
WILDFLOWERS

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

The Next Meeting is April 14

The next meeting will be Monday, April 14, **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, **Jeff Wagner**, will present "Seepage Wetlands of Pennsylvania: Rare Places, Rare Plants."

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.

Nominations for Our Wildflower— What Do You Think?

Following are the nominations that Dr. Haywood has received so far.

What wildflower do you think should represent the Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania? Let these nominations inspire you. You still have time to submit your entry to Dr. Haywood at: 3333 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3165; mjhaywood@carlow.edu.

Trillium grandiflorum (Large-flowered Trillium) - There are several stands at Wolf Creek, the Trillium Trail and elsewhere in Western Pennsylvania. If you look at the map of its distribution in *The Vascular Flora of Pennsylvania* [by A. F. Rhoads and W. M. Klein], you will see

that it is almost confined to western Pennsylvania, from McKean, Clearfield and Cambria Counties westward.

Blue-eyed Mary (*Collinsia verna*) - Some of the loveliest outings with the Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania have been to Enlow Fork, where this little flower adds so much to the blooming profusion of the hillsides.

I would like ***Mertensia virginica*** (Virginia Bluebells) as the wildflower that represents the Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania. I chose it because it blooms in April in Cedar Creek Park along the Yough River Bike Trail. I think it is a good representative because it likes to bloom in the floodplain of a river, and we have so many rivers in Pennsylvania.

I am nominating our very native **Mountain Laurel** (*Kalmia latifolia*) as our organization's flower. As a Heath, it is very tough and tenacious, and appears in the wildest and sometimes most inhospitable parts of our ranges. When in full bloom, during a pleasant time of the year, a mountainside of these flowers puts on probably our most spectacular display of natural beauty. A close look at the bloom shows a beautifully complex geometric perfection, constructed to scatter fertile seeds by a spring-loaded mechanism. It is definitely a most impressive and interesting plant, and certainly deserving of consideration as the official flower of the Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania.

I nominate **Spring Beauty** (*Claytonia caroliniana* or *C. virginica*) for our wildflower. I associate it with Esther Allen, the field naturalist that we depend on the most. Its very nature calls up what we are all looking forward to, spring!

How about the **Passion Flower** (*Passiflora lutea*)? After all—are we not all passionate about flowers? Besides, it has the most intricate designs.

Viola pensylvanica syn. *V. eriocarpa* (Smooth Yellow Violet) A beautiful yellow violet with magnificent purplish lines on the petals. I believe it would educate folks to realize that not all violets are purple! The species name, *pensylvanica*,

dictates that its range is here. Would be exquisite done up on material.

I would like to nominate **Spring Beauty** (*Claytonia virginica*) for the wildflower to represent the Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania. My reasons are as follows:

- Spring Beauty is a delicate and beautiful native wildflower, which most people find appealing.
- It is abundant and widespread, which allows it to be seen by almost anyone.
- It appears in early Spring and lets us know that Spring has really arrived.
- It has thrived in spite of the large deer population, which has decimated so many other wild plants. This makes it a symbol of survival.
- It has 5 petals, which can represent the five digits of our hand. Our hands are very important in the enjoyment and care of plants.
- The flowers of Spring Beauty are open on sunny days and close when it rains. We also prefer bright sunny days for the enjoyment of plants.

ASWP presents a Native Plant Sale on May 3

The Audubon Center for Native Plants presents its Spring 2003 Native Plant Sale, featuring a selection of nursery-propagated native perennials. Informative mini-sessions will occur hourly: Why Native Plants? at 9:30 a.m.; Benefits and Misnomers at 10:30 a.m.; Natives for Wildlife at 11:30 a.m.; and Native Creations at 12:30 p.m.

The sale takes place from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 3, 2003. The Center is located at Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve, 614 Dorseyville Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238. For information and directions, call (412) 963-6100.

Get Well Wishes

Get well wishes to two loved members. Mary Lou Brown just returned from a short stay in the hospital. You can send her a card at 2337 Rochester Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237. Emily Johnson suffered a stroke and is on her way to recovery. You can send her a card at 3039 Sunset Dr., Export, PA 15632-9329.

Field Trip Schedule

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

Saturday, April 12, 2003

Raccoon Creek Wildflower Reserve, Beaver County

Time: 1:00 p.m.

The Botanical Society will visit the newly erected deer enclosure along the Max Henrici Trail to record the plants growing in the enclosure and in a control plot. We plan to visit several times over the year. All members are invited, regardless of your skill at identifying plants. Though not a traditional interpretive walk, it will be a great opportunity for those who wish to learn the plants.

