

Wildflowers

THE BULLETIN OF THE
BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF W. PA.

JULY
1991

FIELD TRIPS

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

Leader: Robert Richardson

Start Time: 12:00 Noon

Refer to June issue of "Wildflowers".

July 13 - NORTH PARK, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PA

Leader: Esther Allen

Start Time: 1:30 P.M.

Meeting Place & Directions: We will meet in the parking area at the junction of Babcock Blvd. and Pearce Mill Road. If you are not sure of this location, it is easy to find - just cross the breast of the dam for North Park Lake going north on Babcock and look for the first parking area to the left.

Expectations: As always, Esther will provide us with an outstanding look at the early summer flora of North Park, especially along Irwin Road. She also expects to be able to see a nice stand of Pickerelweed along the lake.

July 20 - No hike scheduled.

July 27 - JENNINGS BLAZING STAR PRAIRIE, BUTLER CTY., PA

Leader: Priscilla Stoughton

Start Time: 1:30 P.M.

Meeting Place & Directions: Take I-79 North, Rt. 422 East, and Rt. 528 North to Jennings. Meet in the Blazing Star parking area across from the nature center.

Expectations: The Jennings Prairie always provides one of Western Pennsylvania's finest displays of summer flora. We should see many mints and composites including the *Liatris spicata* (Dense Blazing Star). Also, during the past 2 years, the Small Purple-fringed Orchid, *Platanthera psychodes*, has bloomed at Jennings during late July.

August 3 - No hike scheduled.

August 10 - BERGEN SWAMP, GENESEE COUNTY, NY

Leader: Robert McKinney

Start Time: 1:00 P.M.

Meeting Place & Directions: Take I-79 North and I-90 East (NY State Thruway). Exit I-90 at Le Roy and take Rt. 19 North into the town of Bergen. Turn left on Town Line Road (RT. 262), cross the railroad tracks and look for a complex of buildings on the left - the Bergen-Byron Schools. Turn left on first road after the school and meet in the parking area for the "Bergen-Byron Community Center" on the right.

Expectations: Bergen Swamp is one of the last remains of a glacial lake (Lake Tonawanda) which once covered much of upstate New York between 50,000 and 20,000 years ago. Plant species in the swamp number close to 2400, including many that are rare and endangered. Some of special note are orchids, insectivorous plants, and plants usually found in Arctic regions or Alpine meadows. We hope to see *Spiranthes romanzoffiana* (Hooded Ladies'-tresses) and Houghton's Goldenrod.

(Scott Shriver 412-741-9249)



IN MEMORIAM

Prof. Robert W. Little, a member of the Botanical Society for the past 30 years, widely renowned for his nature printing, died on June 1.

BUSY WEEK AHEAD (Week of June 24)

As I am typing this, Scott Shriver is on his way to Alaska. He has lined up sites for 29 Alaskan orchids, including the rare *Malaxis paludosa*.

Our president, Dr. Mary Joy Haywood, is headed for the annual meeting of the Botanical Society of America in New Jersey, with field trips to the Pine Barrens and other interesting places.

Anne and I and the whole family - all the children and all the grandchildren - will spend a botanical week at Deer Valley Camp on Mt. Davis, our way of celebrating 50 wonderful years of togetherness.

Robert F. Bahl, Sec.
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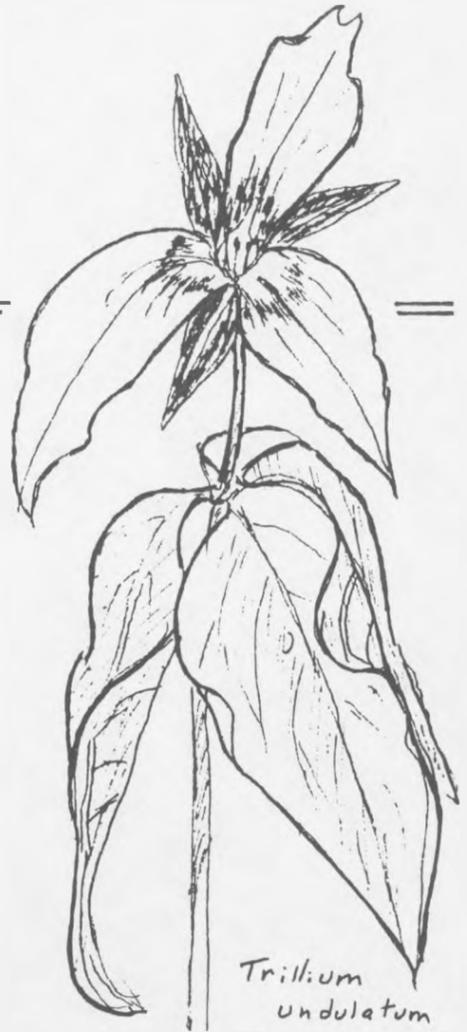
TRILLIUM UNDULATUM

This sketch of the Painted Trillium was made by our member, M. J. Paoli, from a specimen found near Altoona.

TERSE VERSE

Dedicated to Clete,
Doug, and Al -

Coeloglossum,
It is awesome!



TEXAS FLOWERING

It has been exciting to see the Lady Bird Johnson flower gardens up along Rt. 79 for the last couple of years. But when you see the real thing - all of that seems infinitesimal. Down in Texas - along Interstate 10 - the LBJ flower gardens are unbelievable! We saw them in the middle of April this year. In the center sections of divided highways & along the roadsides for miles & miles - the flowers are blooming. There are pink & white mallows, blue lupine which sometimes looks almost purple - gail-lardia (in some flowers the red looked almost pink) and cone flowers. Also a tall white flower which resembled boneset but was shorter. And they were all in groups - all of one kind for great stretches - and then another kind!

We went to see the LBJ ranch - Lady Bird still lives there. LBJ wasn't exactly my favorite president - but I didn't mind seeing the flowers. Violets were in bloom near some of the buildings. Sheep were grazing on the lawns - there were even some lambs - which I patted. Prickly pear cactus was quite evident. There were thick carpets of wild flowers along the Pedernales River. Lots of live oak trees & pecan trees on the property. The Johnson home was a big ranch-style building - 28 rooms, nine bathrooms. There was a helicopter pad near the barn. Another interesting bit of information - there was a nice little Lutheran church on the grounds. I got a lot of this information from our guide - we even had a bus to take us around. The guide was a volunteer - retired from his regular job. And that reminds me of an article that I had read recently - explaining that a lot of guides at our national & state monuments are retirees who spend their vacations in this manner - just earning their food & lodging & maybe a small stipend. In this way they have the opportunity to see & learn about the parks, monuments, memorials all over the country. Sounds like a good deal to me!

We also went up to see the Enchanted Rock - a huge flat slab of a rock - slanted at such an angle that I decided to crawl up - although some did walk up - sort of. While there we could see deer, roadrunners, doves & vultures. The Dallas airport was a marvelous place - the fields beside the runways were vibrant with wildflowers - lupines, gail-lardia, mallows, Indian paint brush & small yellow flowers. It was hot in TX - in the 90's.

As Stacey had told me - April is an ideal time to see the wild flowers. She was right - & I did.

- Ede Mock

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METRIC-ENGLISH

This is for those who are still working on their write-ups for our book, "Wildflowers of Pennsylvania". Our editor wants us to use both the metric and the English measurements.

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NO MEETING IN JULY

As always, there are no monthly meetings scheduled for July or August.