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# WILDFLOWERS

The Bulletin of the Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania • March 1998

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## Next Meeting is March 9

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The next meeting will be Monday, March 9, at 8:00 p.m., at the Kresge Theater at Carlow College, 3333 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA (Oakland).

Member **Ranger Tim Manka** will present "On Sabbatical Leave". Tim went around the world for 34 days, to East and South Africa for 38 days, and to Australia, New Zealand, and Fiji for 39 days. Then, he came home and did a load of wash.

A week later, in January 1995, he left home for Florida, San Diego, and San Francisco. This part of the trip took 220 days because he spent 8 to 12 hours a day taking notes in science museums, zoos, and national parks. He doesn't have slides but he does have an hour of some of the best botanical natural history stories to share. He can't wait to hear what he has to tell us!

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## Pennsylvania Rare Plant Forum will meet at Powdermill

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The Pennsylvania Rare Plant Forum will be held Saturday, March 28, 1998, at Powdermill Nature Reserve, in Rector, Pennsylvania.

All people interested in the distribution and abundance of plant species in Pennsylvania are encouraged to attend this meeting. The Rare Plant Forum is an extension of the Vascular Plant Technical Committee of the Pennsylvania Biological Survey. In this capacity the Forum serves, indirectly but effectively, in an advisory role to the Bureau of Forestry for issues related

to the conservation of the native flora of Pennsylvania.

Your input will be appreciated as we discuss issues related to the appreciation and conservation of our native flora. The primary task will be discussion of proposed changes to the list of Plants Of Special Concern In Pennsylvania (POSCIP).

This is also an excellent opportunity to socialize with other people, amateurs and professionals, who share your interest in the flora of Pennsylvania. You are also invited to an informal gathering on Friday evening to share slides.

Overnight accommodations will be offered at \$10 per person at Powdermill on a first come first serve basis. If there is sufficient interest, meals will be catered. Motels and restaurants are available in Ligonier, Donegal, and Somerset.

To register, reserve cabin space, inquire about meals, or to put yourself on the Rare Plant Forum mailing list, contact Steve Grund at the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, 209 Fourth Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15222. Telephone: (412) 288-5401. e-mail: [sgrund@paconserve.org](mailto:sgrund@paconserve.org)

*Steve Grund, Chair*

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## Botanical Field Meeting will be held in Vermont

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The 1998 Annual Joint Field Meeting of the Northeastern Section of the Botanical Society of America, the Torrey Botanical Society, and the Philadelphia Botanical Club will be held at

Johnson State College in the Green Mountains of north central Vermont.

Field trips are planned to examine vegetation in a variety of habitats including bogs, fens and montane areas. Evening programs will address the geology of the region as well as topics of local botanical interest.

The cost is \$225 per person including double occupancy dormitory housing (single occupancy available at \$265), all meals, buses, leaders, speakers and handouts.

For details and registration forms, telephone Ursula Joachim at (914)-428-6304, or write her at 10 Bryant Crescent #2 I, White Plains, NY 10605.

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## Boyce Park Nature Center /Greenhouse Offers Environmental and Botanical Programs

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**March 3 through 17** – Mini-maple tours on Tue., Thurs., and Fri.

**March 21** – Saturday, Maple Sugaring Festival

**March 3 through 31** – On Tue., Thur., Fri., & Sat., spring nature walks and “Greenhouse Plant Seeding”.

**April 2 through 18** - Greens Up Close

**April 2 through 30** – Wildflower seed & tree plantings, microworld discovery projects, spring nature walks, and horticultural programs.

These programs are for all ages. For more information, please call naturalist/horticulturist Tammy Watychowicz at (724) 733-4618. Preregistration is required.

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## Field Trip Report

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**Moraine State Park, February 14th.** Twenty-one gloved and hatted folks saw samaras of Tulip Poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), green branches of Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*) and fuzzy buds of Cucumber Magnolia (*Magnolia*

*acuminata*). Near the shore were seedpods of Turk’s Cap Lily and Swamp Rose Mallow.

Esther Allen showed us the horned oak gall and the target gall on a red maple, which is caused by a virus. We saw a nice patch of a lichen (*Cladonia sp.*) that is similar to the British Soldiers, but with brown tips.

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## Can’t See the Trees for the Forest

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Here are 25 things that I like very much. I like them because each one contains a hidden tree or shrub (botanical name, of course). For instance, if the listing were “Fat-cat Alpacas”, the answer would be CATALPA = fatCATALPAs. Solution on following page.

