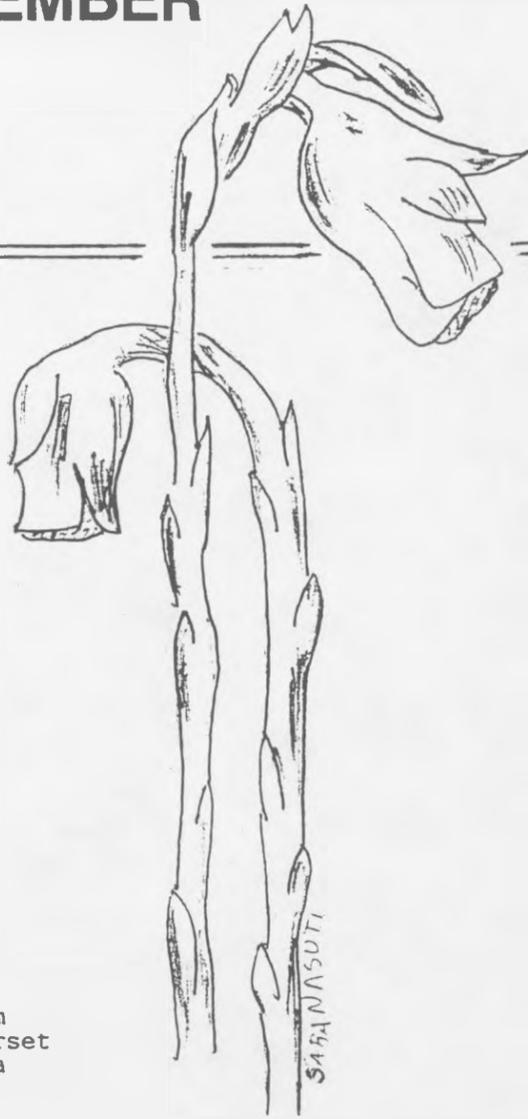


Wildflowers

THE BULLETIN OF THE
BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF W. PA.

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER
1993



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MONOTROPA UNIFLORA

The Indian Pipe, from Camp Deer Valley in Somerset County, was drawn by Sara Nasuti.

☆☆☆

ARISAEMA DRACONTIUM

We mentioned how a Green Dragon unexplainably popped up in our garden last year. Well, it's back again this year, and it has bloomed.

(Anne and Bob Bahl)

☆☆☆

BETTY SHEPLER

We received a card, postmarked Chicago, advising that Betty Shepler had died. Betty had been a member for 33 years.

☆☆☆

CLOSE ENCOUNTER OF THE THIRD TIME

It is not difficult to imagine how many hours Esther Allen has spent out of doors in the tri-state's forests, mountains, river valleys. In that lifetime of countless hours observing her surroundings, Mrs. Allen has never seen a bear. She has even dreamed vividly of a bear visiting her in her own home. What a spoilsport I was to tell her while we were camped on Dolly Sods of my two bear encounters in PA and WV. Forty-five minutes after hearing her lament and the telling of her dream, I enjoyed my third encounter.

For a split second on a treacherously narrow gravel road descending from Dolly Sods, that encounter was almost a horror story. As I rounded a curve, a black animal much like the angus calf I had seen just minutes before was sliding down the ten foot embankment onto the road--I was going to hit it. I don't know whether I was more fearful of skidding out of control or of smashing the animal's legs. I couldn't focus on it because it was coming toward my fender from the side and I was preoccupied with stopping my vehicle. A glance at a pointed brown snout aborted the cow theory. It hit the road at the same instant as the car came to a stop and then didn't hesitate before it cut a diagonal past my bumper. For those three seconds I studied the fastest, healthiest looking bear I had ever seen. Its long hair was lustrous, its big muscles bouncing on impact with the ground, the hair around its padded feet bright brown. Then it was over the opposite embankment. I got out of the car and looked over the edge--there was not a sight nor sound of it.

For most all of my adult life I had wanted to see a wild bear here in the east, and now, within five years, I've seen three. I know I will never have a closer encounter than this one. How does it make me feel? Lucky, very lucky.

My advice to Esther...stick with me, kid.

(Jeanne Poremski)

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LANDSCAPING BOOK

The book that Sam Wobley had at the June meeting was *Landscaping Plants for Eastern North America* by Harrison L. Flint. Publisher: John Wiley & Sons.

☆☆☆

NO MEETING IN AUGUST

There is no monthly meeting scheduled for August.

☆☆☆

SEPTEMBER MEETING

We have a very special program for our September meeting -- Monday, September 13, 8 P.M., at Trinity Hall, Carlow College, 3333 Fifth Ave., Oakland.

