

Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania  
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THE BULLETIN OF THE  
**Botanical Society**  
of Western Pennsylvania

## *Events of Interest*

*The classes listed below are of botanical and environmental interest. Offered by these two organizations, you may find that one or more of them are just for you:*

*Pennsylvania Institute for Conservation Education of Bloomsburg, PA, is dedicated to natural history and natural resource conservation education for people of all ages.*

*Fern Hollow Nature Center of Sewickley, PA, is a place for everyone's enjoyment of the outdoors, offering educational programs on environmental appreciation and understanding.*

### GRASSES, SEDGES AND RUSHES

*August 13 & 14 (Wednesday & Thursday) at Shaver's Creek Environmental Center, taught by Sarah Miller and offered by PICE.*

This course is designed with consultants, natural resource professionals and students in mind. Join an experienced botanist to learn necessary skills to identify these challenging plant species using diagnostic characters and botanical keys. Each day will consist of both classroom sessions and fieldwork. Classroom activities will highlight basic morphology, the characteristics of common genera, and identification of plant specimens using both simple and complex keys. Slides, overheads, handouts, herbarium and freshly collected field specimens will be used to illustrate plant characters, especially those that may prove an obstacle to keying. In the field, participants will have the opportunity to visit different wetland types in the area to practice their plant identification skills.

Tuition: \$245; includes lunch each day, instruction, and 12 ACT 48 credit hours.

### FERNS AND MOSSES

*September 6 (Saturday) at Ricketts Glen State Park, taught by Susan Munch, PhD and offered by PICE.*

The forests of Pennsylvania provide ideal habitat for luxuriant growth of ferns and mosses as well as other non-flowering plants. Investigate the habitats and uniqueness of these fascinating plants as we explore old forests, wetlands and Appalachian landscapes. Learn to identify major common genera and species from an experienced botanist. For our field studies, we will explore the most beautiful and alluring Pennsylvania natural area where non-flowering plants thrive. Ricketts Glen is known for its abundance of scenic waterfalls.

Tuition: \$80; includes instruction and 6 ACT 48 credit hours. Bring your own lunch.

For more information on these PICE classes, go to [http://www.piceweb.org/p\\_nathistory.htm](http://www.piceweb.org/p_nathistory.htm).

*Continued on inside back cover*

## SEPTEMBER 8 MEETING

Please join us Monday, September 8, 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.

Our speaker will be Steve Grund, botanist with the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy.

"Southern Belles in the Land of Yankees: Plant Endemism in the Southern and Central Appalachians with Emphasis on Species that Range into Pennsylvania" is the title of Steve's presentation.

Steve studied botany at the University of Michigan. With the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy since 1995, he is also a Research Associate at the Carnegie Museum, Section of Botany. Steve studies floristics and conservation of the plants of Pennsylvania. He has been Chair of the annual Pennsylvania Rare Plant Forum since 1997.

### Wildflowers of Pennsylvania

(400 pp., 612 color photos) can be purchased for \$20 (plus \$1.40 sales tax for PA residents). Add \$2 postage and handling for one book, \$3/two, \$4/three, \$4.50/four.

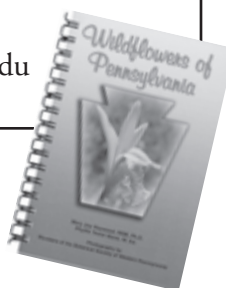
Forward your check, made payable to Botanical Society of Western PA, and your request to:

Dr. Mary Joy Haywood, RSM, PhD  
3333 Fifth Ave.

Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3165

412-578-6175

haywoodmj@carlow.edu



AUGUST &  
SEPTEMBER  
2008

*Wildflowers*,  
Bulletin of the Botanical  
Society of Western  
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short articles of botanical  
interest, drawings, and  
notices of botanical events  
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*Field Trip Chairperson:* Loree Speedy  
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 for individual and \$15  
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.

## August & September

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, August 16, 11:30 a.m.

#### Kiski-Conemaugh Canoe trip Indiana & Westmoreland Counties

**Leader:** Loree Speedy

**Contact Info:** 724-872-5232; mousemapper@verizon.net. Call  
Saltsburg River and Trail at 1-877-890-5900 to reserve your boat.

**Directions:** From Pittsburgh, take I-376 Parkway East to US 22  
east in Monroeville. Turn right for the ramp to PA 286 (Golden  
Mile Highway). Follow this road for approximately 20 miles to Salts-  
burg. (Note: PA 286 becomes PA 380. Do not turn to follow 286.  
Continue on the same road, now PA 380, 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 and 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 of \$12.50 per boat is available for those bringing their  
own boats.

Meet at 11:30 a.m. sharp at Saltsburg River and 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 river-  
bank. We can also explore Boatyard Run and an Avonmore flood-  
plain. Pack snacks and water and dress in non-cotton.