1. Beautiful music
2. Happy rustic scenes
3. Classy ring around my finger
4. Sweet sugar candy
5. Sugar and spice and everything nice
6. Wonderful experiences
7. Shopping until I am exhausted
8. Quick drying ink, gold in color
9. Lacquer, custom-mixed
10. A stop in U.S.A.
11. My favorite anecdotes
12. A balsa balalaika
13. A zesty Rax sandwich
14. Indian corn, used as a decoration
15. Abie’s Irish Rose
16. Apothecary antiques
17. Nonpareil extravaganzas
18. Optimal use of color
19. The first robin I always see in spring
20. Rococo style
21. Super sea voyages
22. A nicer Cistercian monastery
23. Good race relations
24. The caramel I am addicted to
25. Sundry assorted things

*Robert F. Bahl*

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## Field Trip Schedule

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Everyone is welcome on field trips, including non-members. Trips are not canceled due to rain or cold. Wear shoes that can get wet. For questions, call the trip leader or Loree at 521-9425.

**Saturday  
April 4, 1998-** Cedar Creek County Park,  
Westmoreland County  
Leader: Mark Bowers  
Time: 1:00 p.m.

Directions: Meet in the parking lot of Howard Johnson's on Route 51 (on the left side of the road when traveling south) near the intersection with I-70.

Expectations: Snow trillium, and other spring ephemerals.

**Saturday  
April 11, 1998-** Frankfort Springs,  
Beaver County  
Leaders: Esther Allen and  
Carl Patsche  
Time: 1:00 p.m.

Directions: From Pittsburgh, take the Parkway West and U.S. Route 22 West to the exit for Rte 18. Turn north on Rte. 18; continue this two-lane highway for 5 miles to a well marked gravel parking lot on the left margin of the road.

Expectations: The ravine cut by a stream is rich with non-flowering plants. Carl will help identify mosses. Then we will drive to a Civil War Cemetery for more history and botany.



Sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*) leaf, fruit, and twig  
by Tammy Watychowicz

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## CCAC offers "Wildflowers of Spring"

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Member Esther Allen will teach "Wildflowers of Spring: Identification and Photo Opportunities" through the North Campus of Community College of Allegheny County. Call the Office of Continuing Education at 369-3737 for information on YJB111-11. Register early!

Classes meet Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., April 4th, 18th, 25th and May 2nd. Participants will enjoy the great outdoors as they learn to identify wildflowers. There will be many opportunities to photograph wildflowers of spring. Hike wonderful sites in North Park, Raccoon Creek Wildflower Reserve, State Game Lands 432, and the Butler-Freeport Trail.

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## Pilgrimage to the Great Smoky Mountains or to Blackwater Falls

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**April 23 through 25th** - Attend the 48th Annual Wildflower Pilgrimage in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Over 90 guided hikes explore the region's wildflowers, ecology, and natural history. For information, write or call Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Gatlinburg, TN 37738, (423) 436-1290.

**May 7th through 9th** - Attend the 37th Annual West Virginia Wildflower Pilgrimage in Blackwater Falls State Park, Davis, West Virginia. Sixteen tours include Dolly Sods, Fernow Experimental Forest, Seneca Rocks, and the Rainshadow and Shale Barrens. Speakers, exhibits, and a Saturday banquet are featured in the evenings. Call (304) 558-3370 or write WV Division of Natural Resources, State Capitol Complex, Building 3, Room 732, Charleston, WV 25305.

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## Solution to Can't See the Trees

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1. Ulmus
2. Pyrus
3. Syringa
4. Tsuga
5. Picea
6. Ulex
7. Tilia
8. Ginkgo
9. Quercus
10. Pinus
11. Itea
12. Sabal
13. Styrax
14. Cornus
15. Abies
16. Carya
17. Ilex
18. Malus
19. Robinia
20. Cocos
21. Persea
22. Cercis
23. Acer
24. Melia
25. Dryas

**Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania**  
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## **WILDFLOWERS - Bulletin of the Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania**

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Editor Emeritus: Robert F. Bahl, 401 Clearview Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15205 (412) 921-1797

WILDFLOWERS is published monthly by the Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania. We welcome short articles of botanical interest, drawings, letters to the editor, and notices of botanical events and group activities. Articles, notices, drawings, etc. should be sent to the editor at the above address. Deadline for submissions is the 17th of the previous month.

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## **The Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania - Membership Information**

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The object of the Society shall be to bring together those who are interested in Botany and to encourage the study of this science and a knowledge of plants. Our members include both amateurs and professionals. Annual dues are \$5.00 for individual and \$8.00 for family. Students can join at half-rate. To join, mail your name, your address, and check payable to "Botanical Soc. of W PA" to Loree Speedy, 5837 Nicholson Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15217. Your membership includes a subscription to the monthly bulletin WILDFLOWERS.

The Society meets the second Monday of each month, September through June, at 8 PM sharp, at Trinity Hall or Kresge Theater, Carlow College, 3333 Fifth Avenue, Oakland. All are welcome. An informative program follows the business meeting. Visit the Botanical Society Homepage at <http://ansel.his.duq.edu/~speedy/b1.html>.