

Wildflowers

THE BULLETIN OF THE BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF W. PA.

WILD PARTY

I'm sure that wild parties are frowned upon on the Carlow Campus, but this one is different.

Our December meeting, Monday the 9th at 8 P.M., will be our traditional wild Christmas party. We enjoy all sorts of things from the wild -- fruits, berries, nuts, mushrooms -- in pies, cookies, candies, jellies, beverages, etc. -- brought in by the members.

HOWEVER...and I have been asked to put this in the bulletin...don't stay away if you have nothing to bring. There is always enough to go around.

This year we combine Members' Night with our Christmas party. Each member brings up to twelve botanical slides taken during the past year. We're hoping that Chuck and Marian Hissem will again do the projecting.

It would be nice, too, if Virginia Phelps would once more lead the singing, especially those carols with a botanical connection -- Deck the Halls, The Holly and the Ivy, Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming, O Tannenbaum, etc.

The party will be held at Aquinas Hall on the Carlow College Campus, just a little down from our usual meeting place, which is Trinity Hall.



100 YEARS OLD

Actually, the food and the slides are secondary. What we really need at the December meeting is YOU.

Our Botanical Society is now in its centennial year. A number of ideas for celebrating will be presented at the meeting, and we need your input.

One idea is to publish a full-color book on the Wildflowers of Pennsylvania, if Santa Claus would bring us the wherewithal. Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus.

Another issue of TRILLIA would be in order. It has been 22 years since the last one.

A wildflower blooming calendar has been suggested. So has a banquet featuring food from the wild. Morels, maybe?

Whatever we plan to do, we have to plant the seeds now if we want any flowers to bloom next year.

So, come...and bring ideas.

HAUNTS FOR THE PERIPATETIC

Virginia Phelps suggests that members share locations of botanical interest that they might come upon. These could be an ultimate destination or a casual visit on the way elsewhere. Virginia has submitted the first one on Bartholomew's Cobble

Bartholomew's Cobble

Have you ever heard of Bartholomew's Cobble? It is a charming natural rock garden in extreme southwest Massachusetts. Approach from Sheffield, MA to Ashley Falls. On 44 acres along the Housatonic River, more than 700 plants have been catalogued including 49 ferns and fern allies. It is famous for having the natural hybrid Scott's Spleenwort. The cobbles are two abrupt knolls about 75 feet high of quartzite and dolomitic marble with scattered drift boulders. The area is owned and operated by Trustees of Preservations, a conservancy that includes historic sites as well as natural areas. There are short loop trails among the knolls as well as extended hikes with a diversity of habitats.

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MERRY
CHRISTMAS



ILEX MESERVEAE

Deck the halls...this drawing of blue holly was made by the newest artist on our staff, Anne Bahl. It was sketched in late November from a specimen growing in her garden.

FORT NECESSITY PROJECT

Our Botanical Society has received grants from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and from the National Park Service to make a survey of the plants of the Fort Necessity Battlefield.

After numerous scheduled and unscheduled field trips to the area, 183 plants were catalogued, and Howard McIlvried has computerized these.

Our next step is to make slides and colorprints of these plants for exhibition at the Fort Necessity Visitor Center. All members of the Botanical Society are invited to share in this project, whether or not they were on any of the field trips. Submit slides of any of the plants...it is not necessary that they be from the battlefield itself as long as they are on the list.

Many members picked up Howard's computer list at the November meeting. The list will be available again at the December meeting. If you can't make the December meeting, call or write Bob Bahl, and a copy will be mailed to you.

Make sure your name is on each slide. Duplicates will be made, and your original slides will be returned to you.

All slides should be marked with the genus and species, using the terminology on the computer list.

Slides must be submitted by our January meeting, which is on the 13th.

A committee will then organize the submitted slides into species, and make one selection from each group. That one will then be duplicated and also made into an enlarged colorprint. We don't want one or two members to monopolize this; we prefer as wide a representation as possible.

The committee so far consists of Dr. Mary Joy Haywood, Howard McIlvried, Virginia Phelps, and Anne and Bob Bahl. Other members are welcome to serve, too.

DUES ARE DUE

This time we are enclosing a separate form for membership renewal, so you will not have to cut up your bulletin.

Bring it with you to the December meeting. If you can't make the meeting, mail it with your check to our treasurer:

Howard McIlvried
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