

# Wildflowers

THE BULLETIN OF THE  
BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF W. PA.

FEBRUARY  
1996

## FEBRUARY MEETING

Our January meeting had to be cancelled, so everybody gets a SNOW CHECK.

You won't miss anything because we have re-scheduled Dr. Mary Joy Haywood's program, "Reprise on a Trip to New Guinea" for our February meeting.



Usual time and place: the second Monday of the month, which is February 12. Meeting starts at 8:00 PM sharp, and is at Trinity Hall, Carlow College, 3333 Fifth Ave., Oakland.



## ECOLOGICAL AWARD

Another reason for coming to our February meeting on the 12th - -

Mr. David Petrosewitz of the Tennessee Gas Pipe Line Co. will be presenting our Society with an award of \$1000.00 for our ecological concern in the management of our Titus Bog.



## PLAN AHEAD

I was talking with Karl Andersen today so I could begin to plan my summer retreat, etc. I did want to know when the Joint Field Meeting of the Botanic Society of America and the Philadelphia Botanical Club and the Torrey Botanical were having their field trip. It will be from June 23-27 in Albany, NY. Folks will stay at NY State University. Estimated cost will be close to \$250.00. Contact Person: Ed Miller, 430 Miller Road, Rexford, NY 12148. Phone 518-371-8834. This is the same time the trip to the Bruce is planned. I think this summer I will go to NY and go back to the Bruce in a few years.

(Dr. Mary Joy Haywood)



## NINE MONTHS TO DELIVERY

On January 13, I received a package of processed slides from Kodalux. As I usually do when I open a new package, I held one slide up to the light. It was a nice picture of a snow-covered tree against a lovely blue sky!

Wait! I couldn't recall having taken any recent pictures with a sky like that. I looked again. That wasn't snow. It was cherry-blossoms!

The rest of the slides were daffodils, bloodroot, twinleaf, trillium...all from our property.

I had mailed in that roll on April 19 last year.

Well, saying it took nine months for delivery of that baby was a slight exaggeration. It was only 8 months, 3 weeks, and 5 days.

Reprinted from the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

## This botanist couple can hunt down an orchid in virtually every orchard

They came in search of orchids. To my ridge. In mid-December. I thought they were crazy, but they assured me some orchids retain distinctive evergreen leaves throughout the winter and are easy to find — if you know what to look for.

Scott Shriver and Clete Smith are writing a book on the orchids of the Upper Ohio River Basin. For 10 years, they have searched forests, fields and museum collections for the orchids that occur in 145 counties western New York, western Pennsylvania, western Maryland, eastern Ohio and all of West Virginia. Their quest produced at least one orchid species in all but one of those 145 counties. The lone exception was Marshall County, West Virginia. That's what finally led them to me.

Two years ago, a group from the Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania had

found several rattlesnake plantains on my property. This small orchid is quite common and widespread, but for some reason neither it or nor any other orchid, had never been recorded in Marshall County. So I said, "Come on down."

When my guests arrived, the thermometer read 8 degrees and a light snow dusted the ground.

After about 15 minutes of walking and talking and slipping and tripping, we reached the target area.

"They're around here somewhere," I said, "probably within 10 yards of where we stand."

As I scanned, I was surprised at the number of evergreen leaves that peeked through the snow. Many were ferns. Shriver explained that I'd recognize the rattlesnake plantain because the leaves were marked with a network of white veins and

cross veins. The effect was that of a snake skin, hence the orchid's common name. I had barely taken two steps when Smith cried, "Got it!" Sure enough, a patch of the distinctly



SCOTT  
SHALAWAY  
ON NATURE

marked green leaves grew rooted at his feet. They now had at least one record of an orchid in every county their book would cover. Since the rattlesnake plantain had been so easy to find, and we weren't yet completely frozen, we searched for more. We found no more orchids, but they pointed out a half dozen species of ferns. Christmas ferns and sensitive ferns littered the forest floor, but the highlight of the day for me came when Shriver found several populations of walking fern growing on a rocky outcrop. "This is a rare plant," he said. "Botanists love to find this one on field trips."

The individual fronds, or leaves, of the walking fern are long and arrow-shaped, unlike any fern I had ever seen. The thread-like tip grows downward on the rocks; new plants grow where the tips touch the rocks.

