

Wildflowers

THE BULLETIN OF THE
BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF W. PA.

OCTOBER MEETING

Our next meeting will be Monday, October 12, at 8:00 P.M....at our usual place, Trinity Hall, Carlow College, 3333 Fifth Ave., Oakland. Always ample, safe parking!

Dr. Gould F. Schrock, president of the Botanical Society of Indiana County, will be our speaker. His subject will be "Cacti and Other Succulents".



AUGUST 29 FIELD TRIP - SCHENLEY PARK

Just 6 Botanical Society members came out to help with the plant survey. Three of them also worked on the first count.

The most noticeable difference this time was the extreme erosion - gullies on the hillsides - steps washed away & some of the stepping stones broken in half. There must have been a cloud-burst to have wreaked such havoc. It is fortunate that there is such a good cover on the hillsides, especially vines, which prevented worse destruction.

The most prolific vine was the porcelainberry with spectacular, almost unbelievable shades of blue, green, & purple. We also saw Canada moonseed vine, wild grape vines (good crop), & bittersweet.

Japanese knotweed with its dainty white flowers attracted the bees. This flower is attractive in bouquets & also great in winter bouquets after being dried. The yellow composites blooming were wingstem, sunflower, greenheaded coneflower, & Jerusalem artichoke.

Esther checked with the first list & we had 26 new plants to add to the survey. One new species was Arenaria verna variety caespitosa.

- Ede Mock



SEPTEMBER 5 FIELD TRIP - PRESQUE ISLE.

To me, this was the most productive field trip of the season. Our main target was the brook lobelia, Lobelia kalmii, which is proposed as "threatened" on the POSCIP list. Hersch Leapman, our leader, was determined to find it...and he did!

We ran into Jean and Jim Stull. They told us there was autumn coralroot, Corallorhiza odontorhiza, in the vicinity, but they couldn't tell us exactly where. So we all fanned out to search for it. Scott Shriver had the eagle eye. He found them under a canopy of bushes. By actual count, there were 40 specimens.

The word "presque" in French means "almost". Presque Isle is a peninsula - almost an island.



SEPTEMBER 12 FIELD TRIP - FRIENDSHIP HILL

We came across a small composite that looked like a miniature fleabane. None of us had ever seen it before.

Checking the manuals, we determined that it was Eclipta alba (syn. Verbesina alba). Far from being rare and exotic, this is a widespread weed down south. The common name is given as Yerba-de-tajo. A literal translation would be "herb of the chopping board", so says my pocket Spanish dictionary.



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OCTOBER

1987

Our 101st Year



ESTHER ALLEN'S NATURE-PAPER

Always on the giving side, Esther Allen regularly supplies her lovely nature-cards to all attendees at our Christmas parties. Here is a sample of her handiwork, still beautiful even though it is just in black-and-white.



OUR WILDFLOWER BOOK

Now that we have \$10,000.00 seed money for our wildflower book, we have to start moving. We have determined the number of plants to be illustrated, 300 of them.

Coming up with a total of 300 names would be simplicity itself. We could do that without even opening a reference book. The problem is cutting it down to 300 names.

We are asking for your input. Make up your recommended list of exactly 300 Pennsylvania plants, arranged alphabetically by genus. Bring it with you to the October 12 meeting. If you can't make it to the meeting, then mail it to me --

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...or forever hold your peace!



EDE DOES IT AGAIN

Last year, Ede Mock was an award winner in the Agway Magazine photographic competition. Her picture, which was printed in the magazine, was entitled "Geese"

The results of this year's competition have just been announced, and Ede again has a prize winner with her entry, "Tulips".



LIST OF PRESQUE ISLE PLANTS.

We would be remiss if we didn't mention Virginia Craig's contribution to our Presque Isle outing. Virginia got hold of four Presque Isle surveys and reports, including a complete vegetation inventory based on Carnegie Museum Herbarium files...but then she made copies for everybody on the field trip. This was no small task, because there were 43 pages of material.



MYCOLOGICAL FIND

On September 12, 1987, while on a Botanical Society field trip at Friendship Hill, we came upon a distinctive grey and pink fungus that was not recorded in any of the manuals.

Esther Allen, Mark Bowers, Bob Buckbee, Virginia Craig, Bob Morgan, Virginia Phelps, and Arabelle Wheatley - all co-discoverers of the new species - graciously concurred in the name of Hevea bahlui.

We have some excellent photographs, and Esther Allen has possession of the actual specimen.