
WILDFLOWERS

The Bulletin of the Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania • May and June 2005

The Next Meeting is June 13

The next meeting will be Monday, June 13, **7:15 p.m.**, at the **A. J. Palumbo Hall-Room 315**, Carlow University, 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.

This is our somewhat annual “**Botanical Lab**” session. Dr. Haywood has arranged a meeting in one of the university’s state-of-the-art teaching laboratories. Here we will examine plant specimens under a microscope and learn about plant morphology.

Improve your botanical skills (is it epigynous or hypogynous?) and explore the plant world up-close (where is the filament?). Feel free to bring your own plants to examine under the microscope. Join us at the **A. J. Palumbo Hall – Room 315**, at 7:15 p.m. Place a note on your dashboard saying “Botanical Society Meeting,” or use your parking permit.

The Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania will soon have a new website. Look for details on the next newsletter.

What Happens When Botanical Society Members Step Out

“So it was the best of worlds last Sunday during the annual spring wildflower walk through Enlow Fork, a fantastically diverse, puritanically immersed and botanically a-burst haven not

easily reached, but once discovered, never forgotten.

With Sister Mary Joy leading the way, the walk...combined knowledge and foliage, vast greenery framed by spectacular scenery, accented with her informed soliloquy about wildflowers that mixed ivory-tower science with flower-powered enigma. Sister Mary Joy is not one to hurry a wildflower tour. All the better to stop every few paces along the trail through the nature preserve to point out wildflowers with her black cane swinging left then right, high then low, on the berm then on the bank. Here's golden ragweed. There's some stitchwort and Dutchman's breeches. Look at the oriole in the tree, and notice the redbud tree in the distance.”

Excerpted from “Enlow Fork Natural Area an explosion of natural colors” by David Templeton in the Sunday, May 8 online edition of the Post-Gazette, www.post-gazette.com

““This is one of my favorite stomping grounds,” said Esther Allen, of Ross. She and Barbara Schomer, of Mt. Lebanon, were on a nature hike, looking for spring wildflowers. Within a few minutes, they had found a white violet, trillium in several colors, wild geranium, wild ginger, a jack-in-the-pulpit and two varieties of soon-to-bloom Solomon's seal.

The stone cliffs, creek banks, marshland, tree-shaded areas and open glade along the trail create a number of micro-environments that encourage many varieties of wild plants, they explained.”

Excerpted from “Ivan’s Mark Still Visible on Trail” by Len Barcoucky in the Sunday, May 15

online edition of the Post-Gazette, www.post-gazette.com

“Twenty people came to enjoy the lovely spring day with a walk on the Erie National Wildlife Refuge's newest trail. Highlights of the day were an American Redstart, Hooded Warbler, white and red trilliums, wild geraniums, Jacks-in-the-Pulpit, various violets and other wildflowers.

And members of the group shared interesting bits of information. We learned that the trolley line from Cambridge Springs to Titusville that this trail was named for never actually existed. Although the bed was leveled, the rail was never laid and it was not used for transportation. The rise of the automobile caused the project to be abandoned. (Yes, back then the auto companies began their work to undermine mass transit.)

We also learned the origin of the common name of the Amelanchier tree—serviceberry, or sarvisberry, was derived from its bloom time. Because it blooms in early to mid-spring around the time the ground thaws, early settlers used it as a harbinger of spring thaw, leading to religious burial services, as well as wedding and Easter services, when the traveling preachers would make their rounds in the southern Appalachians. When folks died in the winter when the ground was frozen, their bodies were wrapped and stored in the shed till spring thaw and the arrival of the preacher.”

Lee Ann Reiners

Condolences

Our sympathy to members Bonnie, Joe and Hannah Isaac, on the sudden death of Bonnie's father, James Marshall, on March 27, 2005.

Also, our sympathy to member Sonja Sletten on the death of her husband Andreas on April 9, 2005.

