Monday, May 13, is Bruce Night. A number of members who have been to the Bruce Peninsula will give the program. Phyllis Monk will be the coordinator.

The meeting will be at Carlow College, 3333 Fifth Ave., Oakland, but it will not be at our customary place. Because of the large attendance anticipated, we will have it in the Kresge Theater on the Carlow Campus. Students will be there to direct you.

Meeting starts at 8:00 PM.

Field Trip Schedule

Everyone is welcome on our field trips, both newcomers and long time members. This is a great way for everyone to become aware of the wonders of the natural world around us.

Dress for the weather. Trips are rain or shine (within reason). Keep an extra pair of boots, old shoes and wool socks in the car. The leaders can usually inform you if you may need them that day.

Bring along a snack and something to drink. Many folks tote along their own coffee. Trips are rain or shine (within reason). Keep an extra pair of boots, old shoes and wool socks in the car. The leaders can usually inform you if you may need them that day.

Please notify me if you have a suggestion for a field trip or would like to lead one. The field trips do not have to be in exotic places. A variety of common plants can be as rewarding as a few rarities. When was the last time you have had a field trip? Wow! Has it been that long ago? 

Proficiency with plants is not necessary. You do, however, need to know the area and where the interesting things are. The group will do the rest.

Come and learn something that you can share with others.

May 4, 1996: PLAIN GROVE BOG, Lawrence County
Leader: Jeanne Porembski
Time: 1:00
Directions: Leave 1-79 at Slippery Rock exit; then drive west toward Harrisville on State Rte 168. Turn right at first crossroad to Plain Grove. Meet at the church across from the cemetery. We haven’t been to Plain Grove for quite a while. It is the station for Trollius laxus, the Spreading Globeflower. Dress for wet feet.

May 11, 1996 No trip scheduled. Happy Mother’s Day!

May 18, 1996: WILDFLOWER RESERVE, Raccoon Creek State Park, Butler County
Leader: Phyllis Monk
Time: 1:00
Directions: Take Rte 30 west of Pittsburgh to Imperial. Continue on Rte 30 approximately 7 miles. Meet in the parking lot of Wildflower Reserve. This is just east of the main park entrance.

May 25, 1996: WOLF CREEK NARROWS, Butler County
Leader: Howard McVittie
Time: 1:00
Directions: From Pgh, take I-79 north to Slippery Rock Exit (the exit past Route 422 exit)
Turn left onto Route 168 toward Slippery Rock.
Go about one mile and turn left at intersection that has a Dairy Queen on the right. Continue to first paved road on right. Turn right.
Go past a dairy farm on the left to A T intersection. Turn right and park in lot on right just before a bridge over Slippery Rock Creek.

June 1, 1996: FERNCLIFF PENINSULA, Ohiopyle State Park, Fayette County
Leader: Loree Speedy
Time: 1:00
Directions: From Pgh, take the tunkpike east to Donegal exit. Turn right onto Rte 31 East. After 2 miles turn right onto Rte 38/171. Travel 18.5 miles south into the town of Ohiopyle. After crossing the railroad tracks, park in the Ferncliff parking area on the right.

Scott Speedy - 412-639-3517
Jeanne Porembski - 412-343-6546

DOROTHY PEARTH

Dorothy Pearth, a member of the Botanical Society for 50 years, died on March 22 at the age of 82.

Dorothy kept an autograph book in high school. This is an entry from a friend in 1927:

When your work on earth is ended
And your feet no longer trod,
May your name in gold be written
In the autograph of God.

A LETTER FROM DICK BEVER

The grapevine twist from our member --

Dear Bob,

Enclosed is a postcard Mayor Murphy is sending to residents adjacent the city parks in behalf of Partners in Parks. It bothers me that they are portraying our native wild grapes as alien invaders killing every tree in sight. This erroneous notion that grapevines kill trees is based on very superficial observation by untrained naturalists. Fungus diseases, insect attacks, mineral deficiencies in the soil, air pollution and a whole host of other causes account for tree mortality in our area, but the grapevine seems to take all the blame. Grapevines do overwhelm some of the trees in the Pittsburgh area, but if one looks a little closer they’ll notice those trees suffer a host of other ailments that allows the sun loving grape to take advantage.

Animal lovers see grapevines as a plus. Over 75 species of birds and mammals utilize the fruits for food and white-tailed deer eat the leaves and twigs. Both birds and squirrels nest in the tangles and utilize the bark in nest construction. For non-cavity denning wildlife species, the grapevines tangles provide the best protective cover the forest has to offer. In years when the mast crop fails, the wild grape is often the only winter food available. Complete eradication of the vines would create a wildlife food shortage and force park animals to spend more foraging time in the residential areas where they can become nuisances, a problem I’m sure Mr. Murphy doesn’t want.

I have written a letter to Mayor Murphy similar to this one urging him to channel his efforts to real alien invaders such as Japanese knotweed and honeysuckle, but being an out of town, my opinion doesn’t carry much weight. I hope you might more attention to writers of the bulletin that if they let their feelings be known, Partners in Parks can be reached at 926-9274 and letters to Mayor Murphy will reach him at City County Building, 15219.

Sincerely,

LAST CALL

If there is a red dot in front of your name on the envelope, this could be your last issue of Wildflowers.

Send delinquent dues to Robert F. Bahl, 401 Clearview Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15205.