

# Wildflowers

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

### NOVEMBER MEETING

Our November program will be "Diversity among Mushrooms" by Emily Johnson.

Who is Emily Johnson...as if you didn't already know? Emily has gained nationwide fame for her mycological pictures. There is hardly a competition that she enters that she doesn't win the lion's share of the awards.

The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Mushrooms contains a few of her photographs. Did we say a "few"? By actual count, she has 38 pictures to her credit. Most of us would give an eyetooth to have even a single picture accepted in such a manual.

We are very proud to list her as a member of the Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania...a member for 14 years.

The meeting will be held as usual at Carlow College's Trinity Hall, 3333 Fifth Avenue, Oakland. It is the second Monday of the month, the 11th of November, and the time is 8:00 P.M.



### BOTANICAL DRAWING

Anne Bahl has just completed a course in Botanical Drawing that was sponsored by the Arts and Crafts Center and the Pittsburgh Garden Club. So, we put her to work. Her first assignment was Crepidotus applanatus above. She sketched it from one of Emily's photographs in the Audubon Society's Field Guide.

### OKTOBERFEST

It was the 18th of October, and all one could expect in wildflowers were a few stragglers among the asters and goldenrods. So, we were surprised and delighted to see patches of bright red beside the water at Valley Falls, West Virginia.

The bright red was the Cardinal Flower, Lobelia cardinalis, with both flower and plant in prime condition. As a matter of fact, some specimens were still in the bud stage. What a contrast to Cardinal Flowers at our home, which bloomed two months ago and are now brown and dried!

At the same spot were Great Lobelias, Lobelia siphilitica. Every word we have written about the Cardinal Flower applies equally to this blue beauty.

Anne and Bob Bahl

### CONTRIBUTORS

Wildflowers is your publication. Your articles and illustrations are welcome. We need them by the 18th of the month.

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### GENTIANA CLAUSA

Laura Wirkkala contributes this sketch of the Closed Gentian. It was found along the roadside in Reels Corner, Somerset County on August 31, 1985. (One bottle of wine lost).



### CEREUSLY SPEAKING

Last year, Sister Mary Joy gave us a night blooming cereus, really an Epiphyllum oxypetalum. As now understood, none of the plants known as night blooming cereus belong to the genus Cereus.

Our night blooming cereus, right or wrong, just had its night of glory...or two nights of glory. On Friday, September 20, two spectacular blooms came out, then two more the following night.

What a display! On both nights the first pinhole opening occurred at 8:20. You could actually see the blossom enlarging. By 11 o'clock, the flowers were in their full glory -- 8 inches across, with such a permeating fragrance. By morning all was over. A one night stand if there ever was one!

(Anne and Bob Bahl)

### NATURAL WORLD PHOTOGRAPHY

Carnegie Museum announces the 1986 Natural World Photographic Competition and Exhibition. This national competition is open to amateur and professional photographers in both color and black-and-white categories. Top winners will not only receive cash prizes but will have their photographs published in Carnegie Magazine. Selected photographs will be exhibited at Carnegie Museum of Natural History.

Call (412)622-3283 with questions, but act promptly. All entries must be received between November 12 and November 22.

### CONSERVE 86 CALENDAR

For the eighth year, I have received my Wildflower Calendar from the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. In the 1986 edition, thirteen native flowers are depicted, all watercolors of Andrey Avinoff, who has been called the Audubon of Botany.

In 1940 and 1941, this talented painter and scientist worked with Dr. Otto Jennings, then President of our Botanical Society, to record the beautiful wildflowers of this area in the two-volume Wildflowers of Western Pennsylvania and Upper Ohio Basin.

This 1986 Wildflower Calendar can be purchased for \$6.00 plus tax, but that's not the way to get your copy. The thing to do is to join the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and get a free copy every year.