



Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania

Can You Help?

Below you'll find three different requests for your help: two of them ask for specimens you might find while out on the trail, and one seeks historical information.

wildflowers

CARNEGIE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY SECTION OF MOLLUSKS

Tim Pearce, Assistant Curator and Head, Section of Mollusks, CMNH, is asking for your help in building the museum's collection of land snail specimens. If you would like to help, please follow his instructions, given here, on how to properly collect samples:

Collecting Leaf Litter Samples

Most land snails are tiny (<5 mm) and live on the ground, so an effective way to sample them is to collect leaf litter, then in the lab, pick the snails from the litter. Below are suggestions for collecting leaf litter samples to maximize the chance of many snails.

In choosing localities, think like a snail: choose places that stay relatively moist throughout the year (but not submerged,

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GLADE RUN BOG *SARRACENIA*

Adam Hnatkovich, a former graduate student at Frostburg State University, conducted research at FSU focused on local populations of the northern pitcher plant (*Sarracenia purpurea*). In the 1940s, individuals from the last known native population of *S. purpurea* (Glade Run Bog; PA) were transplanted into Spruce Flats Bog (SFB) and Mount Davis Bog (MDB) in southwestern Pennsylvania, Rock Lodge Wetland (RLW) and Cunningham Swamp (CHS) in western Maryland, and Cranessville Swamp (CVS), Big Run Bog (BRB), and Cranberry Glades (CRG) in West Virginia. Adam is interested in detailed information regarding this transplant event. His colleague, Dr. Martin MacKenzie (U.S. Forest Service), was mostly responsible for gathering historical information

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BUTLER AND ARMSTRONG COUNTIES INVENTORY ASSISTANCE NEEDED

The Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program conducts county inventories in order to present information on unique plants, animals, and natural ecological communities throughout the state. These projects identify and map important ecological places within a county, prioritize them based upon their attributes, and provide information

on threats and recommendations regarding their management and protection.

Your help is needed to identify sites in Butler and Armstrong Counties that should be added to our list of survey sites for this field season. Any diverse, intact natural areas, sites with rare plants, areas that are rich (such as those that have limestone at the surface), and places which have abundant wildflowers

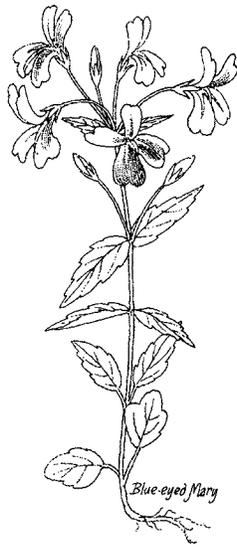
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JUNE-JULY
2008

June & July

Wildflowers,

Bulletin of the Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania, is published bimonthly 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 address below. Deadline for submissions is the 16th of the previous month. **Wildflowers** is printed on recycled paper.



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724-872-5232; E-mail: mousemapper@verizon.net

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.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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 Society of W PA" to Loree Speedy, 279 Orr Road, West Newton, PA 15089. Your membership includes a subscription to the bimonthly bulletin *Wildflowers*.



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.

Registration for Botanical Society field trips is not required, except for the August 16 canoe trip. Everyone is welcome, including non-members. Wear shoes that can get wet or muddy, and sun protection. Trips last 3 to 4 hours but one can leave at any time.

For questions, call the field trip leader or Loree Speedy at 724-872-5232. If you would like to lead a field trip, contact Loree.

Saturday, June 21, 10 a.m.

Jennings Prairie, Butler County

Leader: Esther Allen; 412-366-0786

Directions: From Pittsburgh, take I-79 North to Exit 99/Butler. Drive east on US 422 roughly 5.8 miles to the Prospect exit, and turn left (north) onto PA 528. Continue on PA 528 for about 7 miles. We will meet in the Jennings Prairie parking lot on the left (west) side of the road.

Notes: The prairie will have many interesting plants that are usually not observed during the prime visiting period in late July. We will also see if the American Columbo is blooming.

