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# WILDFLOWERS

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

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## The Next Meeting is February 10

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The next meeting will be Monday, February 10, **7:15 p.m.**, at the **A. J. Palumbo Hall**, Carlow College, 3333 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA (Oakland). As you approach the campus on Fifth Avenue (heading toward downtown Pittsburgh), do not turn right into the Carlow Campus entrance. Instead, pass the entrance, stay in the right lane, and make the immediate right into the parking area. Park here and cross the street. Place a note on your dashboard saying "Botanical Society Meeting," or use your parking permit.

Our speaker will be **Jeff Wagner**. He will discuss the natural factors that make a plant rare.

Jeff is a community ecologist at the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and is director of the Natural Heritage Inventory for western Pennsylvania. He writes about conservation and is active in the Upper St. Clair Citizens for Land Stewardship.

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.

March's meeting will be held March 10, 2003 at 7:15 p.m. Mike Fialkovich is scheduled to speak.

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## What Should Our Wildflower Be?

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What wildflower should represent the Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania?

We have delayed the selection of a wildflower, so you still have time to submit your nomination for a wildflower that we can adopt as the Society's flower.

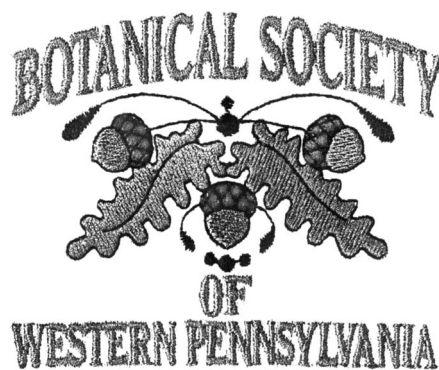
Please give some thought and share your input. A few short sentences or paragraph will explain why your nomination will benefit us for the next 100 years.

Send your entries to Dr. Haywood at: 3333 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3165; [mjhaywood@carlow.edu](mailto:mjhaywood@carlow.edu).

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## Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania Sweatshirts Available

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The Botanical Society is selling sweatshirts with the oak leaf logo. The sweatshirts are the color of oatmeal and a rich, warm cotton. They are available in unisex sizes of small, medium, and large. To get your sweatshirt, send a check payable to BSWP in the amount of \$20.00 to:

Dr. Mary Joy Haywood, Carlow College

3333 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213  
(412) 232-8441

Let her know the number of sweatshirts desired, the size(s), and where to mail the shirts.

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## Pennsylvania Rare Plant Forum Scheduled for March 29

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The 2003 meeting of the Pennsylvania Rare Plant Forum will take place on Saturday, March 29, at the Stackhouse at Fisherman's Paradise in Bellefonte, PA. This is the 20th anniversary of the Forum!

The Rare Plant Forum has served for over twenty years in an advisory role to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for issues related to the conservation of the native flora of Pennsylvania. The Forum will discuss proposed changes to the list of Plants Of Special Concern In Pennsylvania.

This is an excellent opportunity to socialize with other amateur and professional botanists who share your interest in the flora of Pennsylvania.

E-mail Steve Grund at [Sgrund@paconserve.org](mailto:Sgrund@paconserve.org) or call him at (412) 586-2350 for more information about the Forum. You can also access information for the Rare Plant Forum at [www.dickinson.edu/prorg/pabs/RPFweb.htm](http://www.dickinson.edu/prorg/pabs/RPFweb.htm).

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## Enjoy Your Wildflowers: Moonseed

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How many different shapes of leaves does a Moonseed vine have? Notice that they range from almost round with a pointed tip to having three to seven lobes.

The leaves of Moonseed are large, four to eight inches across. They are peltate, but not noticeably so. A peltate leaf is one that has its petiole (leaf stalk) attached to the undersurface of the leaf blade instead of to the blade's margin.

Moonseed leaves have the petiole attached close to the margin.

The leaves have long petioles. Both the petioles and the stems twine around whatever they can. There are no tendrils. The stems can grow to ten feet and may become slightly woody. The vine usually dies back in winter.

Moonseed is dioecious. Dioecious is composed of the Greek combining forms of *di*, two, and *oikos*, house, meaning two houses. This means that the female and the male flowers are not on the same plant. This ensures cross-pollination if the plants are appropriately spaced.

