

Wildflowers

THE BULLETIN OF THE
BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF W. PA.

NO AUGUST MEETING

We have no regular monthly meetings in July or August.



AUGUST FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

Unless otherwise specified, field trips are on Saturdays, and the meeting time is 1:30 P.M. If you have any questions, call our Field Trip Chairman, Scott Shriver, at 741-9249.

8-5-89 - JENNINGS PRAIRIE, Butler County, PA
Leaders: Clete and Doug Smith

From Pittsburgh, take I-79 North, Rte. 422 East, and Rte. 528 North to Jennings. Meet at the Blazing Star parking area across from the Nature Center. We can expect to see the usual outstanding display of summer mints and composites, and Clete and Doug have promised the most prolific bloom of *Liatris spicata* (Dense Blazing Star) seen at Jennings in many years! Also, we hope to see *Platanthera psycodes* (Small Purple-fringed Orchid).

8-12-89 - ALLEN ARBORETUM, Allegheny County, PA
Leader: Esther Allen

107 Idaway Drive, Ross Township. From Pittsburgh, follow McKnight Road north to Siebert Road (immediately past McKnight-Siebert Shopping Center). Turn left on Siebert and follow to Evergreen Road. Turn right on Evergreen Road and follow to Idaway Drive, the first street on the right. 107 is the third house on the left. Esther and Dave Allen's place truly deserves to be referred to as an arboretum. For more than 25 years, Esther has rescued wildflowers from construction sites and the like to give them a second chance on Idaway Drive. With more than 300 species of plants, all members of the Botanical Society owe themselves an opportunity to experience the "Allen Arboretum".

8-19-89 - BARBOUR COUNTY, WV (Starting Time NOON!)
Leader - Dr. Doug Jolley

From Pittsburgh, take I-79 South to Morgantown, WV and Rte 119 South to Grafton. From Grafton, take Rte. 50 East about 11 miles to the junction of Rte. 92 South. We will meet at the junction of Rtes. 50 and 92S in the shade of the big oak tree. Dr. Doug Jolley will be taking us back to Mr. Beaver's field to see a tremendous display of *Platanthera ciliaris* (Yellow-fringed Orchid). After the Beavers', we will head about 30 miles farther south to a site for *Triphora trianthophora* (Three Birds Orchid). Both of these orchids tend to be unpredictable, so there are no guarantees. Keep your fingers crossed.

8-26-89 - NO HIKE\$ SCHEDULED. GO ON VACATION.

9-2-89 - SCHOLLARD'S WETLANDS, Mercer County, PA
Leader: Esther Allen

This is State Game Lands #284. From Pittsburgh, take I-79 North to Exit 31 (Grove City) and Rte. 208 West for about 3 miles. Turn left from Rte. 208 (opposite a sign for Neshannock Wood Development) and proceed about two miles. After passing a V.F.W. hall, turn right onto #2 Mine Road and go about 0.2 miles to parking area on the left. The parking area is just past a gated game lands road on the right. For botanists, we expect to see an enormous stand of *trichostema dichotomum* (Blue Curls) as well as other species of woodland and wetland plants, and for birders, a nice wetland species display, which may include great blue herons, bitterns, ducks, and the like.

- Scott Shriver



ACRES OF MOUNTAIN LAUREL

Magnificent, spectacular, awesome! What adjective begins to describe the display of Mountain Laurel on both sides of the road south from Cowan's Gap State Park to Route 30? The date was June 24. One week later, it was gone.

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



AUGUST 1989

Our 103rd Year

KALMIA LATIFOLIA

The sketch of our state flower, Mountain Laurel, in bud was made by Sister Constance Bahl at Touchstone Center for the Arts on June 1. A budding artist?



EMILY JOHNSON'S MUSHROOM PHOTOGRAPHY

In the Audubon Society's "Field Guide to North American Mushrooms", no less than 38 of the picture credits belong to our member, Emily Johnson, of Export, Pa.

Now, Dover Publications, Inc. has published a portfolio entitled "NORTH AMERICAN MUSHROOMS PHOTO POSTCARDS", entirely Emily's work.

This is how Dover describes the new book: "Twenty-four different mushrooms--all beautifully photographed in full color--are the subjects of this fascinating collection of ready-to-mail postcards. Shown in their natural settings are the deadly *Amanita muscaria*; the magenta *Boletus frostii*; three different 'inky caps', so called because their gills turn into a black liquid; the *Leotia viscosa* with its translucent yellow stems and black caps; the *Morchella esculenta* or common morel (one of the most sought-after mushrooms for eating); and 17 other intriguing varieties. Available in convenient book format, the postcards stay neat and clean until ready for use. An ideal souvenir for nature lovers, mushroom hunters and anyone who appreciates fine-quality nature photography. Includes descriptive notes."

In addition to the Gift Shop at Beechwood Farms, Dorseyville Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238 (Phone 963-6100), these postcard books can be purchased directly from Dover Publications Inc., 11 East 2nd St., Mineola, NY 11501. Cost 3.95 each plus 1.25 postage for 1, or 2.50 postage for 2 or more, or 3.00 by UPS for any order. Dover Mineola office phone: 800-223-3130.



DR. ANTHONY MIKLAUSEN, PALEOBOTANIST

Dr. Miklausen, of Shippensburg, Pa., has been a member of our Botanical Society for 53 years.

He has done extensive research on the Paleozoic *Lepidocarpon*, the highly evolved seed-like megasporophyll which has generally been assigned to a very tall tree, *Lepidophloios*. He recently discovered for the first time in over 100 years of its existence an *in situ* assemblage of its vegetative and reproductive organs in association. He has concluded that the parent plant is herbaceous, more related to *Selaginella*, but about 3 ft. high. He will present his findings in Toronto this August to international paleobotanists.

Dr. Miklausen is finalizing a research paper for publication in the Annals of The Carnegie Museum.

He did his Ph. D. under Dr. O. E. Jennings, with specialization in paleobotany. He worked professionally, however, in high school teaching and administration and in college administration. He did maintain a continuous interest in paleobotany and in retirement began researching his collected materials. His *Lepidocarpon* plants were located on Broad Top Mt., Bedford County. If correct, his research will have far reaching implications on the evolution of the lycopods.

Interestingly, he used to take his high school biology classes on many occasions to the Raccoon Creek area, long before it became a state park.