
WILDFLOWERS

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

Next Meeting is November 13th

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

Dr. Mary Joy Haywood will present "Costa Rica". In December 1998 and January 1999, she traveled to the beautiful country of Costa Rica, located south of Nicaragua and north of Panama, and bounded by the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea.

She once thought that visiting far-off, exotic countries and studying the organisms found there was just a dream. The different ecological zones, inactive to active volcanoes, Manuel Antonio Park on the coast, cloud forests, and rain forests were breathtaking. Come enjoy a return to this beautiful country.

Don't forget to place a parking permit on the dashboard of your car. Please request one at the next meeting if you do not have one. Plenty will be available. (If you don't have one before the meeting, place a note saying Botanical Society on your dashboard.)

Sincere thanks to Chuck Tague for his fine program on Deciduous Trees. He graciously filled in for Esther Allen last month while she was recuperating from an illness. Esther's insect program will be rescheduled in the spring 2001.

Who will win Wild Flowers of Western Pennsylvania and the Upper Ohio Basin?

By now you have received your raffle tickets in the mail. The lucky winner will receive a copy of the *Wild Flowers of Western Pennsylvania and the Upper Ohio Basin* by O.E. Jennings and Andrey Avinoff.

Proceeds from the raffle will help finance the publishing of the Botanical Society's book, *Wildflowers of Pennsylvania*. The goal is to keep the selling price as low as possible.

The drawing for the book will take place on December 11 at the December meeting and holiday party. If you did not receive your raffle booklets, or if you need additional booklets, call Dr. Mary Joy Haywood at (412) 578-6175 or mjhaywood@carlow.edu.

A great big thank you to those who have already returned their booklets. You can send your sold raffle tickets to:

Dr. Mary Joy Haywood
Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania
333 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Send them before December 7th or bring them to the December 11th meeting.

If you have collected cash and do not wish to send it by mail, simply send a check made payable to the "Botanical Society of W PA."

Also, the return of any unused raffle booklets would be greatly appreciated, so that others can sell them.

Native Plant Gardener's Guidelines

Please photocopy and distribute widely.

1. Do not disrupt native plant communities.
2. Obtain native plants from seed, garden or nursery.
3. Buy only wildflowers and ferns certified by the vendors as "Nursery Propagated."
4. Use plants and seeds which have originated in your immediate bioregion. Such plants and seeds are best adapted to the local climate, soil, predators, pollinators and disease.
5. Give preference to bioregionally native plant species in your garden, rather than naturalized or exotic species. The latter group may escape to wild habitats and interfere with the growth and spread of native flora and fauna.
6. Promote the cultivation and propagation of bioregionally native plants as an educational and conservation measure to supplement the preservation of natural habitat.
7. Keep accurate records of any bioregionally rare flora which you are growing to increase our understanding of the biology of the species.
8. Transplant wild native flora only when the plants of a given area are officially slated for destruction. E.g., road construction, subdivisions, pipelines, golf courses, etc. Obtain permission before transplanting.
9. Collect no more than 10% of a seed crop from the wild. Leave the rest for natural dispersal and as food for dependent organisms.
10. Use natural means of fertilizing, weed and predator control rather than synthetic chemical means.
11. Consider planting native species attractive to native fauna, especially birds, butterflies and moths uncommon to your bioregion.

12. Exercise extreme caution when studying and photographing wildflowers in order not to damage the surrounding flora and fauna.
13. Cooperate with institutions like arboreta, botanical gardens, museums and universities in the propagation and study of rare species.
14. Openly share your botanical knowledge with the public but ensure that native plant species or communities will not be damaged in the process.

Courtesy of the North American Native Plant Society (formerly the Canadian Wildflower Society).

Botanical Books, off the Shelf

My favorite and most-used botany book is *Gray's Manual of Botany, Eighth Edition*.

I had Systematic Botany at Ohio State University, but didn't do much with it until about ten years later, when I was acquainted with two PhD students who used it. I went on field trips with them, got a copy of the book, and I am still using it!

Ted Grisez

The first week of June, I looked casually at the books for sale at a rest area on the Ohio Turnpike. There was *The Orchid Thief* by Susan Orlean, Balantine Books, NY 1998. It was an amazing find! The main character is truly a scoundrel.

The New York Times says "Artful...her orchid story turns out to be distinctly 'something more.'...Orchids, Seminole history, the ecology of the Fakahatchee Strand..." Time magazine says that Orlean is a superb tour guide through the loony subculture of Florida's orchid fanciers.

Liz DePiero

The following are books that have helped me identify and cultivate plants: *Wild Flower Guide: Northeastern and Midland United States*, Edgar T. Wherry, Doubleday & Co. and The American Garden Guild, 1948

Weeds of Lawn and Garden: A Handbook for Eastern Temperate North America, John M. Fogg, Jr., University of Pennsylvania Press 1945

Trees, Shrubs and Vines: A Pictorial Guide to the Ornamental Woody Plants of the Northern US Exclusive of Conifers, Arthur T. Viertel, Syracuse University Press 1970

Contemporary Perennials, Roderick W. Cumming and Robert E. Lee, Macmillan, 1960

The New Britton and Brown Illustrated Flora of the Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada, 3-volume set, Henry Gleason, NY Botanical Garden, 1963

These are probably no longer in print, but they are good.

Helen R. Choyke

Mountain Flowers of New England. Published by the Appalachian Mountain Club, 5 Joy St., Boston 8, MA

Twenty-four color plates with 4 to 6 pictures on each plate. Small format, now in paperback.

This book of alpiners and subalpiners of the eastern United States also includes mosses, lichens and ferns.

Virginia Phelps

Tell us about you favorite books:

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Pittsburgh, PA 15217
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Goodbye to Barbara Balbot, a friend of the Frick Woods

Barbara Balbot died on October 26, 2000 after a long illness. Barbara was director of the Frick Environmental Center and the Frick Woods Nature Reserve in the city of Pittsburgh.

She passionately kept this urban park wild and natural, when there was much pressure to develop it. She also helped to restore the park's fauna by planting native plants, flowers and indigenous trees.

In 1997, she won the Three Rivers Environmental Award for her work on the Nature Reserve. Barbara joined the Botanical Society several years ago and hosted members for a field trip in fall 1999. We will miss her at the monthly meetings.

A private memorial service for family and friends has been scheduled for November 12 at 2 p.m. at the Frick Environmental Center. Donations may be sent to the Balbot Memorial, Frick Environmental Center, 2005 Beechwood Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA 15217.



Trillium erectum – sketched by Mary Paoli

Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania – November 2000

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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>.