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# WILDFLOWERS

The Bulletin of the Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania • January 2005

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## Next Meeting is January 10

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The next meeting will be Monday, January 10, **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.

**Dr. John E. Rawlins** of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History will present "**Caterpillars as Systematic Botanists and Plant Ecologists:** Some facts and practical uses for host plant specificity in Lepidoptera."

Species of herbivorous insects, including moths and butterflies, have diets that range from many families of plants to a few species in a single genus to sometimes just a single species. Knowledge of diet breadth for moth species taken at a single site allows a "bucket of bugs" to become an amazing indicator of the presence of plant species in that habitat (especially rare plants). Conversely, knowledge of plants found in proximity to a set of moth samples allows the prediction of what host plants a moth species might be using even if unknown.

Diet in herbivorous insects has a genetic basis and evolves over time. This results in the famous Ehrlich and Raven hypothesis of coevolution (related bugs feed on related plants). When that hypothesis is true, then interesting predictions are possible: 1) a moth species with an unknown host plant is likely to feed on the same or "related" plants that we know a related moth is feeding upon, and 2) when related moths are known to feed on different plant species, a "relationship" amongst

those plants is inferred - but what that "relationship" requires further investigation!

Dr. Rawlins grew up on a sheep ranch in eastern Oregon, received his doctorate from Cornell University in systematic entomology, and for the last 18 years has been curator of the Section of Invertebrate Zoology at Carnegie Museum of Natural History. Research interests emphasize natural history and the phylogeny of Lepidoptera with a special emphasis on the immature stages of moths, biotic inventory involving insects, and the use of insects as indicator systems for conservation and resource management. Current projects include a State Wildlife Project for Invertebrate Species of Special Concern in Pennsylvania, and collaborative work on Neotropical ghost moths and Pennsylvania fireflies.

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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. Make your check payable to BSWP and send it to:

BSWP, Loree Speedy  
279 Orr Road  
West Newton, PA 15089  
(724) 872-5232; [mousemapper@verizon.net](mailto:mousemapper@verizon.net)

If you wish, include your phone and e-mail address. The checks will be forwarded to our Treasurer Kim Metheny.

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## Blue-Eyed Mary images available...

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If you are planning to submit a drawing of Blue-eyed Mary, *Collinsia verna*, to be used on an

embroidered patch, member Bill Beatty has graciously offered the use of two photographic images of the plant. If you would like to see these images, call Bill Beatty at (304) 336-7363 or email him at [wildnat@verizon.net](mailto:wildnat@verizon.net)

Check out Bill and Bev Beatty's Wild & Natural website at <http://users.1st.net/wild/prog.html>.

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## Member Emily Johnson, Mushroom photographer

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Emily Johnson spent a lot of her time behind a camera and on her belly. As a result, she was one of the most well-respected mushroom and fungi photographers in the eastern United States.

Mrs. Johnson, a 40-year resident of Export, who moved to Stone Brook Manor in Manor following a stroke, died Dec. 21 at Allegheny General Hospital. The cause of death was a head injury suffered in a fall. She was 79.

Mrs. Johnson, whose given name was Amelia, was a native of Plum, where she set up a photographic darkroom while still in her teens. She spent more than 30 years enthusiastically traveling, hiking and photographing mushrooms and other fungi throughout the eastern United States and Europe.

"She loved nature and would go on nature walks at the Audubon Society's Beechwood Preserve and the Todd Sanctuary near to where she lived," said Barbara Bly, a niece. "She would travel, too, to seek out mushrooms in marshes and woods."

Mrs. Johnson's photos appeared in numerous books, including the "Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Mushrooms," "Mushrooms of Northeastern North America," "Mushrooms of the World" coloring book, and "Edible and Poisonous Mushrooms of the World," published in 2003, which has one of her photographs -- a brilliantly red and yellow Caesar's Amanita -- on its cover.

"Emily was a true master at capturing the beauty of mushrooms on film -- an art made especially difficult by the low-light conditions of the forest floor where the lovely organisms she passionately sought hid far below the protective canopy of the forest," said David Fischer, who co-authored "Edible Wild Mushrooms of North America," and "Mushrooms of Northeastern North America," both of which contain Johnson's photographs.

Tall, slender and quietly modest, she nonetheless gave numerous talks about mushrooming through the Audubon Society and other organizations, and participated in the North American Mycological Association's Teaching Kit program.

"She was a wonderful person and a very, very good photographer," said Judy Rogers, executive secretary of the Mycological Association. "Her lighting techniques made mushrooms stand out and yet still appear very natural. She spent a lot of time helping many of us learn how to take photos and critiquing our work."

In February, Mrs. Johnson donated her collection of 10,000 mushroom slides valued at \$100,000 to the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Arkansas. Steven Stephenson, a research professor who worked with Mrs. Johnson on several projects, said when the collection was donated that the slides will be "a tremendous educational resource for our students." Some of the slide images will also appear in an upcoming book about mushrooms associated with oak trees in eastern North America.

Another niece, Joanne Klemencic, said her aunt was also one of the earliest organic gardeners and composters, with an interest in nature that went well beyond mushrooms.

"Her interest in the environment was much more far-ranging," Klemencic said. "She was always concerned about the land."

A private service took place last week. Burial was in Plum Creek Cemetery.

*Excerpts from Don Hopey's obituary in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, December 30, 2004*

Memorial contributions may be made to the Audubon Society of Western PA, 614 Dorseyville Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238.



*M. L. Brown*

Bracket fungi on Eastern Hemlock  
by Mary Lou Brown

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## Hunt Institute holds its 11th International Exhibition

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The Hunt Institute of Botanical for Botanical Documentation will present the 11th International Exhibition of Botanical Art & Illustration through February 28, 2005. Celebrating the 40th anniversary of the International series, this show features 94 artworks by 62 artists from 12 countries. The Institute established the International series in 1964 with the hope of supporting and encouraging contemporary botanical artists.

This exhibition of paintings is open to the public free of charge, on display on the fifth floor of the Hunt Library building at Carnegie Mellon University. Hours: Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–12 p.m. and 1 p.m.–5 p.m.; Sunday, 1 p.m.–4 p.m. For information, contact the Institute at 412-268-2434 or visit the website at [www.huntbot.andrew.cmu.edu](http://www.huntbot.andrew.cmu.edu).

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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 leader or Loree at (724) 872-5232.

**Saturday, January 22, 2005**  
**Beechwood Park, Monroeville, Allegheny County**

**Leader: Loree Speedy (724) 872-5232**  
**Time: 1:00 p.m.**

**Directions:** From downtown Pittsburgh, take the Parkway East (I-376) towards Monroeville and the Turnpike to Exit 14A – Route 48S - Monroeville. At the end of the ramp, continue straight on Route 48 south through 4 traffic lights. At the 5th traffic light near Gateway High School, turn left onto Haymaker Road. Pass the Hospital and go straight through the first light onto Haymaker Road. Proceed approximately one mile to a second light and make a left onto Ramsey Road. Go straight through the first stop sign. Proceed approximately 1/4 mile and make a left into Ramsey Elementary parking lot, where we will meet.

Beechwood Park is an 85-acre, largely undeveloped, scenic and secluded park in suburbia.

This winter 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.

## Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania – January 2005

279 Orr Road  
West Newton, PA 15089

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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. WILDFLOWERS is printed on recycled paper.

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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