

Wildflowers

THE BULLETIN OF THE
BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF W. PA.

WILD PARTY

I'm sure that wild parties are frowned upon on the Carlow Campus, but this one is different.

Our December meeting, Monday the 9th at 8 P.M., will be our traditional wild Christmas party. We enjoy all sorts of things from the wild -- fruits, berries, nuts, mushrooms -- in pies, cookies, candies, jellies, beverages, etc. -- brought in by the members.

HOWEVER...and I have been asked to put this in the bulletin...don't stay away if you have nothing to bring. There is always enough to go around.

This year we again combine Members' Night with our Christmas party. Each member brings up to twelve botanical slides taken during the past year.



In the way of scientific research, there will be an exploration of the efficaciousness of *Phoradendron flavescens* as an osculatory stimulus. Purely fanciful mental absorption!

The party will be held at Aquinas Hall on the Carlow College Campus, just a little down from our usual meeting place, which is Trinity Hall.



1992 DUES ARE DUE

Bring your application and check to the December meeting. If you can't make the meeting, mail them to our Treasurer:

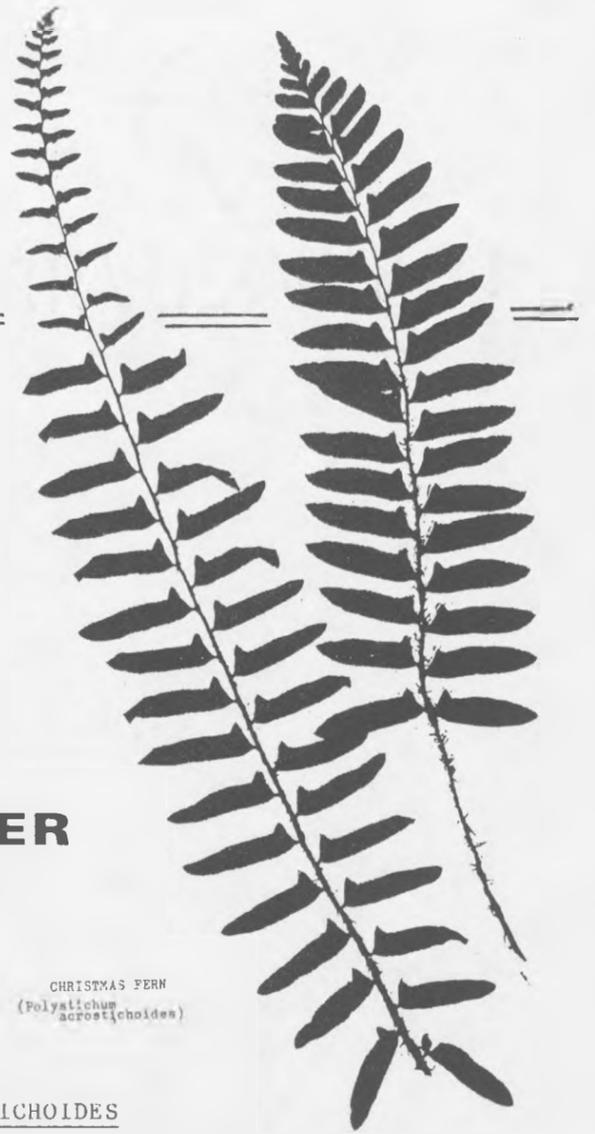
Walter J. Gardill
P.O. Box 226 Grosick Rd.
Ingomar, PA 15127

Please do not mail these applications to the Secretary. It just means an extra postage stamp, because I just send them right to Walter.

If you save your copies of *Wildflowers* and do not wish to cut out the form, that's O.K. Just put the information on a separate piece of paper.

Application for Membership in BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA	
Name	_____
Name	_____
Address	_____ _____ _____
Phone	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	<input type="checkbox"/> Single, \$5
<input type="checkbox"/> New Membership	<input type="checkbox"/> Family, \$8
	<input type="checkbox"/> Student, \$2.50

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



CHRISTMAS FERN
(*Polystichum acrostichoides*)

DECEMBER 1991

POLYSTICHUM ACROSTICHOIDES

This silhouette of the Christmas Fern, somewhat reduced in size, is from Esther Allen's collection of pressed plants.

The Christmas Fern takes its name from the fact that it is still green in December. Note, too, that the leaflets resemble tiny Christmas stockings.



FAMILIAR LAKES

It seems remarkable even to me that I have walked on the bottom of three lakes in Pa. before they were flooded.

We used to have Sunday School picnics out at North Park - Rose Grove - and races and games were held in the field between the shelter & the creek. Willow trees lined the creek & we used to walk down this area to a larger creek in the lower areas. When this area was dammed - around 1936 - water filled the space behind the dam & covered the lower area - forming the lake. This is North Park lake as we know it today.

Kinzua Dam is another one. My brother - Alan Faulk - used to hunt up there. When he would go on scouting trips before hunting season opened, I usually went with him. While he would go up the mt. trail - I went down - & looked for flowers to photograph in the woods & valley. One time a hawk had a nest on a large tree by the trail & as I walked down it started to scream or call loudly. When Al heard that - he came hustling down the path - he thought I was climbing the tree to get the eggs! While I was pretty good at climbing trees at that time - I would never have attempted climbing a tree with an angry hawk defending it. Today this valley is flooded. The last time we were up there - part of the Dew Drop Trail was open and there were pad-leaf orchids growing beside the path. But the whole lower area is covered with water.

Moraine Lake - Spec & I used to go up to look for flowers around this lake - just as it was being flooded. I remember this especially because we saw a beautiful cardinal flower growing by the creek - just where the water would cover it. We debated about it - but then decided to dig the cardinal flower & plant it in a damp area at home. It grew for a few years - but gradually got smaller & finally died.

So all three of these parks have some very pleasant memories for me, unusual too!

Not only do the lakes seem larger now - but there are more people using them. And sadly - despoiling them too. We still have the despoilers scribbling and carving their infamous names & initials on trees and buildings.

And how fortunate we are to have had those intelligent people with foresight to purchase the land before it was covered with houses and other buildings.



Ede Mock

A MERRY CHRISTMAS, A HAPPY HANUKKAH TO ALL