
WILDFLOWERS

The Bulletin of the Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania • February and March 2004

The Next Meeting is February 9

The next meeting will be Monday, February 9, **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.

Steve Grund will present "**Diversity and Natural History of Aquatic Plants in Pennsylvania.**" Steve is currently conducting a floristic inventory of all eight natural lakes in western Pennsylvania.

Steve studied botany at the University of Michigan under Herb Wagner, and has been a botanist with the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program (PNHP) since 1995. He is a Research Associate with the Carnegie Museum Section of Botany and Chair of the Pennsylvania Rare Plant Forum.

If it appears that there will be hazardous driving conditions the night of the meeting, please call telephone number (412) 232-8441 after 5 p.m. for a recorded message indicating whether the meeting will be cancelled.

And The Next Meeting is March 8

Please mark your calendars for the next meeting on Monday, March 8, **7:15 p.m.**, at Kresge Theater, Carlow College, 3333 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA (Oakland).

Mel Melan will present "**Xocolatl: The Natural History of Chocolate.**" Mel will discuss the botany and ethnobotany of *Theobroma cacao*. The program will include a tasting of seed pods and different chocolates after the presentation.

Mel earned a PhD in biology from Vanderbilt University where she researched fern spore germination. She was a member of the faculty at Duquesne University and is now an assay development specialist for the Clinical Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory at the University of Pittsburgh Medical School.

Japanese Knotweed Feast!

On Sunday, April 11, the Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania and the Western Pennsylvania Field Institute will sponsor a Japanese Knotweed Feast! From 2 to 5 pm, in Pittsburgh's Highland Park, we will cook heaping helpings of this rhubarb and buckwheat relative, serving up several fine recipes from naturalist "Wildman" Steve Brill. The day's menu includes Knot Soup, Steamed Knotweed Sesame, Apple-Knotweed Pie, as well as other wild edibles recipes. There will also be short hikes to see and harvest samples of Japanese knotweed in its wild habitat, while learning about the plant and why it has spread so dramatically since coming to this country.

Too many botanists won't spoil the knotweed soup! Members of the Botanical Society are needed to forage, cook, and show others how to identify this and other nasty invasives.

Members who volunteer for any period of time will not pay the admission fee.

Call or e-mail Sean Brady at (412) 255-0564 or

sbrady@wpfi.org to let him know that you will attend and help out. Let him know how you can help, or ask him how you can help. Sean is also looking for recipes using wild edibles that might be available at that time of the year.

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; loree@winbeam.com

2004 Ginseng Study Update and Request for Further Assistance

In 2003, the Pennsylvania State University School of Forest Resources and Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) initiated a program to develop information on existing wild ginseng populations and to examine the extent to which Pennsylvanians are engaged in ginseng collection, cultivation, commerce, and conservation activities.

As a result of generous cooperation from many individuals, more than 50 research sites have been identified to date and information continues to accrue. However, there is still a long way to go. The researchers still lack contacts and research sites from many counties in Pennsylvania, including several counties from western Pennsylvania (e.g. Washington, Westmoreland, Indiana, Butler, Armstrong and Mercer).

Accordingly, the researchers are asking collectors, growers, landowners, botanists, and naturalists to please participate in this effort by providing information or potential research sites. Additionally, any groups willing to help spread the word about the study are asked to contact Eric Burkhart. All contact names and research site locations will remain strictly confidential.

The study will generate information to assist various persons and groups in their efforts to culture and conserve this valuable forest resource. We hope to assist those landowners throughout the state in their efforts to derive personal and economic benefits from forestland culture of the species.

Eric Burkhart is the principle researcher in this study. E-mail: epb6@psu.edu Mail: 7 Ferguson Bldg, School of Forest Resources, PSU, University Park, PA 16802. Telephone (through the Penn State Forest Resources Extension Office): 814-863-0401. Further information about this study is available on the web at: www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/wildplant/ginseng.htm

Pennsylvania Rare Plant Forum Scheduled for March 6

The 2004 meeting of the Pennsylvania Rare Plant Forum will take place on Saturday, March 6, at the Olewine Nature Center at Wildwood Lake in Harrisburg, PA. The Rare Plant Forum serves in an advisory role to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for issues related to the conservation of the Commonwealth's native flora. 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. There will be a guest speaker and various updates. E-mail Steve Grund at Sgrund@paconserve.org or call him at (412) 586-2350 for more information about the Forum.

Be Warm with our Sweatshirt - Be Delighted with our Book

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, and can be purchased for \$20.00.

Our book, Wildflowers of Pennsylvania, can be purchased for \$20.00 (plus \$1.40 sales tax for PA residents). If you order the book by mail, add \$2 postage and handling for one book, \$3.00 for two, \$4.00 for three, \$4.50 for four. To get your sweatshirt or book, forward your check, made payable to Botanical Society of Western PA, to Dr. Mary Joy Haywood at Carlow College, 3333 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213.

Field Trip Schedule

Saturday, February 14, 2004

**Otto and Magdalene Ackermann Reserve,
Westmoreland Co.**

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Leader: Mark Bowers (724) 872-5232

Otto and Magdalene met on a hike in Germany, married, immigrated to the U.S., and bought this land in 1937. Their granddaughter was married along the creek in 1976. The family now invites the public to enjoy the pristine land they have loved for four generations.

Directions: From the intersection of Routes 30 and 48 in eastern Allegheny Co., travel east on Route 30 approximately 0.6 mile. As you approach the Glass Block World on the right and the industrial supply company on the left, turn left onto Ardara Road. (Or from PA Turnpike Exit 67 - Irwin, take the Route 30 West/Pittsburgh ramp. Travel Route 30 west approximately 5.5 miles. After you see Penn Lincoln Memorial Park on the right, turn right onto Ardara Rd.)

Travel Ardara Road 0.3 mile to a stop sign. Turn right and travel 1.4 mile to the Ackermann Reserve, marked with a brown sign, on the right.. Park in the grassy right-of-way area.

This trip could be cancelled due to bad driving or unpleasant walking conditions. Call

(724) 872-5232 the morning of the trip for a cancellation message.

Saturday, March 20, 2004

Butler-Freeport Trail, Butler County

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Leader: Esther Allen (412) 366-0786

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.

Sunday, March 28, 2004

Cedar Creek Park, Westmoreland Co.

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Leader: Mark Bowers (724) 872-5232

Directions: From the PA Turnpike, take Exit 75-New Stanton to continue on I-70 West. Take Exit 46B (Route 51 North/Pittsburgh). Travel a short distance to the first traffic light on Route 51 and make a right onto Concord Lane. (Or 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 at 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.

Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania – February and March 2004

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 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