

Wildflowers

THE BULLETIN OF THE
BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF W. PA.

July 1990

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE FOR JULY

Pay special attention to the meeting times. They are not all the same. Any questions? Call our Field Trip Chairman, Scott Shriver, at 741-9249.

7-7-90 - CRANBERRY BOG (A.K.A. CLARENDON BOG)

Warren County, Pa.

Leader: Ted Grisez

Meeting Time - 12 NOON

Meet in the parking lot of an ice cream shop at the junction of routes 6 and 59 just southeast of Warren, Pa. Allow about 2½-3 hours driving time from Pittsburgh.

Dr. Grisez said that we can expect to see Pogonia ophioglossoides (Rose Pogonia) as well as Drosera rotundifolia (Round-leaved Sundew), Vaccinium spp. (Cranberries), and Menyanthes trifoliata (Buckbean).

7-14-90 - BEAR MEADOW NATURAL AREA

Centre County, Pa.

Leader: Scott Shriver

Meeting Time - 12 NOON

From Pittsburgh, take Route 22 East to Route 220 East. Proceed through the town of State College on Route 322, and just after passing a "Hill's Store" shopping plaza on the left, pull into "Myers Dairy Store" on the right, our meeting place.

Orchid hunters may want to try to make this trip. One can expect to see Listera smallii (Small's Twayblade), Listera cordata (Heart-leaved Twayblade), Corallorhiza maculata (Spotted Coral-root), and Platanthera clavellata (Small Green Wood Orchid) - all within a 50 yard radius.

7-21-90 - NO HIKE SCHEDULED

7-28-90 - BATSO BACKCOUNTRY, PINE BARRENS

Burlington County, New Jersey

Leader: Ted Gordon

Special Meeting Time - 9:30 A.M.

Take the Pennsylvania Turnpike to the New Jersey Turnpike. Get off at Exit 7, and follow Route 206 South for about 14 miles. Meet in the parking lot of the "Town & Country Diner" at the intersection of Routes 70 and 206, locally known as the Red Lion Circle. Allow 7 hours driving time from Pittsburgh.

Our leader, Ted Gordon, is the president of the Philadelphia Botanical Club, and this is a joint field trip with them. Focus will be on midsummer flora of the Pine Barrens. We will look for Platanthera cristata (Crested Fringed Orchid), Platanthera clavellata (Small Green Wood Orchid), and Platanthera integra (Yellow Fringeless Orchid), and other bog and savannah specialties.

8-4-90 - MORAINES STATE PARK

Butler County, Pa.

Leader: Esther Allen

Special Meeting Time - 1:30 P.M.

Meet at the bike rental area along the north shore drive of Moraine State Park.

We can expect to see many different summer wildflowers including: Brassenia schreberi (Water Shield), Cicuta bulbifera (Bulb-bearing Water Hemlock), and Epilobium hirsutum (Hairy Willow Herb).

- Scott Shriver



THE ISLAND NAMED FOR A TREE

Anne and I celebrated our 49th Anniversary by botanizing on Barbados, the Caribbean island that was named for a tree. In 1536 the Portuguese navigator, Pedro a Campos, came ashore here and named the island Los Barbados, "the bearded ones", for the many aerial-rooted fig trees that lined the shoreline. (Ficus citrifolia).

Highlight of the trip was finding wild orchids growing on the trunks of Royal Palms.

- Bob Bahl

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

LYCHNIS ALBA

The pen-and-ink sketch of Evening Lychnis was drawn by our member, M. J. Paoli, of Duncansville, Pa.

* * * * *

TORREY PINES, CALIFORNIA

When I visit San Diego County, I usually hike the nature trails in the Torrey Pines State Reserve. Located north of La Jolla, straddled on a bluff between Route 1 and the Pacific Ocean, this Reserve is a wilderness island in an urban sea. This fragile environment is the home of our nation's rarest pine tree - Pinus torreyana; It now grows only here and on Santa Rosa Island. The Visitor's Center has trail maps that show the flowers that are in bloom during the months from February to July. While walking the trails last June, I observed 2 kinds of mariposa lilies, ice plant, lance leaf dudleya, scarlet pimpernel, and sand asters. You can walk to the edge of the bluff at several overlook points to look down the sandstone cliffs and valleys. A precarious trail, which hugs the side of a cliff, leads you to the beach from where you can see 100 ft. tall sandstone cliffs and know your enjoyment is worth the arduous trek.

- M. K. Rankin

* * * * *

CHECK YOUR SLIDES

To those who submitted photographs for our book... please double check the slides that have been returned to you. Make sure that you didn't get any that belong to another member.

* * * * *

FROM LAREDO, TEXAS

Although there hasn't been much rain in Laredo recently - there were a lot of wildflowers in bloom. The common sunflower seems to be blooming all of the time. The vetch is greyish-white or blue in color & it isn't as prolific as Pa's roadside patches. We saw some lupine - TX state flower - the blue bonnet. The gaillardia (Indian blanket) was everywhere - in fields, alongside roads - in stable yards. The Texas Wildflower books list it for April-June but it was blooming profusely in March. The blue horse nettle is on stout upright stalks, not on vines. There was some Texas vervain - very slender stalks in comparison to Pa's. Was happy to see one stalk of tall-headed coneflower - Mexican hat - my favorite. The lantana grows wild. The many stalked small Texas thistle seemed to me to be blooming at the wrong time! There weren't even any goldfinch around! Especially lovely was the pale-face rose mallow - quite common.

Met a real Texas cowboy - a Tick Rider - a farrier - employed by USDA. The cows & horses are examined on both sides of the Rio Grande - in US & in Mexico.

Watched Stacey work out on her horse - six fast laps around the half mile track at Life Downs. Boy, can she ride! Between times - I was examining the small clumps of lovely little white daisies with yellow centers - and plants of a lovely shade of yellow with deep golden centers. Both types of daisies have one tap root and many prostrate branches, radiating outward. Don't know the specific name. I can agree with the Texans - Texas is a great state!

- Ede Mock

* * * * *

NO MEETING IN JULY

There are no regular meetings scheduled for July or August.

