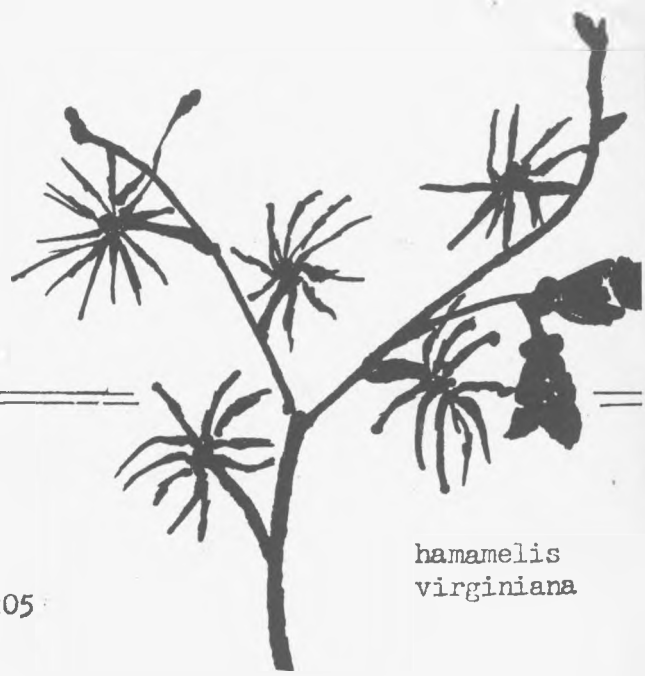


Wildflowers

THE BULLETIN OF THE BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF W. PA.



hamamelis
virginiana

JANUARY, 1981

~~DECEMBER, 1980~~

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JANUARY MEETING

Our first meeting of the year will be Monday, January 12, at the Mellon Bank Auditorium, Fifth and Craig, Oakland. Meetings start promptly at 8:00 PM.

Our speaker will be Dr. Harold J. Rose. His topics will be Puerto Rico and the Grand Canary Islands.

1981 OFFICERS

All of our officers have been re-elected for another year --

President - Bob Morgan
Vice-President - Tim Manka
Treasurer - Howard McIlvried
Recording Secretary - Virginia Phelps
Corresponding Secretary - Bob Bahl

GRANDMA GATEWOOD

On a cold Sunday morning in March, 1974 on the top of Mt. Mitchell in North Carolina, I shared an apple with two men. The one man was the president of the Southern Appalachian Mountain Climbing Club. The other hiked in from New Jersey to climb Mt. Mitchell with him. As the cold mist from the clouds swirled about us, we talked about hiking the Appalachian Trail and mountain climbing. The older man said that I should know Grandma Gatewood because she lived near me. Alas, this was



never to be because Grandma Gatewood died June 5, 1973 at the age of 85. Grandma Gatewood is a legend of our time and is still talked about around the trail campfires.

Grandma Gatewood walked the Appalachian Trail in 145 or 146 days if you count half days as whole days and completed it September 25, 1955 - one month before her 68th birthday. She was the first woman to walk the trail alone and the first woman to walk it in one continuous trip.

Seventeen months later she was back and walked it again in 142 days. She again had a first - the first person to hike the complete trail twice. Her reason... to see what she missed the first time. Her pack averaged 17 pounds, never more than 20, probably the lightest pack ever carried on the trail. She was very unorthodox in her ways; she wore men's tennis shoes and wore out six pairs of Keds on her second trip. She never carried a sleeping bag or tent and many of the times she didn't even carry a blanket.

As one Boy Scout leader said, "Grandma, you've broken all the rules for hiking but you got there just the same."

She walked the trail one more time in sections before her death and walked on the Long Trail in Vermont, parts of the Horseshoe and Baker Trails in Pennsylvania, the Chesapeake and Ohio towpath in Maryland, the Oregon Trail in 1959 at the age of 72, celebrating the 100th anniversary of the trail. She was instrumental in establishing the Buckeye Trail in Ohio.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources now has seen fit to honor Grandma Gatewood by designating the six mile section of the Buckeye Trail we will hike in Hocking Hills State Park the Grandma Gatewood Trail. The Wissahickon Nature Club is hiking the trail January 17 for the fifth time and extends an invitation to the Botanical Society to join them. There will be a dedication ceremony during the day.

The president of Wissahickon is our own Esther Allen, who happens to be a daughter and one of the eleven children of Grandma Gatewood. Esther is an artist, photographer, lecturer, naturalist and a most enjoyable companion on a hike in the woods. She is carrying on the Gatewood tradition.

There are not many openings available so contact Esther Allen at 366-8786 as soon as possible for information and reservations. If you would like to participate, we must have your reservation by the seventh of January.

(Bob Morgan)

PHIPPS CONSERVATORY

Anne Bahl is one of the new docents at Phipps Conservatory. Docents conduct guided tours of the Conservatory Monday through Thursday at 1 PM and 2 PM. Organized groups may apply for other times.

TURNABOUT

Many plants were named for botanists, but what botanist was named for a tree? Answer next month.

FEBRUARY MEETING

A special treat for our February meeting -- Dr. Dave Boufford -- Joint Sino-American Botanical Expedition to W. Hubei.

MOST COMMON WILDFLOWERS

Many different varieties of donasmes and cantilyas can be found in the United States. Whenever I ask people the name of a flower, they tell me "Can't tell you" or "Don't ask me."

(Tim Manka)

HAMAMELIS VIRGINIANA

Our illustration of witch hazel was drawn by our member, Isabel Olbrich Teare, November 23, 1980.

DUES ARE DUE

Membership dues - \$5 for individuals, \$8 for family membership - should be sent to Howard McIlvried, 8723 Highland Road, Pittsburgh, Pa., 15237. Or, bring it to the January meeting and save the postage stamp.