

# Wildflowers

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



### MARCH MEETING

Monthly meeting, Monday March 10 at 8:00 P.M., Trinity Hall, Carlow College. Program - MYSTERIES OF ORCHID POLLINATION - by Sam Taylor.

### GRANDMA EMMA GATEWOOD

This biography of Grandma Gatewood is taken from a pamphlet about the First Hocking Hills Grandma Gatewood Walkfest to be held Saturday, March 22. Grandma Gatewood, as most of you know, was the mother of our member, Esther Allen.

For more information on the 10-kilometer hike in Ohio, contact Carol Slocum, (513)878-0418.



### **Grandma Emma Gatewood**

Emma's famous hiking career did not begin until 1955, after spending 68 of her years at grueling work on a Gallia County, Ohio farm. Here she not only did the laborious farm chores, but raised 11 children and 4 grandchildren. At 68, a lesser woman would have been spent and exhausted, but not Emma. The years of hard work may have etched lines into her face, but they had not even dented her spirit. Obligations as wife and mother fulfilled, Grandma Gatewood was ready for new challenges.

The fateful moment came when Emma picked up a National Geographic article and read that no woman had ever completed the Appalachian Trail. So, without a word to anyone, Grandma began to make plans. In 1955, at the age of 68, she made her first successful trip from Georgia to Maine. Before she was 76 she had hiked the trail two more times.

Her most famous trek, however, was the 2,000 mile Oregon Trail, completed at the age of 72. She hiked from Independence, Missouri, to Portland, Oregon, beating a special Oregon Centennial wagon train by a full two weeks. Grandma rarely missed hiking one of her favorites, the trail leading from Old Man's Cave to Ash Cave at Hocking Hills State Park in southeastern Ohio. Grandma Emma Gatewood passed away in 1973. In 1979, this trail was dedicated as a national recreation trail in her honor.

### SYMPATHY

Our condolences to Virginia Craig and Nancy Maddock on the death of their father.

### HOSPITAL REPORT

Dr. Mary Joy Haywood and Virginia Phelps have been in and out of the hospital since our last bulletin. As this is written, both are doing well.

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MARCH 1986

Our 100th Year

### ARISAEMA TRIPHYLLUM

The sketch of the Jack-in-the-Pulpit is from our member, Laura Wirkkala. It was made from a slide taken at Raccoon Creek, April 1984.

### SUE THOMPSON GOING TO VENEZUELA

Our member, Sue Thompson, will be off on another of her botanical journeys. This one, starting in early March and lasting 7 to 8 weeks, will take her to Venezuela, South America. Along with Dr. Brian Boom of the New York Botanical Gardens, she will be making an ethno-botanical study of the Panare Indians. The two of them will be exploring the role of plants in medicine and magic as employed by the Shaman, the native witch-doctor.

Previous botanical expeditions have taken Sue to Mexico, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Peru, the Caribbeans, and the Cameroons in Africa.

### A LETTER FROM DENMARK

It's from our old friend and Botanical Society member, Chris Metelmann -

25 Jan. 1986

Dear Allens,

It was so good to hear from you and find you well. Thank you for your lovely letter. We also enjoyed the little selfmade marker you sent along.

This year Velda went to the USA to visit her mother, who is rather ill. But the visit was a full success and her mother's memory was not too bad. I, on the other hand, went to Germany to visit my mother. For Christmas we were together with my brother and his family, and for New Year my mother and I visited my sister and her family. But since Velda was not there it was only half a visit.

Here in København there are two botanical societies with a membership of about 1000 people. Last year some of the field trips went to Sweden where we visited an island called Øland. This island has the distinction that there grow a few things which grow nowhere else in the world and that is even reflected in the name. Did I write you about that already? If so, please forgive me, but it was such an interesting trip. Also, I do believe that the world's most beautiful spring woods are right here in Denmark. They are near a town called Roskilde. The name is Boserup skove and Velda and I were just overwhelmed when we saw it. Anemone nemerosa, primula elatior, corydalis cava (both white and red-violet) formed a mat without any interruption as far as the eye could see. Well, there were trees, and they did give a form of interruption, but the forest was not very dense or the leaves out yet to give any particular problems. As you can plainly see, I can hardly wait for spring. We are already discussing possible trips to different places to see and enjoy the scenery.

How is Betty Brown doing? Are some of the friends slowly dropping out of some of the field trips? Many new people which joined the ranks to make things interesting? Time goes on and we change. We hope and wish the changes were for the better for you this last year, and so we wish you the very best.

Greeting to all - Love

s/ Velda & Christoph