

# Wildflowers

## THE BULLETIN OF THE BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF W. PA.

### MAY FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

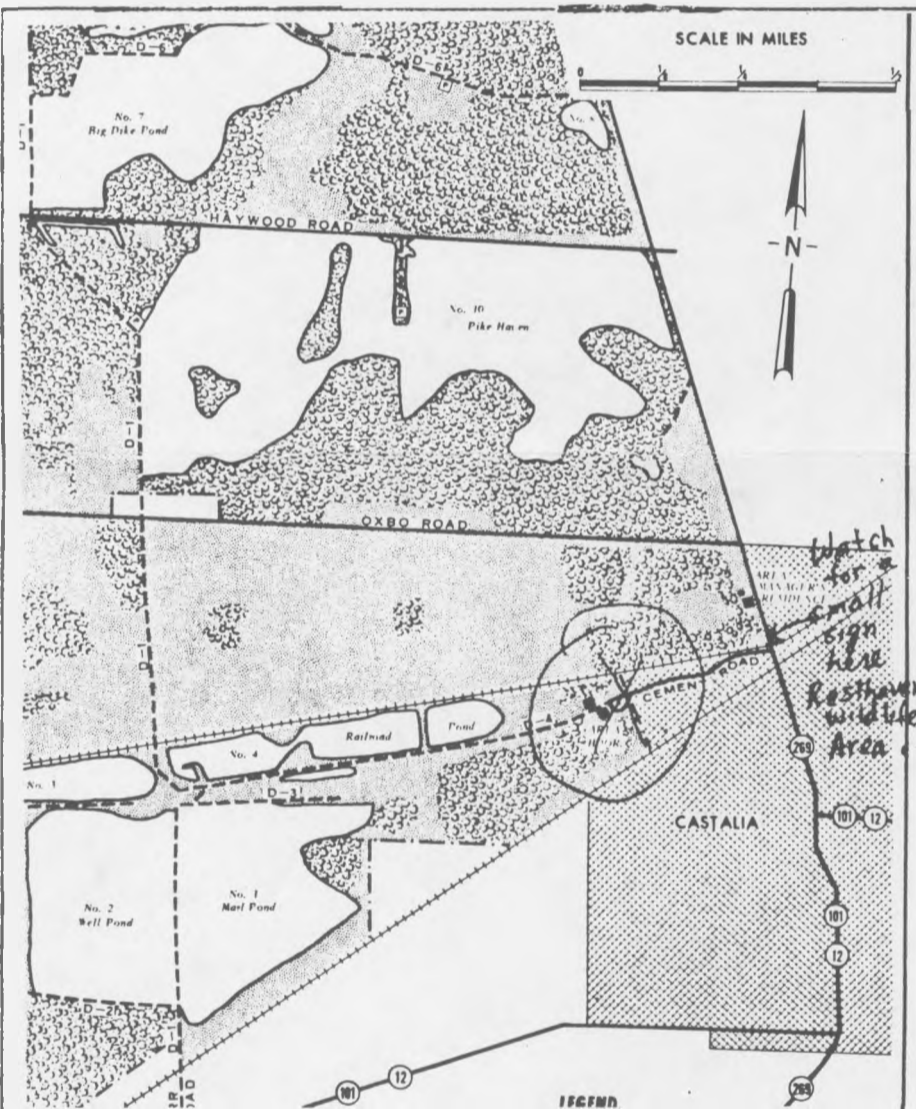
All field trips are scheduled on Saturdays. The rendezvous time is 1:30 P.M. If you have any questions, call our Field Trip Chairman, Esther Allen, 366-0786.

#### May 5 - Greene County

Drive south on I-79. Exit at Ruff Creek. Turn left and after a short distance, left again onto State Route 221. Continue for 4 or 5 miles to Lippincott. At the second church (Faith Baptist) turn left and meet at the third house on the right, a brick house with colonial columns, the Haywood home. Phone number 627-7747. Dr. Mary Joy Haywood, Leader.

