

Wildflowers

THE BULLETIN OF THE
BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF W. PA.

JUNE MEETING

Our monthly meeting will be Monday, June 13 at Trinity Hall, Carlow College, Oakland - 8 P.M.

The program -

"Culturing of Roses"

Gervase Degenhardt, O.F.M. Cap.

VERMONT WILDFLOWER FARM

This article was clipped from a Baltimore newspaper. The Wildflower Farm sounds like an interesting place, but we would prefer a first-hand report from one of our members. If you go there..or have been there.. let us know how it is.

Call of the wildflowers: a sanctuary in Vermont

By James Joseph

Wildflowers, long endangered, are making a startling comeback. But not necessarily in the wild.

Once scorned as "weeds," many of the 20,000 species of native American wildflower are being pampered to bloom in home gardens, planted along interstates and other highways, and for the first time are being seriously grown commercially.

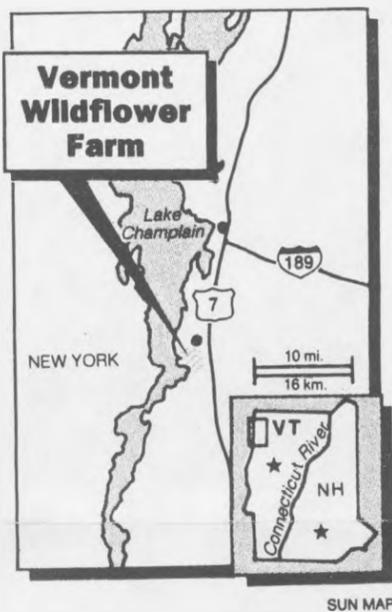
Everywhere the wildflowers' champions are springing up almost as fast as wild daisies in May. Virtually every state and many communities have organized wildflower societies and clubs. The Alabama Wildflower Society has encouraged Alabama's 21 state parks and their rangers to show the same concern for wildflowers as for wildlife.

In 1985, the American Horticultural Society presented its first Wildflower Rediscovery Awards to 10 recipients who discovered significant populations of wildflowers once believed extinct. Among the "rediscoveries": buffalo clover, rediscovered in West Virginia after more than 45 years; water hyssop, a wildflower not seen in Virginia since 1941, and an even rarer rediscovery in Oregon of a wildflower species not observed in that state since 1896.

The California poppy, threatened by urban sprawl and indiscriminate picking, thrives in the new California Poppy Reserve in Antelope Valley, north of Los Angeles. And 10 miles east of Austin, Texas, former first lady Lady Bird Johnson, a behind-the-scenes force in bringing the Highway Beautification Act to reality, has established the National Wildflower Research Center. Its aim: to promote the propagation of native plants, shrubs, trees and especially wildflowers.

Most unusual of all is the Vermont Wildflower Farm off Interstate 89, about 12 miles south of Burlington, Vt., and close to the shores of Lake Champlain. Here, across six acres, grow about 1,000 species of wildflower — roughly 1/20th of all known U.S. wildflower species. Its seed shop is said to be the world's only seed purveyor specializing in wildflowers.

At the Vermont Wildflower Farm you can watch a 13-minute multimedia presentation ("Wildflowers



Through the Seasons"), take a self-guided tour of what is probably the world's largest living wildflower garden (every species identified and pictured) and stop by the seed shop for seeds and advice (the advice is free; the seeds aren't).

One thing tourists who are tired of mowing and tending a lawn learn is that a lawn grown in wildflowers — the species to suit wherever you live — needs virtually no tending, no mowing and minimal care. Wildflowers, by nature, look after themselves. And a little wildflower seed goes a long way — an ounce (about \$6) covers up to 250 square feet, a 1-pound bag an average lawn.

The Vermont Wildflower Farm is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, mid-May to mid-October. Adults \$2, seniors and AAA members \$1.50, age 12 and younger free.

Getting there: Transfer from I-89, just southeast of Burlington, Vt., to I-189. Leave I-189 after about one mile at the Shelburne Exit, which puts you on U.S. 7. Drive south on U.S. 7 about 10 miles to Charlotte. Vermont Wildflower Farm is just south of Charlotte, on your right.

For more information: For a brochure and wildflower seed catalog, write to the Vermont Wildflower Farm, Route 7, Charlotte, Vt. 05445, or phone (802) 425-3500.

Universal Press Syndicate

WILDFLOWERS COURSE

This is an excerpt from Community College of Allegheny County's catalog of summer courses. Note the instructor. For more information, call 369-3737.

