

Wildflowers

THE BULLETIN OF THE BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF W. PA.

MARCH MEETING

Our monthly meeting will be held at Carlow College, 3333 Fifth Ave., Oakland, on Monday, March 11 at 8 P.M.

Dr. Paul Wiegman of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy will present the program, "Endangered and Rare Species".

SEVEN DWARFS FROM OUTER SPACE

Have you ever noticed how much orchid close-ups resemble extraterrestrial faces? These pictures are all taken from the new book, "Wild Orchids of Britain and Europe", by Paul & Jenne Davies and Anthony Huxley.



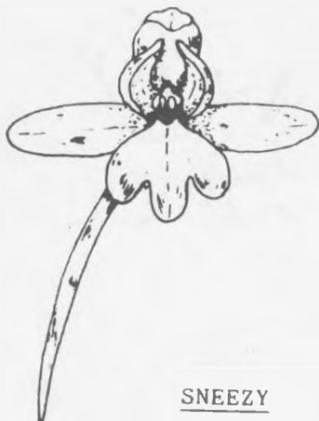
DOC Chamorchis alpina

HAPPY Orchis coriophora
Bug orchid



BASHFUL Orchis israelitica

GRUMPY Goodyera repens
Creeping lady's-tresses



SLEEPY Gymnadenia conopsea
Fragrant orchid

SNEEZY Orchis coriophora
ssp. fragrans



DOPEY Coeloglossum viride
Frog orchid



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



DIANTHUS ARMERIA

This sketch of the Deptford Pink was made by our member, M. J. Paoli of East Brady, Pa.

NEW MUSHROOM MAGAZINE

MUSHROOM, the journal of wild mushrooming, is a magazine devoted entirely to the subject of wild mushrooms. The first issue reviewed and evaluated nine field guides. Articles in subsequent issues described where and when to find mushrooms, new problems and potential controls as commercial picking increases in the western states, and toxicity awareness, also top 30 edibles, European cooking, and guides to home cultivation.

Published quarterly, subscription \$12/year.
Mushroom, P. O. Box 3056-W, University Station, Moscow, Idaho 83843.

(Emily Johnson)



MORE LIKE SKUNKS THAN CABBAGE

Air inside the skunk cabbage's spathe is a constant 72°F even in January, when I once saw it blooming. We don't expect plants to have a floral furnace or thermostat - but skunk cabbage does. Carbohydrates (sugar & starch) are used by the heat-producing cells of the blossom to maintain this temperature. This is true of most of the largely tropical members of the AROID family except one - the PHILODENDRON SELLOUM. This amazing plant burns lipids (fats), as we and birds and animals do. This takes place in "heater cells" found in the sterile male portion of bloom. Scientists believe that heat is necessary to attract insects for pollination. Heat intensifies the plant's scent and also keeps the insect's muscles limber. And - it lengthens the growing season of this former tropical family of plants. Botanists say that other early spring plants may also burn carbohydrates for warmth.

from Smithsonian, April '84

(Ede Mock)