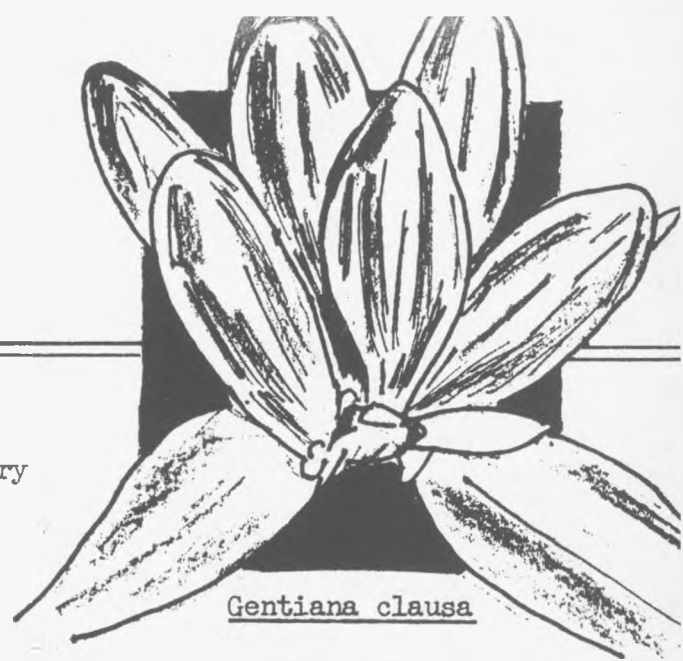


Wildflowers

THE BULLETIN OF THE
BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF W. PA.



Gentiana clausa

NOVEMBER MEETING

Please note. Our November meeting will be held in the Potting Shed of Phipps Conservatory in Schenley Park, the same place where we held last month's meeting.

Entrance is behind the Conservatory. There is some free parking on both sides, and you can approach from either the Schenley Park Bridge or the Panther Hollow Bridge.

That's Monday evening, November 9, at 8 P.M.

Our guest speaker will be Sister Ann Infanger of Seton Hill College, and her subject will be the Galapagos Islands. See the excerpt from the Seton Hill College Forward.

DOUBLE FEATURE

Our November meeting, with the program by Sister Ann, starts promptly at 8:00 P.M.

However, if you can make it by 7:00 P.M., you can join in a conducted tour of the Fall Flower Show. This tour will be for Botanical Society members only. The leader will be our newest member, Isabel Pollack.

The Fall Flower Show at Phipps Conservatory runs from November 8 through November 29. There is an admission of \$1.00.

NOVEMBER, 1981

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AESCULUS

About a dozen spp. of Aesculus are in cultivation, principal of which are the horse-chestnut and the Buckeye, *A. hippocastanum* and *A. glabra*.

Keeping the two distinct is not easy, but as a general aid we can give the following: "horse" has five letters in it, while the tree's petioles have seven leaflets; and "buckeye" has seven letters and five leaflets - the exact reverse. Horse-chestnut occasionally fools us by displaying leaflets numbering five or six right on the same tree with the seven; but the Buckeye never varies: there are always five.

As almost everybody knows, the horse-chestnut is so named because its leaf scars resemble almost perfectly a horse's hoof. Buckeyes are so called because their leaf scars were thought to resemble the eyes of a deer - a buck, or male, deer, that is, because "women's lib" had not yet invaded the botanical world when it was named!

The State of Ohio was, of course, nicknamed the Buckeye State because of the preponderance of *A. glabra* among its flora. (Maxim E. Armbruster)

Sister Ann ... the Galapagos ... and Evolution

Exotic and primitive are just two of the adjectives that describe the Galapagos, one of the world's best-known island groups, located off the coast of Ecuador. It was here, on these islands of turtles and volcanoes, that a controversy originated some 120 years ago ... a controversy that continues today.

The Galapagos are the birth place of



Charles Darwin's theory of evolution. Here, he formulated his theory by observing the isolated and diverse wildlife, and later published "Origin of Species."

Sister Ann Infanger, a biology professor at Seton Hill, spent 5 days visiting the islands last May. She explored this "Laboratory of Evolution" to gain a concrete view of Darwin's theory and now uses her slides and observations as integral parts of her teaching.

Renewed controversy building on the Scopes "Monkey Trial" of 1925, and the juxtaposition of Sister Ann's vocation, a Roman Catholic Sister of Charity, and her profession, a professor of biology, raise interesting questions of theories of evolution and "creationism."

Creationists challenge Darwin's theory on scientific grounds, and want opposing views taught with equal emphasis in public schools. Creationists are disclaiming



the validity of dating methods used by scientists, the theory of the origin of the universe, and fossil records. They say no method has yet been proven, and thus the theory of evolution stands unsubstantiated by science.

Their theory parallels Genesis and, in simplified terms, includes these key points: the earth is about 10,000 years old; the universe was created in six days by a supernatural being; the different types of plants and animals were created as they are, not through evolution; and a great flood killed the creatures now found as fossils.

Creationists' arguments are based on a sincere concern for the future of religion and morality, but remain undocumented by science.

The Roman Catholic Church has, this century, been open to the theory of evolution. Sister Ann sees no conflict between her scientific beliefs and her religious ones rather, she suggests that the two theories can exist harmoniously.

"I believe that Scripture, as the inspired word of God, was written to teach religious truths, not scientific facts. The first chapters of Genesis teach that God made all things, all creatures are good, and humans

are created in the likeness of God."

When Sister Ann introduces evolution to her students, in "General Biology" for science majors, or the "Heredity, Evolution and Society" for nonmajors, she tells them that there is very much evidence for evolution. Yet, since life began in the past, its evolution cannot be demonstrated. The students are not forced to believe in evolution, if it violates their faith. She tells them that many religious people believe in evolution, that God made matter with the potential to evolve into all the wonderful things of the universe. According to this theory, when the body had evolved to an advanced condition, God then infused the immortal human soul.

By going to the Galapagos, Sister Ann saw some of the rare plant and animal life that helped convince Darwin that evolution had occurred and gave evidence of the mechanism of evolution by natural selection. After the trip, she now can enrich the study of evolution for her students by intermixing facts with first-hand impressions.



CHARLES BOARDMAN

Our long time member, Charles Boardman, is giving up his herbarium, and he has a supply of boxes available for the asking. His number is 241-6621.

SAM CHAMBERLAIN

It has to be a record. Sam Chamberlain hasn't missed a flower show at Phipps Conservatory in 62 years. He attended his first show in the fall of 1919 after coming out of the Service, and he hasn't missed a spring or fall show since.

WE'RE EARLY

Your copy of this month's Wildflowers is a little early this time. We had to beat a November 1 mailing date. That's when postage goes up another 2 cents.

GENTIANA CLAUSA

The sketch of the Closed Gentian was made by myself, experimentally. It was done by putting a slide in a viewer and tracing the outline.

IT'S YOUR BULLETIN

Articles and sketches from our members are always welcome.