

WILD FLOWERS

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

The Next Meeting is May 14th

The next meeting will be Monday, May 14, 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.

Our speaker will be **Phyllis Monk**. She will present "Western National Parks and Their Wildflowers." Factors that affect plant life, such as light, moisture, elevation and latitude, vary considerably in western National Parks. This accounts for an enormous diversity of wildflowers.

Phyllis will present this program as a reminder of the splendor to those who have been there, or as an incentive to explore the splendor for those who have not.

"You folks are wonderful!"

President Mary Joy Haywood would like to thank those who volunteered to guide the North American Rock Garden Society through Cedar Creek, Ohiopyle and Raccoon Creek Wildflower Reserve. This was an exciting and educational experience for all of the guides.

Also, thanks to those who helped at Enlow Fork Valley Spring Wildflower & Stream & Bird Extravaganza for the Wheeling Creek Watershed Conservancy. And a special thanks to Phyllis Monk and Virginia Phelps for representing the Botanical Society at the Earth Day Fair at Frick Park. In Mary Joy's words, "You folks are wonderful!"

Sales of the Wildflowers of Pennsylvania have been going very well. Expect the book to be published in the month of May. President Haywood hopes that a few more members can come forward with a loan. Please call Dr. Haywood at (412) 578-6175 if you can help.

Is There a Shooting Star in Ribold?

Dodecatheon amethystinum and *Dodecatheon meadia*, commonly called Shooting Stars, are both classified as endangered in Pennsylvania, but it is not clear whether one or both of these species occur in the state.

Dr. Larry Klotz of Shippensburg University and Dr. Carol Loeffler of Dickinson College wish to thoroughly describe Pennsylvania populations. They have been obtaining morphological data in order to compare these plants with the published descriptions of Pennsylvania populations.

A population of *Dodecatheon* was documented in 1914 by John Bright at Ribold, Butler County. Ribold is along the Connequenessing Creek, east of Renfrew and about 6 ½ miles southwest of Butler. It is near Camp Redwing.

Drs. Klotz and Loeffler would like to know whether this population still exists, along with its exact location, size, and condition and ownership of the site.

If you know anything about this population, please contact Dr. Klotz at (717) 477-1402 [w] or (717) 532-8979 [h]. Email: lhklot@ark.ship.edu. His address is Dr. Larry Klotz, Biology Dept., Shippensburg University, 1871 Old Main Dr., Shippensburg, PA 17257.

Attend a Photography Workshop on May 20

Clifton McGill will conduct a photography workshop for members of the Botanical Society on Sunday, May 20 at 2 p.m., at Frick Park in the city of Pittsburgh.

Clifton has been exploring and photographing the native plants of Frick Park for the past two years. He is a member of the Botanical Society and is currently teaching a course in Landscape and Nature Photography at Chatham College.

This outing is being arranged not only to locate some of the more interesting botanical specimens in the park, but also to provide tips on how to successfully photograph wildflowers and native plants.

Meet at the Frick Environmental Center and begin the day with a 10-minute slide show about the area and the plants that will be found. Then walk to Fern Hollow Creek. This area is about 1/2 mile away from the Center, downhill on a gentle to moderate grade.

A 35-mm camera with a moderate telephoto lens and a small tripod would be the ideal equipment to bring, but Clifton will assist you with any type of photographic equipment that you have available.

Bring boots or waterproof shoes, as you will be exploring and working in a slightly marshy area. Bring drinking water and a hiking staff, if you wish. Registration is not required. Please see **Field Trip Schedule** below for directions to Frick Environmental Center.

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.

Wednesday, May 9, 2001
Settler's Cabin Park, Allegheny County
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Leaders: Liz DePiero and Loree Speedy

Directions: Take Parkway West to the Exit for Routes 22-30 West (shortly after Campbell's Run Road). From 22-30 West, take the Oakdale exit and turn left off the exit ramp onto McKee Road. Take McKee Road into the village of Oakdale and bear left onto Noblestown Road. Continue approximately 1 mile further to an unmarked gated entrance on your left across from a cement pipe factory.

