

Wildflowers

THE BULLETIN OF THE
BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF W. PA.

MAY MEETING

Our May meeting will be Monday, May 9, 8:00 P.M., at our usual meeting place, Trinity Hall, Carlow College, 3333 Fifth Avenue, Oakland.

The speaker will be Regina Birchem, Associate Professor at Seton Hill College. Her subject will be--

ALGAE: MORE THAN JUST POND SCUM



MAY FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

May 7, 1994--Fort Hill Reserve, West Virginia Shale Barrens Mineral Co., WV; Allegany Co., MD

Starting Time: 11:30 A.M. Fort Hill Reserve
1:30 P.M. Shale Barrens

Leaders: Esther Allen, Jeanne Poremski

Directions: From Pgh. take I-79 south to Morgantown, I-68 east to Cumberland, and US-220 south. Travel about 7.5 miles and look for Barton's Restaurant on the left; its sign is distinguished by a half-size plastic cow. Meet in the parking lot for each leg of the trip. If you arrive late, we might be at the top of Ft. Hill Road, several miles south on 220 and left between some houses. Otherwise, the group will return to the parking lot before proceeding to the park in Mineral Co. at 1:30.

Expectations: Changes have taken place at both locations, but we will still be looking for Shooting Stars (*Dodecatheon meadia*) and Dove's-foot Cranesbill (*Geranium molle*) at Fort Hill and Hoary Puccoon (*Lithospermum canescens*) and Kate's Mountain Clover (*Trifolium virginicum*) at the park. Although Dick Sluss will not be able to lead the trip, he will help us scout the locations in advance.

May 14, 1994--Raccoon Creek Area

Starting Time: 1:00 p.m.

Leader: Jeanne Poremski

Directions: Drive approximately 7 miles west of Imperial on Rt. 30. Meet in the parking lot of the Wildflower Reserve of Raccoon Creek State Park.

Expectations: We will see a large stand of Whorled Pogonia (*Isotria verticillata*). Be warned that this involves a very steep and arduous climb.

May 21, 1994--Wolf Rocks, Laurel Ridge State Park Westmoreland Co., PA

Starting Time: 1:00 P.M.

Leader: Esther Allen

Directions: From Pgh. take Rt. 30 east to Ligonier. Two miles east turn right onto Rt. 381. Travel 2.5 miles to Rector, where you turn left to Linn Run State Park. Drive 7.5 miles to the top--Laurel Ridge St. Pk.--where we will meet at the picnic pavilion.

Expectations: We should enjoy Painted Trillium (*Trillium undulatum*), Yellow Clintonia (*Clintonia borealis*), Starflower (*Trientalis borealis*), and Dwarf Ginseng (*Panax trifolium*) among many, many others.

May 28, 1994--Little Sewickley Creek Valley, Westmoreland Co., PA

Starting Time: 1:00 P.M.

Leaders: Tom Pearson, Don Koch

Directions: Meet in the parking lot on the right at the Irwin exit of the Turnpike.

Expectations: On this new hike we will see White Valerian, Green Dragon (*Arisaema draconitum*), Miami Mist (*Phacelia purshii*), and a grove of Pawpaws (*Asimina triloba*).

Jeanne Poremski -- 412-343-6546



PLANTS FROM PHIPPS CONSERVATORY

The last opportunity to buy bulbs and plants used in the Spring Show is Saturday, April 23, 9-11 A.M., or until all are sold. Bulbs and plants are bagged and will be outside the entrance to the Conservatory. Although none are guaranteed, they will bloom for years if handled properly.

Phipps' annual plant sale, with a wide variety of plants and accessories for your home, your garden, and for gifts, will be on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, May 6, 7, 8 (Mother's Day weekend). The sale will be on the lawn in front of the Conservatory.



