
WILDFLOWERS

The Bulletin of the Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania • January 2003

The Next Meeting is January 13

The next meeting will be Monday, January 13, **7:15 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. Place a note on your dashboard saying "Botanical Society Meeting," or use your parking permit.

Our speaker will be **Dr. Cynthia Morton**. She will speak on the Rutaceae family, a large tropical group that includes the citrus fruits. The leaves of the trees, shrubs and herbs in this family have clear dots that produce aromatic oils. Dr. Morton's research has focused on morphological and molecular characteristics of the family to ascertain the taxonomic relationships.

Dr. Morton was recently named the Associate Curator of the Carnegie Museum's Section of Botany. She received her MA from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and her doctorate from the CUNY/New York Botanical Garden. Previously, she served as Director of Auburn University's Freeman Herbarium.

If it appears that there will be hazardous driving conditions the night of the meeting, please call telephone number (724) 872-5232 after 5 p.m. for a recorded message indicating whether the meeting will be cancelled.

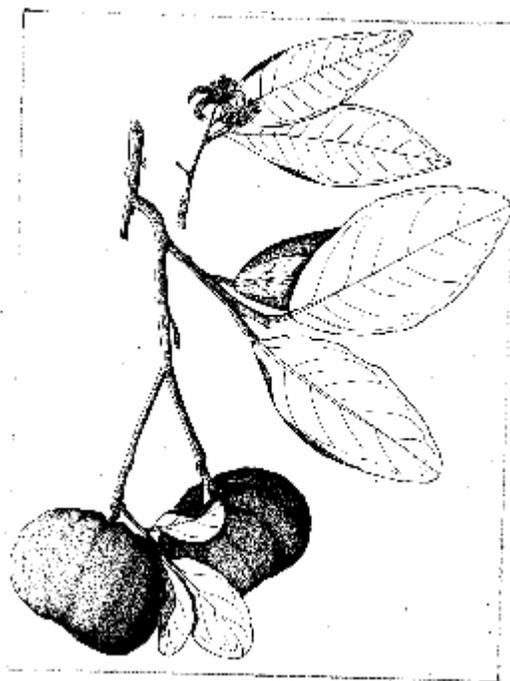
February's meeting will be held February 11, 2002 at 7:15 p.m. at the A. J. Palumbo Hall. Jeff Wagner of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy is scheduled to speak.

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 it to:

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

If you wish, include your phone and e-mail address. The checks will be forwarded to our Treasurer Kim Metheny.



"Mandarina, mandarin orange, *Citrus reticulata* Blanco" by S. F. Manly and unknown.
Image courtesy of U. S. D. A. Forest Service
Collection, Hunt Institute for Botanical
Documentation, Carnegie Mellon University,
Pittsburgh, PA.

From the Field - Botany in Action at Phipps

On Saturday, January 25, five graduate students will share their research in Phipps' Botany in Action program. This program supports graduate students studying botany and ethnobotany in natural areas around the world. Program participants strive to preserve biodiversity and foster plant conservation. Once a year, the participating students share their newfound knowledge at interactive programs.

Botany in Action Presentations - These morning lectures are free and will take place in the Joan Kilner Hunt Auditorium from 10:15 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. Enter through Botany Hall.

Understanding Forest Dynamics and Biodiversity in Eastern Deciduous Forests: a Multi-factor Approach: Locally, species in our forests are threatened. Wildflower and tree seedling diversity have declined, the abundance of maple species have dramatically increased, while the abundance of other tree species, most notably oak, have decreased. Among the possible causes of these major changes in forests are over-abundant white-tailed deer populations, fire suppression and understory light dynamics. Rachel Collins is testing the effects of these three major processes by experimentally manipulating deer herbivory, fire and canopy tree gaps in a factorial design in the Monongahela National Forest and at the MeadWestvaco Research Forest in northeastern West Virginia. She will discuss the implications for managing sustainable natural areas.

Cross-Cultural Medical Ethnobotany: Ethnobotany has proven to be a valuable method to find new herbal medicines and plant-derived drugs, but given limited resources, thousands of plants to consider, and many cultures to investigate, where can we focus our attention? Nat Bletter will

explore a new way to determine potentially effective plants worthy of further investigation by finding related plants from unrelated cultures that are used to treat the same diseases. If two cultures that have never communicated are using the same plant to treat malaria, for example, it is more likely that they discovered the plant independently, and that it is effective against malaria. This technique can be used to analyze and compare herbal remedies for other diseases in other cultures as well.