## Field Trips

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 and Trail at  
1-866-890-5900. If you do not have a part-  
ner for a canoe, reserve a boat anyway, and  
contact Loree; we can pair up before the trip.

### Saturday, August 23, 10 a.m.

#### Murrysville Reserves Westmoreland County

**Leader:** Tom Pearson

**Contact Info:** 724-864-1902

**Directions:** From Pittsburgh, take I-376  
Parkway East and US 22 east toward Mur-  
rysville. In Murrysville at the traffic light  
with a modernized McDonald's on the left,  
turn left onto Vincent Hall Road which be-  
comes Sardis Road at the next intersection.  
Continue on Sardis Road about 2.5 miles.  
You will see the Murrysville municipal com-  
plex on the left, Sloan Elementary School on  
the right. Turn right into Sloan Elementary  
School and meet in the parking lot. We will  
carpool to the various reserves.

**Notes:** The Westmoreland Conservancy, in  
an effort to preserve the countryside and for-  
ested natural areas of this rapidly developing  
area, has set aside a number of reserves. Tom  
will show us his favorites.

### Saturday, August 30, 10 a.m.

#### Titus Bog, Erie County

**Leaders:** Bonnie & Joe Isaac

**Contact Info:** isaacb@CarnegieMuseums.Org  
724-964-8770

**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  
and 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 foot deep, using shrubs and  
roots for balance. Old tennis shoes or waders are recommended.  
Plan on getting wet and climbing over tree trunks.

Note the 10 a.m. starting time. Visitors to the bog at various times  
of the year have been rewarded by sighting several plant treasures.

### Saturday, September 13, 2 p.m.

#### Bill Paxton's Stewardship Forest, Westmoreland County

**Leader:** Bill Paxton

**Contact Info:** 724-537-3076

**Directions:** From Pittsburgh, take U.S. Route 22 east toward  
New Alexandria. About 7 miles beyond the PA 66 toll road, turn  
right onto US 119 south. Travel US 119 south about 3 miles, and  
turn left onto Latrobe Crabtree Road, just before Carbone's Res-  
taurant. Continue on Latrobe Crabtree Road a little less than  
5 miles, and turn left onto Lightcap Road. Count 5 houses on the  
right and then turn right onto Pax View Hills Lane. Stay to the  
right at the Y to reach a sign for a Stewardship Forest. Park here.

**Notes:** Bill Paxton, forester and botanist, will show us his stew-  
arded forest and discuss issues related to a healthy forest.

### Saturday, September 27, 10 a.m.

#### North Park, Allegheny County

**Leader:** Dianne Machesney

**Contact Info:** diannem15237@aol.com; 412-366-7869

**Directions:** From Pittsburgh, take PA 28 toward Etna and  
PA 8. Travel PA 8 north for about seven miles to Wildwood  
Road. Make a left onto Wildwood Road. Follow Wildwood Road  
for about 3 miles to the park. Park just before the major intersec-  
tion of Wildwood Road and Babcock Boulevard, just after you  
pass a Tasty Freeze restaurant on the right.



PANCRACE BESSA

AND THE GOLDEN AGE OF FRENCH BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATION

18 September–19 December 2008

The Hunt Institute will exhibit a selection of watercolors and prints by the French botanical artist Pancrace Bessa (1772–1846). In this golden age of natural history science, many new plants arrived in France to be cultivated in the botanical gardens of the Muséum de Histoire Naturelle. These new plants required classification, description and illustration. Bessa painted flowers and fruits for some of the most important collections and botanical publications of the early 19th century, taught painting and exhibited at the Paris Salon.



Pancrace Bessa studied at the Muséum de Histoire Naturelle in Paris (commonly known as the Jardin des Plantes). He was hired as a peintre des fleurs to portray rare plants for the famous collection of vélins—the paintings on vellum begun in the mid-17th century for Gaston d'Orleans, inherited by Louis XIV and transferred to the Jardin du Roi—that was nationalized and renamed the Muséum de Histoire Naturelle in 1793.

This exhibit will reunite 11 of Pancrace Bessa's original watercolors, as well as feature a selection of engravings from one of the

most important French periodicals of the period—Mordant de Launay's (and later Loiseleur-Deslongchamp's) *Herbier Général de l'Amateur* (Paris, [1810–]1816–1827) along with several other publications that Bessa illustrated. A small selection of watercolors and prints by the two men who most influenced Pancrace Bessa's style and technique—Gerard van Spaendonck (1746–1822) and Pierre-Joseph Redouté (1759–1840)—will also be on display.

*Gordonia pubescens*, watercolor on vellum by Pancrace Bessa (1772–1846) for Mordant de Launay and Loiseleur-Deslongchamps' *Herbier Général de l'Amateur* ... vol. 4, pl. 236, 1820 (Paris, [1810–]1816–1827). Art HI accession 0058. © 2008 Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. All Rights Reserved.

