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# WILD FLOWERS

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

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## Next Meeting is April 10th

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The next meeting will be Monday, April 10, at 8:00 p.m. For this month only, we meet at the **A. J. Palumbo Hall** at Carlow College, 3333 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA (Oakland). As you approach the campus on Fifth Avenue (heading toward downtown Pittsburgh), do not turn right into the Carlow Campus entrance. Instead, pass the entrance, stay in the right lane, and make the immediate right into the parking area. Park here and cross the street. (Kresge Theater is unavailable for the month of April.)

In a program entitled "The Eye of the Beholder: The Hidden Beauty of Nine Mile Run", nature enthusiast and photographer **Clifton McGill** will explore Frick Park's Nine Mile Run through slides and through historical and anecdotal information. His views will sharply contrast the distressed condition of the stream with the beauty of the flora and fauna that is still to be found on its banks and in the surrounding woodlands.

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## Back to Basics – Petals and Sepals

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This is where flower terminology gets fun. There are many prefixes and suffixes to describe the appearance of flower parts, but most are familiar and easy to use.

If a flower has sepals that are green and bract-like (as most flowers do), they are called **sepaloid**; if they appear as colorful petals they are called **petaloid**. Some plants such as goldenseal have sepals that fall very early during anthesis (the flowering period). These sepals are referred to as **caducous**.

When referring to perianth parts (the petals of the corolla or the sepals of the calyx), the absence of a specific whorl can be described as **asepalous** or **apetalous**. If the parts of a whorl are connate we use the words **synsepalous** or **sympetalous**. If the parts are distinct we use **aposepalous** or **apopetalous**.

When describing the parts of sepals and petals, we break them up into regions. In connate sepals and petals the fused cylindrical basal portion is called a **tube**. The expanded portion above a tube of connate petals is called a **throat**, and the uppermost part that 'flares,' usually into the lobes, is called a **limb**. In distinct petals the basal portion is called the **claw**, and the upper portion, usually flared or expanded, is called the **blade**.

Keep in mind leaf shape terms can also be used to describe sepal and petal shapes and their apices. Some plants, such as the Wild Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*), have modified petals called **spurs**. The spurs project behind the flower and collect nectar secreted by glands found in the petal.

*Jeff Polonoli*

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## Ice Meadows and Schoolyard Habitats

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- The 2000 Joint Field Meeting of the Northeastern Botanical Society of America, Torrey Botanical Society, and Philadelphia Botanical Club will take place June 18 through June 22 at Sage College in Albany, New York. Field trips will examine nearby pine barrens and the unique Hudson River ice meadow community. Evening programs

will feature local botanists. The field meeting is \$215 per person and includes lodging, meals, trips and programs. Call Ed Miller at (518) 371-8834 or e-mail him at miller430@AOL.com. Registration deadline is May 15, 2000.

- On Sunday, April 16, from 1-3 p.m., the Rachel Carson Homestead will sponsor a Schoolyard Habitat Tour and Workshop. Tour existing habitats at the Homestead and Springdale High School grounds. Participate in planning an expansion of these habitats using native plants and grasses. Learn the hows and whys of transforming public and private spaces into little patches of wilderness through organic gardening techniques. Reservations required. Call (724) 733-4618. The session continues on Saturday, May 13, from 1-3 p.m., with Habitat Mapping and Planting. Participants will prepare the wild creatures meadow for certification by the National Wildlife Federation as a Backyard Habitat.

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## Field Trip Schedule

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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, April 16, 2000**

**Core Arboretum, Morgantown, WV**

**Time: 2:00 p.m.**

**Leaders: Jon Weems & Dr. Ford-Wentz**

Directions: From Interstate 79, take Exit 155 (about 5 miles south of the PA state line). Turn left at the stop sign at the end of the off ramp. Proceed another 0.7 miles to WV 7 and US 19. Turn right onto US 19 South and WV 7 East. Go straight through two traffic lights, passing the WVU Coliseum (a large basketball arena with a scalloped dome roof) on the right. Turn right into the Core Arboretum gravel parking lot 0.1 miles after the second traffic light and immediately before a third traffic light. A blue sign on US 19 and WV 7 identifies the Core

Arboretum. Meet near the Arboretum parking lot.

Spring arrives about two weeks earlier! We will join the annual spring walk sponsored by the Core Arboretum.

### **Thursday, April 20, 2000**

**Raccoon Creek Wildflower Reserve**

**Time: 11:00 a.m.**

**Leader: Loree Speedy (412) 521-9425**

**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.

Leave your office, kitchen, garden or easychair and celebrate the original Earth Day!

### **Saturday, April 22, 2000**

**Enlow Fork Natural Area, Greene County**

**Time: Picnic 11:00 a.m., hike 12:00 p.m.**

**Leader: Esther Allen (412) 366-0786**

Directions: I-79 south to I-70 west. Proceed 11.6 miles to the Claysville exit (Exit 2). At the stop sign at the bottom of the exit ramp, turn right and right again on U.S. 40 towards Claysville. At center of town, 0.8 mile, turn right just beyond Sacred Heart Church on PA 231 South.

