
WILDFLOWERS

The Bulletin of the Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania • January 2002

The Next Meeting is January 14

The next meeting will be Monday, October 8, 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 Chuck Tague will present the Flora of Brookgreen Garden and the South Carolina Low Country.

In the 1930's Anna and Archer Huntington opened part of their estate as a showcase for American figurative sculpture within a refuge for native plants and animals. Brookgreen Gardens is now a beautifully landscaped garden of centuries-old live oaks and more than 2000 species and subspecies of plants native and adapted to the southeastern United States.

Chuck Tague will share slides and stories of some of the plants found at Brookgreen and in the dunes and maritime forest in the adjacent Hunting Beach State Park.

And When You Attend the January 14 Meeting...

When you attend the monthly meetings, please place a note on your dashboard saying "Botanical Society Meeting," or use your parking permit. Dr. Haywood will be providing additional parking permits, but it will never be a problem to simply place a note saying "Botanical Society Meeting" on your dashboard.

At the January meeting, we will discuss a change in meeting time, from 8:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. If you have any thoughts, favorable or unfavorable,

concerning a change in meeting time to 7:30, please attend this meeting.

Dues reminder

The Botanical Society is now collecting annual dues; rates are \$10 individual and \$15 family. Students pay half-rate.

Make your check payable to BSWP and send to:

BSWP, Loree Speedy
279 Orr Road
West Newton, PA 15089
(724) 872-5232; yoree@sgi.net

Note the change of address for the editor. If you wish, include your phone and e-mail address. The checks will be forwarded to our Treasurer Kim Metheny.

Calling all Guides and Naturalists

It's time to grab your compass and field guide and call the Western Pennsylvania Field Institute because they are looking for Trip Leaders and Naturalists for the 2002 Season. The Western Pennsylvania Field Institute (WPFI) is a newly formed non-profit member-based organization dedicated to promoting outdoor activities in this region.

If you are interested in these positions but need to build your skills in certain areas, WPFI can also provide the training that will make you comfortable as an Outdoor Leader or Naturalist. In 2002, WPFI will be offering several classes that can hone your abilities, such as Outdoor Leadership, Wilderness Survival, Nature Interpretation and Wilderness First Aid Training.

WPMI is also developing a Naturalist Directory for the region. This directory is a self-submitted listing of anyone who is interested in speaking or teaching about natural history or the environment to groups and organizations. The directory is posted at the WPMI website to be used as a resource for the community, not unlike a directory in the yellow pages.

The self-submitted list will include the naturalist's name, contact information, qualifications, specialties, affiliations, preferred activities, and preferred audiences.

The WPMI is a growing organization that would love your input and ideas on how to develop the outdoor community in our region.

Contact Program Director Sean Brady:

sbrady@wpfi.org
Western Pennsylvania Field Institute
304 Forbes Avenue 2nd Floor
Pittsburgh PA 15222
www.wpfi.org
(412) 255-0564

Enjoy Your Wildflowers: Snow-on-the-Mountain

Botanically, the simplest flowers are a single naked pistil (the female reproductive organ) and a naked stamen (the male reproductive organ) with a single anther. Snow-on-the-mountain has both of these flowers. However, they are so arranged in a leaf-like, cup-shaped structure (involucre) that they are not recognized as such.

The single pistil is on a stalk in the center of the involucre. The single stamens surround it. This peculiar inflorescence is called a cyathium (plural, cyathia) and is specific to the *Euphorbia* genus. The cyathia of Snow-on-the-mountain are one-sixth of an inch long with five, white, petal-like glands around the top of the involucre. The glands serve as landing platforms for flies that feed on the nectar and pollinate the flowers.

The female flowers mature before the male ones insuring cross pollination.

After pollination the stalk of the pistil elongates lifting the ovary well out of the involucre so that it hangs down the side. When the seeds mature explosive action scatters them.

Each cluster of cyathia is surrounded by white or by bright-green bracts with broad, white borders. The plant is resistant to disease and insects so patches of it have a healthy, thriving appearance. This has endeared them to gardeners who are willing to handle them carefully. Their milky sap can cause dermatitis.

Snow-on-the-mountain, an annual to three feet, is native from the Rocky Mountains to Minnesota and south. It has spread to the Atlantic usually on drier areas along railroads and roadsides. Blooming time is from mid-spring to mid-autumn.

December is an excellent time to examine cyathia at your convenience. Poinsettia has them, so look for them before you buy the plants. The cyathia are about one-sixth inch with one gland and it is yellow. A magnifying glass is helpful.

Poinsettia is a tropical American woody plant with red bracts. It reaches twelve feet. Plants grown for Christmas are sprayed to inhibit growth.

Snow-on-the-mountain is *Euphorbia marginata*. Poinsettia is *Euphorbia* or *Poinsettia pulcherrima*.

Anne S. Bahl

Enjoy the December Blooms While They Last

The ornamental cherries are blooming in Southside Riverfront Park! With the warm weather, I noticed that there are still many species of flowers blooming. Although there are never large amounts of flowers, I found individuals and small clusters of 33 species. On

a walk along the Monongahela River, my notes listed twice as many flowers as birds.

