

Wildflowers

THE BULLETIN OF THE
BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF W. PA.

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FIELD TRIPS

August 3 - No hike scheduled.

August 10 - BERGEN SWAMP, GENESEE COUNTY, NY
Leader: Robert McKinney
Start Time: 1:00 P.M.
Refer to July issue of "Wildflowers".

August 17 - RAYSTOWN BRANCH, HUNTINGDON COUNTY, PA
Leader: Rob Criswell
Start Time: 12:00 Noon

Meeting Place & Directions: Take Route 22 East, almost to the town of Huntingdon (about 3 hours drive from Pittsburgh), and meet in the parking lot of the Penna. Game Commission on the left. The Game Commission is at the bottom of the hill leading into Huntingdon. There is only a small sign, so be careful not to miss it.

Expectations: Rob will be taking us to a shale barrens area with many interesting plants. Two rare species that should be in bloom are the Shale Barrens Primrose (*Oenothera argillicola*) and Virginia Mallow (*Sida hermaphrodita*).

August 24 - PONTEFRACT PARK, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PA
Leader: Esther Allen
Start Time: 1:30 P.M.

Meeting Place & Directions: From Pittsburgh, take Route 65 North through the town of Sewickley to a small shopping center on the right called "Quaker Village". Travel through the shopping center on the road to the right and turn right onto Beaver Road. Go about 200 yards on Beaver Road and park on the right.

Expectations: Esther will lead us to a local area which has a surprising display of flora. We can expect to see Pennyroyal, False Pennyroyal, False Boneset, Jimsonweed, Bur Cucumber and many others.

August 31 - No hike scheduled.

September 7 - No hike scheduled.

September 14 - TEN MILE CREEK, GREENE COUNTY, PA
Leader: Dr. Mary Joy Haywood
Start Time: 1:30 P.M.

Meeting Place & Directions: Take I-79 South and exit at Ruff Creek. Turn left, and left again onto State Route 221. Continue 4 or 5 miles to Lippincott. Just past the second church (Faith Baptist) turn left and meet at the third house on the right, a brick house with colonial columns, the Haywood home.

Expectations: Expect to see a nice display of late season flora, including the Southern Slender Ladies'-Tresses (*Spiranthes lacera* var. *gracilis*).

(Scott Shriver 412-741-9249)



SEPTEMBER MEETING

There will be no monthly meeting in August, but we are announcing September's program now. This is a bit early, but there is a reason. Anne and I will be away the whole month of August -- island hopping in the Caribbean -- and the September "Wildflowers" will be getting to you on the late side.

The September meeting will be Monday, September 9, 8 P.M. -- at Trinity Hall, Carlow College, 3333 Fifth Ave., Oakland.

The program -- "A SUMMER OF BOTANIZING: 1991" by Clete and Doug Smith.

ANNA A. CONN

The last mailing made to Anna A. Conn came back "undeliverable".

Ms. Conn has been a member of our Society for 48 years. In fact, she is one of our honorary members.

Can anybody enlighten us?

ASCLEPIAS SYRIACA

The sketch of the Common Milkweed is by our member, Tammy Watychowicz.

DISCOVERIES AT NORTH PARK

Esther Allen and Bonnie Isaac tell of these findings at North Park -

Jussiaea repens - Creeping Primrose Willow

Mayaca fluviatilis - Bog Moss

Sagittaria graminea - Grass-leaved Arrowhead

To our knowledge, none of these had previously been reported for Western Pennsylvania.

OUR YOUNGEST FIELD TRIPPER

On our trip to Wattsburg Fen and Hell's Half Acre (of all places!), Joe and Bonnie Isaac brought along their daughter, Hannah...all of three weeks old!!!!

WATTSBURG FEN

On June 18 - Spec & I & Joe Domitrovich traveled North to visit with Linda and Larry Smith at Wattsburg, Pa. Larry is an officer with the Pa. Game Commission - he was formerly stationed in Beaver Co. They took us out to see the lakes created for wildfowl use. Also to see the new types of nesting sites - on a platform atop a high pole (to keep out predators). We saw great blue herons in some of the nesting areas. The Game Commission pays farmers to plant grain for use by the wild geese.

Then we went to the Wattsburg fen. In my collegiate dictionary, a fen is a low, swampy area - moor, marsh. I believe the name is used more often in England & Scotland. I can attest to the fact that it is low, swampy & pitted. I stepped on wrong colored vegetation and went in to my knees - Spec hauled me out. My first-time worn new white sox changed color in a hurry!

The flowers we saw were well worth this inconvenience. We did see the *Cypripedium reginae* - probably the prime orchid of the bog. Unfortunately it was past its peak. Also saw the rose pogonia & the grass pink - all in good condition.

There were lots of sedges & reeds - interesting to see. The blackberries had red berries - they were probably dewberries anyhow - not ripe! Cotton grass - an indicator of bogs - was also found - as was blue-eyed grass. And red osier was so lush looking - I thought it should be used for tea!

And that reminds me does anyone know what bramble has pink blossoms?

It was a great day - good company & a worthwhile botanical experience.

- Ede Mock

There is more to Edie's letter, but we have to hold the rest until next month's bulletin.

GENTLE REMINDER

If there is a red dot in front of your name on the envelope, it means that your 1991 dues have not been paid.

To make sure you do not miss any issues of "Wildflowers", send late dues to Robert F. Bahl, Secretary, 401 Clearview Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15205.

Dues are only \$5 per year - \$8 for the whole family.