
WILDFLOWERS

The Bulletin of the Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania • May 2007

Next Meeting is May 14

The next meeting will be Monday, **May 14**, 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.

Joan Gottlieb will present "New Zealand Ferns: Gondwana Revisited." Joan recently attended a "Ferns of New Zealand" workshop and will share her discoveries with the Society.

Joan is an environmental educator with a special love and interest in ferns; she is the author of many articles and has edited the "Directory of Fern Gardens, Nurseries and Reserves." With a M.S. and Ph.D. from Harvard University, she has taught biology and science at universities and secondary schools.

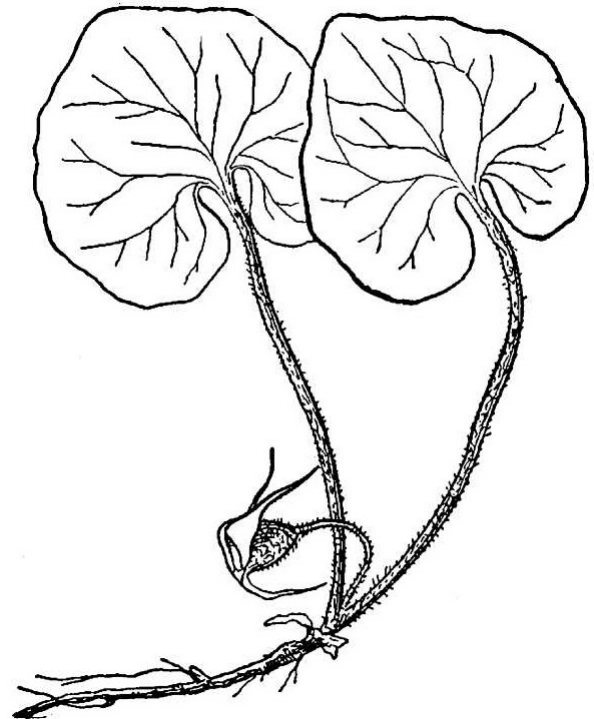
Enjoy Your Wildflowers: Wild Ginger

Pennsylvania's undisturbed woodlands are delightful to stroll through in spring. Many species of plants are displaying their flowers, some are also using fragrance, to invite and welcome their pollinators, and inadvertently, people.

Wild Ginger's leaves indicate its presence because of the way the plant grows. It has creeping, spreading, rhizomes, essentially horizontal stems, below ground or in the leaf litter. (Rhizomes send out roots from the under side and leaf or stem buds from the upper side. This is a common way for perennials to spread

and to form colonies.) Wild Ginger's rhizomes, when broken, have the sharp aroma and taste of ginger, the reason for its common name.

Wild Ginger plants produce a pair of leaves with long, hairy, petioles and one flower at the junction of the petioles. The petioles may reach twelve inches, the leaf blade, seven inches wide. In a colony, the leaves form a slightly-wavy covering. Some plants likely to be in the vicinity are Bloodroot, Columbine, Dutchman's Breeches, Sharp-lobed Hepatica, and Wild Leek.



USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / **Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913.** *Illustrated flora of the northern states and Canada.* Vol. 1: 642.

The broadly bell-shaped flower has rudimentary or no petals, only three broad sepals that taper

abruptly to a long tail. The sepals usually are in some shades of brown, green, purple and/or red. The stigmas mature first, the anthers after the stigmas no longer are receptive to pollen. Then an unpleasant aroma attracts the pollinators, the ants, beetles and small flies living in the leaf litter. This insures cross pollination and stronger plants. The fruit is a fleshy, many-seeded, berry with oily, starchy, appendages called elaiosomes. These attract ants, other insects, and chipmunks. They eat the elaiosomes and disperse the seeds.

Wild Ginger's botanical name is *Asarum canadense*. *Asarum* is the Latinized form of the Greek name, Asaron. Perhaps Asaron is from the Persian aza, mastic, for pulp obtained from Wild Ginger's rhizome. The family is *Aristolochiaceae*, Greek, aristos, best, and locheia, an epithet of Artemis (Diana) who protected women in childbirth. Its common name is Birthwort; the pulp from its rhizome was used when birthing and to remove subsequent obstructions.

Wild Ginger, native, grows in rich woods throughout the state. Its only relatives here are Birthwort, Dutchman's Pipe and Virginia Snakeroot.

Anne S. Bahl

Checklist and Atlas of the Vascular Flora of West Virginia is available

The *Checklist and Atlas of the Vascular Flora of West Virginia*, by Paul J Harmon, Donna Ford-Werntz and William Grafton, is a checklist and county dot map atlas of the vascular flora of West Virginia. This 381-page printed document includes a series of completely revised lists of the vascular plants known to occur outside of cultivation in West Virginia.

