

# Wildflowers

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

### 100th ANNIVERSARY BANQUET

Mark your calendar, and then hold open the date of October 13, a Monday. That is when the Botanical Society will be celebrating its 100th Anniversary with a gala banquet.

### "WONDERFUL WILDFLOWERS" CONTINUES

The exhibition WONDERFUL WILDFLOWERS: BOTANICAL WATERCOLORS BY ANDREY AVINOFF continues at Carnegie Museum of Natural History. It will run until the end of the year. However, there are two phases of prints on view. The first 25 watercolors will be displayed through August 20; the second set of 25 through December 31. So, see it now, then see it again after August 20.

### PODOPHYLLUM PELTATUM

According to an article in Insight magazine, the drug etoposide, derived from mayapple, has been approved by the Food and Drug Administration for use on certain forms of cancer.



RHUS RADICANS  
POISON IVY

### POISON IVY, OAK, AND SUMAC

Poison ivy is found in most of the US, relatively rare poison sumac in the East & poison oak in the West (there is a SE species of poison oak). All parts of US contain poison ivy or poison oak except Hawaii, Alaska and some of Nev. These plants are native to US, Asia & Central Am. & practically unknown in rest of world. In the last century some English visitors, amazed at the beautiful fall colors of poison ivy, took some home & since it was an "ivy" planted it. Shortly after, a British medical journal reported a new disease contracted only by women who did the gardening & concluded that it was a "hysterical rash".

These plants are not related to ivy or oak but are members of cashew family.

At least 110 million Americans are sensitive to chemicals contained in these plants - a heavy oil called urushiol (oo-ROO-she-ol). Botanists have developed rash from plant specimens 100 yrs old & from a Chinese jar 1000 yrs. old.

A skin test for determining sensitivity to urushiol has now been developed - the principle is similar to tb test. A poison ivy vaccine has now been developed that desensitizes animals & is being developed for humans. A cream has been developed that shields the skin from urushiol, similar to sun-tan cream.

Two things are for sure - a person who has never suffered the rash cannot say they will never get it. Also, any treatment developed will be better than the cures used in the past - bathing in horse urine, or bleach, cleaning the skin with gasoline, morphine, gunpowder, buttermilk, marshmallows, or strychnine, drinking photographer's hypo; or rubbing on ammonia, mustard, Lysol, hair spray, clear nail polish, meat tenderizer or toothpaste!

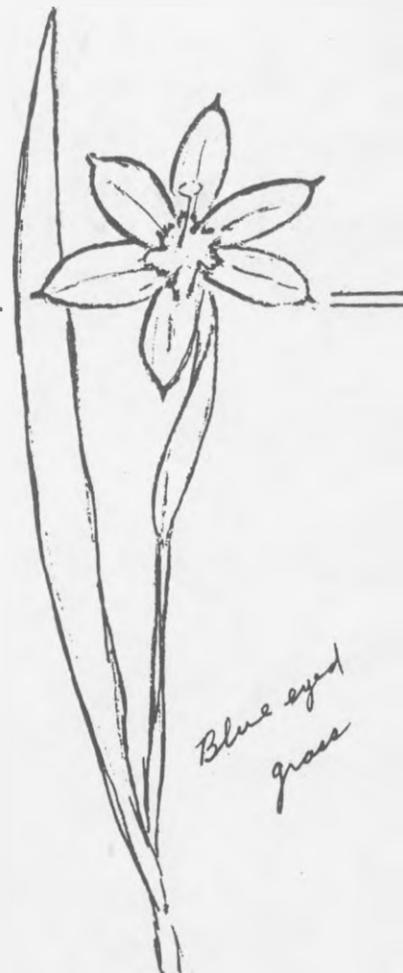
(Condensed from Smithsonian by Ede Mock)

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## 1986

OUR 100th YEAR

AUGUST							1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	



Blue-eyed  
grass

### SISYRINCHIUM ANGUSTIFOLIUM

The sketch of Blue-eyed Grass comes from our member, M. J. Paoli, of East Brady. It was depicted from a specimen in Armstrong County.

### AUGUST FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

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

#### August 2 - North Park

Meet at the Pie Traynor Field parking area (behind swimming pool). In conjunction with a trail project day we will be identifying and placing labels by plants along a portion of a new trail system being planned by the Volunteers for Outdoor Allegheny (VOA). VOA is an organization of volunteers formed in January, 1986 under the sponsorship of the Appalachian Mountain Club's National Volunteer Project. Its purpose is to sponsor outdoor public service projects in our local parks and natural areas. Projects for 1986 are concentrated in North Park and include a "Marshall Lake Recovery Day", June 28, and "Trail Project Day", August 2. Leader, Esther Allen.

#### August 9 - Jennings Blazing Star Prairie

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

#### August 16 - Raccoon Creek State Park (Valley Trail)

Meet at Park Headquarters on Route 18. The trail follows the creek from near our meeting place to the swimming area at the lake. Dave Allen will shuttle drivers back to the meeting place.

#### August 23 - Tidioute

From Oil City take Route 62 to Tidioute. Turn left over the Allegheny River Bridge, left again on Main Street, and go to the sewage disposal at the south edge of town. Leader, Ted Grisez.

Ted recommends Knotty Pine Restaurant for lunch. After crossing bridge, turn right instead of left and go about one block.

#### August 30 - Labor Day Week-end (No trip scheduled)

(Esther Allen)

### CHEAP AT HALF THE PRICE

The year is past the mid-point, so new members may come into the Botanical Society by paying half the dues, and this will carry them to the first of the year.

Annual dues are just \$5 for a single membership and \$8 for a family membership. Students - 50% off.

### NO MEETING IN AUGUST

As always, there are no monthly meetings scheduled for July and August.