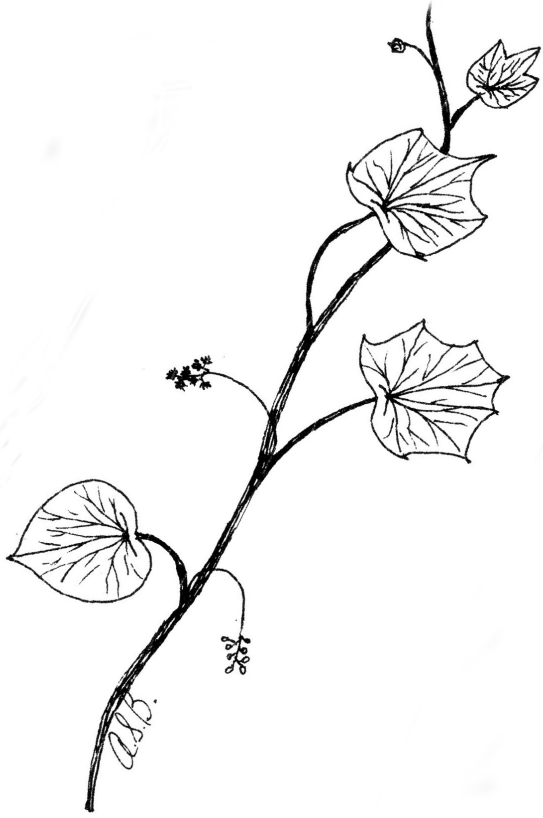
The flower clusters grow from the axils formed where the petioles are attached to the stems. The flowers are about one-sixth inch wide. They are white or whitish and bloom in early summer. The bluish-black fruits, one-fourth to one-third inch, resemble gapes and should not be eaten. They are toxic.

*Menispermum canadense* is the botanical name of Moonseed. *Menispermum* is Greek from *mene*, moon and *sperma*, a seed, and describes the half-moon shape of the seed. *Canadense*, Canada, is the area where the plant was first collected and described for naming. The only other species of *Menispermum* is *M. dauricum* in eastern Asia.

Moonseed is native to the cooler temperate parts of eastern North America and Mexico. It likes moist habitats in open woods and thickets. It will grow along city streets if there are shrubs or trees for support. It grows throughout Pennsylvania.

The family, *Menispermaceae*, lives mostly in tropical rain forests. It consists of many lianas (high-climbing, woody vines) and a few herbs, shrubs, and trees. Drugs, medicines, and a substitute for Sarsaparilla are obtained from them.

*Anne S. Bahl*



Moonseed - *Menispermum canadense* by Anne S. Bahl

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## Field Trip Schedule

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Registration is not required. Everyone is welcome, including non-members. For questions, call the trip leader or Loree at (724) 872-5232.

**Saturday, February 15, 2003**

**Wolf Creek Narrows, Butler County**

**Time: 1:00 p.m.**

**Leader: Loree Speedy (724) 872-5232**

**Directions:** From Pittsburgh, take I-79 north to Exit 105 - PA108/Slippery Rock Exit. Turn left onto PA Route 108 toward Slippery Rock. Travel about 7/10 mile and turn left at intersection that has a Dairy Queen on the right. Continue 1.7 miles to the first paved road on the

right and turn right. Continue past a dairy farm on the left to an intersection; turn right at the intersection. Travel about 9/10 mile and turn right into a parking area just before the bridge over Wolf Creek.

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

**Saturday, March 8, 2003**

**Little Sewickley Creek in Herminie,  
Westmoreland County**

**Time: 1:00 p.m.**

**Leader: Mark Bowers (724) 872-5232**

**Directions:** Take the PA Turnpike to Exit 67 - Route 30/Irwin/Greensburg. Take the Route 30 East/Greensburg ramp. At the first stoplight on Route 30, turn right. Travel 0.5 mile to the first stop sign and turn right. Travel this road 3.7 miles to a T. Turn right at the T. Continue 0.9 miles to a stop sign. Turn right. Travel a very short distance to turn left at the street just before Mayers Maytag. Continue on this road to the next intersection. There will be a CITGO on your left. Cross the street and park in the John C. Bruno Memorial Stadium parking lot.

This is a joint trip with the Westmoreland Bird and Nature Club. The trail is a sure-fire spot for snow trillium.

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## Dues reminder

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The Botanical Society is now collecting annual dues; rates are \$10 individual and \$15 family. Students pay half-rate. If you have not paid yet, 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.

## Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania – February 2003

279 Orr Road  
West Newton, PA 15089

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### **WILDFLOWERS - Bulletin of the Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania**

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**Editor:** Loree Speedy, 279 Orr Road, West Newton, PA 15089 Telephone: (724) 872-5232; E-mail: yoree@sgi.net.

**President:** Dr. Mary Joy Haywood, (412) 578-6175, E-mail mjhaywood@carlow.edu; **Vice-President:** Phyllis Monk, (412) 831-2724 E-mail: uscmonk@ieeee.org; **Treasurer:** Kimberly Metheny

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.

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### **The Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania - Membership Information**

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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.

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

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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