

Wildflowers

THE BULLETIN OF THE BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF W. PA.

MARCH MEETING

Monday, March 9, 8:00 PM at the Mellon Bank Auditorium, 5th Ave. and Craig St., Oakland.

Our own Jasper Brown will give the program, "Escape to Texas."



APRIL MEETING

Anne and I will be off botanizing in California within a few days. It will be into April before we return, perhaps too late for timely notification of our April meeting. So, we'll make the announcement right now. Make a note of it.

April's meeting will be Monday, April 13. Same place, same starting time!

Emily Johnson will give the program, "Reading Nature - Wildflowers, Trees, and Mushrooms."

HELEN BLAIR MEMORIAL AWARD

The judging of the Buhl Planetarium Science Fair will be held at the Gymnasium of the Community College of Allegheny County (several blocks west of Buhl) from 1:30 - 4:30 on Tuesday, March 31. We need three people to help select the Helen Blair Memorial Awardee. A general orientation precedes the judging. Please consider the challenge if you are available. Send your name, address and phone number to Tim Manka, 1109 Lancaster Ave., Pgh., Pa. 15218 (371-7737) or see Tim at the March meeting.

(Tim Manka)

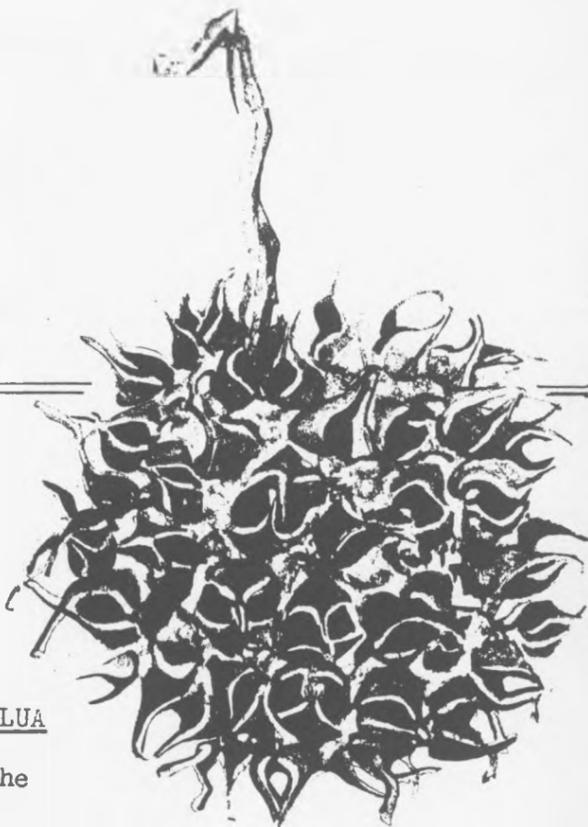
REDISCOVERY OF AMARANTH AS A FOOD CROP IN U. S.

A though amaranth has been cultivated in China for thousands of years, as well as in West Africa and Caribbean countries - it has only been recently that U. S. agronomists have been doing research on it. There are over 60 varieties of this plant. Some kinds are cooked like spinach, others used raw in salad, and others produce seeds for flour. The seeds contain 15% proteins, lysine - an essential amino acid, and vitamins A & C. Amaranth is a hot season green, can grow in saline soil, and can produce 3 to 6 crops a year. By the year 2000, the U. S. farmer will barely be able to feed the U. S. population, and not the whole world. Amaranth, a dicot, (most of our grains are monocots) can surely alleviate this food shortage, when it has been known to yield an incredible 2.3 tons per acre. Pigweed is a wild form of amaranth. From The Grower - September 1980 and Country Gentleman - also September 1980.

(Ede Mock)

MARCH, 1981

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LIQUIDAMBAR STYRACIFLUA

The artist for the sweetgum in seed was Leslie McBride.

EMILY JOHNSON

We subscribed to a newsletter on edible wild plants called The Coltsfoot edited by Bill Roody of Elkins, West Virginia. We learned about a fascinating woman who has won many awards for her photographs from the American Mycological Association and in the pictorial and Science/Technical category in many salons around the country under the auspices of the Photographic Society of America. Her pictures have been published in a book called Mushrooms: Wild and Edible by Vincent Marteka. Her pictures were also featured on the cover of the Pennsylvania Naturalist, September and October, 1980.

She has made picture postcards of her prize-winning mushroom photographs and they are available for purchase. Emily is as talented as she is unassuming; all of this she has done without a hint of it to us. We are happy to call her friend and are proud that she is a member of our society.

If you are interested, the three different postcards can be obtained from Emily Johnson (they are award-winning photographs), Amanita cothurnata, Craterellus cantharellus, and Mycena species. These beautiful postcards are available at the rate of seven for \$1.00 from Emily Johnson, Sunset Drive, R. D. 3, Export, Pa., 15632.

The book is called Mushrooms: Wild and Edible by Vincent Marteka published by W. W. Norton & Co, New York, New York. It is a hard covered book of 290 pages at \$19.95. The book is in three sections: Part I is mushroom facts and edibility; it mentions collecting techniques, tools required and a history of mushroom gatherers; Part II lists 30 edible species with 46 black and white photos and 33 color photos; Part III lists 20 recipes for mushrooms by species; a treatise on preservation, exotic commercial mushrooms and home cultivation...an excellent beginner's book.

(Bob Morgan)

REAGAN RE-ACTION

The re-action of our members to anything in the bulletin is always welcome. We shall print any letters to the extent of available space. Here is one from Paul Brown --

Dear Mr. Bahl,

The Feb., 1981 issue of Wildflowers included a Time Magazine reprint which romantically describes Ronald Reagan as a man who "prefers the natural growth" and who once planted a pine cone seed which grew to become a tree.

Let's not be lulled into thinking that President Reagan, the champion of the Sage Brush Rebellion, is a friend of the environment. He has closely allied himself with the land developers and the mining and oil interests, who look upon our National Parks, Refuges, and Wilderness Areas as obstacles to "progress."

Sincerely,

Paul Brown