
WILDFLOWERS

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

The Next Meeting is September 8

The next meeting will be Monday, September 8, **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 September program will bring back a long-time favorite, **Howard McIlvried**. Howard has been a member of the Botanical Society since 1969. He will present botanical treasures of Mount Rainier and Olympia National Park.

Botanical Society Donates Three \$1000 Scholarships to Carlow College

In May's monthly meetings, members of the Botanical Society moved to donate \$3000 to Carlow College. The funds will create three \$1000 scholarships to be awarded to Carlow College students majoring in Biology with an emphasis in environmental sciences.

Dr. Grace Ann Geibel, President of Carlow College has acknowledged this gift. She writes, "On behalf of the entire Carlow College Community, I want to thank you for your generous gift of \$3,000.00 to be used to enhance the Mary Joy Haywood Endowed Scholarship Fund. As you know so well the use of these funds, directed as they are to the support of outstanding students majoring in the environmental sciences, are a godsend to the students when received. Moreover, this very special fund allows the College to encourage

students to study in the important field of environmental science."

The Botanic Garden of Western Pennsylvania

Many Botanical Society members have been aware of or involved with the proposed Botanic Garden of Western Pennsylvania. Once open, this will be the region's first comprehensive botanic garden. This outdoor museum of hardy plants will display trees, shrubs, and flowers in beautifully landscaped settings. Education, research, and wellness will also respond to the needs of the area's citizens.

In April, the final Master Site Plan for the Botanic Garden of Western Pennsylvania was unveiled. This ended an almost 18-month process led by planners and landscape architects from Marshall-Tyler-Rausch. The Master Plan will guide the Horticultural Society of Western Pennsylvania in the garden's development. The Master Plan puts into one place, in words and pictures, the garden's programs, displays and exhibits.

In its introduction the Master Plan states: "Botanic gardens are not frivolous institutions devoted merely to beauty and to flowers, catering to a narrow range of enthusiasts; botanic gardens and this particular garden are much, much more. They are unique among cultural institutions in that they are a marriage of art and science. They serve the entire community and contribute to the health of the region by explaining and demonstrating the critical role of plants in our environment. They do this on many levels: by providing a wonderful visitor experience and some peace in

a busy world, by creating a community of gardeners intent on improving a small part of the world, by teaching a class of fourth graders the role of plants in the carbon cycle and its implications for global warming, or by developing a new, practical technique for woodland restoration in a disturbed forest. The Botanic Garden of Western Pennsylvania has the resources to help us better understand our corner of the world so that we can work to create a better place."

The future home of the botanic garden is on 452 acres, at the southern end of Settler's Cabin County Park, near Oakdale in western Allegheny County. Approximately 76 acres will be intensively developed display and educational gardens with the remaining 376 acres providing a habitat for native plants.

The next major step in the development of the botanic garden is fundraising. A capital campaign will be preceded by economic impact and feasibility studies. If you would like to see the botanic garden become a reality, please become a member of the Horticultural Society of Western Pa. More information can be obtained at (412) 361-8677 or at www.botanicgardenwpa.org.

Natural Alternatives to the "Perfect American Lawn"

Come to Hartwood Mansion on Wednesday, September 17, 2003, at 10:30 a.m. to learn about natural alternatives to the perfect American lawn. Sue Seppi of GASP (Group Against Smog and Pollution) will present a slide show and discuss ways to fertilize and maintain lawns using organic methods. A question and answer session will follow.

A luncheon will be offered, weather permitting, on the Terrace. The event will conclude with a guided tour through the gardens by horticulturist Tammy Watychowicz. The cost is \$10 per person. Please call (412) 767-9200 to make a reservation today.

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, August 30, 2003

Raccoon Creek Wildflower Reserve, Beaver County

Leader: Esther Allen / (412) 366-0786

Time: 1:00 p.m.

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, September 6, 2003

Randall Reserve, Westmoreland County

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Leader: Mark Bowers / (724) 872-5232 and Len Hess

Directions: Take I-76, Pennsylvania Turnpike to Exit 91 – Donegal/31/711. (Alternatively, to avoid Turnpike construction, take PA Route 31 to the town of Donegal). At the end of the Turnpike ramp, turn left onto Route 31, travel 1/4 mile and turn left before the PNC Bank onto Route 711 North. Continue approximately 1.9 miles and turn left at the green Fish and Boat Commission sign for Donegal Lake. Proceed about a mile to the **second parking** lot.

Randal Reserve is a new thousand-acre private nature reserve adjoining Donegal Lake. It includes the headwaters of Fourmile Run, a private lake and extensive wetlands. This trip is an "all-ecology" outing with the Westmoreland Bird and Nature Club.

Saturday, September 20, 2003

Boyce/Mayview Park, Allegheny County

Leader: Phyllis Monk / (412) 831-2724

Time: 1:00 p.m.

The Botanical Society and members of USC Citizens for Land Stewardship are preparing a plant list for Boyce/Mayview Park. 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, 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, September 27, 2003

Butler Freeport Trail, Butler County

Leader: Esther Allen / (412) 366-0786

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Directions: From Pittsburgh, take Route 28 north to Exit 17 – Route 356/Butler/Freeport. At the end of the ramp, head west or north on Route 356. After roughly 3.5 miles, turn right onto Sarver Road (SR2018). Continue a little over 1/2 mile, traveling down a hill. After crossing a creek and passing a volunteer fire

department on the left, turn left into the bike trail parking area, where we will meet.

Butler-Freeport Trail, one of Esther's favorites, travels along the very scenic and tranquil Little Buffalo Creek on an abandoned railroad corridor constructed in 1872.

Phipps Celebrates the Adventures of Lewis and Clark

This year marks the bicentennial of the famous Lewis and Clark voyage. Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens celebrates The Adventures of Lewis and Clark from August 9 through October 12. The exhibit focuses on the contributions they made to the study of botany.

Thomas Jefferson knew the importance of studying ecology and the environment and encouraged the collection and study of the plant life that Lewis and Clark found along the way. They sent back live specimens, dried plants, seeds, and leaves. Phipps' exhibit will show some of the different environments that Lewis and Clark encountered on their travels, and how they relied on plants for survival.

Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens is open year-round, Tuesday through Sunday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday until 9 p.m., closed Monday. For more information call (412) 622-6914, or visit Phipps online at www.phipps.conservatory.org.

Looking for a source of botanical and natural history books?

Many of us lamented the end of the Patricia Ledlie booksellers. Fortunately, V. F. Thomas Co. now offers a fine selection of botanical books. For a catalog of natural history books and videos, call them at 207-BOOKS-4-U, e-mail them at info@vfthomas.com, or write them at 219 Dead River Road, Bowdoin, ME 04287. Or visit their website at www.vfthomas.com.

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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