

Wildflowers

THE BULLETIN OF THE BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF W. PA.

JANUARY MEETING

"Colorado in the Fall" will be presented at our January 14 meeting by our master photographers, Marian and Chuck Hissem. We had a preview of a few of the slides from this show, and frankly we're envious. There are superb close-ups of the Arctic Gentian and the Western Fringed Gentian. The glorious shots of the golden aspens in the sunlight are beyond description.

Our meetings are held the second Monday of the month, 8:00 P.M., at Carlow College in Oakland, where there is ample parking with security patrol.



DONATION TO BOTANICAL SOCIETY

We acknowledge with thanks a donation of \$25.00 by our honorary member, Helen Hykes Carter.

HOLIDAY BLOOMERS

I saw a cherry tree in full bloom on Christmas Day.

On New Year's Day, in my own yard, I had chickweed, creeping myrtle, and forsythia blooming.

PLANTS OF THE BIBLE AT PHIPPS CONSERVATORY

Take a trip to the natural world of the Holy Land. Understand scripture better as you see Noah's olive branch, Jonah's gourd, Solomon's lily, and many other plants of the Bible.

TOURS: at 1:30, 2:30, and
3:30 P.M. on -

Sunday, Jan. 20
Sunday, Jan. 27
Sunday, Feb. 3
Sunday, Feb. 10

Also at 11:00 A.M., 12:00
Noon, and 1:00 P.M. on

Tuesday, Jan. 22
Saturday, Feb. 2

Admission by advance reservation only. Call 687-3847 Monday, Wednesday, or Friday from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

Admission: Adults - \$2.00; Children 2 to 12
Children 2 to 12 - \$1.50

(Anne Bahl)

SIX IN A ROW

Can you name a botanical genus with six consecutive consonants? In fact, can you name any word at all with six consonants in a row? Answer next month!

Robert F. Bahl, Secretary
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Pittsburgh, Pa. 15205
(412)921-1797



DIANTHUS ARMERIA

The field sketch of the Deptford Pink was made by our member, M. J. Paoli, of East Brady, Pa., July 1984, in Armstrong County.

DR. EARL L. CORE

A great botanist has passed away. Dr. Earl L. Core, author of Flora of West Virginia, died on December 10.

West Virginia University's Core Arboretum in Morgantown was named for him.

AMARANTH

Howard McIlvried shares with us this article from the 11-26-84 issue of Chemical & Engineering News -

Ancient plant could rival wheat, rice, and corn

The ancient amaranth plant is coming back, according to a new report by the National Research Council's Board on Science & Technology for International Development (Bostid) (*News Report*, National Academy of Sciences, October 1984). The amaranth produces spinachlike greens that are high in vitamin A and is one of the few broad-leaved vegetables that yield edible grain. The plant is highly nutritious, Bostid says, and potentially could achieve the status of wheat, rice, and corn.

The amaranth was a mainstay in the diets of the Aztecs, the Incas, and other native Americans before the Spaniards turned up, in the 1500s. The Aztecs used amaranth grain in pagan rituals, according to Bostid, which turned the Spanish against it.

The amaranth is relatively heedless of drought, heat, and pests. It is

found in regions as diverse as Mexico, India, and China and is grown in small plots and harvested by hand.

The seeds of the amaranth contain 16% protein, compared to 12 to 14% for wheat and 7 to 10% for rice. Amaranth protein contains as much lysine as milk protein and so complements traditional grains, which are low in this essential amino acid.

Amaranth grains can be popped like corn and eaten as a breakfast cereal. They also can be used as breeding for meat and vegetables or mixed with honey and compressed into blocks for use as a snack.

Plant scientists in this country and abroad have lately bred uniform amaranth plants from which the grain can be harvested mechanically. Large-scale cultivation is not right around the corner, Bostid says, but if experience is any guide, amaranth one day could "prove to be as rich a legacy of the American Indian as maize and beans."

ANOTHER APPLICATION FORM

Enclosed with this bulletin is another membership form. If you didn't use the one with last month's bulletin, use this one to continue your membership in the Botanical Society.

If you did use last month's, give this one to a friend. We always welcome new members. The only requirement is an interest in things botanical.

Bring the form to the January meeting, or mail it to Howard McIlvried, 8723 Highland Road, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15237.