Saturday, June 28, 1 p.m.

Titus Bog, Erie County

Leaders: Bonnie & Joe Isaac; 724-964-8770
isaacb@CarnegieMuseums.org

Directions: From Pittsburgh, take I-79 north to Exit 166 (Rt. 6N Albion Edinboro). Head east on PA 6N for 9.8 miles to its intersection with PA 19 & PA 6. Continue straight on PA 6 to Union City. After taking the turn out of Union City (continuing on PA 6), drive 5.7 miles to the intersection of PA 89 and PA 6, where we will meet at a drive-in theater on the left.

Notes: This trip requires wading through the bog's moat for a short period, perhaps in water up to 2 feet deep, using shrubs and roots for balance. Old tennis shoes or waders are recommended. Plan on getting wet and climbing over tree trunks. Joe and Bonnie hope to visit the bog several times this year to complete a survey of the plants growing there.

Field Trips

PLAN AHEAD
FOR THIS
SPECIAL TRIP
IN AUGUST!

Saturday, July 12, 1 p.m.

**Ferncliff Peninsula
Ohiopyle, Fayette County**

Leader: Tom Pearson; 724-864-1902

Directions: From Pittsburgh, take the PA Turnpike to Exit 91 (Donegal). Turn east (left) on Route 31. Travel about 2 miles and turn south (right) on Route 381. Travel ten miles to Normalville to a stop sign. Turn left onto Route 381 south and continue 11 miles to Ohiopyle. As Route 381 enters Ohiopyle, it crosses railroad tracks. Turn right just before the bridge over the Yough to enter the Ferncliff parking lot, where we will meet.

Notes: The Peninsula has many unique species that like the cobble of a white water river and ice-scour zones.

Saturday, July 26, 10 a.m.

Butler-Freeport Trail, Butler County

Leader: Esther Allen; 412-366-0786

Directions: From Pittsburgh, take PA 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.

Notes: This rail-trail has many interesting plants, at every time of the year. Note that we are meeting at 10 a.m.!

August 16, 11:30 a.m.

**Kiski-Conemaugh Canoe Trip
Indiana & Westmoreland Counties**

Leader: Loree Speedy; 724-872-5232; mousemapper@verizon.net

Call Saltsburg River & Trail at 1-877-890-5900 to reserve your boat.

Directions: From Pittsburgh, take I-376 Parkway East to US Route 22 east in Monroeville. Turn right for the ramp to PA 286 (Golden Mile Highway). Follow this state road without making any turns for approximately 20 miles to Saltsburg. (Note: PA 286 becomes PA380. Do not turn to follow 286. Continue on the same road, now PA380, which then becomes PA 286 again.)

Cross the bridge over the Kiskiminetas River and turn right at the end of the bridge at the Citgo station onto Water Street. Travel two blocks. Saltsburg River & Trail is well-marked on the left side at Water and Market Streets.

Notes: Please call ASAP to reserve your boat! Canoes and kayaks are available for rent at Saltsburg River and Trail; call 1-877-890-5900 and reserve a boat specifically for the August 16 Botanical Society group trip. A variety of canoes, single, tandem or sit-on-top kayaks are available at a rate of \$25 per person. A shuttle service is available for those bringing their own boats at \$12.50 per boat.

Meet at 11:30 a.m. sharp at Saltsburg River & Trail to pay for your previously reserved boat or shuttle. Those who choose not to shuttle or rent from the outfitter can meet us at the Conemaugh Dam canoe launch at 12:15 p.m.

We will launch our boats at the Conemaugh Dam and travel the Conemaugh to Saltsburg, then the Kiskiminetas to Avonmore. We will search for riverine plants along an atypically undeveloped riverbank. We can also explore Boatyard Run and an Avonmore floodplain. Pack snacks and water and dress in non-cotton.

Reserve your boat, then contact Loree at 724-872-5232; mousemapper@verizon.net, to let her know you are coming. Specific questions about the boat rental can be directed to Saltsburg River & Trail at 1-866-890-5900. If you do not have a partner for a canoe, reserve a boat anyway, and contact Loree; we can pair up before the trip.