Directions: From Pittsburgh, take the Parkway West (I-279 south/US 22-30) to the Airport Expressway (Route 60). Continue past the Airport entrance to Exit 7 – Clinton. At the end of the ramp, turn left and continue 1.1 miles to Route 30. Turn right on Route 30 and drive 4.7 miles to the entrance for the Wildflower Reserve, on the right, just over the hill. Meet in the parking lot.

Saturday, April 19, 2003

Cedar Creek Park, Westmoreland County

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Leader: Mark Bowers (724) 872-5232

Directions: From Pittsburgh, follow Route 51 south. Cross the Monongahela in Elizabeth and continue south on Route 51 for approximately 10 miles. After passing C. Harper Chevrolet on your left, you will approach a traffic light with an Exxon station on the left. At the traffic light, make a left onto Concord Lane. Traveling on Concord Lane, turn right at the Y, and make a right at the stop sign. Continue about 0.6 mile and turn left for the main entrance to Cedar Creek County Park. Follow this road downhill

until it reaches the flood plain. Cross the bike trail and turn left. Continue driving past a series of parking lots until you reach the farthest parking lot near Cedar Gorge Trail.

Saturday, April 26, 2003

Boyce/Mayview Park, Allegheny County

Time: 1:00 p.m.

The Botanical Society and members of USC Citizens for Land Stewardship will prepare a plant list for Boyce/Mayview Park. 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. Though not a traditional interpretive walk, it will be a great opportunity for those who wish to learn the plants.

We are also looking for photographers to take photos of the plants that we see. If you take photographs of wildflowers with an analog or digital camera, please consider joining us and sharing your photographs.

Directions: From Pittsburgh, proceed south on US Rt. 19 (Washington Road) to Boyce Road which is 3.0 miles south of South Hills Village (at Ft. Couch Road). Turn right onto Boyce Road and proceed 0.5 miles to the intersection with Morton Road on the right. Turn right onto Morton Road and continue about 1.5 miles to soccer fields on the left side of the road. Park here.

Alternatively, take I-79 south. Take Exit 54 - Bridgeville. At the end of the ramp, turn right onto Millers Run Road (PA Route 50) and proceed to the traffic light at the T-intersection with Washington Pike. Turn right onto Washington Pike and drive for 2.1 miles to the intersection with Boyce Road. Turn left onto Boyce and proceed 1.4 miles to the traffic light at the intersection with Mayview Road. Continue on Boyce Road for another 1.1 mile to Morton Road. Turn left onto Morton Road and continue about 1.5 miles to soccer fields on the left side of the road. Park here.

Saturday, May 3, 2003

Enlow Fork Spring Extravaganza!

Enlow Fork Natural Area, Greene County

Times: 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

The Wheeling Creek Watershed Conservancy is sponsoring the 2003 Enlow Fork Spring Extravaganza. The day begins at 8:00 a.m. with guided bird walks directed by local ornithologists Ralph Bell and Marjorie Howard. Ben Stout will lead a macro invertebrate stream study at 1 p.m.

Wildflower tours with members of the Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania begin at 10:00 a.m. and at 3:00 p.m.

Directions: From Pittsburgh, take I-79 south to Exit 14- Waynesburg, then follow Route 21 west through Waynesburg to Wind Ridge. At the eastern edge of Wind Ridge, turn north to follow Nebo Ridge Road for about 3 miles. Make a right onto Walker Hill Road, then left onto Smokey Row, the dirt road that leads to the game lands parking lot.

Sunday, May 4, 2003

Panhandle Trail, Brooke County, WV

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Leader: Carl Patsche (304) 723-0139

Directions: From Pittsburgh, take I-79 south to Exit 54 (Bridgeville/Route 50). Travel Route 50 west about 25 miles to Route 844. Continue about 6 miles on Route 844 (it becomes Route 27 in West Virginia) to the town of Wellsburg. Turn left onto Route 2. Continue through 3 traffic lights to Smith Oil, a gas station on the right and just beyond Buffalo Creek. Park here.

These trips are scheduled for May

Saturday, May 10 – Wolf Creek Narrows, Esther Allen

Saturday, May 17 – Canoe Creek State Park, Mary Paoli

Saturday, May 25 – Raccoon Creek Wildflower Reserve –
2nd deer enclosure assessment

Saturday, June 14 – Dolly Sods, Charles & Martha Oliver.

Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania – April 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