

Wildflowers

THE BULLETIN OF THE BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF W. PA.



Northern Yellow Columbine
Aquilegia flavescens

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

Meeting time for all field trips is 1:30 P.M. unless specified otherwise...and we do have one such exception this time. All are on Saturdays.

July 11 - Rockland Township, Venango County.

Roger Hummel, guest leader.

Cross the Allegheny River at Kennerdell, which is not a numbered road, but follow signs from state route 308 north of I-80 or east of state route 8. Proceed up the hill past the lookout. After passing a house with aluminum siding on the left, turn left on a secondary road. Proceed to the end of the road and turn left again. After passing Hootin Hollow, meet at the next road which turns right.

Our only known station for Colicroot grows here.

July 18 - Wolf Creek

1 P.M. starting time!

Co-operative trip with the Audubon Society. Leaders Emily Johnson and Howard McIlvried.

Drive north on I-79. Exit to Route 108 toward Slippery Rock. Meet at the dairy store about a mile from I-79.

July 25 - Clemente Park, North Side

John Parks, guest leader.

If no baseball game is scheduled, park in the stadium parking lot, and meet at the steps to the Fort Duquesne Bridge. If there should be a baseball game, meet at the Clemente Park ramp at the Sixth Street Bridge.

August 1 - McConnell's Mills

Virginia Craig, leader.

If space permits, meet at the parking lot (not picnic grounds). Drive north on U.S. 19 or I-79 to U.S. 422. Turn west and watch for signs to McConnell's Mills, a short distance from U.S. 19.

(J. S. Brown)

NEW MEMBERS

The Botanical Society welcomes -

Sally D. Ketchum
131 Yorkshire Road
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15208

Richard Herman
321 Shields Lane
Sewickley Pa. 15143

OUT OF DOORS DAYS

This series of field trips continues through the summer. They are sponsored by the Leonard S. Mudge Environmental Education Program of Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Carnegie Institute and the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. Members of either organization are eligible for reduced rates.

July 18 - Historical Archaeology
August 8 - Powdermill Nature Reserve
August 15 - The Ice Age Revisited
August 22 - City Meets Country
September 12 - Those Incredible Insects
September 27 - A Mushroom Weekend

For further information, call the Section of Education at 622-3132 or 622-3283.

JULY, 1981

Robert F. Bahl
401 Clearview Ave.
Pittsburgh, Pa., 15205
(412) 921-1797

AQUILEGIA FLAVESCENS

Our member, Phyllis Monk, made the sketch from a specimen in Glacier National Park, trail to Granite Park Chalet, July 26, 1977.

SPECIAL THANKS...

to Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Brooks, who so graciously opened their Edgeworth estate to the Botanical Society for our June 20 field trip.

BOTANICAL PRONUNCIATION

People consider me an expert on botanical pronunciation. And why not? There is hardly a word that I can't pronounce four or five different ways.

But, what is the accepted pronunciation. I could cite any number of authorities. None of them agree.

Most gardeners in England and America pronounce botanical names as if they were English words instead of trying to pretend that they are Latin. This is all very good among English-speaking botanists, but how about continental Europeans, who tend to pronounce botanical names as if they were classical Latin tinged with the accent of their own native language, be it Dutch, Swedish, or what-have-you?

The answer is to go back to straight Latin. But, which Latin do you use? Old Latin or new Latin? Which Latin dialect? Do you think they spoke the same in the imperial palace of Rome and on the countryside of Dalmatia?

How do you pronounce Cicero? Do you use church Latin and say Chi-cher-o? Or do you use public school Latin and say Kick-er-o? Or do you dump them both and say Siss-er-o?

Why should we use Latin at all? Far more botanical words come from Greek than Latin, yet most of us pronounce these Greek words just as if they were Latin. Look this one up in your Funk & Wagnall's--

Χρυσάνθεμum λευκάνθεμum

Pliny was a prolific Latin writer, a naturalist, and also the commander-in-chief of the Roman navy. As an author he had set for himself the monumental task of recording all the known natural history of his time. In order not to miss a moment, he had himself read to by slaves through his meals. On one of these occasions, a guest stopped the slave in his reading to correct some error in pronunciation. Pliny, annoyed by the interruption, asked the guest whether he had understood what the slave had read. That being the case, why waste precious time over something of no consequence whatever?

Do you understand what I mean?

NO MEETING IN JULY

We have no meetings in the summer months of July and August. See you in September.