

Wildflowers

THE BULLETIN OF THE
BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF W. PA.

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FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

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

August 15 - CHALK HILL BOG

Take Rt. 51 south to Uniontown, Rt. 40 east from Uniontown to Chalk Hill; at Chalk Hill turn left on a blacktop road toward Ohiopyle; after crossing arm of Deer Lake, turn left on first road and continue on it some distance to parking area on right. Howard McIlvried, Leader.

August 22 - ROUGH RUN at LITTLE BUFFALO CREEK, Butler/Armstrong County line

Meet at Cooper Cabin. From Rt. 28, exit at Route 356 and follow 356 approx. 8 miles. Look for Cooper Cabin sign and Uncle Billy Smith historic marker. Turn right onto Grey Road. Bring extra shoes for creek crossing (or plan to walk on water). This will be a *deja vu* celebration as our last hike there was almost 21 years ago. Leader, Laura Wirkkala.

NOTE: For an added bonus, Beulah Frey will be on hand at 11:30 a.m. to open the Cooper Cabin for the Botanical Society members. After the tour you may lunch on the spacious lawn or, if you prefer, try the Saxonburg Inn about 1-1/2 miles away. In Saxonburg look for the Roebing memorial.

August 29 - SCHENLEY PARK

This will be our second trip to the Park to conduct a plant survey. This is a worthwhile and interesting venture for our members. Meet at the small nature center in Schenley Park opposite Phipps Conservatory.

September 5 - PRESQUE ISLE STATE PARK

Drive north on I-79 and when near Erie follow signs directing to Presque Isle. Meet at the Park administration building. Leader, H. R. Leapman.

WILDFLOWER WEEKEND AT TERRA ALTA

Anne and I are headed for the Oglebay Institute Summer Wildflower Weekend in Terra Alta, West Virginia, August 21-23. It's not too late for you to join. Reservation deadline is August 10, but you can make a late reservation by calling the A. B. Brooks Nature Center at 304-242-6855.

N.B. That stands for "none better", a most apt description of Allison Cusick, who will lead the field trips.

THE JOY OF BOTANIZING

On the trail to a site for and the leading of a Saturday walk may take one down many new paths, as it did for me. First, was the study of H. R. Leapman's collection of "Trillia" and an attempt to locate Gibsonia Swamp as a possible walk site. Then Virginia Phelps generously shared her "Wildflower" folder to review areas such as Wymp's Gap, The Distillery and Glenn Campbell. For the latter she showed me a Memorial Day record with sightings of *Cypripedium acaule* and *Polygala paucifolia*. On the first foray into the Little Buffalo Creek area with our Field Trip Chairman, limestone outcroppings and plentiful delicious raspberries were found; and the next led to Beulah Frey, who was easily persuaded to revisit the area of her childhood summers. She also shared her interest in Cooper Cabin, a log cabin which was the home of Nancy Jane Cooper for her 101-year lifetime. In a nearby cemetery on Rt. 356 Uncle Billy Smith is remembered by a historic marker as the person who made the drill bit for Colonel Drake.

Yes, it was a fun adventure. Thus, the challenge is offered to one and all. Locate a Saturday walk area. Call Esther Allen to schedule a date.

---Laura Wirkkala

24 plants, including *Filipendula rubra*, were identified and marked at Cooper Cabin July 3, 1987, by H. R. Leapman and Laura Wirkkala.

AUGUST 1987

Our 101st Year

Liparis loeselii
Near Wind Ridge PA.
June 9 1987

LIPARIS LOESELII

This sketch of Loesel's Twayblade, from a specimen near her home in Wind Ridge, was made by our member, Arabelle Wheatley.

JULY 18 - EMLENTON

What better way to spend a hot (high 80's) summer day than walking along a cool wooded road - adjacent to a river on one side & a very steep, rocky slope on the other. Twenty people enjoyed this botanical experience - led by Bob Hedin. We saw many *Epipactis helleborine* - some still showing their lovely little greenish-purple orchid flowers. This alien from Europe was growing singly or in clusters which is not seen too often. Flowering raspberry displayed both flowers & fruit (edible). Pale lavender bergamot & yellow composites were blooming. And down in the marshes near the river were seen the most beautiful Turk's-cap lilies. In some areas where water was cascading over the boulders on the wooded shore - the temperature dropped dramatically. Also seen were turtles, toads & a little creamy-yellow moth with a perfect fleur de lis design on the folded wings on its back. Good site, good leader, good day!

---Ede Mock

JULY 25 - E. & D. ALLEN

Our society could schedule a field trip each day for a month - to diverse locations & not see all of the wildflowers that Esther has in her garden. Including the trees, shrubs, ferns & cultivated flowers the number is close to 400. Another amazing fact...when Esther & Dave moved to this location - it was a steep dry, shale bank with buffalo grass growing on it. The cardinal flowers were a spectacular red, white aconitum was ready to bloom, hibiscus had clear true-colored flowers on tall stalks, passiflora were spectacular with a large bumblebee or 2 on nearly every flower. Expedition ended with cold lemonade & mint tea on Esther's screened porch - perfect ending to a hot day. 16 persons attended. Thanks - Esther.

---Ede Mock

WILDFLOWER SYMPOSIUM

I have information on an all-day symposium, "Ways with Wildflowers", on Saturday, October 3. This will held at Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve in eastern Pennsylvania. Cost is \$30.

If any member is interested in the details, call me at (412)921-1797.

REPORT ON BRUCE PENINSULA

Okay! Okay! So, we promised you a report on our "Week on the Bruce". Once again, we lack space to do justice to this wonderful botanical experience, shared by ten Botanical Society members. We shall try again in September...or October...or whenever.

NO MEETING IN AUGUST

There will be no meeting in August. See you on September 14.