The book is a spirally-bound, 8.5 x 11 inch formatted document suitable as a field reference or an addition to one's library or herbarium shelf. The entire work is indexed on common

names, current scientific names, and the scientific names used in the classic manual, *Flora of West Virginia* by P. D. Strausbaugh and Earl L. Core.

County dot maps indicate from which counties each of the 2503 taxa is recorded. Open and solid dots indicate whether each was recorded after 1976 or not. Botanists, ecologists, land managers, naturalists, and gardeners will all find this book extremely valuable. It indicates which species are native, introduced, adventive, or exotic, or tracked by the West Virginia Natural Heritage program as state rare.

The cost is \$20 and includes shipping and applicable taxes. To get your copy send a check made payable to WVDNR to:

Checklist and Atlas of the Vascular Flora of WV
Wildlife Diversity Program, Natural Heritage
West Virginia Division of Natural Resources
P. O. Box 67, Ward Road
Elkins, WV 26241

For credit card orders, contact Janet Iseli at (304) 637-0245 or janetiseli@wvdnr.gov

Appalachian Mountain Refuge

The 2007 Annual Meeting of the North American Rock Garden Society (NARGS) will take place in Canaan Valley, West Virginia from June 14 – 17, 2007. Field trips include daylong trips to Dolly Sods Scenic and Wilderness Area for alpine boreal plants and plants of the southern Appalachians, and to a spectacular deep river canyon at Blackwater Falls State Park. William Grafton of West Virginia University and Bonnie Isaac of the Carnegie Museum will speak on the West Virginia Flora. Also speaking will be William Cullina of the Garden in the Woods.

The NARGS registration fee of \$275 (plus a \$35 non-member surcharge) covers all meals from dinner on Thursday, June 14, to breakfast on Sunday, June 17, field trips and presentations, a large plant sale, and a silent

auction. For housing, participants must make reservations directly with the Canaan Valley Resort for a special rate of \$78 single, \$85 double.

Contact John and Paulette Zabkar at (412) 364-5820 or johnzabkar@aol.com for more information.

Field Trip Schedule

Registration is **not** required. Everyone is welcome, including non-members. 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 12, 2007
Lemon House Picnic Area and Canoe Creek State Park, Blair County
Leader: Mary Paoli (814) 695-5390

Lemon House meeting time: 11:00 a.m. Bring a brown bag lunch.

Directions: From Pittsburgh, take Route 22 East through Ebensburg. About 10 miles east of Ebensburg take the Summit exit. (The picnic area must be accessed from the Summit exit.) Turn right it head east on Old Route 22 /William Penn Highway for a short distance. Look for a weathered sign for the picnic grounds on the left and turn left into the picnic area. The road to the picnic area is before the historic Lemon House.

Canoe Creek State Park Meeting Time: 1:00 p.m.

Directions: From Pittsburgh, take Route 22 East through Altoona, then to Hollidaysburg. About 7 miles east of Hollidaysburg, turn left onto Turkey Valley Road. Look for the Canoe Creek State Park sign. Continue on Turkey Valley Road about 1/2 mile and turn right. Continue to the large parking area and turn left at the T – we will meet at the last parking area on the left.

Consider staying past dinnertime on Saturday. One can visit an old church on park property just after sunset (7:45 p.m.) to watch Indiana bats leave their roost.

Saturday, May 19, 2007
Enlow Fork Natural Area, Greene County
Leader: George Bercik (412) 655-4701
Time: 12 noon

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 onto Franklin Farms Rd and travel 1 mile to a T intersection with PA 18. Turn right onto PA 18 and continue a little over 14 miles to its junction with PA 231. (Note: do not take PA 221 which joins PA 18 from the west (right) and leaves PA 18 on the east (left)).

At the junction with PA 231 (East Finley Dr), turn right and travel for 1.8 miles until PA 231 heads north (right) at a 3-way intersection. At this point, continue straight onto Enon Church Rd and continue for a little over 4 miles to an intersection. At the intersection, continue straight across a bridge onto Walker Hill Rd for 1.6 miles to a sharp right turn for the game lands (Smokey Row Rd). Continue down Smokey Row Rd to game land parking lots at the bottom of the hill.

Saturday, June 2, 2007
Buffalo Freeport Trail, Butler County
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Leader: Esther Allen (412) 366-0786

Directions: Directions: From Pittsburgh, take Route 28 north to Exit 17 (PA356/Butler/Freeport). At the end of the ramp, head west or north on PA 356. After roughly 3.5 miles, turn right onto Sarver Road (SR2018) at a traffic light. Continue a little over 1/2 mile, traveling down a hill. After crossing a creek and passing a volunteer fire department on the left, turn left into the bike trail parking area, where we will meet.

Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania – May 2007

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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 23rd 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