From 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., participants can join our speakers for a luncheon. The cost of the luncheon is \$12.

Botany in Action Public Programs - These programs are free with admission to the Conservatory. They will take place in the Conservatory from 1 to 4 p.m.

Cross-cultural Medical Ethnobotany with Nat Bletter: Plants are more likely to be effective medicines if they are used by several unrelated cultures to treat the same disease.

Forest Factor Reality Quiz Show with Rachel Collins: Contestants compete with family members in tree games that test their woody knowledge and the winner earns the title: Forest Factor Champion!

Investigating Causes of Commonness and Rarity with John Paul: This research addresses the fundamental question of why some species are common, while other, often closely related species are rare.

New Tools for the Study of Plant Diversity: An Example from the Yam Family with Lauren Raz: Technological advances are helping to unlock the hidden potential of plants in the Dioscorea (yam) family.

Stimulant Teas From Hollies: Toward a Model of Alkaloid Variation in Higher Plants with Adam Edwards: By studying

the temperate yaupon holly and the tropical wais and their traditional use in the preparation of caffeine-containing stimulant teas, we can gain further understanding of the ecology of alkaloids and the consequences for human management of plants used as stimulants.

Call (412) 441-4442 by Monday, January 20, to register for the program or to order a box lunch. Pre-payment is required for the lunch.

Have You Seen the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid?

Enclosed in your newsletter is a color circular about the hemlock woolly adelgid. The color photographs can be used to accurately identify the pest which is spreading westward from southeastern Pennsylvania.

Please be on the lookout for this pest. If you do spot evidence of these insect pests in a natural area, please contact extension agent Sandy Feather at the phone, e-mail or address below.

Sandy Feather
Extension Agent, Consumer Horticulture
Penn State Cooperative Extension
400 N. Lexington St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15208

Phone: 412-473-2540
Fax: 412-473-2768
slf9@psu.edu

Unfortunately, hemlocks are no longer recommended for planting in home landscapes in areas infested with the insect.

Condolences

We are sorry to report that member Ruth Ann Ley died in November. Ruth was an accomplished photographer. She often reminded us of the beauty of what we were looking at on field trips.

Field Trips in 2002

Many thanks to our field trip leaders in 2002.

Esther Allen - Raccoon Creek St. Park (5/11)
Forest Trail (8/31)
Moraine St. Park (10/19)
Luc Berger - Cooked Creek Dam (5/18)
Todd Sanctuary (9/14)
Deb & Tom Bodenschatz - Wilmore Dam (4/21)
Mark Bowers - Markle's Farm (7/20)
Ferncliff Peninsula (8/12)
Robert Coxe - Beaver Creek St. Park (4/27)
John Doyle - South Park (8/7)
Ruby Greathouse - Panhandle Trail (6/22)
Ted Grisez - Tionesta Scenic Area (8/24)
Steve Grund - Lake Pleasant Canoe Trip (8/3)
Susan Hitchins - Braddock's Trail Park (4/13)
Howard McIlvried - John's Farm (9/21)
Chas. & Martha Oliver - Green Ridge St. Forest (4/7)
Carl Patsche - Cross Creek County Park (2/16)
Tom Pearson - Big Sewickley Creek (7/27)
Westmoreland Cons. Nature Reserves (8/10)
Melanie Petridis - Moraine St. Park North (3/30)
Walt & Dana Shaffer - Hunter's Lane (5/25)
Loree Speedy - Butler-Freeport Trail (1/26)
Scott Speedy - Yellow Creek St. Park (3/16)

We also had successful trips with the following organizations:

Aultman Run Watershed Assoc. - Aultman Run (5/7)
Buffalo Creek Watershed Assoc. - Buffalo Creek (6/8)
Wheeling Creek Watershed Cons. - Enlow Fork Natural Area (5/4)
Westmoreland Bird & Nature Club - Dead Man's Hollow (10/6)

Finally, Esther Allen, Kim Metheny, Hank Etheridge and Loree Speedy represented the Botanical Society in a trail work day for Raccoon Creek State Park on June 1.

Thanks to all who led and to all who learned!

What would the world be, once bereft
Of wet and wildness? Let them be left,
O let them be left, wildness and wet;
Long live the weeds and the wilderness yet.

Gerald Manley Hopkins

Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania – January 2003

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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 7:15 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