

Wildflowers

THE BULLETIN OF THE
BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF W. PA.

JUNE
1991



JUNE MEETING

Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 10, at 8 P.M. in Trinity Hall, Carlow College, 3333 Fifth Avenue, Oakland.

Dr. Jerry Chmielewski will speak on Arctic ecosystems and Antennaria (Pussy-toes).

There will be no meetings for July and August.



FIELD TRIPS

June 1 - No hike scheduled.

June 8 - TITUS BOG, HELL'S 1/2-ACRE BOG, AND TOPLOVICH BOG, ERIE AND WARREN COUNTIES, PA.

Leader: Esther Allen

Start Time: 12:00 Noon

Refer to May issue of "Wildflowers".

June 15 - No hike scheduled.

June 22 - WATTSBURG AND BOLERATZ BOGS, ERIE CTY., PA.

Leaders: Jim and Jean Stull

Start Time: 12:00 Noon

Directions: Take I-79 North and Rt. 6 East. After passing through Union City, turn left (north) on Rt. 89 and proceed about 2 miles. We will meet in a parking area to the left across the road from the Wattsburg Bog.

Expectations: The Wattsburg Bog should have Showy Ladies'-slipper, Rose Pogonia, and Calopogon in bloom. Also, the Stulls plan to try to lead us into Boleratz Bog, which was heavily damaged by the tornado of 1985. As to plants in Boleratz Bog, expect to see Showy Ladies'-slippers and maybe even a White Adder's-mouth.

June 29 - SINKS OF GANDY, RANDOLPH COUNTY, WV

Leader: William Grafton

Start Time: 12:00 Noon

Directions: Check your map and allow ample time for driving West Virginia's back roads! We will meet at the parking area next to the dam at Spruce Knob Lake. Suggested route: I-79 South to Buckhannon; Rt. 33 East through Elkins, Harman, and Seneca Rocks; Between Riverton and Judy Gap take a right turn onto Spruce Knob Road and follow signs to Spruce Knob Lake.

Expectations: Join us as we explore one of West Virginia's most interesting botanical areas with one of the state's finest botanists, Mr. Bill Grafton. Expect to see unusual plants like Twinflower, Buckbean, Canadian Yew, Ostrich Fern, and many others. Also, if possible, Bill will take us through the nearby "Blister Swamp".

July 6 - CRANBERRY GLADES BOTANICAL AREA AND DROOP MOUNTAIN, POCAHONTAS COUNTY, WV.

Leader: Robert Richardson

Start Time: 12:00 Noon

Directions: Take I-79 South through Sutton to Exit 57. Take Rt. 19 South to Summersville, then Rts. 39 & 55 East. Look for a turn-off to "Hills Creek Falls" along 39 & 55 (just inside Pocahontas County). We will meet at this junction.

Expectations: Join us for another trip into "Wild, Wonderful West Virginia", as we are guided through the Cranberry Glades, an orchid and rare plant hot spot. We hope to see Large Purple-fringed Orchis, Calopogon, Rose Pogonia, Small's Twayblade, and Heart-leaved Twayblade - and all in bloom. Many other rare and interesting plants will be seen as well!

(Scott Shriver 412-741-9249)

REPORT ON SWERTIA

Virginia Phelps tells us that there will be four blooming stalks of *Swertia caroliniensis* at Jennings this year. Normal blooming time is June 10 to 25.

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CHRYSANTHEMUM LEUCANTHEMUM

The sketch of the Ox-eye Daisy was made by our member, Tammy Watychowicz.

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MAY 11 '91 FIELD TRIP TO SHALE BARRENS

It was a great day to see the wild flowers. The fantastic display started on Pa. 79. Deep purple (almost royal purple) Dame's Rockets, daisies - Shasta I believe - wall flowers - a striking orange and a form of blue flax. We owe a debt of gratitude to Lady Bird Johnson for originating the idea of planting wild flowers along the highways - in different states. It was a great idea & what a visual delight to all driving past.

We found Pa. pink (almost white in color), growing on the steep hillsides at the Shale Barrens - just as it does in Pa. It had adapted well to this location - just as it did in Pa. There were a few purple violets in bloom. The cinquefoil was lovely - fresh looking, as if the buds had just opened. It is always good to see the Aquilegia - these were the red and yellow variety. Among all the other flowers were the pads of the prickly pear cactus. The groundsel was nearly finished and there were seed fluffs on the pussy toes.

We even saw an Indigo Bunting - a jewel of a bird!

There were lots of nut trees - either black walnut or butternut. It is difficult to tell one from another unless you see the nuts or cut open twigs. There were a few bird's foot violets - my favorite - but very small. The whole area looked as if it could use a good soaking rain.

We found some penstemon & small-flowered phacelia - pale lavender in color. The reindeer lichen was very dry - just laying on the ground, not rooted. Kate's Mt. clover was a first sighting for many of us - such a minute endemic plant! The yellow sour grass looked healthier than most of the other plants.

Our thanks to Doug and Clete Smith for leading us on this rewarding hike - it always takes one or two pre-scouting trips to have a successful hike for the group.

- Ede Mock

† IN MEMORIAM

It is with sadness that we report the death of our member, HELEN DOMITROVICH, of Aliquippa on May 22, 1991. We extend our sympathies to her husband, Joe, and to all her near and dear ones.

NATURE WALKS AT BRADY'S RUN PARK

I am still, I think, a member in good standing of Botanical Society. Rex and I have not been attending, mostly because we are giving our feet a pounding, taking lessons in, and going to DANCE - ballroom, that is.

However here is something we can get to because it is a park just ten minutes away from our house: THE BEAVER GARDEN CLUB AND THE GENEVA COLLEGE DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY will sponsor several nature walks through BRADY'S RUN PARK, Brighton Township, April 28 through Oct. 20. The walks are an interpretative program. All programs will begin at Shelter 6, except for those on June 9 and Aug. 11, which will begin at the Arena (ice) parking lot.

Schedule is: 2 pm, April 28; 8 am, May 11; 2 pm, May 26; 2 pm, June 9; 2 pm, June 23; 8 am, July 13; 2 pm, July 28; 2 pm, Aug. 11; 2 pm, Aug. 25 (Insects); 2pm, Sept. 8 (Late Flowers); 2 pm, Sept. 22 (Photography); 2 pm, Oct. 20. Rain date for each activity is the following week. A "Hike in the Winter Woods" will be at 2 pm, Feb. 9, 1992.

I'd love to see all of you again at some of these walks. Right now, you can see all the spring wildflowers of our region just driving through - trout lily and bloodroot by walking one block from the car.

- Sabina Hilger Walsh (April 25 1991)