
WILDFLOWERS

The Bulletin of the Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania • June and July 2004

Next Meeting is Monday, June 14

The next meeting will be Monday, **June 14**, 7:15 p.m., at the **A. J. Palumbo Hall** at 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.

Eric Burkhart will present “**American Ginseng in Pennsylvania: Culture, Context, Conservation.**” Eric will share from his research into the cultural and ecological context of ginseng occurrence in the Commonwealth. Included will be an introduction to ginseng biology, with emphasis on those aspects that pertain to husbandry. American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*) is a historical component of our native regional flora, and it continues to furnish an important trade commodity. Any contemporary concern over collection practice must appreciate the human context that continues to shape ginseng occurrence. Eric is a botanist, horticulturalist, and agroforester.

If you missed the Xocolatl...

At her “**Xocolatl: The Natural History of Chocolate**” presentation, Mel Melan told how the Maya fermented and roasted cacao beans, and ground them with mano and metate. This was mixed with hot water, chili, cinnamon, corn meal and poured from cup to cup to create foam. The Aztecs prepared their chocolate in a similar

manner, but also added vanilla beans, black pepper, honey, flowers, and achiote (annatto).

For those who missed the tasting, here is Mel’s recipe for Cinnamon-Chili Truffles.

Cinnamon-Chili Truffles (*adapted from a recipe posted to the Chile-Heads Digest*)

2/3 cup whipping cream
1 TBSP ground cinnamon
1 TBSP ground chili pepper*
12 oz bag semi-sweet chocolate chips
cocoa powder

* Use pure ground chili pepper, not chili powder that may contain cumin, oregano and salt. Mel suggests a mixture of ground ancho (mild) and cayenne (hot) pepper. Adjust the mixture to achieve the degree of hotness you desire.

Mix the cream, cinnamon and chili pepper in a medium saucepan. Heat the mixture over low heat until simmering at the edges and until the spices are evenly mixed in. Add the chocolate chips and stir until the chocolate is melted and all the cream is incorporated. Refrigerate the mixture in the saucepan for at least 2 hours. Roll rounded teaspoonfuls of the chocolate into balls and coat with cocoa powder. Alternatively, while the mixture is still hot, spread onto a cookie sheet. Refrigerate for 2 hours, cut into bite-size pieces and coat with cocoa.

Eagle Project Is Completed

I am David Machesney from Boy Scout Troop 368 in Perrysville, PA. I wanted to write to thank you again for your support and to report that I have completed my Eagle project which your group so generously helped fund.

I started the project in the fall by talking to North Park Naturalist, Meg Scanlon. She requested a deer enclosure on the Latodami Nature Trail on Brown's Road in the park. After surveying several sites, I decided on a level area on the west side of the trail because it had a small water seep area, it was partly shady and it didn't have too many barberry bushes to remove. I spent the next few months raising funds for the materials for the 40X40 foot, 7.5 foot high enclosure. The fencing is a high-strength black polypropylene mesh that is guaranteed to keep deer out.

On November 22, which happened to be my birthday, members of my troop, some of their dads, my parents and my Uncle Bob all helped dig sixteen 30" holes for the posts and the next day we attached the fencing.

Finally Spring arrived and we were able to reintroduce some native wildflowers to the site. I erected a sign explaining what a deer enclosure is, with laminated color photos (thanks mom) of the wildflowers that we planted, so that visitors could try to find them. I hope you have a chance to visit my project.

Some of the plants introduced to the enclosure were donated by Esther Allen and include Blue Violet, Trout Lily, Wild Blue Phlox, Dutchman's Breeches, Virginia Bluebells, and Jack-in-the-Pulpit. Also introduced were Ginseng seeds from Ed Divers and Green Dragon corms from Phyllis Monk. Plants already there include Skunk Cabbage, Round-Lobed Hepatica, and Mayapple.

Directions to Latodami Nature Center
Exit Rte. 79 at Cranberry. Go South on Rte. 19 through Wexford to a red light at Ingomar Road. Make a left onto Ingomar. Pass the batting cages, make a left at the light onto Kummer Rd. You are now in the Park. Follow this road past the golf course and past the ice skating rink. Turn left onto Brown Road. The Nature Trail parking lot is on the left.

