

Wildflowers

THE BULLETIN OF THE
BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF W. PA.

JANUARY

1992



JANUARY MEETING

Our first meeting of the new year will be Monday, January 13, at 8 P.M. - at Trinity Hall, Carlow College, 3333 Fifth Avenue, Oakland.

Marian and Chuck Hissem will present the program, Montana and Wyoming.



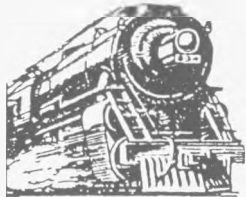
CAROLYN PALAIKA

A special thanks to our member, Carolyn Palaika! Even though she couldn't attend our Christmas Party, she again provided some very attractive and informative botanical calendars for door prizes.

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BOTANICAL SOCIETY OFFICERS FOR 1992

At our December meeting, all of our officers were re-elected:



President - Dr. Mary Joy Haywood
Vice-President - Mary Lou Brown
Rec. Secretary - Virginia Phelps
Corres. Secretary - Robert F. Bahl
Treasurer - Walter J. Gardill



NEW FIELD TRIP CHAIRMAN

Our new Field Trip Chairman (if you want me to say "chairperson", I'll also refer to the "huperson race") is Jeanne Poremski.

Jeanne needs help, lots of it. Members can help her --

1. First and foremost, volunteer to lead a field trip. Don't wait to be asked. Do it now. Jeanne's number is (412)343-6546.

2. Send Jeanne suggestions of places you would like to visit. These can be places we have already gone to that you would like to re-visit, or they can be new places you would like to see.

3. Challenge Jeanne with a list of plants on your "wish list".

Here's her address --

2236 Hayson Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15216



TOUGH ACT TO FOLLOW

A bouquet of orchids to Scott Shriver, who was our Field Trip Chairman these past three years! The position of F. T. C., in my opinion, is the most demanding one in our Society, and Scott has certainly done a masterful job.

His is going to be a tough act to follow.



"PLANTS OF THE BIBLE" AT PHIPPS

The 1992 "Plants of the Bible" tours at Phipps Conservatory will begin on Saturday, January 25 and end on Sunday, February 16. They will be given on 16 days during that period: on Saturdays and Sundays at 1:30, 2:30 and 3:30 P.M., and on Wednesdays and Thursdays at 10:30 and 11:30 A.M. and at 12:30 P.M. As many as possible of the 110 growing plants mentioned in the Bible will be presented.

A limited number of people are accepted for each time slot, so reservations are needed. Call (412)622-6958. Persons without reservations will be accepted on a space available basis.

Admission fee: Adults (age 12 and over) \$3.50; Children (ages 2 to 12) \$2.50.

- Anne Bahl

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

ASPLENIUM MONTANUM

We have another silhouette from Esther Allen's fern collection, Mountain Spleenwort - Venango County, PA, July, 1981.



EDE GOES TO TEXAS

We stopped at the Lyndon B. Johnson State & National Park - it is now designated as both. There were many live oak trees and pecan trees growing on the property. I picked up a few of the acorns - all of the pecans had been harvested. It was almost impossible to imagine that you were looking out over the old wild west - the way it was over 100 years ago. Buffalo and deer were grazing in the fields - eating the long beige colored grass - which was still green down by the roots. There were some peach trees - all of the fruit long gone. We did stop at a farm along the highway & I bought a jar of peach preserves - expensive & probably not as good as my own! The kale was still green in the farm gardens & mistletoe could be seen in the oak trees.

Some ranches had the long-horned cattle - with really big, long horns. This is the type that was driven up the Chisholm Trail many years ago. Some farms had sheep - also mules - probably to bring timber out of the swamps. Prickly pear cactus was growing around the edges of some fields. Deer corn was sold in stores



in small towns - the Pa. hunters would look askance at this practice. A lot of fields were red clay. There were huge grape arbors - I believe that I read in one of my magazines that Texas grows a lot of wine grapes. Big fields of winter wheat or rye were growing nicely in spite of much rainfall this year. The whole town of Fredericksburg smelled of bar-b-que smoke!

Some farms had willow trees - growing singly - interspersed among the pecan trees. The plume grass growing in swampy areas was the tallest that I have ever seen - at least 15 ft. - & curved.

We stopped & hiked around Bastrop State Park & Buescher State Park - they had a shrub there that was called the American Beauty - with beautiful purple berries. There were also hollies - with red berries. Some pine trees had clusters of three needles -- Pitch pines?

The Ziller Gardens Headquarters building had small, small Christmas trees probably spruce - decorated with red peppers - probably jalopenos. They were very unusual & decorative! I took a small bite of one once and my mouth and whole upper digestive system burned for a whole night & most of the following day! The Mexicans all use them in their cooking. Even Stacey can eat them with immunity.

It was lovely to see beds of yellow & purple pansies in bloom in beds at the front of the building. When I commented on them the woman attendant said "Those lil old flowers shore like this weather."

I liked it too - no snow & freezing Temp. there!

- Ede Mock



1992 DUES ARE DUE

No dues statements are mailed out, so if you haven't paid your 1992 dues yet, send your check to:

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

Membership: Single - \$5, Family - \$8, Student - \$2.50.