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# WILDFLOWERS

The Bulletin of the Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania • March 2006

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## Next Meeting is March 13

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The next meeting will be Monday, March 13, **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 "**To Boldly Botanize:** Thomas Nuttall's explorations of the botanical frontiers of North America."

Arguably the greatest botanist in the history of our continent, Thomas Nuttall walked over much of the United States in the first half of the nineteenth century with a keen eye for new species, and published over 2000 new plant taxa. From western Pennsylvania he discovered as new to science such favorites as *Collinsia verna* (blue-eyed Mary) and *Erythronium albidum* (white trout-lily). His requirements simple, he usually worked with little financial support and always with the interests of science held above considerations of personal gain. Swords to ploughshares? Here is a man who, handed a gun, found himself holding a trowel with a built-in compartment for storing seed packets.

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

Mark your calendars for the upcoming meetings: April 10 features Sandra Feather of the Penn State Cooperative Extension and May 8 brings Robert Coxe back to Pittsburgh.

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## Pennsylvania Rare Plant Forum will meet at Little Buffalo State Park

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The Pennsylvania Rare Plant Forum will be held Saturday, March 25, 2006, at Little Buffalo State Park, in Newport, Perry County, Pennsylvania.

All people interested in the conservation of Pennsylvania's native flora are encouraged to attend this meeting. The primary task will be discussion of proposed changes to the list of Plants Of Special Concern In Pennsylvania (POSCIP). In addition to a few presentations, excursions and forays will be scheduled. Jeff Woelsgle will lead a foray to Box Huckleberry Natural Area on Friday afternoon at 2:00 p.m.

This is also an excellent opportunity to socialize with other people, amateurs and professionals, who share your interest in the flora of Pennsylvania. For detailed information about the Forum and suggested overnight accommodations, contact Steve Grund at the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. Telephone: (412) 586-2350; e-mail: sgrund@paconserve.org

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## Botanical Books, off the Shelf

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*Noah's Garden: Restoring the Ecology of our own Backyards* by Sara Stein (1993).

Sara Stein may be accused of conduct "unbecoming a gardener." In fact she embraces

ideas that her garden (and yours) may not just be pretty to look at but a refuge for folks and wildlife of all sorts. Although she heavily favors native species there is knowledge, logic, and humor in her explanations. She balances between total plant xenophobia and plant pluralism.

She has lots of interesting information including how Bt is used to control insects such as gypsy moths. And, dear to my heart, she includes appendices about fruiting shrubs and butterfly plants. And a gentle reminder that if you are planting for butterflies, think not only about the nectar plants for adults (e.g., *Buddleia davadii* for black swallowtails) but also about the leaf plants for the larvae and, additionally, the food sources for their pollinators and seed dispersers.

*Kim Metheny*

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## A Letter of Thanks from Mary Joy Haywood

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Dear Members of the Botanical Society: I want to thank you for my two great gifts - a beautiful jeweled turtle and a \$50 gift card to Borders. More importantly, I want to thank you for your cooperation and support throughout my twenty years as president of this great organization.

As I sat down and looked over our monthly newsletter, I became aware of all we as a Society have accomplished. From our Centennial celebration, to our inspiring and educational speakers, field trips to local and distant places and the publication of *The Wildflowers of Pennsylvania*, we have much to be proud of. All of us can recall the number of hours and the thousands of slides reviewed for this beautiful publication. My gratitude to Phyllis Monk, co-author of this publication, for her tireless giving of self to complete the publication. Credit must also be given to those who helped financially to publish our book.

Gratitude is also extended to all the officers and board members of our Society who worked with me during my Presidency. Without these

exceptional and dedicated members, our Society would never be such a vibrant organization.

Finally, gratitude must also be given to the Administration, Media Center, Operations, Police and Food Service of Carlow University for providing us with such a fine meeting place and the services needed to run this Society.

Be assured I am not leaving the Society. I will still be here to handle the book sales and make arrangements for our meetings. My "stepping sideways" is to provide an opportunity for more new and creative ideas by our younger members.

I am absolutely positive this fine organization will continue to provide wonderful educational opportunities in the future as it has done in the past. Sincerely yours, Mary Joy Haywood, RSM, Ph.D.