Our president, Dr. Mary Joy Haywood, will present *Plants under the Microscope*. Don't miss this one!

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER ISSUE

This issue of *Wildflowers* is for two months. The Good Lord willing (Drs. Costa and Dillinger, too), Anne and I will be driving to California the beginning of August, and will be gone the whole month. We hope to spend some time in Wind Cave and Glacier National Parks.

☆☆☆

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

Weather does not have any effect on our field trips, only in the way we dress. Any questions? Call our field trip chairman, Jeanne Poremski. (412) 343-6546.

August 7, 1993--Moraine State Park, Butler County, PA

Starting Time: 1:00 P.M.

Leader: Esther Allen

Directions: From I-79 north take the Portersville exit and turn left toward Rt. 19. Take Rt. 19 north and after passing Rt. 488 on the left, take a road that goes off to the right in a Y (West Park Drive). After going over Rt. 422, travel less than a mile (?) to the bicycle rental area on the North Shore Drive. **** We hope that there will still be red and yellow milkweeds (*Asclepias*) as well as Canadian burnet (*Sanguisorba canadensis*) although a long plant list is guaranteed.

August 14, 1993--Wildflower Reserve

Raccoon Creek State Park, Beaver County, PA

Starting Time: 1:00 P.M.

Leader: Dr. Joan Gottlieb

Directions: From Pgh. take Rt. 30 west through Imperial. Travel approximately 7 miles to the Reserve on the right immediately before the park entrance. Meet at the Nature Center. **** Dr. Gottlieb, who specializes in the study of ferns, will demonstrate the Reserve as a gem of biodiversity by showing us the twenty-six different species of ferns, their varieties, and their related allies that grow here.

August 21, 1993--Pontefract Park Area, Allegheny County, PA

Starting Time: 1:00 P.M.

Leader: Shirley Mutz

Directions: From Pgh. take Rt. 65 north through and beyond Sewickley to the Quaker Valley Shopping Center. Turn right onto the street that goes through the shopping center; turn right onto Beaver Rd. Go about 200 yards and park on the right. **** This area has an outstanding diversity of plants including oddities such as *Ampelopsis* (porcelain berry), wild poinsettia, and *Paulownia tomentosa* (princess-tree). Bring protection from the sun.

August 28, 1993--North Park, Allegheny County, PA

Starting Time: 1:00 P.M.

Leader: Roger Hummel

Directions: North Park is a county park north of Pgh. that can be reached from I-79 North; exit at Mt. Nebo Rd. and follow yellow belt signs to the park. Meet in the parking area on Wildwood Road (at the Babcock Blvd. intersection) across from the cannon and the Tastee Freez store. **** We will admire the *Gentiana clausa* (closed or bottle gentian) at the nearby hillside before walking over to Irwin Rd. to view autumn composites.

September 4, 1993-- No trip scheduled.

Labor Day Weekend.

September 11, 1993--Harrisonville Shale Barrens, Lutzville

Bedford and Fulton Counties, PA

Starting Time: 12:00 Noon *NOTE TIME*

Directions: From Pgh. take the Turnpike to Breezewood and exit east onto Rt. 30 toward McConnellsburg. Travel 11 miles to Harrisonville at the intersection of Rts. 30 and 655. Continue east on 30; when the road bends to the left at the shale barrens, park on the left. **** This is a return to a great site to see species that were not yet present in early May. Then we will return via Rt. 30 to the village of Lutzville to explore the streambanks for species indigenous to limestone areas. We will see a lot in one day, so note the early starting time.

September 18, 1993

September 25, 1993--I've decided to give September a rest this year since there were virtually no participants in last year's field trips.

October 2, 1993-- Greene County, PA

Starting Time: 1:00 P.M.

Leader: Dr. Mary Joy Haywood

Directions: Take I-79 south and exit at Ruff Creek. Turn left and left again onto SR-221. Continue 4 or 5 miles to Lippincott. Just past the second church (a converted red brick school, Faith Baptist), turn left and meet at the Haywood home (third house on the right, brick with tall columns.

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(Jeanne Poremski)

HOSPITAL REPORT

I got this note from Jeanne Poremski, dated July 20 -

"When I spoke to Sister Mary Joy, she related that Virginia Phelps had been hospitalized over the last week and a half after having a mild heart attack. The doctors have administered their batteries of tests, and she was scheduled to go home yesterday after concluding it was spurred by the heat."

Yours truly has been in and out of the hospital again, but this is to be expected when you are 22, as I am.

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