See this exhibition on the fifth floor of the Hunt Library building at Carnegie Mellon University. Hours: Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–noon and 1–5 p.m.; Sunday, 1–4 p.m. (except 27–28 November and 12 December). The Hunt is also open on Saturday, 25 October, 1–5 p.m. (Carnegie Mellon's homecoming). The exhibition is open to the public free of charge. For further information, contact the Hunt Institute at 412-268-2434.

ENVIRONMENTAL BOOK CLUB

The Environmental Book Club meets at Borders Book Store on McKnight Road in North Hills on the first Monday of the month at 7:30pm. We usually hang out on the comfy chairs near the science section behind the music. It is not compulsory to have read the book or bought the book here. The discussion is informal and often fun. Borders also makes these books available to us at 20% discount. You might need to remind them to input the 20% off—it doesn't happen automatically.

Our next books are:

☛ Monday, Aug. 4, 2008—*Adam's Curse* by Bryan Sykes. This is our summer potluck at a member's house in North Hills. Contact Sue Broughton sbroughton@macconnect.com for directions.

☛ Monday, Sept. 8, 2008—*Water, Ice, Stone: Science and Memory on the Antarctic Lakes* by Bill Green

We pick the books ourselves and the upcoming selections may be:

☛ *The Beast in the Garden* by David Baron

☛ *Jaguar: One Man's Struggle to Establish The World's First Jaguar Preserve* by Alan Rabinowitz

☛ *Beyond the Last Village: A Journey of Discovery in Asia's Forbidden Wilderness* by Alan Rabinowitz

You'll find all of these books at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). If you have a preference, speak up! Preregistration is not required, but if you have questions you can contact Kim Metheny at [kmetheny@hotmail.com](mailto:kmetheny@hotmail.com).

Enjoy Your Wildflowers

BROAD-LEAVED ARROWHEAD by Anne S. Bahl

A rewarding diversion on a pleasant day from mid-summer into early spring is harvesting the starchy, potato-like tubers of Broad-leaved Arrowhead. Look for the plants in nutrient-rich mud under still or slow-moving fresh water in marshes and swamps and on the edges of waterways.

The tubers grow on the far end of fibrous roots sent out from the long, thick, rhizome that anchors the leaves and the flower stalk. When released from the soft mud by toes, sticks or other tools, the tubers pop to the surface and can be gathered, usually downstream. Their sizes range from a large pea to an egg. Substitute them for potatoes in many recipes. Most people seem to enjoy them when they are cooked and peeled before other preparation. Tubers from all the species that have them are edible.

Broad-Leaved Arrowhead is in the Water Plantain family, *Alismataceae*, from Greek, *alisma*, a water plant. Its genus name is *Sagittaria*, from Latin, *sagitta*, arrow, for the leaves, usually arrow-shaped. Its species name is *latifolia*, Latin, *latus*, wide and Greek, *phyllo*, leaf. The large, erect leaf blades can get over a foot long and resemble arrow points whose base is a deep V shape. Their proportions vary. The underwater leaves and the floating ones differ from each other and from the erect ones.

Leaf petioles enclose the flower stalk—it is usually taller than the leaves. Clusters of three 1½" white flowers with three petals and three sepals are in several rings around the stalk. Flowers may be monoecious, dioecious or hermaphrodite. Monoecious have pistils and stamens in separate flowers on the same plant. Dioecious have pistils and stamens on separate plants. Hermaphrodite or perfect have both sexes in the same flower. Flowers are insect- and wind-pollinated.

*Sagittaria* species are temperate and tropical climate plants chiefly in the Western Hemisphere. Pennsylvania has six species and two varieties. Only the variety whose stamens have smooth filaments is common here.

Two Native American common names are in use. Wapato is from a tribe that lived near the mouth of the Columbia River. Tule (too'-lee) is from the California Nahuatl name, *tullin*.

*Sagittaria latifolia*



EVENTS OF INTEREST Cont'd. from front cover

RAIN BARREL & WATER CONSERVATION WORKSHOP

Saturday, August 23, 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. Offered at Fern Hollow Nature Center.

Join the Beaver County Conservation District and Penn State Cooperative Extension for a workshop on water conservation, store water management, using rain gardens, and the benefits of rain barrels. Cost for this workshop includes all materials and instruction on how to make a rain barrel. Preregistration is recommended for the workshop. Contact FHNC at 412-741-6136 to reserve a spot by August 18. There is limited seating. Admission is \$30 per person.

Our Condolences

Our sympathy goes out to member Odie Cowden on the loss of her husband Bernard.

We also extend our sympathy to members Lee Ann Reiners and James Nusser on the loss of their mothers this spring.