
WILDFLOWERS

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

Next Meeting is April 13

The next meeting will be Monday, April 13, at 8:00 p.m., at the Kresge Theater at Carlow College, 3333 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA (Oakland).

Member **Bill Kotsenas** will present "Wildflowers of Western Pennsylvania". Bill is a member of the Westmoreland Botanical Society and is active in the Westmoreland Conservation District.

At 7:00 p.m., Kevin McGowan, project manager for the biological survey of Settlers Cabin Park, will be on hand to discuss the survey and talk about the various volunteer efforts that will be needed from our organization (see article below).

Volunteers Needed for Biological Survey of HSWP Botanical Garden Site

As many of you may already know, the Horticultural Society of Western Pennsylvania (HSWP) has been granted a land lease in Settlers Cabin Park by Allegheny County as the proposed site for Pittsburgh's first full fledged outdoor botanical garden.

As part of the preliminary work, a research team from the Carnegie Museum of Natural History has been hired to formulate and direct a 10-month intensive biological survey of flora and fauna on the 400-acre site. The results of this study will establish a detailed baseline of the existing ecosystem, which shall then be used to

help plan subsequent construction of formal garden areas, and provide archival record for future examination of long term habitat impact.

The primary focus of the survey will be a detailed inventory of vascular plants and insects (which represent most of the biotic diversity), broad site mappings of trees and woody vegetation, plus field identification of mammals, birds, fungi, lichens, etc.

The core field team will consist of an independent project manager plus selected assistants working under college internships. In addition we will be relying upon the many volunteer groups in the tri-state area to assist us in scheduled field days for broad identification and mapping work.

The HSWP cordially invites interested volunteers from the Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania to attend an orientation discussion at 7:00 p.m., before the next general meeting on April 13th at the Kresge Theater, Carlow College Campus, in Oakland. Project manager Kevin McGowan will be on hand to discuss the survey project in more detail, and talk about the various volunteer efforts that will be needed.

No formal field botanical knowledge/experience is required, however, specialists in the various flora and fauna area mentioned above are encouraged to help if out if possible.

Kevin McGowan, Project Manager

CCAC offers "Medical Botany"

"Medical Botany: The Link between Plants and Health" is a credit course being offered through the Boyce Campus of Community College of Allegheny County. This 4-credit course, offered in the spring, summer, and fall terms, aims to identify and explore the ancient and evolving world of plants and their medicinal use.

Dr. David Jett, physician, botanist, and a Botanical Society member, co-teaches the course. Labs will be conducted at Boyce Park greenhouse and Frick Park Medicinal Gardens. Field trips will be taken to Mylan Laboratories and West Virginia University Arboretum. Topics include Plant Anatomy, Physiology and Biochemistry, Ethnobotany, and Pharmacological Effects.

Call the CCAC Boyce Campus at 371-8651 or 237-2222.

Sara Stein Will Speak at Pittsburgh Civic Garden Center

Sara Stein is a gardener, amateur ecologist and writer in the natural sciences. Her books include "My Weeds: A Gardener's Botany", and "Noah's Garden", which relates the ecological restoration of her property in suburban New York. The sequel, "Planting Noah's Garden", describes her further adventures in backyard ecology, and explains how to transform the traditional, lawn-bound home garden to natural habitat.

On Saturday, April 18th, at 10:30 a.m., Sara Stein will share her philosophy of responsible gardening. She will recount how she got to where she is today in her thinking. She'll offer advice for working toward your own natural garden.

The Pittsburgh Civic Garden Center in the Shadyside area of Pittsburgh, is sponsoring this lecture as part of the *Going Native: All or Nothing?* Visiting Lecture Series. The lecture

fee is \$25 for members, and \$30.00 for non-members. There will be a book signing, coffee, and pastries before the program. For information, call Marjorie Radebaugh at (412) 441-4442.

Hunt Institute will present "Fruits, vegetables and flowers: Super-realistic paintings by Masao Saito"

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation of Carnegie Mellon University will display artworks by Masao Saito of Tokyo from April 13 through September 4, 1998.

The Hunt Institute's exhibition is Saito's first one-person exhibition outside Japan. The artist is a free-lance illustrator specializing in acrylic watercolor. A master of airbrush technique, Saito has written books on super-realist illustration, including botanical subjects, and made videos on his technique of illustrating fruits, vegetables, and other food.

The Institute is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Telephone (412) 268-2434 for additional information.



Nature Print by Mary Sham

Field Trip Schedule

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

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. Rte 22 West to the exit for Rte 18. Turn north on Rte 18; continue on 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.

Saturday

April 18, 1998- Boyce Park/Mayview
property in Upper St. Clair,
Allegheny County
Leader: George Bercik
Time: 1:00 p.m.

Directions: From Pittsburgh, take Rte 19 south. Make a right onto Boyce Road. Travel 1.1 mile to a paved turnoff on the right. The paved turnoff leads to gate. Park at the gate.

Expectations: Sessile Trillium, Blue-eyed Mary. Expect a fair amount of walking to reach the best areas.

Saturday

April 25, 1998- State Game Lands 432 near
Bavington, Washington Cty
Leader: Esther Allen
Time: 1:00 p.m.

Directions: From Pittsburgh, take the Parkway West and U.S. Rte 22 West to the Bavington Exit. Travel 1.2 miles to the Bavington Inn, where we will meet. (Just before you reach the Inn, which is a small yellow building on the left, you will cross a small new bridge and see a derelict house on the right.)

Expectations: Goldie's fern and rich woodland flowers. We have not visited this site for many years.

Saturday

May 2, 1998- Plaingrove Bog,
Lawrence County
Leader: Jeanne Poremski
Time: 1:00 p.m.

Directions: From Pittsburgh, take I-79 north to the Slippery Rock exit. Drive west on Rte 108 toward Harlansburg; at the first crossroad, turn right toward Plain Grove. Meet at the new church across from the cemetery.

Expectations: Spreading Globeflower (*Trollius laxus*), Marsh Marigold, Marsh Violets. Prepare for wet feet!

The BIG EIGHT-OH!

Two of our members, one of whom is still leading field trips, will celebrate their 80th birthdays in April. To protect the guilty, no names are given.

Anonymous

(Guilty editor's note: Happy Birthday to two wild octogenarians, Bob Bahl and Esther Allen!)

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WILDFLOWERS - Bulletin of the Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania

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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.

The Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania - Membership Information

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>.