We have not yet figured out how to be in two places at one time, so we will enjoy the stand of Flowering Dogwood at the top of the hill on a Wednesday evening!.

Saturday, May 12, 2001
Wolf Creek Narrows, Butler County
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Leader: Esther Allen (412) 366-0786

Directions: From Pittsburgh, take I-79 north to Slippery Rock Exit (the first exit past Route 422 exit). Turn left onto Route 108 toward Slippery Rock. Go about one mile and turn left at intersection that has a Dairy Queen on the right. Continue to the first paved road on the right and turn right onto this road. Pass a dairy farm on the left. Bear right at the T intersection and continue to the parking area on your right, which is just before a bridge over Slippery Rock Creek.

Saturday, May 19, 2001
**Friendship Hill National Historic Site,
Fayette County**
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Leader: Robert Coxe

Robert, an ecologist, a botanist and an historian, will lead us through Sophie's Woods.

Directions: From Pittsburgh, head toward Uniontown (via Route 51 south or via the PA Turnpike to New Stanton Exit, then Route 70 west to Route 51). As you approach Uniontown, take Route 119 south about 17

miles to Point Marion. Just before you cross the bridge into Point Marion, turn right onto Route 166 north. The park entrance is on the left, 3 miles north of Point Marion. Meet at the mansion parking lot.

Sunday, May 20, 2001

**Photography Workshop and Botanical Trip
to Fern Hollow Creek, Pittsburgh**

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Leader: Clifton McGill

This photography workshop is described above.

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). From the left lane of the ramp, continue onto Braddock Avenue. Travel about 1 mile to the stoplight at the intersection of Forbes Avenue. Turn left onto Forbes Avenue. 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, which is well marked.

Saturday, May 26, 2001

**Botanical Assessment for the Horigan
Property, Butler County**

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Leaders: Esther Allen (412) 366-0786 or
Loree Speedy (412) 521-9425.

The Botanical Society will prepare a plant list for the new property recently purchased by the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania. We will visit the area several times over the year to record what plants are currently growing there.

All members are invited, regardless of your skill at identifying plants. This will be a great opportunity to learn.

Directions: We will meet at Todd Sanctuary and carpool from there. From Pittsburgh, take Route 28 north to Exit 17 and continue north on Rt. 356 for 0.8 miles. Turn right onto Monroe

Road, which is not marked by a sign but has a small restaurant on the corner and is across from Cinema 356. Follow Monroe Road for 1.2 miles to a fork in the road, and bear right onto Kepple Road past Buffalo Golf Course. After 1.8 miles, the sanctuary is marked by a sign on the right. Park in the lot to the right.

Saturday, June 2, 2001

**Wetlands Along Chartiers Creek,
Washington County**

Time: 1:00 p.m. (Or arrive 12 p.m. with your picnic lunch)

Leader: Thomas Hart

Thomas Hart, a biology professor, and his wife Myrna, have invited us to explore wetlands along Chartiers Creek. We will meet at his home; he has a party-barn available for eating and resting, so pack a picnic lunch and arrive at 12 p.m. There we can view bamboo, Needle Palm, and Japanese Umbrella-pine before we head off to the wetlands along Chartiers Creek at 1 p.m.

Directions: From Pittsburgh, travel I-79 South toward Washington and head west on I-70 West. Exit I-70 at Exit 4 (Route 40) and turn right to head east toward Washington. At the second stop light, turn right (you will see the Washington Crown Center Mall on your right). Again, at the second light turn right (the first light goes into the mall and the second light is Route 18; you can not go straight). Drive south on Route 18 for 2.5 miles and make a 90-degree right angle turn (just beyond the restaurant called Sisters Sea). We are a half-mile from Route 18 on the left side. There will be parking in a field if the ground permits. Look for balloons on the left side of the road.

Saturday, June 9, 2001

Titus Bog, Erie County

Time: 10 a.m.

Leader: Sam Stull

Details and directions in next month's newsletter.

Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania – May 2001
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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>.