

Wildflowers

MARCH
1997

THE BULLETIN OF THE
BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF W. PA.

MARCH MEETING

Our next meeting will be Monday, March 10, 8:00 P.M. For the time being our meetings are at the Kresge Theatre on the Carlow College campus, 3333 Fifth Ave., Oakland. If you think you will have trouble finding the Kresge Theatre, give me a call at 412-921-1797.

The speaker will be one of our own members, Dr. Melissa Melan. Dr. Melan is a professor of biology at Duquesne University. Her subject will be "The Intimate Secrets of the Grape Fern".



EVA EMMERICH

We were talking to Eva this morning. She is getting impatient at the slow pace of recovery from her ski accident. Her phone number is 412-731-2449.



OXALIS PSEUDOPETRA

Question for St. Patrick's Day -- Could a fake diamond be called a sham rock?

BEWARE THE IDES OF MARCH

This warning comes to you courtesy of myself (Brutus) and Walt Gardill (Cassius).

I'm really a soft-hearted guy -- and soft-headed -- and would never remove anybody from the mailing list, but yon Cassius has a lean and hungry look.

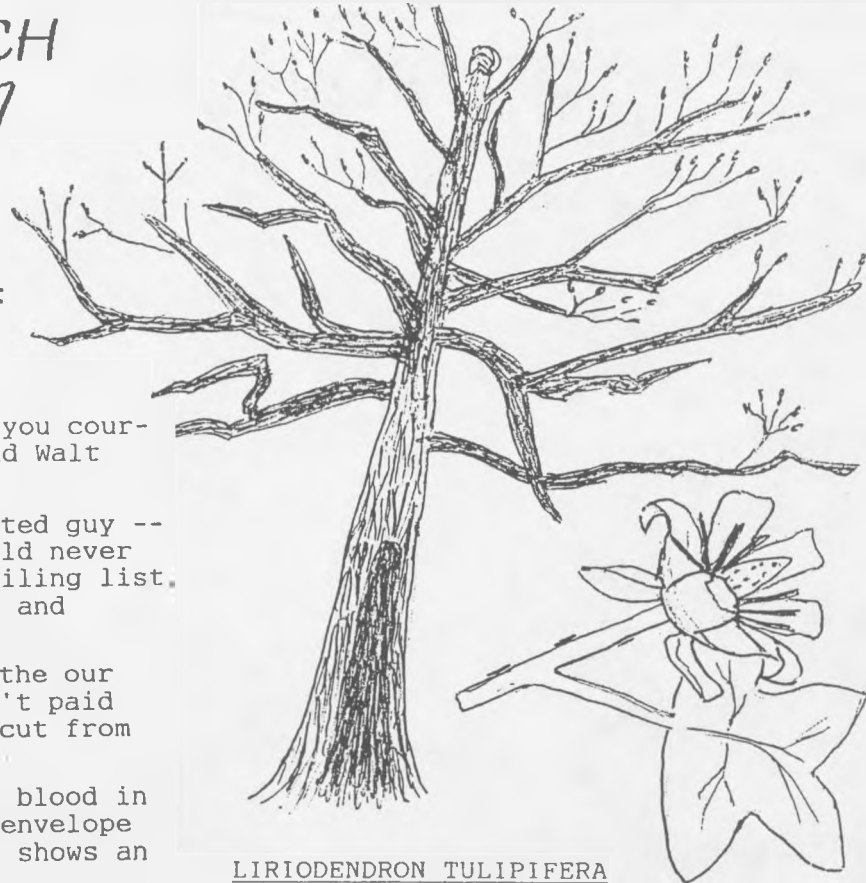
On March 15, we unsheathe our daggers. Anybody who hasn't paid the 1997 dues risks being cut from our mailing list.

A drop of Caesar's red blood in front of your name on the envelope means that Walt's computer shows an unpaid dues status.

I know from past experience that the computer sometimes goofs. If your dues really are paid up, write me -- or call me at 412-921-1797 -- before the Ides of March.

Otherwise, send in your membership dues -- \$5 single, \$8 family. To avoid missing a single issue of *Wildflowers*, send it to me, Robert F. Bahl, 401 Clearview Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15205.

Et tu, Brute!



LIRIODENDRON TULIPIFERA

Our member, Dorothy M. Fornof, has provided the sketch of the Tulip Tree and a poem to go with it.

