

Wildflowers

THE BULLETIN OF THE BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF W. PA.



Twinflower

Linnaea borealis

NEXT MEETING - OCTOBER 6

Usually, our meetings are on the second Monday of each month. That would put our October meeting on the 13th. However, that is a bank holiday, and the building is closed for the day.

So, our meeting has been moved up to Monday, October 6. The time is the same, 8:00 P.M., and it is at our usual place, the Mellon Bank Auditorium at Fifth and Craig, Oakland.

Our speaker will be Paul G. Wiegman on "Rare and Endangered Species."

OCTOBER, 1980

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LINNEA BOREALIS

Phyllis Monk has chosen the Twinflower, *Linnaea borealis*, as her subject this month. Her sketch was made from a slide taken on the Olympic Peninsula, Washington, on June 27, 1975.

This flower was named by Gronovius for Linnaeus, with whom the plant was a favorite.

POLK FOR PRESIDENT

On last month's question as to which wildflower figured in a presidential election campaign, the answer is Pokeweed, *Phytolacca americana*.

In the campaign of 1844, twigs of the plant were worn as emblems by followers of James Polk, even though the names are spelled differently.

FIELD TRIPS OVER FOR THE YEAR

Jay Brown certainly did a fantastic job as Field Trip Chairman this past year. Not only did he plan and organize a most interesting schedule; he was actually present on just about every trip.

All good things do come to an end, though. The September 27 trip to see the fringed gentian was our last one for the year.

There are no field trips for October. We know you will be out to see the foliage, but this does not lend itself to group outings.

BOTANICAL NOTES

Sometimes interesting plants can be found in unexpected places.

Downstream along the Ohio River below Pittsburgh by the Emsworth Dam is an area of cinders between railroad tracks which is faintly reminiscent of desert conditions.

On a recent visit there we found

1) Buttonweed (*Diodia teres* Walt.), a little member of the Madder Family, in great abundance.

2) Puncture-weed (*Tribulus terrestris* L.), of the Caltrop Family.

Neither is much to look at, but neither has been much collected in Western Pennsylvania. Several other interesting plants, not quite so rare, are also to be found there.

I suspect that seeds from the nearby railroad may be one reason such plants are to be found there.

A western Wall-flower, *Erysimum inconspicuum* (Wats.) MacMill., is found in a similar situation along railroad tracks at Pymatuning in its only Western Pennsylvania station.

W. E. BUKER



FUNGUS FORAY

Although the Botanical Society has no field trips scheduled for October, we have been invited to join Wissahickon Nature Club in a Fungus Foray on Sunday, October 12.

The leader will be Mary Louise Johnson. We shall start out from her home, 609 Poia Road, Edgeworth. Meeting time is 2:00 P.M.

From the Ohio River Blvd. (Route 65), take Chestnut St. in Edgeworth, opposite the Pump House. Follow to Woodland Road, turning left on Woodland. Follow to Poia, turning right on Poia. Go to 609.

If everything goes wrong and you are hopelessly lost, Mary Louise's phone number is 741-5393.

TIGER

