
WILDFLOWERS

The Bulletin of the Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania • July and August 2005

Website for the Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania

President Haywood has created a website for the Botanical Society. It can be accessed at www.botanicalsocietyofwesternpa.org.

The website has information about purchasing the Society's book, *Wildflowers of Pennsylvania*, and presents excerpts and high-quality images from the book. Also included are a history of the society and a description of various projects.

Our monthly meetings will resume in September; the next meeting will be held Monday, September 12, 2005.

Enjoy Your Wildflowers: Thistles, Part I

The common name, Thistle, is used casually for numerous armored plants, not necessarily related to each other. However, Thistle is not a catch-all name. It belongs to the plants in two genera in the Daisy family, the Plumeless Thistles in *Carduus* and the Plumed Thistles in *Cirsium*. Be aware that botanists, through many centuries, have shifted thistle-like plants among several genera within and outside the family. The result is that relationships are listed in different ways in botanical literature.

Flowers, called florets, of the Daisy family are in a receptacle called a head. A head may have only the erect, tubular, disk florets, or the spreading, ray florets, or both. Florets may be unisexual or bisexual. Thistles have only disk florets.

Among the florets of Thistles, attached to the top of each seed, is a ring of fine hairs, a modified calyx called a pappus. The details of the pappus are small and require magnification. The pappus and seed are dispersed by wind. *Carduus* has hairs that are straight and rough, no plumes. *Cirsium*'s are feathery, plumed.

Plumeless Thistle is Eurasian and is sparingly represented in Pennsylvania with two species, Thistle (*Carduus acanthoides*) and Nodding or Musk Thistle (*C. nutans*). Florets are pink to purple, sometimes white, from June to October for Thistle and May to August for Nodding.

Plumed Thistle is native in the Northern Hemisphere, with about sixty species in North America. Seven species are in Pennsylvania, five native, two introduced. The two introduced species are Bull Thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*) and Canada Thistle (*C. arvense*). Both are European, naturalized in North America, bloom summer into October-November, have rose to purple flowers and are considered noxious weeds. Their habitats are similar, fields, pastures, roadsides, waste areas, with two exceptions. Canada Thistle, a perennial with a horizontal root system, prefers cultivated soil through which it can send up shoots and perpetuate itself from even a section of root. Bull Thistle is a biennial with a long taproot. It has only a rosette of leaves the first year and needs good soil, undisturbed, in order to survive.

Anne S. Bahl

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, July 16 & Sunday, July 17, 2005
Cranberry Glades Botanical Area and
Gaudineer Scenic Knob, WV

Day 1: Saturday, July 16, 2005
Cranberry Glades Botanical Area,
Pocahontas County
Time: 1:30 p.m.

Cranberry Glades Botanical Area is a series of open bogs encompassing 750 acres in an amphitheater-like valley at an elevation of 3400 feet, and fringed by forest and alder thickets. Plant and animal life is similar to that found in bogs north of the glacial boundary. We will join a guided tour by the USFS at 2 p.m. A boardwalk winds through the Botanical Area but the surrounding woodland trails may require shoes that can get muddy. There will be time to explore the surrounding Cranberry Wilderness, a road-less 35,000-acre wilderness area, or to take a drive on the Highland Scenic Highway.

Directions: Take I-79 south through West Virginia. Take Exit #99 (US 33) and travel east on US-33 towards Elkins. In Elkins, take US 219 south for approximately 63 miles to Marlinton. From Marlinton, continue approximately 6 miles on US 219/WV 39 to turn right onto WV 39. There is an antique store on your left at this intersection. Head west on WV-39/55 for about 6 miles to the Cranberry Mountain Visitors Center on the left, where we will meet.

Lodging is available at Marlinton bed & breakfasts or Snowshoe resort lodging. Several members are staying at Jerico B&B (304-799-6241), where 2 to 4-person rooms are available, but call early. For information about Pocahontas County lodging, call 1-800-336-7009, or visit www.pocahontascountywv.com. For Snowshoe lodging information, call 877-441-4FUN, or www.snowshoemtn.com.

Day 2: Sunday, July 17, 2005
Gaudineer Scenic Area & Blister Swamp,
Randolph County
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Leaders: Robert Coxe and Loree Speedy

The Gaudineer Scenic Area is one of the few remnants of old growth Red Spruce in the Central Appalachians, and is typical of the virgin red spruce forest that originally occupied large portions of the highland areas of West Virginia. Blister Swamp is a coniferous/deciduous swamp named for the "Blister Pine" or Balsam Fir (*Abies balsamea*), it is one of this species' southernmost stations.

