
WILDFLOWERS

The Bulletin of the Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania • March 2001

The Next Meeting is March 12th

The next meeting will be Monday, March 12, 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.

Member **Scott Shriver**, a field expert on our native orchids, will present "Orchids and Places." This is a talk on places Scott has visited and the orchids he has found there.

If it appears that there will be hazardous driving conditions the night of the meeting, please call telephone number (412) 521-9425 after 5 p.m. for a recorded message indicating whether the meeting will be cancelled.

Your newsletter contains an insert announcing the Members Pre-sale on *Wildflowers of Pennsylvania*. The special pre-bloom prices are good until April 30, 2001.

Botanical Books, off the Shelf

Here are the books I use to identify our native flora:

I begin with the *Newcomb's Wildflower Guide*, *Peterson's Guide to Eastern Trees*, *The Complete Trees of North America* by Thomas S. Elias, and *The Shrub Identification Book* by George W. D. Symonds. Once I think I have identified the plant correctly, I check in *The Vascular Flora of Pennsylvania: Annotated Checklist and Atlas* by Ann Rhoads and William Klein (1993) to determine if the plant can be expected where I found it. I then use *The Plants*

of Pennsylvania: An Illustrated Manual by Ann Rhoads (2000) for additional, updated information on the species.

If I want to be absolutely certain of my identification, I refer to *Manual of Vascular Plants of Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada* by Henry A. Gleason and Arthur Cronquist, and *The Illustrated Companion to Gleason and Cronquist's Manual* by Noel H. Holmgren. Using Gleason and Cronquist requires great determination helped by a thorough mastering of *Plant Identification Terminology: An Illustrated Glossary* by James G. Harris and Melinda Woolf Harris.

If I am not convinced of my identification after many a pleasant hour with the above mentioned books, I do what I should have done in the first place—call Esther Allen!

Mary Jane Seipler

Whenever I'm curious about a tree I read Donald Culross Peattie's *A Natural History of Trees* first. Being a lover of mountain terrain I also like *Land Above the Trees* by Ann Zwinger and *Adirondack Upland Flora* by Michael Kudish. Another book on trees I enjoy reading is *Red Oaks and Black Birches* by Rebecca Rupp.

And for illustrations I think Britton and Brown (Dover reprint of the 1913 issue of *Illustrated Flora of the United States and Canada*) is worth keeping. I've read it should be thrown away. Never!

Dick Byers

A Pittsburgh Chapter of the American Society of Botanical Artists is Forming

Do you draw or paint flowers and plants? Do you want to improve your botanical artwork?

A Pittsburgh Chapter of The American Society of Botanical Artists is forming. The next meeting is Saturday, March 10 in the Shadyside neighborhood of Pittsburgh. For more information, call Bette Dengel at (724) 266 3520, e-mail bdengel2@yahoo.com; or call Cathy Burstein at (412) 268-6261, e-mail cdburstein@aol.com.

The Dogwood Table

<i>Cornus</i>	<i>stolonifera</i>	<i>amomum</i>	<i>racemosa</i>
Common name	Red - Osier	Silky, Silky Cornel	Red-Panicked, Panicked, Gray, Gray stemmed.
Geog. Range	NW Pa glaciated	All W Pa counties	All W Pa counties
Habitat	moist woods, fields, swamps	moist woods, fields, swamps	moist or dry
Flwr Cluster	flat	flat	panicked
Stalks of Flwr Clstr	Smooth or slightly hairy	silky/rusty hairy	bright red
Gwth Habit	Dense thickets /Prostrate, stoloniferous	Often solitary	Often in thickets
Pith	Large & white	brown	white in young /brown in 2 yr+ twigs
Fruit	White or lead	bluish	gray to white
Stone	Dk brown w/ vertical yellow stripes	strongly ridged	
Leaves	Distinctly whitened beneath	Red lf stalk, lf rounded at base	Pale beneath
		spp. obliqua - glaucous beneath	
		spp. amomum finely pubescent beneath	
Twigs	Bright red, osier willow-like, green in summer	Green to dull purplish, at times bright red	From green to tan to gray
Bark	Olive gray		Olive gray

Treasured Trillia are Available

1. *Vascular Flora of Bedford County* by L. K. Henry.
2. *Flowering Plants and Ferns of Allegheny County* by L. K. Henry and W. E. Buker.