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## A Letter of Thanks from Carlow University

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On behalf of the entire Carlow University Community, I thank you for the most generous gift of \$5000 from the Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania. As you have requested, these funds will be used for scholarships for students in the Division of Natural Sciences who are majoring in Ecology.

It is a pleasure for Carlow to host the meetings of the Botanical Society and I look forward to our continued relationship with such a fine organization. Sincerely, Dr. Mary Hines, President, Carlow University

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## Hello to All Who Knew Me

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Bette Bates, a member of the Botanical Society since 1976, now lives in Oregon. She writes:

"Hello to all who knew me. I was 90 this year. Have given some programs here on *Plants of the Bible*, and *Plants and Legends of Christmas*. This year I got down to Big Bend National Park, and expect to get there again this February. I

have been exploring that Park and area since 1977 every year. My friends say I'm a fixture down there."

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## Upcoming Botanical Events

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**Boyce Park Nature Center** holds a Maple Sugaring Festival on Saturday, March 11. Learn the history and lore of maple sugaring on tours at 11 a.m. or 1 p.m. For more information, call (724) 733-4618.

**Old Economy Village** in Beaver County will hold a Spring Garden Workshop on Saturday, April 8. Dr. James Reveal from the University of Maryland will discuss his research on the botanical studies of Lewis & Clark. Peter Hatch, Director of Gardens and Grounds at Monticello, will speak about the retrieval of historic plants and garden restoration. Contact Old Economy Visitor Center at (724) 266-4500, ext 101.

The Forty-Fifth Annual **West Virginia Wildflower Pilgrimage** will be held at Blackwater Falls State Park on May 11-14. Dozens of tours highlighting the area's native flora occur. Specialists from universities and resource agencies will be on hand to point out interesting flora. For information, call Emily Fleming or Vickie Hash at (304) 558-2754.

The joint conference/field trip for the Botanical Society of America will take place at **Isle of Shoals in New Hampshire**, from June 20–24. Botanically oriented activities include field trips, speakers and workshops from local experts, as well as culturally oriented and historic activities. Contact Jean Stefanik, at (603) 647-1063; Jeango4it@aol.com.

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## Field Trip Schedule

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Registration is not required. Everyone is welcome, including non-members. For questions, or if you would like to lead or sponsor a field trip, call Loree at (724) 872-5232.

**Sunday, March 26, 2006**

**Cedar Creek Park, Westmoreland County**

**Leader: Mark Bowers (724) 872-5232**

**Time: 2:00 p.m.**

**Directions:** From the PA Turnpike, take Exit 75-New Stanton to continue on I-70 West. Travel approximately 10.5 miles to Exit 46B. 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 autoplexes on your left and on your right, you will approach a traffic light with an Exxon & Burger King on the left. At this 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 and turn left for the main entrance to Cedar Creek County Park. Follow this road downhill until it crosses 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.

**Upcoming Field Trips:** These trips have been scheduled for Spring 2006 (many more trips will be scheduled and listed in the upcoming newsletters).

**Enlow Fork:** April 30

**Dolly Sods:** June 24-25

**Cedar Creek Gorge Field Trippers Needed:**

On an afternoon of April 26, 27 or 28 (the date is currently undecided), the Botanical Society will lead a field trip for fifth graders to Cedar Creek Gorge. The students will be supervised by their teachers; members of the Botanical Society are needed to introduce students (and teachers) to wildflowers and wonders of the natural world. Please consider helping to pass on the love of native plants! If you can attend, please contact Loree at 724-872-5232 or mousemapper@verizon.net.

## Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania – March 2006

279 Orr Road  
West Newton, PA 15089

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### **WILDFLOWERS - Bulletin of the Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania**

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**President:** Bonnie Isaac; E-mail: isaacb@CarnegieMuseums.org **Vice-President:** Phyllis Monk, (412) 831-2724 E-mail: uscmonk@ieee.org; **Treasurer:** Kimberly Metheny; **Recording Secretary:** Barbara Schomer; **Program Chairperson:** Christopher Tracey; 412-362-6750; E-mail: ctracey@ecologytechniques.org

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