

WILDFLOWERS

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

Next Meeting is June 12

The next meeting will be Monday, June 12, **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. Gordon Whitney will present **“Forests through Time: The Natural and Human History of Northwestern Pennsylvania’s Woodlands.”** Northwestern Pennsylvania encompasses a variety of soils and landscapes and contains elements of most of the state’s major forest communities. Its post-European settlement history also includes a long history of logging and widespread forest clearance for agriculture. Much of the region has reverted back to forest after widespread farm abandonment in the later half of the twentieth century. Forests of the more rugged third of the region were never cleared as extensively.

In light of this activity, how much change has occurred in the forests of northwestern Pennsylvania? How has the divergent human history of the region altered the composition of the forest?

Dr. Whitney is author of the book *From Coastal Wilderness to Fruited Plain* which describes the enormous environmental changes that occurred in the Northeast and upper Midwest as a result of European settlement. His more recent research focuses on pin cherry's role in ecosystem development, the changing farm/forest landscape of northwestern Pennsylvania and the maple sugar industry. He

is currently working on a book with Marc Abrams, Ann Rhoads and Roger Latham on the natural vegetation of Pennsylvania.

The Ferns and Fern Allies of Pennsylvania

A natural resource book based on Pennsylvania’s lower vascular flora is now available. Author Tom Lord is a long time field biologist with over 30 years of college teaching experience. Impressed with the large variety of simple vascular plants that reside in the diverse environs of Pennsylvania, he and his students made a dedicated effort to seek out and photograph representatives of every species of fern and fern allies in the region. Dr. Lord and a coauthor Holly Travis have spent the last several years organizing and developing a manuscript that has become *The Ferns and Fern Allies of Pennsylvania*.

An effort has been made to appeal to not just botanists and naturalists, but to non-scientist enthusiasts. This is a wonderful resource during walks and is an essential volume to have in a nature library.

Due to the limited printing of the volume, *The Ferns and Fern Allies of Pennsylvania* by Tom Lord and Holly Travis is being offered to members of the Botanical Society at a special price of \$43.00. If you would like to order the book, send a request and payment to Dr. Thomas Lord, Department of Biology, Weyandt Hall, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Indiana, PA. 15705.

Outstanding Mosses and Liverworts of Pennsylvania

"This guide is intended for nature-lovers in Pennsylvania and neighboring states who want an introduction to the local mosses and liverworts but do not have the time or inclination to learn all the technical details used by botanists to identify the species. It makes the recognition of some species or genera of mosses and liverworts possible without the use of a microscope. Included in this guide are about fifty kinds of mosses and liverworts that are common, very distinctive, or very large." From the introduction of the new book *Outstanding Mosses & Liverworts of Pennsylvania and Nearby States* by Susan Munch.

To order *Outstanding Mosses & Liverworts of Pennsylvania and Nearby States*, send a check payable to Susan Munch in the amount of \$18.00 (this price includes shipping & tax), to 49 Water St., Oley, PA 19547.

Credit card orders can be placed to publisher Sunbury Press by calling (717) 422-1494 or visiting <https://shop.sunburypress.com/>. This price is slightly higher.

Native Plants for Wildlife Habitat & Conservation

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has published an informational brochure "**Native Plants for Wildlife Habitat & Conservation Landscaping**." It is available free from the US Fish & Wildlife Service by e-mailing: mary_cordovilla@fws.gov. You can read more about it or download it as a pdf at: <http://www.nps.gov/plants/pubs/chesapeake/>.

Many other publications, guides and links are available on the interesting Plant Conservation Alliance (PCA) website at <http://www.nps.gov/plants/index.htm>.

Fifth Graders Learn the Plants of Cedar Creek

A special thank you is extended to members George Bercik, Susan Caroleo, Sandy Feather, Kim Metheny, Pauline Petrucci, Karen Sandorf, Barb Schomer, Loree Speedy, Lee Tosh, and to Laurie Montgomery and Irene "Ladybug" Middlemiss. This group joined forty fifth graders from West Newton Elementary through the Cedar Creek Gorge and to Port Royal Tufa and introduced them (and their teachers) to the native wildflower treasures.

In Memory: Dorothy Fornof



Tuliptree by Dorothy Fornof

This tuliptree is on the property of late member Dorothy Fornof. Dorothy drew it in 1997; she commented that it was already full grown when her grandmother was a child.

Dorothy Fornof, a dear member of the Botanical Society since 1980, died on Thursday, May 18 at the age of 84. We will miss Dorothy's modest but impeccable knowledge of mushrooms and nature on our field trips as well as her grace and friendship. We extend our sympathy to husband Jim and her sons Robert and Jim. Their address is 225 Indianola Rd, Cheswick, PA 15024.

Yellowpoplar

Hark! The old Tuliptree
Stark and naked she stands
Holding out her great branches
As though they were hands.
She was here when the Seneca
Walked these rugged hills
Hunting turkey and deer
And bear if you will.
Leaves soon will appear
Giving her a pompadour
For all to adore
Then blossom yellow, orange and green
Like lovely tulips they do seem.
It shades the often flowing spring
Where we stop to refresh ourselves,
We, the animals and birds alike
Enjoy the water sparkling bright.
Grosbeaks, orioles and tanagers too
Grace her branches
In the morning dew.
Deep furrows of bark
With a large burn mark
From a fire that swept through
Many decades ago.
Though her age is hundreds of years
She stands like a monarch
Among her peers
She measures 10 1/2 feet around
And stands 80 feet from the ground
 And we love her

Dorothy Fornof

Winged Creatures at Kelly Run Gallery

Several members are exhibiting works of art at the Kelly Run Gallery at 264 S. Main Street, Cambridge Springs, PA, through June 18. The Winged Creatures exhibit includes paintings by Jan Lutz and Jean Stull Cunningham and photographs by Sam Stull. For hours and information, contact the gallery at

(814) 398-9331 or visit
www.kellyrungalleryandframing.com.

Field Trip Schedule

Dolly Sods Natural Area, Tucker Co., WV

Saturday, June 24, 2006

Time: 10 a.m.

Meet in the lobby of Canaan Valley Resort

Sunday, June 25, 2006

Time: 10 a.m.

Meet in the lobby of Canaan Valley Resort

Leaders: Bonnie & Joe Isaac; Charles & Martha Oliver join us on Sunday.

Dolly Sods has been described as “a little bit of Canada placed a hair too far south.” Many of the plant communities are typical of what would be found in Canada rather than West Virginia. We will explore huckleberry heaths, bogs, and spruce stands, and enjoy rhododendron and mountain laurel. Arrive Saturday or Sunday, or join us for the weekend.

Directions: Routes 51 & 40, or I-79 & I-68 are suggested ways to reach the intersection of US 40, US 219 and I-68 in Keysers Ridge, Maryland. From this point, take US 219 south to Thomas WV. In Thomas, take WV 32 to Davis. Continue south on WV 32; about 9-10 miles south of Davis, turn right into Canaan Valley Resort (a well-marked resort of Canaan Valley State Park).

Canaan Valley is approximately 180 miles from Pittsburgh; allow ample time for traveling. Cold temperatures and fog can occur anytime of the year. Please dress for the weather and wear sturdy foot gear!

For information on accommodations in the Davis, WV, and Canaan Valley area, call 1-800-CALL WVA. Camping is available at Blackwater and Canaan Valley State Parks.

Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania – June 2006

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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.

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