David Machesney



North Park Naturalist, Meg Scanlon, congratulates David Machesney on a job well done.

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. Note varying dates and times!

Saturday, May 29, 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.

Saturday, June 12, 2004
Raccoon Creek State Park, Beaver County
Time: 1 p.m.
Leader: Esther Allen (412) 366-0786

Directions: From Pittsburgh, take the Parkway West (I-279 south/US 22-30). Exit the Parkway to continue on US Route 22 to the exit for Route 18. Turn left on **Route 18** north and travel 7 miles to the **Park Office** on the left, where we will meet.

Saturday, June 19, 2004
Chapman Dam State Park, Warren County
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Leader: George Bercik (412) 655-4701

Directions: Take I-79 north to Route 80. Head east on I-80 about 9 miles to Exit 29. Take PA 8 north about 15 miles to US 62. Head east on US 62 about 57 miles to pick up US 6 before Warren. Head east on US 6 to the town of Clarendon. At the traffic light, turn right onto Chapman Dam Road. Meet at the Park office on the right.

Saturday, June 26, 2004
Boyce Park, Allegheny County
Leader: Tom Pearson (412) 864-1902
Time: 1 p.m.

Directions: From Pittsburgh, take I-376 East (Parkway East) to Exit 14B/Plum. Turn right onto Rte. 48 north. Travel straight through the red light, then travel straight through the stop sign. Follow the road as it bears to the right onto Center Road. Cross the bridge over the turnpike. Turn right onto the next road (Old Frankstown Road). Continue to the nature center, the second building on the left, where we will meet.

Saturday, July 10, 2004
Bear Run Nature Reserve, Fayette County
Leader: Loree Speedy (724) 872-5232
Time: 1 p.m.

Directions: From the PA Turnpike, take Exit 91, Donegal. Turn left onto PA 31 east. Travel about two miles, turn right onto PA 711 and PA 381 south. Travel ten miles to Normalville (first stop sign), turn left onto PA 381 south. Continue about 5 miles to Bear Run Nature Reserve on the left.

Saturday, July 17, 2004
Yellow Creek State Park, Indiana County
Leader: Scott Speedy, (724) 639-3517
Time: 1 p.m.

Directions: From Pittsburgh, take Route 22 East to Route 286 (Golden Mile Highway).

Continue east on Route 286 until you reach Route 422 just before the town of Indiana.

Travel Route 422 east 12 miles, and turn right onto Route 259 South. Meet at the park office on the right, a short distance ahead on Route 259.

Saturday, July 24, 2004
Murdy Woods near Ohiopyle, Fayette County
Leader: Jim and Mary Murdy
(412) 831-7447; (724) 329-0657
Time: 12 noon

Directions: From the PA Turnpike, take Exit 91, Donegal. Turn left onto PA 31 east. Travel about two miles, turn right onto PA 711 and PA 381 south. Travel ten miles to Normalville (first stop sign), turn left onto PA 381 south for 11 miles to Ohiopyle. Cross the bridge and travel through the town of Ohiopyle, past the Dairy Queen on the right. Cross the bridge over Meadow Run and park in the lot.

We will head to the Murdy property at noon. The Murdy's will provide lunch, and then we will explore their property along Beaver Creek, a tributary of Meadow Run. The area is relatively flat.

Saturday, July 31, 2004
Pumpkin Run County Park, Greene County
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Leaders: Robert Coxe (412) 531-0137 and
Mary Joy Haywood (412) 578-6175

Directions: From Pittsburgh, take I-79 South to I-70. Head west on I-70 to I-43. Head south on I-43 (toll), which eventually turns into PA 88. Continue south on PA 88 until its intersection with PA 188 in Dry Tavern. Turn left and keep left at the next fork. Continue about 1 mile down the hill. Proceed under an underpass, then turn right onto Main St. After crossing the highway bridge, turn left into the next parking lot.

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WILDFLOWERS - Bulletin of the Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania

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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