

Wildflowers

APRIL 1994

THE BULLETIN OF THE
BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF W. PA.



APRIL MEETING

As a follow-up to Esther Allen's great presentation, our April meeting will also be on **POISONOUS PLANTS**. We will be showing a video produced by West Penn Power Co.

This will be at our usual meeting place, Trinity Hall on the Carlow College campus, 3333 Fifth Ave., Oakland - Monday, April 11, 8 P.M.



INVITATION TO JOINT FIELD MEETING

Members of our Botanical Society are invited to the 1994 Joint Field Meeting of the **BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA**, the **TORREY BOTANICAL CLUB**, and the **PHILADELPHIA BOTANICAL CLUB**, June 26-30, at Frostburg State University, Frostburg, MD.

Field trips will examine plants of shale barrens, swamps, old-growth forests, bogs, and Triassic uplands.

The price for the Field Meeting is \$175 per person and includes double-occupancy housing, meals, and program.

If you have questions, contact Field Meeting Chairman Simon Dabydeen at the Biology Dept., Frostburg State University, Frostburg, MD 21532; phone (301) 689-4213 work, (301)689-6017 home.



APRIL FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

April 9, 1994--Settlers Cabin County Park, Allegheny Co., PA

Starting Time: 1 P.M.

Leader: John Doyle, naturalist, Allegheny County Parks

Directions: From Pgh., take the Parkway West and exit at

Campbell's Run Rd. Turn left from the ramp and left

again onto Boyce Rd. between Bishop's and a Texaco

station. Drive up the hill (do not re-enter the parkway)

and proceed straight through the 4-way intersection.

From the intersection, mark .8 miles to the E. L. Shephard

School, where we will meet in the second lot. From Rts.

22/30, take the exit to Old Steubenville Pike in

Tonidale and proceed to Mobay/Ridge Rd. Drive through

Miles Corp. and past the park entrance for .8 miles to

Shephard School. The elementary school is on McMichael

Road, though you'll find no signs. We'll make our first

stop on Baldwin Road.

Expectations: We'll check on the dense stand of hepatica

(*Hepatica americana*) in every known color, walking fern

(*Comptosorus rhizophyllum*), goldenseal (*Hydrastis canadensis*), and

then explore another valley. This is one of several

visits we will make to the park in order to establish a

plant list for this unexplored area. There will be steep

inclines.



April 16, 1994-- Wildflower Reserve,

Raccoon Creek State Park, Beaver Co., PA

Starting Time: 1 P.M.

Directions: Drive approximately 7 miles west of Imperial on

Rt. 30. Meet in the parking lot of the Reserve.

April 23, 1994--North Park, Allegheny Co., PA

Starting Time: 1 P.M.

Leader: Shirley Mutz

Directions: Meet in the parking lot on Babcock Blvd. just

past Pearce Mill Rd. (near Irwin Rd.).

April 30, 1994--Enlow Forks, Greene Co., PA

Starting Time: 1 P.M.

Directions: Take I-79S to I-70W. Take exit #2 to Claysville

and turn right onto Rt. 40 into Claysville. Turn right

onto Rt. 231S. Drive 3.5 miles to a fork. Rt. 231 goes

left; bear right onto the high road. Drive 8 miles to a

T intersection in West Finley; turn left. Travel 2.5

miles and turn right onto a small green bridge. After

2.5 miles, make a sharp right turn down the hill. After

1.2 miles, park in the State Gamelands lot.

Expectations: *Collinsonia verna* (blue-eyed Mary) should have

started blooming around this verdant valley where southern

species overlap northern species.