NOXIOUS, INVASIVE WEED MANAGEMENT COURSE

The first Northeastern Weed Science Society Noxious & Invasive Vegetation Management Short Course will be held in Pennsylvania September 15–18.

The NEWSS NIVM Short Course will target public and private land managers (parks, conservancies, preserves, forests, private parcels and farms) from Maine to North Carolina who desire a better understanding of weed management.

The course will stress ecologically-based plant management and include monitoring and assessment, prevention, cultural, mechanical and chemical plant management. Classroom, laboratory and field exercises will be utilized and the program will be designed to encourage interaction between instructors and students.

Weed management professionals from throughout the Northeast will help conduct the program. The registration fee covers the cost of instruction, teaching materials and facility rental for the 2.5 day terrestrial short course and for the one day aquatic short course. Students will have to cover travel, lodging and some meal expenses.

For more information, see the online announcement at <http://www.newss.org/news-snivm.php> or contact Melissa Bravo, Bureau of Plant Industry, Department of Agriculture at 717-787-7204 or send email to: mbravo@state.pa.us.

BSWP HAS A NEW TREASURER

Judy Boyer has recently become treasurer of the BSWP. A member since November of 2002, Judy is a resident of the Pittsburgh area and regularly attends monthly meetings. Thanks to Judy for accepting this office. Thanks also go to Kim Metheny for her past service in this post!

VOLUNTEERS RELOCATE NATIVE PLANTS

Early on Sunday, April 6, more than a dozen people in work clothes made their way to Dunlap Creek in Fayette County, southwestern Pennsylvania with shovels, trowels, plant pots and flats, plastic bags, and a lot of good energy.

In the creek bottom at the site of bridge construction for the next section of the Mon Valley Expressway, the volunteers found a rich woodland full of native plants. That afternoon, three pickup truckloads of ferns, saplings, shrubs and spring ephemerals were rescued from bulldozers and cement and made their way to new homes.

The rescue effort began when BSWP member Kathy Patnode toured the site and made arrangements with the PA Turnpike Commission for volunteers to remove plants in the path of road construction on turnpike land. Kathy contacted fellow member Mark Bowers, and Erin Copeland of the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, whose crew had previously rescued plants from other land the turnpike commission acquired for expressway construction. Together with BSWP member Karen Sandorf a group site visit took place, and rescue plans were made.

In addition to the city parks of Pittsburgh, it was determined that Meadowcroft Rockshelter & Museum of Rural Life could

In Memoriam

Albert Shriver Jr. passed away on Friday, March 21, 2008. He and his wife Lois were members of the Botanical Society. Al was one of several members who contributed photographs to the Society's book, "*Wildflowers of Pennsylvania*". He and son Scott, along with Clete Smith, were nicknamed "The Orchid Trio" because of their interest and research on this family of plants.

Al served with the US Naval Seabees during WWII, was the Biology teacher at Avonworth High School from 1955 till 1986, and served as head football coach of the Avonworth Antelopes for 18 years. Lois and Al were married for 64 years. In addition to their children Cynthia, Scott (Kate) and James (Nadine), the family includes seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

If you would like to make a memorial contribution, the family requests that it go to the Emsworth United Presbyterian Church, 73 Hiland Ave., Emsworth, PA 15202.



7TH ANNUAL NATIVE ORCHID CONFERENCE AT WVU July 18–21

As many as 20 blooming species of native orchids can be seen at the height of summertime in the mountains of Appalachia during two days of field trips to eastern West Virginia and central Pennsylvania. West Virginia University in Morgantown will provide meeting facilities, lodging and food service for the event.

During the four-day duration of the conference, two days set aside for presentations will alternate with two field trip days. Speakers will include both professionals and dedicated amateurs and presentations are scheduled for Friday the 18th and Sunday the 20th. Field trip sorties will follow each presentation day and will take place on Saturday the 19th, into the woodlands of south central Pennsylvania, and Monday the 21st, into the wilds of east central West Virginia.