3. *Western Pennsylvania Orchids* by L. K. Henry, W. E. Buker, and D. L. Pearth

For a free copy of these interesting and informative books, call Bonnie Isaac, Collection Manager of the Section of Botany, Carnegie Museum of Natural History at (412) 622 3253. E-mail her at IsaacB@CarnegieMuseums.org.

Joint Field Meeting will be June 24-28

The 2001 joint field meeting of the Northeastern Section of the Botanical Society of America, the Torrey Botanical Society and the Philadelphia Botanical Club will be held from Sunday, June 24 to Thursday, June 28, at Wesley College in Dover, Delaware.

There will be all-day field trips throughout the Delaware and Maryland coastal plain. Destinations include a cypress swamp, carolina bay, white cedar swamp, and coastal dunes. There will be evening programs of botanical and ecological interest.

The price of the meeting is \$230.00 per person, and includes double occupancy housing, meals, field trips, transportation to field trips, programs, and hand-outs.

The deadline for registration is May 20, 2001. For more information, telephone Tim Draude at (717) 393-7233 or e-mail Dr. Larry Klotz at LHKLOT@ark.ship.edu.

Botany in the Parks

- Attend a free symposium on "Ecological Restoration in Urban Parks." Speakers include nationally recognized leaders in the fields of environmental research, assessment, and restoration. The symposium takes place Sunday, April 1, 2001, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Carnegie Lecture Hall, 4400 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213. For more information, call (412) 682-7275.

- During the month of the Maple Moon, sample the sweetness of the maple season. Learn the history and lore of the maple sugaring process. "Tap" and collect "sap." Boyce Park Nature Center presents a Maple Sugaring Festival on Saturday, March 17. Tours begin 11 a.m. and at 1 p.m. All ages are welcome. For more information, call (724) 733-4618.

A Native Plant Stewardship for Nine Mile Run

Nine Mile Run is an urban stream, heavily impacted by man, that emerges from a culvert in Allegheny County and has its mouth at the Monongahela River. A greenway emphasizing ecosystem restoration will be created, and the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers must implement changes in the stream's form and structure.

Attempts will be made to restore and maintain the ecological integrity of the area. Volunteers with backgrounds and an interest in native plants are needed to record plants and their locations. Plants will be marked and held in temporary holding areas until the Corps has completed their work in that area. The native plants will then be moved to their original site, permanently placed in close proximity to their original "home base," or acclimated to a new site.

The projects are taking place each Thursday and Saturday in March, April and May. For information, please call David Jett at (412) 422-6538. Or join the Botanical Society's Stewardship day on Saturday March 24, 2001 at 8 a.m. (see Field Trip Schedule).

Field Trip Schedule

Registration is not required. Everyone is welcome, including non-members. For questions, call the trip leader or Loree at (412) 521-9425.

Saturday, March 17, 2001
Little Sewickley Creek in Herminie,
Westmoreland County
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Leader: Scott Speedy (724) 639-3517

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 exit 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 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, March 24, 2001
Stewardship Day for the Nine Mile Run
Native Plant Stewardship, Pittsburgh,
Allegheny County
Time: 8:00 a.m.
Leader: David Jett (412) 422-6538

Directions: From Pittsburgh, take the Parkway East (US 22-30) to the Edgewood/Swissvale Exit. On the ramp, take the left fork to Edgewood (ignore directions to Edgewood Towne Center) and continue to South Braddock Ave. Turn right onto South Braddock Ave., and continue about 1 mile to the stoplight at the intersection of Forbes Ave. Turn left onto Forbes Ave. At the next stoplight, turn left onto S. Dallas, then a quick left onto Beechwood Boulevard. Travel up the hill and turn left into Frick Environmental Center, where we will meet.

We will join the Nine Mile Run native plant stewards to record plants and their locations, and to assist in planting and transplanting (see above article).

Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania – March 2001

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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/bl.html>.