshops: Noon – 4 p.m.

For updates, go to [www.FrickEnvironmentalCenter.com](http://www.FrickEnvironmentalCenter.com).

## GLADE RUN GARDENS SPRING GARDENING SYMPOSIUM

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**Saturday, March 26.** This 12<sup>th</sup> annual one-day workshop covers topics such as attracting beneficial insects to your yard, composting and home food preservation; and a panel of experts will answer your questions. A garden-related vendor area is included. All proceeds benefit the Therapeutic Horticulture Program at Glade Run, with a portion of proceeds going toward the creation of new Farm Market Garden to provide vocational training to young adults with mental health issues.

For more information, go to <http://www.gladerun.org/adventures/workshops.html> and download the workshop brochure.

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*Wildflowers*

March–April 2011

Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania

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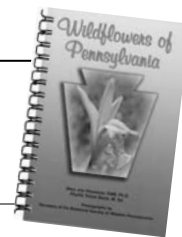
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To beauty, friendship and love [rose, ivy and myrtle], hand-colored engraving published by Saunders and Otley, Conduit Street, from Anna Christian Burke's *The Illustrated Language of Flowers* (London, G. Routledge and Co., 1856), *HL Library call no. DG21 B959I*.

**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



*Continued from Front Cover*

the biology and ecology of invasive plant species in forest systems, especially in association with anthropogenic and natural disturbances. Cynthia is currently focusing her research on three species: *Ailanthus altissima* (tree of heaven), *Microstegium vimineum* (Japanese stiltgrass), and *Alliaria petiolata* (garlic mustard) and their response to different forest management regimes.

Cynthia received a BS in biology from the University of California, Riverside; MS in environmental science and MA in plant ecology from Indiana University, Bloomington; and a PhD in botany from Miami University of Ohio, Oxford. She has been a Research Botanist for the Northern Research Station of the USDA Forest Service in Morgantown, WV since 2000. Previously, Cynthia worked for the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) of USDA; as a Research Botanist for the Missouri Department of Conservation; visiting Assistant Professor at Oberlin College; Adjunct Professor at Antioch University; and Management Intern of the Ohio Chapter of the Nature Conservancy.

*Continued from Front Cover*

variety of colored fibers. They dye mostly homespun wool for knitting.

Millie and Rebecca will describe the technique they use. We will see their 30-plus year collection of dyed samples and some of the colorful yarns and garments they have produced, learn about mordants (chemical salts), and create a “family” of colors from a single dye pot.

Millie began dyeing wool in New Zealand in the 1970s. After moving back to Pittsburgh she researched local dyestuff that could be used at the Ligonier Highland Games as part of a demonstration to show how the Scots would have originally made tartan, and have done so for 30 years. As a team they have learned how to obtain a wide variety of colors from local dyestuff.