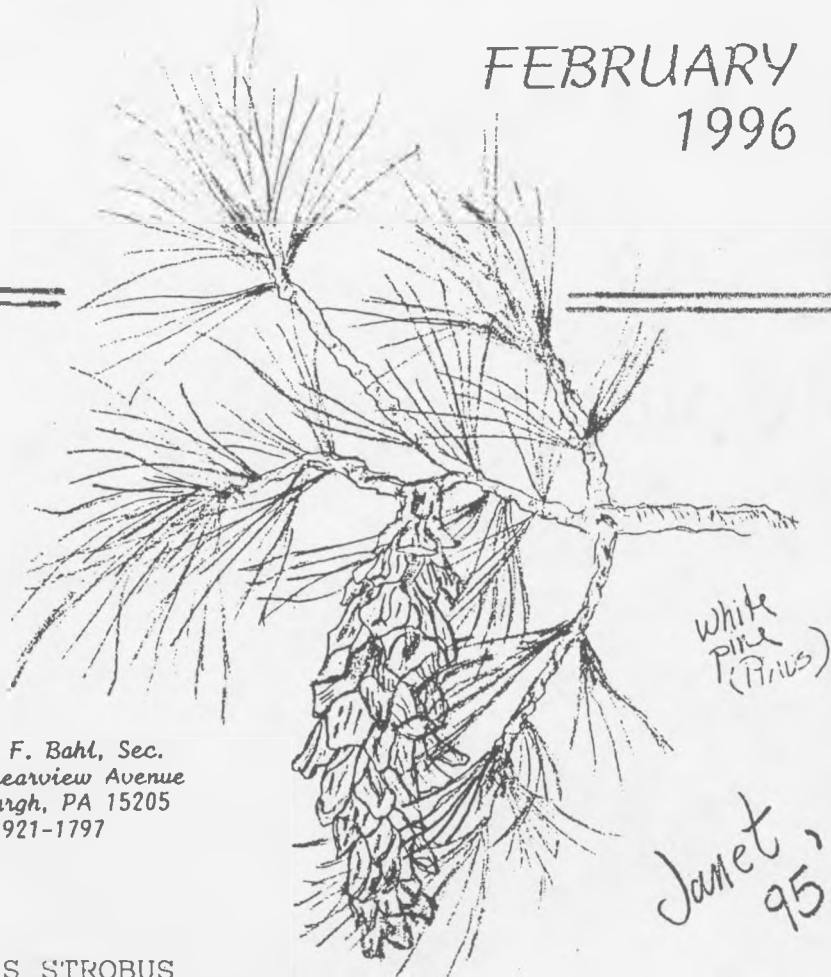
As it grows, it "walks" down rocky cliffs. The underside of the leaves were still covered with spores. I made a mental note to return in the spring when sunshine and rain will turn these rocks into a cascade of green.

Though I try to get outdoors every day and use almost any excuse to get into the woods, I must admit this was my first December wildflower walk. What surprised me most was how successful it was.

If you know of any wild orchids in the Upper Ohio River Basin, Shriver and Smith would love to hear from you.

Write to Scott Shriver, 110 Hillvue Lane, Pittsburgh, PA 15237, or call him at (412) 367-8610.

Send questions and comments to Scott Shalaway, R.D. 5, Cameron, WV 26033 or via E-mail to sshalaway@aol.com.



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## PINUS STROBUS

The illustration of White Pine was drawn by Janet Watychowicz. Janet is the mother of Tammy Watychowicz, one of our members.



PENNSYLVANIA RARE PLANT FORUM MEETING  
MARCH 16, 1996  
9:00 AM

SHIPPENSBURG UNIVERSITY  
SHIPPENSBURG, PA  
FRANKLIN SCIENCE CENTER

## THE MEETING

The meeting will be at the same location as last year, Room 156, Franklin Science Center, Shippensburg University. We will begin at 9:00 AM.

The session is open to all individuals interested in the native flora of Pennsylvania. The agenda will center around suggested additions, deletions, or status changes to the Plants of Special Concern in Pennsylvania (POSCIP) list.

On Friday afternoon and evening, March 15nd the Vascular Plant Technical Committee will be meeting, to discuss the enclosed list of species prepared by Dr. Sue Thompson and Bonnie Isaac. These plants which are in the most recent edition of the PA Atlas meet the criteria to be on the POSCIP list, but have not been added. If you are interested in sitting in on the meeting you are most welcome.

## QUESTIONS

If you have any questions, please give me a call at 412.288.2774 (voice)  
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## HERBAL MEDICINE

There is this plant that is supposed to be good for improving the memory, but I can't remember what it is.