News and Events

- The Buffalo Creek Watershed Association will hold a watershed festival on Sunday, May 22, beginning at 9:00 am. The festival features bird walks, eco-exploration by the Oglebay Schrader Center, crafters, string bands and meadow dancers, and educational displays by area conservation organizations. The festival takes place at the main parking lot off Lake Road at Dutch Fork Lake in Donegal Township, Washington County. For more information, call Ted Fleckinger at (724) 663 4292.
- The 5th annual Venture Outdoors Festival takes place Saturday, May 21 on Pittsburgh's North Shore near Heinz Field. There will be over 70 different clubs with exhibits and information about outdoor recreational opportunities in the region. Free parking is available at Gold Lot #1. Call (412) 255-0561 or www.ventureoutdoors.org for more information.

Field Trip Schedule

Registration is **not** required. Everyone is welcome, including non-members. Trips are not canceled due to rain. Wear shoes that can get wet. Water and sun protection are recommended for mid-summer trips. For questions, call the field trip leader or Loree at (724) 872-5232.

Saturday, May 21, 2005

State Game Lands 178, Lawrence County

Leader: Bonnie Isaac (412) 622-3253

Time: 1:00 pm

Directions: From Pittsburgh, take I-79 north to Exit 99 – Rte 422/Butler/New Castle. Turn left to continue on US Rte 422 West to PA Rte 60 North (near New Castle). Follow PA Rte 60 North to the Mitchell Road Exit. Follow Mitchell Road (East, it only goes one way) for approximately 2.5 miles (you will cross over PA

18) past Neshannock High School and Hess Ice Rink to Sunset Valley Road; go straight through the stop sign onto Sunset Valley Road. Follow Sunset Valley Road to the next stop sign (about ¼ mile). Make a right onto Valley Road (no sign at corner). Follow Valley Road for about ½ mile to Sunrise Drive. Turn left at Sunrise Drive and follow to SGL 178 parking area.

Saturday, May 28, 2005
Cedar Creek County Park, Westmoreland County
Time: 1:00 pm
Leader: Mark Bowers (724) 872-5232 and Tom Pearson

Directions: From the PA Turnpike, take Exit 75-New Stanton to continue on I-70 West. Travel approximately 10.5 miles to Exit 46B (Route 51 North/Pittsburgh). Travel a short distance on Route 51 North to the first traffic light on Route 51 and make a right onto Concord Lane.

Alternatively, 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 next stop sign. Continue about 0.6 mile. After you pass Timm's Lane, travel a short distance 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 Creek Gorge Trail, where we will meet.

Saturday, June 4, 2005
Wetlands Along Chartiers Creek, Washington County
Time: 1:00 p.m. (Or arrive 12 p.m. with your picnic lunch, 11 pm with your fishing pole)
Leader: Tom Hart

Tom Hart and his wife Myrna have invited us to explore wetlands along Chartiers Creek. We will meet at his home; he has a party-barn available for eating and resting, so pack a picnic lunch and arrive at 12 p.m. If you would like to try a hand at fishing, arrive at 11 pm - the catfish are running a yard in length. One can explore the many interesting plants on Tom's property before we head off to the wetlands along Chartiers Creek at 1 p.m.

Directions: From Pittsburgh, travel I-79 South toward Washington and head west on I-70 West. Exit I-70 at Exit 15 (Route 40/Chestnut St) and turn right to head east toward Washington. At the second stop light, turn right (you will see the Washington Crown Center Mall on your right). Again, at the second light turn right (the first light goes into the mall and the second light is Route 18; you cannot go straight). Drive south on Route 18 for 2.5 miles and make a right turn (just beyond the Schoolhouse Pizza but before Keith Homes). The Hart's are a half-mile from Route 18 on the left side. There will be parking in a field if the ground permits. Look for balloons on the left side of the road.

Saturday, June 11, 2005
Kyle Woods State Nature Reserve, Mahoning County, Ohio
Time: 1:00 pm
Leader: Carl Patsche (304) 723-0139

Directions: Take PA Turnpike I-76 west to Ohio. Exit the Ohio Turnpike at Exit # 232/OH-7. Head north on OH-7 for 4 miles to US Rte 224. Turn left onto US Rte 224 and travel 2.5 miles to Tippecanoe Road. Turn left onto Tippecanoe and travel 1/2 mile south. Just south of the overpass on Tippecanoe Road, turn right onto a Turnpike Access Road.

Kyle Woods is a remnant of the original forests of Mahoning County. Primarily a beech-sugar maple community, it has a striking diversity of woody species.

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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.

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 University, 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