
WILDFLOWERS

The Bulletin of the Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania • March 2000

Next Meeting is March 13th

The next meeting will be Monday, March 13, at 8:00 p.m., at the Kresge Theater at Carlow College, 3333 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA (Oakland). Kresge Theater is on the top floor of Grace Library.

Our speaker will be local naturalist **Mike Fialkovich**. He will present the flora and fauna of the Hill Country and Rio Grande Valley of southeastern Texas. Mike, an avid birder and naturalist, regularly leads outings for the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania and the Todd Bird Club.

February's meeting was cancelled due to icy conditions. Our scheduled speaker Clifton Magill will present his program on April 10, 2000.

Back to Basics - Reproductive Terminology

Last month's article familiarized us with the four whorls of a flower: the calyx, made up of sepals; the corolla, made up of petals; the androecium, made up of stamens; and the gynoecium, made up of pistils and carpels.

The presence or function of the whorls can describe flowers. If a flower contains all four whorls, it is a **complete** flower; if one or more whorls are absent it is an **incomplete** flower.

Referring to the function, a flower having both functional stamens and a functional pistil is called a **perfect** flower. If stamens or pistils are absent, it is an **imperfect** flower. Imperfect flowers with stamens only are called **staminate**,

and flowers with pistils only are termed **pistillate**. Taking one step further to describe the whole plant, a plant having both staminate flowers and pistillate flowers on one individual is **monoecious**. *Carex*, or sedge, species are monoecious. When pistillate and staminate flowers are found on separate individuals, the plant is **dioecious**. *Smilax* species, such as Greenbrier, are dioecious.

When all flowers on an individual plant are perfect (having both functional pistils and stamens), the plant is **synoecious**. This is a common occurrence with plants.

Everyone who enjoys looking very closely at flowers should know the terms connate and adnate. These are terms describing 'fusion of parts'. When two like parts of the same whorl are fused together, such as sepal to sepal, they are **connate**. When parts of different whorls are fused together, like stamen to petal, they are **adnate**. Describing parts of the same whorl not connate, we say they are **distinct**, as in sepals are distinct. If two parts from different whorls are not adnate, we say they are **free**, as in petals and stamens are free.

The calyx and corolla, the two outermost whorls of a flower, are not primarily responsible for reproduction, but they do play major roles in the protection of a developing bud, attraction of pollinators, and dispersal of seeds. Collectively, these two outer whorls are called the **perianth**. When a flower has a single perianth whorl, botanists view it as a calyx, not a corolla, even if it resembles colorful petals.

Jeff Polonoli

So far, twelve members have made reservations. There is room for more, so please call before the end of March so that he can reserve the appropriate number of rooms at Red Bay Lodge.

Call George for information if you are interested in joining this wonderful trip.

Field Trip Schedule

Registration is not required. Everyone is welcome, including non-members. Trips are not cancelled due to rain. Take note of varying times and dates!

Sunday, March 19, 2000
Little Sewickley Creek in Herminie
Time: 2:00 p.m.

We will join members of the **Botanical Society of Westmoreland County** for snow trillium and early spring ephemerals. For questions, call Loree Speedy (412) 521-9425.

Directions: From Pittsburgh, reach I-70 via Route 51 south or via the New Stanton exit of the PA Turnpike. From Route 51 south, travel east on I-70 to the Madison exit, about 8 miles. At the end of the ramp, make a left and proceed toward Madison. From New Stanton, travel west on I-70 to the Madison exit. At the end of the exit ramp turn left and then right at the T and proceed toward Madison.

Go 2.9 miles on the Madison Road to the intersection with Rt. 136. There is an overhead flashing traffic light at this point. Turn left at the intersection and go 2.6 miles and then turn right. Go to the Dairy Queen and turn left down the hill. At the bottom of the hill is a bridge where we will meet. If you pass the Yough High School you have gone too far.

Saturday, April 1, 2000
Raccoon Creek Wildflower Reserve
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Leader: Carl Patsche (304) 723-0139

Directions: From Pittsburgh, take I-279 south/US 22-30 (Parkway West). After about 7.5 miles, exit this highway to continue west on U.S. 22-30. After 3.9 miles, exit this highway to continue on U.S. 30 (Imperial exit). 9.5 miles from this exit, watch for the entrance for the Wildflower Reserve, on the right, just over the hill. Meet in the parking lot.

We will join members of the Historical Societies of Eldersville and Georgetown.

Sunday, April 2, 2000
Crouse Run, A Day with Rachel Carson
Time: 1:00 p.m.

This is a joint field trip covering all aspects of nature with the Rachel Carson Homestead and Sierra Club. Crouse Run was a favorite haunt of the young Rachel Carson. In her honor, we will hike, spot salamanders, and look for snow trillium and warblers. For information call Loree Speedy (412) 521-9425.

Directions: From Pittsburgh, take Rte 28 to Rte 8 North. Travel 6.6 miles to make a left on Craighead Road. (This left turn is about 0.7 miles after Harts Run Road). Travel Craighead Road 0.2 miles, then make a left at the North Hills Church of Nazarene. After 0.4 miles, make a right onto Sample Road. Travel 0.7 miles to a highway bridge over Crouse Run and park on left just before Royal View Road. If you cross a second highway bridge over Willow Creek you've gone too far.

Mark your calendars for trips these scheduled for April:

Sunday, April 16 – Core Arboretum
Thursday, April 20 (Earth Day!) - Enlow Forks
Saturday, April 22 - Raccoon Creek Wildflower Reserve
Saturday, April 29 - Pohland Woods, Ohio
Sunday, April 30 - Cedar Creek County Park

Call Loree at (412) 521-9425 if you can lead a trip or have a suggestion.

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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. Send to the editor at the above address. Deadline for submissions is the 20th 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 \$10.00 for individual and \$15.00 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 p.m. 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>.