

Wildflowers

THE BULLETIN OF THE
BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF W. PA.

SEPTEMBER 1989

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Our monthly meetings will resume on Monday evening, September 11 at 8 P.M. at Trinity Hall, Carlow College, 3333 Fifth Ave., Oakland.

Our speaker will be Dr. Howard McIlvried on "Shrubs and Trees".



SEPTEMBER FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

Field trips are on Saturdays. Meeting time is 1:30 P.M. If you have any questions, call our Field Trip Chairman, Scott Shriver, at 741-9249.

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.

9-9-89 - ALLEGHENY NATIONAL FOREST, Warren County, PA
Leader: Ted Grisez

From Pittsburgh, take Route 8 north to Oil City, and Route 62 north toward Warren. Near the intersection of Routes 62 and 6, look for the signs to the Buckaloons Recreation Area. We will meet at the parking lot of the boat landing at Buckaloons. Our leader, Ted Grisez, is going to share some of his knowledge of forestry with members on this outing as we examine some of Pennsylvania's largest trees. In addition to the Buckaloons Recreation Area, we will also visit the Heart's Content Natural Area and the Anders Run Natural Area, which was recently purchased by the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy.

9-16-89 - PLAINGROVE BOG, Lawrence County, PA
Leader: Priscilla Stoughton

From Pittsburgh, take I-79 north to the Slippery Rock exit, and Route 108 west for about 1 mile. Turn right (north) and proceed to a red brick church on the right. We will meet in the church parking lot. We expect to see many fall blooming wildflowers, which may include: Swamp Thistle (*Cirsium muticum*), Swamp Lousewort (*Pedicularis lanceolata*), Grass-of-Parnassus (*Parnassia glauca*), and Nodding Ladies'-Tresses (*Spiranthes cernua*).

9-23-89 - WILDFLOWER RESERVE, RACCOON CREEK STATE PARK, Beaver County, PA - Leader: Scott Shriver

Meet at Wildflower Reserve parking lot, Route 30 just east of main park entrance. We can expect to see a prime display of fall composites like: New England Aster (*Aster novae-angliae*), Sneezeweed (*Helenium autumnale*), and Wingstem (*Actinomeris alternifolia*); while other late bloomers could include: Closed Gentian (*Gentiana andrewsii*) and Great Lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica*).

9-30-89 - MARKLEYSBURG BOG, Fayette County, PA
Leader: Robert Morgan

From Pittsburgh, take Route 51 south to Uniontown, and Route 40 east. As you pass the Summit Hotel, check your odometer. In precisely 12.2 miles, there is an unpaved lane to the right leading to a church recreation area - our meeting place. It will be nice to see Allegheny Glade Gentian (*Gentiana saponaria* var. *allegheniensis*) in bloom. It will also be interesting to see if any of the Green Adder's-Mouth (*Malaxis unifolia*), which bloomed in August, have formed seed capsules. Maybe some cranberry picking might be in order. Remember our annual Christmas meeting and "wild foods" night!

- Scott Shriver



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*Nuphar
variegatum*

NUPHAR VARIEGATUM

The sketch of Spatterdock is by member Phyllis Monk.



BOTANICAL TRIP - BLAZING STAR - AUGUST 5, 1989

Ten enthusiastic & sharp-eyed people helped our very excellent leaders, Clete & Doug Smith, find everything worth seeing at Blazing Star Prairie. The meadow itself was a blaze of lavender & gold - with the *Liatris* in full bloom & the many yellow composites brightening the scene. The goldenrods were especially beautiful and varied. A touch of rose & soft green appeared occasionally where the grey-stemmed dogwood had been cut & was putting out new growth. Esther supplied this information - indicating that the whole prairie is cut every year or two. This removes some of the excessive growth of woody plants and gives the Kansas Gay Feathers room in the sun.

We saw St. John's Wort, tall coreopsis, Virgin's bower, rue, mints with their lavender blooms & refreshing odors & the delicate tracery of the Queen Anne's Lace. And there were many butterflies, dragonflies, & the fascinating hawkmoths to be photographed as they too enjoyed the flowers. Fungi were found also - since this area had more rain than we have had. We saw the oysters, orange chanterelle & the little marasmius.

It was worthwhile to take the side path and see the American Columbo - in seed. This plant is really exotic looking & appears out of place in Pa.

Toward the end of our walk I found dewberries along the path and we enjoyed their refreshing taste on this hot day.



- Ede Mock

WILDFLOWER COURSE AT GARDEN CENTER

The Pittsburgh Garden Center is sponsoring a series of courses in horticulture. This one is of particular interest -

WONDERFUL WILDFLOWERS

Dates: Tuesdays, September 12, 19
Time: 7:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.
Instructor: Esther Allen, Botanical Society of
Western Pennsylvania

This two part class will focus on wildflowers, as they grow naturally, and how they can be used in the garden. A variety of the most significant Pennsylvania wildflowers, including information on habitats, will be covered the first week. The second week, the care and culture of wildflowers for the home landscape will be discussed, focusing on those that are practical to grow in the garden.

Fee: \$12.00 Members; \$14.00 Non-members

Advance registration is required. Students may register by mail or in person. Make checks payable to Pittsburgh Civic Garden Center, 1059 Shady Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15232. Phone registrations may be made by calling 441-4442.



WILDFLOWERS OF FALL AT CCAC

This course 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.

Vincentian High School, Room 119
5 sessions, Sat. 9 a.m.-12, beginning Sept. 9
Instructor: Esther Allen

Fee \$20, payable to CCAC, Office of Continuing Education, College Center-North, 1130 Perry Highway, Pittsburgh, PA 15237.