

Wildflowers

THE BULLETIN OF THE BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF W. PA.



Pitcher Plant
Sarracenia purpurea

SEPTEMBER MEETING....ON THE 22nd

Usually our meetings are on the second Monday of each month. This time, though, we have had to make a change, because Mellon Bank has need for its auditorium on our scheduled day.

So, our September meeting will be Monday, September 22 at 8 P.M. It will be at the usual place, the Mellon Bank Auditorium at 5th and Craig, Oakland.

Our September meeting is always Members' Night. This is our "Show and Tell" night. Each of us recounts botanical experiences of the past year, illustrated with slides. Members are asked to limit their slides to twelve in order to give everybody a chance.

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

Here is the schedule of September field trips arranged by our Chairman, Jasper Brown. All are on Saturdays, with a meeting time of 1:30 P.M.

September 6 - Plaingrove Bog

This is a repetition from last month's bulletin.

Drive north on I-79 to the Slippery Rock exit; turn west toward New Castle on Route 108; then right on unnumbered road to Plain Grove. Meet at church across from cemetery.

These are some of the plants we may see --

Prenanthes racemosa - Smooth White Lettuce
Parnassia glauca - Grass-of-Parnassus
Bidens tripartita - Trifid Beggarticks
Pedicularis lanceolata - Swamp Lousewort
Spiranthes cernua - Nodding Ladies Tresses
Solidago patula - Rough-leaved Goldenrod
Solidago uliginosa - Bog Goldenrod
Cirsium muticum - Swamp Thistle
Gentiana andrewsii - Bottle Gentian

Leader will be Bob Bahl.

September 13 - Ohiopyle

Pick your own way to Ohiopyle. We suggest the Turnpike to Donegal, left on Pa. 31, right on Pa. 711, to Pa. 381, which goes to Ohiopyle. Immediately after crossing railroad tracks, turn right and park near the old picnic grounds.

Leader will be Werner Buker.

September 20 - North Park

Meet on Babcock Blvd. on left beyond the causeway. This is north of the main intersection of Wildwood-Ingomar Road and Babcock Blvd.

Leader will be J. S. Brown.

September 27 - Frew Mill Road near New Castle

From US-19 North or I-79 North, turn left on US-422 toward New Castle, then turn right on PA-388. At second crossroads, Frew Mill Road, turn left. Proceed about a mile; park on left. We shall be seeing the fringed gentian, gentiana crinita.

Leader will be Howard McIlvried.

TRULY YOURS

This is your bulletin. Members are invited to contribute articles, news, poems, illustrations.... anything of botanical interest.

SEPTEMBER, 1980

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SARRACENIA PURPUREA

Our illustration this month was contributed by member Phyllis Monk. She sketched it from a slide taken at Toplovich Bog 6-7-69.

MARIAN HISSEM WINS AGAIN

Our member, Marian V. Hissem, had not just one, but two winners in the 1980 Press Snapshot Contest. This really isn't news. It would be news if Marian didn't win. She wins with monotonous regularity.

SAXIFRAGA SARMENTOSA

When plant nomenclature is confusing, it is because botanists have thought common names unimportant. Since they can speak in the scientific lingo exclusively, they feel that's good enough for everybody. It certainly is not good enough. The common man or woman is only slightly interested in scientific names. Of what value is it to memorize such names when botanists change them around so often?

In a previous issue we discussed Sunchokes and how desirable it is for us all to start using that name. Today we'll discuss Saxifraga sarmentosa, commonly going by the name of "strawberry begonia", when it has nothing whatever to do with either strawberries or begonias. STANDARDIZED PLANT NAMES, on which the writer was one of the collaborators, recommends the name Strawberry Saxifrage, and we think that is a fine correction to make. From time to time other nomenclatural problems will be discussed in this place. In the meantime let's stop saying "strawberry begonia." (Max Armbruster)

ELECTION COMING UP

You probably know that Alf Landon used the sunflower as his emblem in his unsuccessful bid for the presidency in 1936. Can you name another wildflower that figured in a presidential campaign? This time the candidate won.

VISIT TO CRANBERRY BOG

In early July this year, I visited Cranberry Bog at Clarendon to check on the welfare of rose pogonia and other plants. It was in full bloom and in good numbers, though not quite like that record year of the BSWP field trip. I could not find the single ragged orchis nor any of the patch of large purple fringed orchises. Round-leaved sundew was never very common in the bog, but it seems to be increasing.

A few years ago, sundew grew in profusion on damp cinders of the abandoned siding of the RR that passes near the bog. I didn't see any this time, but was surprised to find 7 pogonias in 4 places along the tracks! Some were in damp situations near the ditch, but the first few were quite dry and growing with broom-sedge (Andropogon virginicus), that indicator of dry, old fields! (Ted Grisez)

FRICK PARK ORCHID.

John English reports a lone specimen of epipactis helleborine growing in Frick Park.