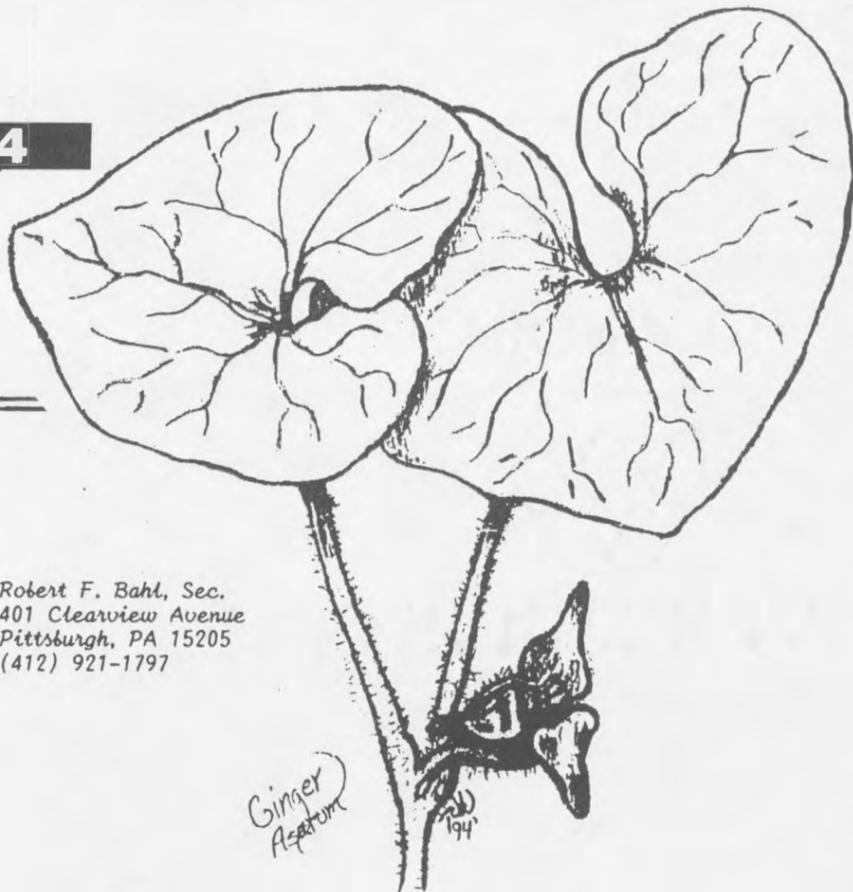
- Anne Bahl

ARTICLES FROM MEMBERS

We welcome articles from members. We'll try our best to include in *Wildflowers* any notices in a timely fashion.

Lately, some announcements have arrived after the bulletin was already at the printer, and there is no point in putting anything in the next month's issue, because the event is then past history.

Deadline is the 18th of the month -- in my hands!



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ASARUM CANADENSE

The sketch of Wild Ginger was made by our member, Tammy Watychowicz.



STATE PARKS MAGAZINE

Thanks to Esther Allen, we have this information on a free subscription to *Pennsylvania State Parks Magazine*.

Pennsylvania State Parks is published quarterly and is available free of charge. Address all correspondence to *Pennsylvania State Parks MAGAZINE*, P. O. Box 8551, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8551. Phone 1-800-63PARKS to subscribe.



14 LETTERS, 4 CONSONANTS

Anne Bahl presents this poser, "Can you come up with a botanical word that has 14 letters, but only 4 consonants?"

Answer in next month's *Wildflowers*.



MAX HENRICI ARTICLES

A long time ago, Paul Brown sent us a batch of wildflower articles written by Max Henrici for the old Sun-Telegraph. We printed one, and have been looking ever since for space for another. These articles aren't dated, but we estimate they must be at least 50 years old.

Nature Rare Fern Visited At El Dorado By Max Henrici

REVIEWING his outstanding botanical experiences of the year, W. E. Buker, of 3833 Oswego St., heads the list with a report of a visit to see the Limestone Oak Fern (*Dryopteris Robertiana*) at El Dorado, Blair County, the only place where it is known to grow in Pennsylvania.

I mentioned this to Dr. Edgar T. Wherry professor of botany at the University of Pennsylvania, and the chief authority on the ferns of this state. Dr. Wherry has been kind enough to furnish me the following account of how the Blair County station of the Limestone Oak Fern came to be discovered.

"In the preparation of a pocket guide to Eastern ferns during the 1930's, I endeavored to study as many of them in the field as practicable. The Limestone Oak Fern had been found in North America from the Atlantic to the Pacific, but chiefly pretty far north, and moreover in isolated, often hard-to-find locations.

IN SEVERAL STATES

"By following the directions which had been published, I was able to locate it in several states, notably in Michigan and Iowa. In the former it was growing in moss and humus on large rocks at the base of shaded cliffs; in the latter it was on north-facing rock slides of limestone, which was peculiar in breaking up under the action of the frost into little angular blocks.

"Then one Friday in September, 1941, a letter came from Miss Elsie D. Canan, of Johnstown, Pa., enclosing a bit of a fern frond. She wrote that this had been first observed by Miss Katherine Schneider, of Altoona, as early as 1935, but to preclude the likelihood of vandalism, no general announcement of it was made. For the specimen seemed to agree with the book description of the Limestone Oak Fern; but no one had ever suspected that it would be found in central Pennsylvania, hundreds of miles from any other known locality.

DROVE TO ALTOONA

"A telegram was immediately dispatched, and on Saturday I drove to Altoona and we went out to see the occurrence. There was no doubt about it. The fern was exactly like that I had studied in the more northern and western states; and curiously enough, it was growing on a limestone rock slide of the same character as that in Iowa.

"How did it get there? Were the spores blown by a hurricane the 450 miles from the nearest known station in Douglas County, Michigan? Or are there intermediate stations, not yet discovered? Who can say?"