We will arrange a meeting place at Saturday's field trip. However, if you can only attend Sunday, please call Loree at (724) 872-5232 so that we can arrange a meeting place in advance. Gaudineer Scenic Knob is north of Cranberry Wilderness, on US 250 west of Huttonsville on US 219, and east of Durbin.

Saturday, July 23, 2005
Ghost Town Trail, Indiana County
Time: 1:00 pm
Leader: Scott Speedy (724) 639-3517

Directions: From Pittsburgh, take I-376 Parkway East to its terminus and pick up US Route 22 east. Continue on US Route 22 approximately 40 miles to PA403. Take the PA403 exit. At the end of the exit ramp turn left (north) on PA 403 and continue 1.4 miles to the Ghost Town Trail trailhead. Parking is on the left (west) side of PA 403 shortly after you cross a creek.

Saturday, July 30, 2005
Jennings Prairie, Butler County
Time: 1:00 pm
Leader: Esther Allen (412) 366-0786

Directions: From Pittsburgh, take I-79 North to Exit 99/Butler. Drive east on Route 422 roughly 5.8 miles to the Prospect Exit, and turn left (north) onto Rte. 528. Continue on Rte. 528 for about 7 miles. We will meet in the Jennings

Prairie parking lot on the left (west) side of the road.

Expect Blazing Star, Whorled Rosinweed, sunflowers and goldenrod.

Saturday, August 6, 2005
Sewickley Creek near Hutchison,
Westmoreland County

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Leader: Mark Bowers (724) 872-5232

Directions: Take the PA Turnpike to Exit 67 - Route 30/Irwin/Greensburg. Take the Route 30 East/Greensburg ramp. At the first stoplight on Route 30, turn right. Travel 0.5 mile to the first stop sign and turn right. Travel this road 3.7 miles to a T. Turn right at the T. Continue 0.9 miles to a stop sign in the town of Herminie. Continue straight through the stop sign until you come to a T. Turn left and continue to next intersection. There will be a CITGO on your left. Cross the street and park in the John C. Bruno Memorial Stadium parking lot.

Saturday, August 13, 2005
Markleysburg Bog, Fayette County

Time: 1:00 pm

Leader: Phyllis Monk (412) 831-2724

Directions: From Uniontown, take Rt. 40 east. At the Summit Hotel, measure your mileage. At 12.2 miles, look for log buildings on the left and an oversized sign on the right reading "Truck Warning." Turn right at the foot of this sign onto a blacktop driveway into a church camp where we will meet.

Expect to see Canada St. Johnswort, Round-leaved Sundew, Yellow Bartonian, and *Aster radula*. Prepare for wet feet and possibly insects.

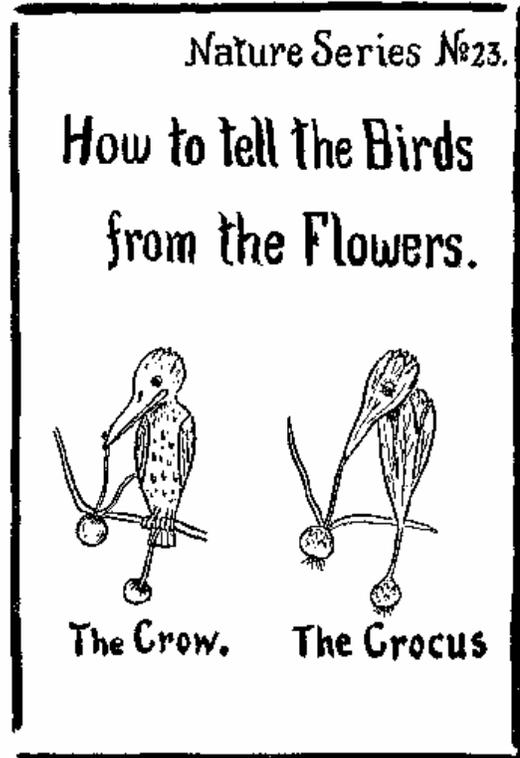
Saturday, August 20, 2005
Raccoon Creek Wildflower Reserve, Beaver
County

Time: 1:00 pm

Leader: Loree Speedy (724) 872-5232

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.



Do Scarlet Tanagers distract you when you're looking for Fire Pinks? Does the Prothonotary Warbler tswweet when you search for Yellow Lady's Slippers? Then you might need the vintage humor of a manual of flornithology for beginners called "How To Tell the Birds from the Flowers" by Robert Williams Wood. Copyright 1907 by Paul Elder and Company.

This delightful book can be accessed on the web at www.geocities.com/Vienna/2406/cov.html.

Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania – July and August 2005

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Check out our new website: www.botanicalsocietyofwesternpa.org

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.

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