

Wildflowers

THE BULLETIN OF THE BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF W. PA.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Botanical Society meetings are held on the second Monday of each month. Starting time is 8:00 P.M. prompt. We meet at Trinity Hall, Carlow College, 3333 Fifth Ave., Oakland. Always ample, safe parking!

We resume our meetings on Monday, September 14. Our guest speaker will be Dr. George Gerhart. His program is entitled "All about Daylilies".

SEPTEMBER 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.

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.

September 12 - FRIENDSHIP HILL

From Pittsburgh take I-79 south to the Masontown exit (Route 21); follow Rt. 21 east to Masontown turn-off, and from Masontown take Rt. 166 south to Friendship Hill (watch for brown and white signs). This is an interesting area with diverse habitats and plant species, which we are in the process of listing for the National Park Service.

September 19 - CEDAR CREEK PARK, WESTMORELAND COUNTY

Meet at the Howard Johnson parking lot at junction of Routes 51 and I-70. There are good stations of *Aconitum uncinatum* (Blue Monkshood), which should be blooming at this time. Leader, Mark Bowers.

September 26 - CONNOQUENESSING CREEK

From Zelienople, take Route 288 to Ellwood City, then Rt. 351 (Lawrence Ave.) to west side of Ellwood City to an area locally called Park Gate. Meet at Nastas' small grocery store and Amoco gas station on right side of Rt. 351. Parking space in back of store. We will explore the site of a once-popular park (1895-6 to 1915 or so), which is a lush alluvial area. Leader, Priscilla Stoughton.

"And that old common arbitrator, Time,
Will one day end it." (The 1987 outings)

---Esther Allen

BETTY BROWN

The name probably doesn't mean much to our new members, but all of us old-timers remember Betty Brown as one of the most vigorous and active members our Society ever had.

I particularly recall "Betty Brown's Blooming Calendar". It showed the bloom periods of wildflowers in Western Pennsylvania.

Her paintings were frequently on exhibition. I especially remember one of her paintings, the one of *Isotria medeoloides*.

Betty is finally at rest. She passed away on July 17 after many, many years in nursing homes.

May she rest in peace.

ANNE FINDS A RARE ORCHID

Botanizing near Sitka, Alaska, my intrepid orchid-spotter found three specimens of *Malaxis paludosa*, the bog adder's-mouth, peeking out from the sphagnum moss.

I had passed right by them. They were so tiny. The plants were from 2 to 4 inches, and the greenish flowers were hardly bigger than a pinhead.

Luer lists this orchid as being "local and rare". Szczawinski says it is "extremely rare, one of our rarest orchids".

By happenstance, earlier that morning we had met Judy Hall Alaback, author of "Flora of Southeast Alaska". We took her back to see the specimens, and she helped with the identification.

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SEPTEMBER 1987

Our 101st Year



NATURE NOTES

This month's illustration is from Virginia Phelps' hand-made note paper. It looks great in plain black-and-white. Just imagine how the real thing must look in glorious color, because Virginia uses actual ferns, seeds, and leaflets to produce her artistic effects. Yes, this note paper is for sale...no two exactly alike. Call Virginia at (412)828-6286.

AUGUST 1 - MORaine STATE PARK

Our main objective was to see an aquatic plant.... *Brassenia schreberi*, Water shield. We did see it & in detail, because Dorothy waded out into the lagoon & brought back a specimen. It is a very unique plant, with a thick, gelatinous coating on stems & leaves. The tiny flower was unusual too - it looked very elementary. The walk to the site was very pleasant - with flowering spurge, and in one area Nature's own bouquet of pink, white & yellow - Joe-Pye-Weed, Boneset & yellow composites. Also along the bike trail were black raspberries, blackberries, red raspberries, elderberries, & chokecherries...all great jelly berries! Esther Allen - leader. 11 attended.

---Ede Mock

AUGUST 8 - WIND RIDGE

Arabelle Wheatley and Bob Buckbee led us on a most interesting hike - through woods & fields, up very steep hills & down into deep valleys & along deer trails & old overgrown farm roads. The temperature was in the 80's but it was comfortable in the shaded areas. We saw *Sabatia angularis*, a twayblade (*Liparis loeselii*), the dainty chalk-white flowering spurge, goldenrod, & St. Johnswort. The first premonition of autumn was seen in a few red & orange-colored leaves. A sampling of blackberries & blueberries were still found on the bushes. Our hosts took us on a tour of their fascinating old house - fireplaces & pictures, a gall collection, old churns & other antiques. And then they served us the best, sweetest watermelon of the summer, plus oatmeal cookies. 11 members came for the outing. A land to remember!

---Ede Mock

AUGUST 15 - CHALK HILL BOG

With Howard McIlvried leading, we saw...

Polygala cruciata - cross-leaved milkwort

Drosera filiformis - thread-leaf sundew

Sarracenia leucophylla - white-trumpet

We saw many other plants, of course, but these three were notable because they grow nowhere else in our area. How did they get into Chalk Hill Bog?

\$10,000.00 GRANT FOR OUR BOOK

We have received the first gift toward the publication of our Society's wildflower book, a grant of \$10,000.00 from the Laurel Foundation.

Our aim is \$50,000. Dr. Mary Joy Haywood and Laura Wirkkala, as our two-member Fund Raising Team, are working hard to get the remaining \$40,000. We wish them luck.