#### May 11 - Jennings Environmental Education Center

Meet at parking lot for the Nature Center, Route 528 near junction of Routes 8 and 173, northwest of Butler. Priscilla Stoughton, Leader.



#### May 18 - Castalia

This outing to see the very rare Small White Ladyslipper, *Cypripedium candidum*, has been in the planning since last September. We are headed for the Resthaven Wildlife Area, which is located at the northern edge of Castalia, Ohio on the west side of State Route 269. The entrance to Resthaven is just a few hundred feet north of the entrance to the Blue Hole, on the opposite side of the road.

Meet at the Area Headquarters.

Resthaven is a "wet marl prairie", so come prepared to get your feet wet.

Our leader will be Joyce Bender, who is the area's foremost authority on *Cypripedium candidum*. I'll go further and say that she is the country's leading expert. She says that we may see as many as 1000 plants in bloom.

We may also see the Prairie Fringed Orchis, but this won't be in bloom at this time.

Castalia is about 250 miles from Pittsburgh, so allow yourself enough time.

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



#### RUBUS ODORATUS

Our member, Arabelle Wheatley, contributed the sketch of the Purple Flowering Raspberry.

*Rubus odoratus*  
Enlow Valley Greene Co PA  
June 28 1984



#### May 25 - State Game Lands No. 117 (Bavington)

Take Route 22 west to Bavington Exit, thence left on old route 22 about .4 mile and meet at abandoned service station across from Andy's Candies. Esther Allen, Leader.

#### June 1 - Rockland Township, Venango County

Take Route 8 to 308 north of I-80, and follow signs to Kennerdell. Cross river and turn left up the hill. Shortly after passing the overlook on the left, take first road (unpaved) to the left. At the end of this road turn left and soon after passing barn marked "Hooten Hollow" there will be a road to the right. Meet here. Roger Hummel, Leader.

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## Wildflowers in bloom a trout season bonus

By Patrick McShea

When trout fishermen are pressed to talk about the intangible attractions of their springtime recreation, the descriptions of woodland scenery that follow generally include some mention of wildflowers.

During the early weeks of trout season, bare tree branches allow the lengthening sunlight to coax plants with delicate blossoms from the leaf litter of the forest floor. The borders of many paths leading to secluded fishing spots are transformed into beautiful, untended gardens, which feature such eye-pleasing flowers as violets, coltsfoot, spring-beauties, hepatica, trillium and — appropriately — trout-lily, a small yellow flower named for the resemblance its dappled, lance-shaped leaves bear to the speckled flanks of the sought-after fish.

These transitory jewels, along with several dozen other species that might be found blooming in Western Pennsylvania at this time of the year, rank among the most beautiful of nature's works.

Near at hand, the intricacy of minute details, like the rose-colored veins that tint pink the white petals of spring-beauties, boggles the mind. At a distance, gaggles of profusions of blossoms, like a stand of countless blue violets carpeting a section of damp stream bank, offer comfort to the soul.

### Outdoors

Early spring is a good time to get started learning wildflower identification because the number of species blooming is not likely to overwhelm the beginner, and the types of species blooming are fairly distinct. Buying a field guide and becoming familiar with its organization is the first step towards a self-taught education.

Some of the finest wildflower stands in Western Pennsylvania can be viewed from the trails of the Jennings Environmental Center on Route 528 in Butler County, and the Wildflower Reserve adjacent to Raccoon Creek State Park in Beaver County. Neither charges admission.

The Botanical Society conducts group outings to search for, identify, and photograph wildflowers and other plants every Saturday. For more information call Esther Allen at 366-0786. For those who prefer a more structured approach, a three-session Spring Wildflower Workshop sponsored by the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania is scheduled for Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve April 23 and 30 and May 7. Call 963-6100.

### MAY MEETING

Monday, May 13 at 8:00 P.M. Carlow College in Oakland.

Our speaker will be Dr. Richard Medve of the Dept. of Biology, Slippery Rock College, on the subject, "The Fungal Connection".