

Wildflowers

JANUARY
1997

THE BULLETIN OF THE
BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF W. PA.

16 YEARS OF WILDFLOWERS

This January issue marks the 17th year of WILDFLOWERS. The first issue came out January 1981.

Getting it out each month has been a lot of work for me, but it has been a labor of love. I couldn't have done it without the help of so many of you members who have contributed so much in the way of articles, illustrations, field trip schedules and reports, and on and on.

In particular, I want to acknowledge that most wonderful helpmate of all, my dear wife. There have been precious few typos in 16 years, and it is all because of her. My "hunt and peck" typing leaves much to be desired, and she catches all my boners before they ever reach you.

How long will I be able to continue putting out WILDFLOWERS? God only knows....and He hasn't told me. At any rate, I will be 29-1/2 on my next birthday (that's 29 years and a 1/2 century). It would be the prudent thing to have somebody ready to take over. Who would like to be Co-Editor of WILDFLOWERS? You and I could put out the bulletin jointly until you felt ready to take over completely.

- Robert F. Bahl

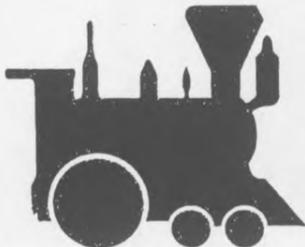
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JANUARY MEETING

The first meeting of the new year will be Monday, January 13, 8:00 P.M. at our usual meeting place, Trinity Hall, Carlow College, 3333 Fifth Ave., Oakland.

The speaker will be our own Dr. Sue Thompson, and her talk will be on "Araceae of North America". This was the subject of her thesis when she earned her doctorate.

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1997 OFFICERS

After a spirited campaign, in which one of our officers was accused of engaging the services of John Huang, we had our annual election at the December meeting. The voting was extremely close, but all of our incumbent officers were re-elected --

President - Dr. Mary Joy Haywood

Vice-President - Phyllis Monk

Treasurer - Walt Gardill

Recording Secretary - Loree Speedy

Corresponding Secretary - Bob Bahl

The losers are demanding a recount.

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"Madagascar: The Naturalists' Promised Land"

by
Dr. George E. Schatz
of the Missouri Botanical Garden
(St. Louis)

Thursday, January 9

Lecture 6 - 7 pm
Reception precedes at 5:30

The Lecture Hall at the Carnegie

Presented jointly by
The Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Section of Botany
and The Garden Club of Allegheny County

Dr. George E. Schatz, a native of Pittsburgh, is now an Associate Curator of the Missouri Botanical Garden and principal research botanist for its project in Madagascar where he collects and studies exceptional flora. The focus of his talk will be the wonders of the plant and animal life of Madagascar and how they enrich all of our lives. He will also comment on the loss of biodiversity and the steps towards developing ecological literacy at all educational levels. He is a delightful lecturer with fascinating slides.

The talk is free and open to the public.



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LINNAEA BOREALIS

The same-size picture of Twinflower, the only wildflower named after Linnaeus (it was his favorite), is from Virginia Phelps' note paper. She takes the actual flowers and leaves, presses them, and artistically imbeds them in rice paper.

She collected the specimens on her trip out west last summer. The sprig of leaves at the bottom is from *Pedicularis groenlandica*, Little Red Elephant, also collected on her western trip.

Yes, this note paper is for sale, no two exactly alike. Call Virginia at 412-828-6286.

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PROGRAM CHAIRMEN

Our programs for 1997 will be handled by our three self-styled "orchid nuts" -- Scott Shriver, Al Shriver, and Clete Smith. If you would like to give one of our monthly programs -- or if you know anybody else who would -- please call one of the triumvirate --

Scott Shriver - (412) 367-8610

Al Shriver - (412) 766-3309

Clete Smith - (412) 561-7267

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PHYLLIS MONK

We thank Phyllis Monk for an excellent job as our Program Chairman for the past year. Hey! It's taking three people to replace her.

* * *

BREAK A LEG

We didn't really wish him that, but he did it any way. Clete Smith was out botanizing in Washington County the early part of December, along with his pals, Scott and Al Shriver. Who knows what orchid they were looking for in mid-winter? At any rate, the slippery mud won out, and Clete ended up with a broken leg.

* * *

THE THOUGHTS OF A CHILD

This was written by our 12-year old granddaughter, Carolyn Nasuti. Carolyn is a seventh grader living in Bryn Mawr, PA.



I walk through the grass
and I see a flower
the little flower
so pretty
all alone
wishing with all its heart
that it will live
another day
That no one will pick it
or step on it
and make the poor little flower
lose its life
So no one can enjoy it
or smell its smell
any more

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1997 DUES

Have you paid your dues for this year? It's \$5 for an individual, \$8 for the whole family. Students are half-price. Send your check to our treasurer, Walt Gardill, P. O. Box 226, 9775 Grosick Road, Ingomar, PA 15127.