

Wildflowers

THE BULLETIN OF THE
BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF W. PA.

October
1990

Calla
Lily

OCTOBER MEETING

Our next meeting will be Monday, October 8, at 8 P.M. at Trinity Hall, Carlow College, 3333 Fifth Avenue, Oakland.

Laura Wirkkala and Dr. Hersch Leapman will present the program - "Roadside Wildflowers of Texas".



A LETTER FROM BETTE BATES

Dear Bob:

I am sending you under separate cover - in a small slide box - four slides and a specimen. Two of the slides are of *Kalmiopsis leachiana*, the other two of *Eriodictyon californicum* called Yerba Santa, belonging in the Waterleaf family.

On May the 19th we drove down to Brookings, OR - well on the 18th - and stayed all night with our friend whom I worked under for a couple years here in the office of the Oregon Dunes Nat'l. Rec. Area and now works for the Forest Service down there. She wanted us to come down to see the rare plant there. So on the 19th after Bkfst. we met the group going on the hike at the High School and caravaned 32 miles up to the Kalmiopsis Wilderness on a narrow mountain forest road. Just before we got there it started to sprinkle. We had two miles to walk in and two miles out all in rain and snow showers. The Yerba Santa was the only plant (a shrub also) I took pictures of, as it hadn't really started to rain that much. When we got into the Kalmiopsis we were all so wet we could hardly take pictures and I didn't even know if I had the camera focused right. We had taken lunch but couldn't stop to eat it, just kept going straight in and straight out.

I didn't take the specimen of the Kalmiopsis. One man had come up only in shirt sleeves and when we started to get snow showers he had to turn around and go back. The person he was with took the specimen to show him what it was like and I talked her into giving it to me when she was thru. It was a huge shrub all beautifully rose pink. So many other beautiful flowers to see and too wet to stop. We were all day from nine a.m. till four p.m.

When we got back down to Brookings, we started on north towards home and stopped at Port Orford at a motel. Went to pay for it and my money soaking wet. We told her what we had been doing and she yelled at her husband to get over to Rm. 5 and turn the heat on as we had to dry out. & we did. Went over next door and had dinner at the best gourmet Restaurant on the coast. Whales Cove.

Don't know how many, if any, of our people have gotten up this way at a time to see this in bloom but if coming this way it would be worth your while to come at a time when you could join the yearly hike to see it. There are several places in the K. Wilderness where it grows but as I understand it, has not been found any other place.

I would be glad to help any one get acquainted with the Dunes Nat'l. Rec Area visitor center here in Reedsport, if they are making a trip this way. Just ask at the Visitor Center for me. I conduct hikes for the public every other Sat. to get to know the plants. Have had to teach myself a lot of things as no one in the office knows much about Botany.

My regards to all the people I knew when there. We might get back to Pgh. next year. I enjoy Wildflowers.

Yours truly,

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ZANTEDESCHIA AETHIOPICA

The sketch of the Calla Lily is from our newest member, Tammy Watychowicz. Tammy is a naturalist for the Allegheny County Park System.

There may be some raised eyebrows at our considering the Calla Lily as a "wildflower". It is true that in this area, the likely station would be some florist shop, but along the coast of California it has naturalized and definitely qualifies as a wildflower.

I will never forget driving down Route 1 near Big Sur. From one of the many bridges, I could look down on a ravine leading to the ocean's surf. The floor of the ravine was carpeted with Calla Lilies in bloom. It was the most impressive wildflower sighting of my entire life.

MOLLIE CRISPENS

Mollie Crispens, a member of the Botanical Society since 1972, has died. We extend our sympathy to her husband, Chuck.

BOTANICAL FIELD TRIP - 6-30-90

One of my most enjoyable Botanical field trips has to be the one of June 30 to the Slippery Rock area which was led by Dr. Richard Medve.

We spent some time in a marsh area - collecting edible parts of the cattail. Also checking out other plants for edible parts. We collected as we went along - gathering what would be our lunch in large shopping bags. It is amazing how many common plants (weeds) can be eaten.

When we got back to the Medve home - some of the group volunteered to help prepare lunch - others were volunteered and others felt that they would do best at enjoying the finished products. Mrs Medve was the heroine of the day - organizing about a dozen people to cook certain weeds - which parts - how long - where - what to add. She had already baked whole grain muffins topped with wild jellies & jams. And she had all of the ingredients ready for cream of watercress soup which she cooked after we got back - delicious!

We had the unique opportunity to eat Oswego Tea jello - it was refreshing & good. Dr. Medve had harvested a deer so we could have venison stew - with rice. He doesn't have a rice paddy in his back yard yet - but I wouldn't be surprised if next year.

His garden is picture perfect - rows of the biggest garlic plants that I have ever seen. Also rows of BIG onions. And rows of beets & carrots - a muskmelon field - corn - tomatoes - plus other vegetables! The flower beds were lovely, varied & larger than most that I have seen. Beautiful big plants of gypsophila - which Mrs. Medve admitted that they too had trouble growing at first. Also gaillardia and other perennials.

If he writes as he teaches - with Mrs. Medve - as I am sure he does - then I am sure that his book on Edible Wild Plants of Pennsylvania and Neighboring States will be on the best selling list.

It was a most enjoyable, fun-filled, educational and tasty day. I almost forgot to mention the batter-dipped, deep fried day lily flowers and the large purple clovers cooked in the same way. Thanks again to Dr. and Mrs. Richard Medve.