Proceed 3.5 miles to a fork; PA 231 goes left, but you should bear right on the high road toward Good Intent and West Finley.

Continue 8 miles into West Finley. At the stop sign in West Finley bear left towards Graysville. Cross the bridge over Enlow Fork after 2.4 miles, and turn right immediately onto a small bridge.

Follow the dirt road 1.6 miles; then make a very sharp right onto another dirt road, which leads downhill 1.3 miles to a pull-off. Park here.

**Saturday, April 29, 2000**  
**Poland Woods Municipal Forest, Ohio**  
**Time: 11:00 a.m.**  
**Leader: Al Kondrak (412) 265-2021**

**Directions:** Take the PA Turnpike to the Ohio Border. Travel to the first exit in Ohio (Exit 16A). Take Interstate 680 north for 3.7 miles to Exit 11-Poland. Turn right onto Rt. 224, and continue to the first traffic light. Where US 24, OH 170, and OH 616 meet, turn right (south) onto OH 170. Proceed for one block and turn right on College Street. Follow College Street past Poland Middle School to the end, about 0.6 mile. Meet in the gravel parking lot on your left.

**Sunday, April 30, 2000**  
**Cedar Creek Gorge, Westmoreland County**  
**Time: 2:00 p.m.**  
**Leader: Mark Bowers (724) 872-5232**

**Directions:** From Pittsburgh, follow Rte. 51 south to Elizabeth, where Rte. 51 crosses the Monongahela. Continue south on Rte. 51 for about 9 miles. When you see C. Harper car dealership on your left, begin looking closely for a brown sign on the left for Cedar Creek County Park. At this sign, turn left onto Concord Lane, left on Lynn Road, and right on Port Royal Road. Just after passing Timm's Lane, turn left

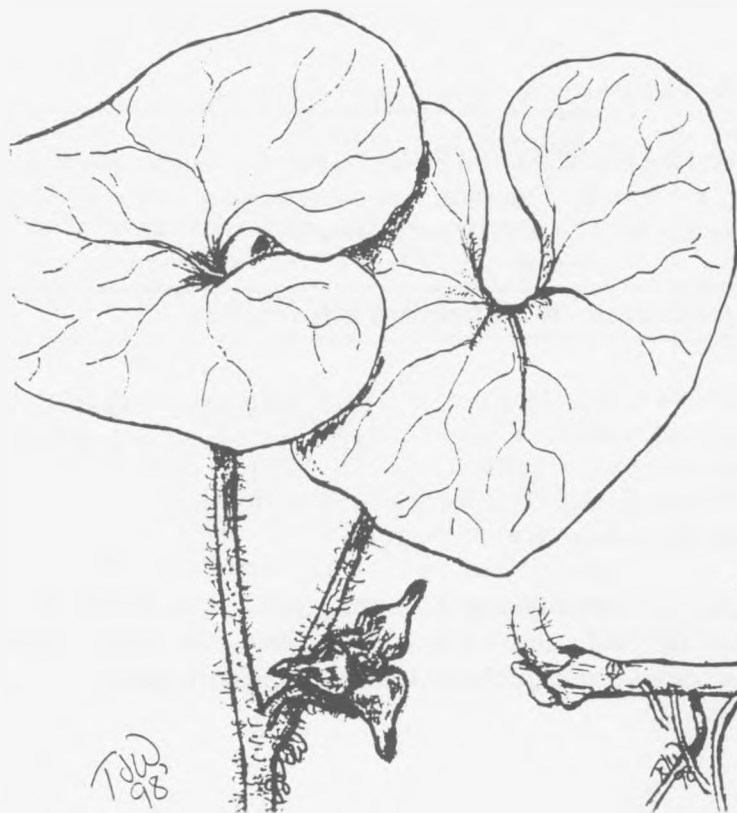
at the main entrance to Cedar Creek Park. Follow this road downhill until it reaches the flood plain. Cross the bike trail. You will reach a series of parking lots; continue driving until you reach the farthest parking lot, where we will meet.

**Saturday, May 6, 2000**  
**Kidd's Mill in Eldersville, Washington Cty**  
**Time: 12:00 p.m.**  
**Leader: Carl Patsche (304) 723-0139**

**Directions:** From Pittsburgh, travel west on I-279 Parkway West. Exit this highway to continue on Rte. 22 West. Exit Rte. 22 at the Star Lake-Burgettstown exit near Florence. Continue 4.5 miles south on Route 18 to the third traffic light in Burgettstown. Turn right onto Langeloth Road. Continue 6 miles to the small village of Eldersville. We will meet at Heritage Hall on the right side at the crossroads. (Refreshments and restrooms available at Hall.)

These trips are scheduled for May:

Saturday, May 13 – Lee's Cabin at Stonycreek  
Sunday, May 14 – Canoe Creek State Park  
Saturday, May 20 – East Sandy Watershed in Venango County  
Sunday, May 21 – Mingo Creek County Park



*Asarum canadense,*  
*Wild Ginger*  
*- native Woodland plant*  
98'  
Tammy, Janet Watyehowicz

**Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania – April 2000**

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Pittsburgh, PA 15217

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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.

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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 \$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>.