She writes, "This tree is on our property and it was already full grown when my grandmother was a child. The top of the tree is missing now, but it is still huge."

YELLOW POPLAR

Hark! The old Tuliptree
Stark and naked she stands
Holding out her great branches
As tho they were hands
She was here when the Seneca
Walked these rugged hills
Hunting turkeys and deer
And bear if you will
There's a hollow in the trunk
Big enough for the owl
Or maybe a squirrel or raccoon
With spring in the air
Leaves soon will appear
Giving her a pompadour
For all to adore
Then blossoms yellow, orange and green
Like lovely tulips they do seem
It shades the often flowing spring
Where we stop to refresh ourselves
We, the animals and birds alike
Enjoy the water sparkling bright
Grosbeaks, orioles and tanagers too
Grace her branches
In the morning dew
The woodthrush and vireo
Sing from her heights
This chorus goes on
Right up to the night
In autumn her hair
Is like pure gold
Shining like precious jewels of old
Her seed pods linger
All winter long
They cannot decide
Where they belong
Deep furrows of bark
With a large burn mark
From a fire that swept through
Many decades ago
Tho her age is hundreds of years
She stands like a monarch
Among her peers
She measures 10-1/2 feet around
And stands 80 feet from the ground
And we love her

Dorothy M. Fornof



47th ANNUAL SPRING WILDFLOWER PILGRIMAGE April 24, 25, 26, 1997

The Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage is a three-day program of conducted nature walks, motorcades and photographic tours in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Sponsors are the Botany Department of The University of Tennessee, the Gatlinburg Garden Club, the Southern Appalachian Botanical Society, the Great Smoky Mountains Natural History Association and Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

For more information call:
(423) 448-6134 or 1-800-525-6834

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JOINT FIELD MEETING AT SHENANDOAH

Our member, Joan Gottlieb, has sent us this announcement. We have not reproduced the registration form, but you can get one from Joan. Just call her at 412-242-6738.

An Invitation to the 1997 Joint Field Meeting of the

Northeastern Section of the
Botanical Society of America
Torrey Botanical Society
Philadelphia Botanical Club

June 22-26, 1997

Skyland Lodge
Shenandoah National Park, Virginia



The 1997 Joint Field Meeting will take place from Sunday evening dinner to Thursday morning breakfast, June 22 - 26, in Shenandoah National Park. Field trips on park trails will be organized to allow a representative sampling of the plants of the central Shenandoah district, from higher elevation species on Hawksbill Mountain to lower montane and woodland vegetation of historic Hoover Camp on the Rapidan River. A wide variety of acid-tolerant higher plants as well as some rare fern allies and hybrids will be seen. Evening programs by Virginia Heritage and National Park scientists will deal with park history, geology, floristic changes, pollution problems and the like. All park trails are well-graded and in excellent condition, but two planned all-day hikes are each about four miles round trip (with moderate elevation changes.) Participants should be in reasonably good condition. Easier hikes will be available for those who feel unable to manage these longer forays. Transportation over the short distances between sites (10 miles or less) will be by car pool.

Housing for the 4 nights and 11 meals (including a special banquet dinner on Wednesday) will be provided at Skyland Lodge at Milepost 41.7 on the Skyline Drive. The Lodge rooms and cottages are very comfortable with modern amenities. Bedding, towels and room service are provided.

The cost for this field meeting is \$325 per person. Included are all meals, double occupancy housing with private bath, trip leadership, handouts and evening programs. The single occupancy rate is \$465. If roommates are not specified they will be assigned. The price for participating in day trips only (without housing or meals) is \$50, with an option to attend the Wednesday evening banquet at an additional \$20.

The deadline for registration is May 10, 1997, but prompt registration is advised as total participation will be limited to 70 people. Send the enclosed registration form with your check (made out to the Botanical Society of America) for the full amount to: Karl Anderson, Rancocas Nature Center, 794 Rancocas Road, Mt. Holly N.J. 08060.

Directions to Shenandoah, suggestions about clothing and equipment, a list of participants and a detailed schedule will be mailed in early June. Additional information and handouts will be distributed during the field meeting.

If you have any questions please contact field meeting chairman Joan Gottlieb, 2310 Marbury Road, Pittsburgh PA 15221-3670, telephone: 1-412-242-6738, e-mail: gottli19@sgi.net.