Most of the flowers are introduced aliens that grow in open waste places. The most productive spots have been mowed or are eroded south-facing slopes, railroad beds or city streets.

Chuck Tague

Chuck's December Flower List, 2001

Burdock *Arctium minus* Europe
Common Mugwort *Artemisia vulgaris* Eurasia
Heath Aster *Aster sp.* native
Spanish Needles *Bidens bipinnata* native
Nodding Bur Marigold *Bidens cernua* Eurasia

Shepherd's Purse *Capsella bursa-pastoris* Eurasia
Spotted Knapweed *Centaurea maculosa* Europe
Lamb's Quarters *Chenopodium album* Europe
Oxeye Daisy *Chrysanthemum leucanthemum* Europe
Crown Vetch *Coronilla varia* S. Europe

Queen Anne's Lace *Daucus carota* Europe
Daisy Fleabane *Erigeron annuus* native
White Snakeroot *Eupatorium rugosum* native
Galinsoga *Galinsoga quadriradiata* C. & S. America
Witch Hazel *Hamamelis virginiana* native

Pale Jewelweed *Impatiens pallida* native
Wild Peppergrass *Lepidium virginicum* native
Butter and Eggs *Linaria vulgaris* Eurasia
Japanese Honeysuckle *Lonicera japonica* Asia
White Sweet Clover *Melilotus alba* Eurasia

Yellow Sweet Clover *Melilotus officinalis* Eurasia
Common Evening Primrose *Oenothera biennis* native
Doorweed *Polygonum arenastrum* Eurasia
Lady's-thumb *Polygonum persicaria* Europe
Ornamental Cherry *Prunus sp.* Eurasia

Common Groundsel *Senecio vulgaris* Eurasia
Late Goldenrod *Solidago gigantea* native
Tansy *Tanacetum vulgare* Europe
Dandelion *Taraxacum officinale* Europe
Least Hop Clover *Trifolium campestre* Europe

White Clover *Trifolium repens* Europe

Mike Fialkovich saw Peppergrass blooming at Presque Isle on December 15.

Kim Metheny noticed a lot of low plants like common chickweed, galinsoga, bittercress and rock cress just straining to burst, and garlic

mustard. There are a lot of gardens-that-never-end this year. The pansies at Ohio River and Washington Boulevards show how neglecting to clean out the beds can be cool, rather than a lazy way of gardening.

Mary Joy Haywood can add Creeping Myrtle (*Vinca minor*), Northern Blue Violet (*Viola sororia*), Dogwood, Cornus sp. (ornamental), and cultivated roses.

In Garrett County, Maryland, Kevin Dodge says that dandelion, oxeye daisy, musk mallow, hawk's-beard, and winter cress are blooming. He has also seen serviceberry leaves, but that's not unusual.

Dick Byers also found Oxeye Daisy—a patch of about a dozen flowers—in bloom at 2000 feet elevation on Laurel Hill above New Florence.

From Richard Nugent's mental list, Henbit, Winter Cress, Common Chickweed, Lenten Rose, Forsythia and Flowering Plum.

Field Trip Schedule

Registration is not required. Everyone is welcome, including non-members.

Saturday, January 26, 2002
Butler-Freeport Trail, Butler County
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Leader: Scott Speedy (724) 639-3517

Directions: From Pittsburgh, take Route 28 north to Exit 17-Route 356. Turn right onto Route 356 north. Travel 3 miles and turn right onto Sarver Road. Continue about 1 mile. After you cross a creek and pass the Buffalo Twp. Fire Dept., turn left into the trail head parking lot.

This trip could be cancelled due to bad driving conditions or unpleasant walking conditions. Call (724) 872-5232 the morning of the hike for a cancellation message.

Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania – January 2002
279 Orr Road
West Newton, PA 15089

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WILDFLOWERS is published monthly by the Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania. We welcome short articles of botanical interest, drawings, and notices of botanical events and group activities. Send to the editor at the above address. Deadline for submissions is the 23th of the previous month.

The Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania - Membership Information

The Botanical Society was founded in 1886. 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. 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, 279 Orr Road, West Newton, PA 15089. 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 Kresge Theater, Carlow College, 3333 Fifth Avenue, Oakland. All are welcome to the informative program and business meeting.

Wildflowers of Pennsylvania – Ordering Information – 400 pages of text and 612 color photographs

Wildflowers of Pennsylvania can be purchased for \$20.00 (plus \$1.40 sales tax for PA residents). Forward your check, made payable to Botanical Society of Western PA, to Dr. Haywood at the address below. If you order by mail, add \$2 postage and handling for one book, \$3.00 for two, \$4.00 for three, \$4.50 for four. Send your request to Dr. Mary Joy Haywood, RSM, Ph.D., 3333 Fifth Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3165 (412) 578 -6175; mjhaywood@carlow.edu