
WILDFLOWERS

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

In Memory of Robert F. Bahl

Member Robert Bahl died on Sunday, July 26, 1998, at the age of 80.

Bob was a member of the Botanical Society for twenty-eight years. He served as both President and Secretary. In January 1980, he inaugurated WILDFLOWERS as the bulletin of the Botanical Society, and edited it for over 17 years.

Bob was an avid wildflower photographer. The flowers and sights he captured with his camera became the subjects of many programs presented to the Botanical Society.

He and his wife Anne traveled extensively throughout the country on wonderful botanical excursions. They botanized with Marie Mellinger along the Bartram Trail. They searched for rarities such as the Three-birds Orchid (*Triphora trianthophora*) in Ohio, and the Desertlily (*Hesperocallis undulata*) in a southern California desert. Bob even interrupted a business trip to Chicago to look for Small White Lady's Slipper (*Cypripedium candidum*) in northern Ohio.

In 1995, Bob lamented that he couldn't attend field trips like he did in the past. But nature must surely have known Bob's passion for wildflowers. In September of that year, a Nodding Ladies' Tresses (*Spiranthes ochroleuca*) popped up inexplicably in the Bahl's garden.

Bob was very instrumental in the production of the Society's wildflower book. He contributed many wildflower slides and wrote many flower descriptions.

We will remember Bob as a husband and father devoted to his wife and children, as a member industrious and creative, and as a man passionate about the beauty of nature.

Our thoughts and prayers are extended to his wife Anne and family. Memorial contributions may be sent to St. Philip School, 50 West Craft Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15205 (For benefit of the Library).

Visit a Wildflower CyberProject from Western Pennsylvania Students

Sixth grade science and language arts students from Slippery Rock Middle School (in Slippery Rock, PA) designed a wonderful website about Wildflowers of Western Pennsylvania.

The students drew pictures of wildflowers and wrote brief descriptions of the plants. There's Marsh Marigold, Johnny Jump Up, Mouse Ear Chickweed and Lady's Slipper.

The project was guided by instructors Suzanne Fodor, Teri Webster, and Melba Tomeo.

The artwork is charming. Visit it at www.sru.edu/depts/srasd/6grade/wildflow.htm. (The site also has a great disclaimer.)

The 25 year club

Here's a list of members who have belonged to the Botanical Society for 25 years or more.

Sep. 1927	Hazel Carter
Feb. 1931	Howard T. Morris
Sep. 1936	Dr. Anthony J. Miklausen
Apr. 1946	Estella Haase
Apr. 1949	Anne Shiras
Oct. 1950	Paul Ribar, Jr.
Sep. 1959	Virginia L. Phelps
Mar. 1963	Betty Loise McCurdy
Jan. 1963	Frank & Jane Lutinski
Oct. 1964	Helen R. Choyke
Nov. 1964	Dr. Stanwyn G. Shetler
Mar. 1968	Ted Grisez
May 1969	Erma Morcum Stull
Jan. 1969	Charles L. Hissem
Jun. 1969	Timothy E. Manka
Sep. 1969	Robert F. and Anne S. Bahl
Sep. 1969	Dr. Howard G. McIlvried
Nov. 1969	Frederick Lochner
Nov. 1969	Billy and Phyllis Monk
Apr. 1970	Betty M. Abbott
May 1971	Virginia Dell Craig
Mar. 1971	Martha R. Falk
Oct. 1971	Dr. Gould F. Schrock
Nov. 1971	Emily Johnson
Nov. 1971	Robert L. Morgan, Jr.
Dec. 1971	Sabrina Walsh
Feb. 1972	Dr. Richard Schwendinger
Feb. 1972	Dr. John J. Wurdack
Mar. 1972	Mary Lou Brown
Sep. 1972	Mary Claire Hibbs
Sep. 1972	Dr. Ann B. Robinson
Sep. 1972	Paul G. Wiegman
Dec. 1972	David L. Mason
Jan. 1973	Elizabeth P. Niedringhouse
May 1973	Lee Ann Reiners

Sep. 1973	Emily Hyre Mac Cadden
Sep. 1973	Paul A. Meidinger
Oct. 1973	Paul M. Brown

Compiled by Robert F. Bahl

Storm Devastates Urban Nature Reserve

The storm on June 30 devastated the Frick Woods Nature Reserve located in Pittsburgh's East End. Strong winds damaged trees along Clayton Trail, which encircles a stand of huge mature Northern Red Oaks, White Oaks, Tulip Poplar, and Black Gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*). The slope is northern, and the moister soil supported Beech and Sugar Maple.

Barbara Balbot, Director of Frick Woods, writes "Mature trees reaching 100 feet have been felled. Some were sheared high on the trunks, and many were uprooted. Trees are still leaning on adjoining trees."

Though surrounded by a cemetery and park on two sides, the mature woodland is an island in the city. The tall trees were quite exposed, without buffers to slow down the wind.

The felled trees have created huge depressions in the forest floor, and have exposed bare soil. Hop Hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*), maples and Black Cherry, which grew under the closed canopy, as well as sun-loving species sprouting from seed, may now flourish in the newly created gaps. There is danger, however, of non-native Norway Maple and Tree-of-Heaven dominating. There are many Norway Maple saplings in and near the storm-damaged area.

To visit the site, park at the Frick Environmental Center (Nature Center) at 2005 Beechwood Boulevard in Squirrel Hill. Take North Clayton Trail.



Rose Pogonia (*Pogonia ophioglossoides*). This orchid was found on the June 13 field trip to Chalk Hill Bog (Fayette County). One plant was still blooming on the July 18 trip to Titus Bog (Erie County).

Field Trip Schedule

Registration is not required. Everyone is welcome, including non-members. Trips are not canceled due to rain. Wear shoes that can get wet. Water and sun protection are recommended for mid-summer trips. For questions, call the trip leader or Loree at (412) 521-9425.

Saturday Independence Marsh
August 15, 1998- Beaver County
 Leader: Esther Allen
 (412) 366-0786
 Time: 1:00 p.m.

Directions: Take the Hopewell Exit off Rte 60. Go west (left) on Rte. 151. Shortly after you cross an iron bridge, you will see Columbia Gas on the corner. Turn right here onto Cowpath Road. Go about 1/2 mile to a sign for Independence Marsh and follow the driveway to parking area.

Saturday Quebec Run Wild Area,
August 22, 1998- Fayette County
 Leader: Mark Bowers
 (724) 872-5232
 Time: 1:00 p.m.

Directions: Travel U.S. 40 east from Uniontown. At the top of Chestnut Ridge, turn right (south) on Seaton Road, just east of the Mount Summit Inn. Follow the signs for Laurel Caverns but continue past the cavern turnoff. After 6.5 miles, continue on Seaton Road at a sharp right turn. (Do not take the unmarked road to the left leading to the northern trailheads). After 0.25 miles, take the left road at a fork. (Seaton Road bears to the right). Continue on this road approximately 2.5 miles to a marked trailhead on the left-hand side of the road.

Saturday Butler Freeport Trail,
August 29, 1998- Butler County
 Leader: Luc Berger
 (412) 683-3131
 Time: 1:00 p.m.

Directions: From Pittsburgh, take Rte. 28 North to Exit 17 in Freeport. Then, Rte. 356 North (right) for 3.6 miles. Turn right onto Sarver Rd. (SR 2018). After 0.7 mile, turn left into the parking lot of the trail, just after the Buffalo Township fire hall.

Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania

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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://home.kiski.net/~speedy/b1.html>.