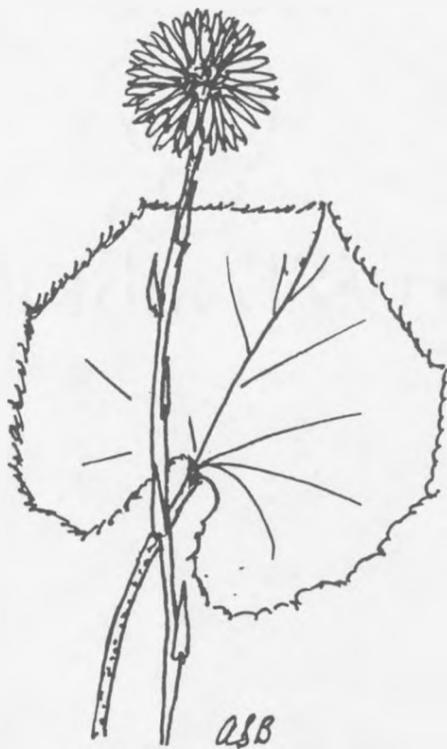
May 7, 1994--Fort Hill Reserve, West Virginia Shale Barrens

Jeanne Poremski -- 412-343-6546



DANCE INVITATION

Sabina Walsh invites her fellow members in the Botanical Society to the Heartbeat Dance Club's *Spring Fling* at the Airport Holiday Inn on Monday, April 18, 1-3:30 P.M. Cost is \$3.50. Call Sabina at 412-775-6955 for details.



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

TUSSILAGO FARFARA

The sketch of Coltsfoot was made by our member, Anne Bahl.

Tussilago comes from Latin, *tussis*, cough, for which the plant was a reputed remedy.

We welcome illustrations from our members and especially from first-time contributors.



SUMMARY OF 1993 FRASERA CAROLINIENSIS RESEARCH

The Eastern Monument Plant, found at Jennings Environmental Education Center, is unusual in that it requires many years of basal rosette leaf growth before sufficient strength is stored to send up a tall stalk with many flowers. It then sets seed and dies. Juvenile plants of all sizes and ages have 2-50 leaves.

1993 was a heavy-blooming year; the previous was 1990. As most technical manuals list this as having stem leaves in whorls of 4 (and we knew better), a study of this has been made in years of heavy bloom.

	1993	1990
Blooming stalks	174	251
Shortest	75 cm.	91 cm.
Tallest	256 cm.	268 cm.
Mean height	209 cm.	208 cm.
Leaves per whorl		
4	18%	22%
5	70%	65%
6	12%	13%

SPECIAL OBSERVATIONS:

In other years crooked stalks were observed only when plants were growing under branches (thicket). However, this year many crooked stems were growing in the open. 40% were straight, 38% grew crooked in the open, 22% were in thicket. The conclusion was that several hard frosts and a freeze occurred during May while the stalk was growing.

During the initial count survey several short (31-91 cm.) specimens were recorded: 4 with only 2 leaves per whorl and 2 with 3 l/wh. On closer examination, however, these proved to be side branches attached at or under ground level. These then grew parallel to the main stem. We had not observed this before.

A typical tall plant was analyzed for flower and seed production. 462 seed capsules were counted, although some may have been lost in transporting. 726 potential flowers were on this stalk with 5 l/wh. This could have been 870 flowers on a similar tall stalk with 6 l/wh.

A random count of a dozen capsules yielded counts of 5-18 seeds per capsule; average 12.

TRULY MONUMENTAL

Virginia A. Phelps



APRIL 10 DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

Deadline for the May issue of *Wildflowers* will be April 10.

Anne and I are leaving on the 20th for some botanizing in Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, St. Martin, Antigua, and Bermuda.



NEW MEMBER

We welcome **PATTY FOX** of Bethel Park.



AN INVITATION

On Saturday, April 9, Anne and I will be giving the program at Wissahickon Nature Club. It is entitled *I Never Left Home*. You will see a lot of wildflowers, mostly common ones, but a few very rare ones like *Shortia galacifolia*.

There is a lot of overlapping of membership in our two organizations, but if you are not a Wissahickon member, consider this a personal invitation to attend. Wissahickon meetings are held at the Community Presbyterian Church, 7501 Church Ave., Ben Avon. Meeting time is 7:30 P.M.

Bob Bahl