Field trip outings have been designed to work best for small groups, so breaking up into “carloads” of participants is suggested. Each group will be free to “customize” their field outings to focus on those destinations with orchid species of greatest interest.

Registration will be limited to the first 100 people from whom a completed application and payment are received. For more information, go to <http://www.orchidmall.com/misc/7noc.htm>.

ONLINE WILDFLOWER CHAT

Local naturalist Paul Weigman started a wildflowers listserv, in the form of a Yahoo Interest Group. It’s a lot of fun, and provides a forum to share observations, comments, and plant identification questions.

To see it, and join, go to http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PA_wildflowers/?v=1&t=search&ch=web&pub=groups&sec=group&slk=1.

Trillium grandiflorum was just one of several species which flowered a few weeks after it was transplanted in the woods at Meadowcroft. Director Dave Scofield shared this and other photos of transplants that are now thriving there.

provide suitable woodland habitat. Meadowcroft Director Dave Scofield was enthusiastic about receiving rescued native plants, and with Historical Society of Western PA volunteer Gil Anderson was in the work party at the creek that day. Dave also recruited another group of HSWP volunteers who transplanted into that evening at Meadowcroft, with help from those who dug and brought the plants from Dunlap Creek.

Erin Copeland also organized an earlier rescue trip to Dunlap Creek with a Riverview Parks Department of Public Works crew, volunteer Karen Lukas, Bidwell Training Center extern Barker Carter, and PPC staff member Jake Milofsky. She reports great success with all the plants taken to the city parks: Frick, Schenley, Highland and Riverview.

The volunteers were a diverse group of HSWP members, BSWP members and friends. Many thanks to these hard-working people, in addition to those already mentioned, who gave such a large part of that weekend to this labor of love: BSWP members Paula Nichols, James Nusser, Liz DePiero and Bobbi Skwarla; HSWP volunteers Paul and Carol Moessinger, John Boback, Education Manager at Meadowcroft, his wife Veda and their daughters Bethany and Alyssa; PPC volunteers Karen Lukas and Mike Markey; and friends Abi Gallagher, Eric Hall, Ann Mertz, Floyd Patterson, and Sue Werner. Thank you all for making this possible!

Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania
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JUNE 9 MEETING

Please join us Monday June 9, 7:15 p.m. at Kresge Theater, Carlow University, 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.

In the 1940s, *Sarracenia purpurea* was transplanted from the last known native population at Glade Run Bog (Somerset Co., PA) to wetlands in southwestern Pennsylvania, western Maryland, and West Virginia. Adam Hnatkovich, our speaker this month, has examined the current status of each of these *S. purpurea* populations, analyzed the plant communities surrounding *S. purpurea*, and comparatively examined flower and pitcher (leaf) morphology among populations. This research has established that, after 60 years, transplant *S. purpurea* populations are differently structured in terms of

population size and the number of individuals of different age classes. Adam will share the details of his findings and what the findings suggest about the changes these populations have undergone.

Adam received his Bachelor's of Science in Environmental Science from California University of Pennsylvania in 2005. His research at California University focused on population assessment of Atlantic white cedar (*Chamaecyparis thyoides*) in Pennsylvania. Adam then received his Master of Science in Applied Ecology and Conservation Biology from Frostburg State University in 2007, where his research focused on the ecology and population biology of the northern pitcher plant (*Sarracenia purpurea*). Adam is currently enrolled at West Virginia University, earning his doctoral degree in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. Under the advisement Dr. Steven DiFazio, Adam's doctoral research will focus on population genetic structure of trembling Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) in the Rocky Mountains, as well as trembling and big-tooth aspen (*P. grandidentata*) populations in Allegheny Mountain forests.

Our next meeting will take place on Monday, September 8. The speaker will be Steve Grund, botanist with the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. Till then, we hope to see you on one of the field trips! You'll find them listed inside the front cover, and in the August/September newsletter.