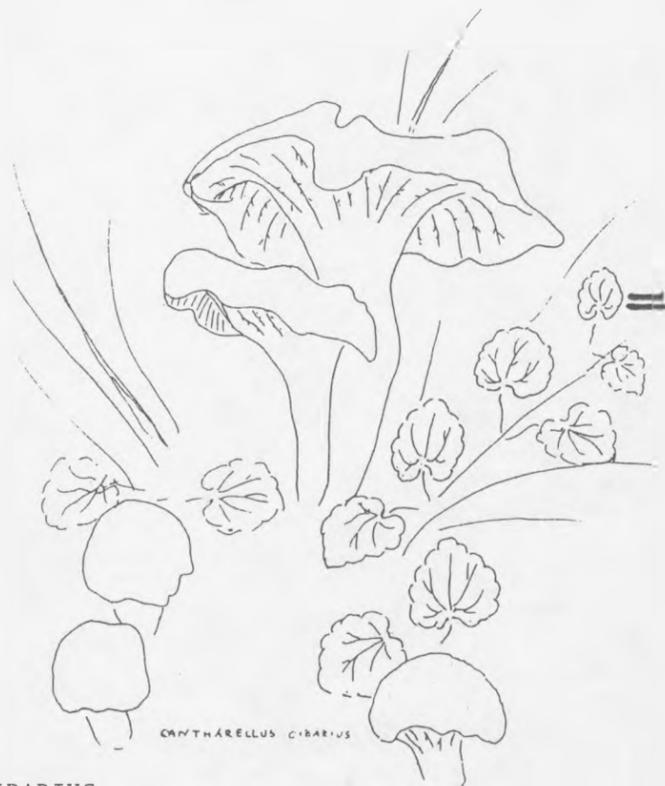
Wildflowers of Summer will consist of an introductory classroom session to acquaint the students with field guides and their use, plant characteristics to look for in field identification, habitats, etc. Following the introductory session there will be field trips to such natural areas as North Park, Trillium Trail, Raccoon Creek Wildflower Reserve and others. Those who like the outdoors will enjoy this course.

Robin Hill Cultural Center AXFA239-30 \$19.00
5 Sessions June 11 Sat. 9-12 noon
Instructor: Esther Allen

Robert F. Bahl, Sec.
401 Clearview Ave.
Pittsburgh, Pa., 15205
(412) 921-1797

JUNE 1988

Our 102nd Year



CANTHARELLUS CIBARIUS

Our artist this month is Mary Lou Brown, with a rendering of the Chanterelle mushroom.

JUNE 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.

June 4 - OHIOPLYLE STATE PARK

Suggested route: Turnpike to Donegal, left on Pa. 711, to Pa. 381 and south to meeting place. Meet at parking area near river bridge on Pa. 381. Leader, H. Leapman.

June 11 - RED MUD HOLLOW ROAD

Meet at Mt. Nebo Park and Ride area at I-79. It's time to explore a local area where we should see many interesting late spring flowers. Leader, Scott Shriver.

June 18 - PYMATUNING SWAMP

Take I-79 north to intersection of Rt. 285 (about 7 miles south of Meadville). Turn west on Rt. 285 and go through Geneva and Conneaut Lake to point where Rt. 285 crosses the Bessemer and Lake Erie R. R. (about 4 miles west of Conneaut Lake). Park along highway just after crossing railroad. We hope to find *Cypripedium calceolus* var. *parviflora* (small Yellow Lady's-Slipper), also *Rhus vernix*. Leader, Virginia Craig.

June 25 - BEAVER CREEK STATE PARK (OHIO) and AREA

Take Rt. 30 west to East Liverpool, Ohio, then Rt. 30 and Ohio Rt. 7 to Park area (watch for Park signs). Meet at main parking area by Park office and Gaston's Mill. Leader, Allison Cusick.

- Esther Allen

JUNE READER'S DIGEST

Look for the article, "A Tunnel Through Time". It's about the Appalachian Trail, and no article about the A. T. would be complete without a mention of Grandma Gatewood.

Grandma Gatewood is famous for two things:

1. She hiked the 2100-mile Appalachian Trail in her seventies.
2. She is the mother of Esther Allen.

SUMMER WILDFLOWER WEEKEND

It's August 19-21 at the Terra Alta Mountain Camp in West Virginia.

Billie Altemus, director of Oglebay Institute's Nature Camps, will provide gracious hospitality and good fellowship. Hearty, tasty family-style meals are served or lunches packed for field trips.

Lodging is available by reserving a cot in one of the tents, or you may bring your own camping tent or vehicle.

Allison Cusick, premier botanist, will lead the field trips into the West Virginia countryside.

The weekend package of \$45 per person includes meals, program, and tent lodging. For more information, call A. B. Brooks Nature Center at (304)242-6855.

We were there last summer. Despite it being a rainy, rainy weekend, we had a wonderful time.