



Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania

May & June Meetings

MAY 11 MEETING. Dr. Susan Kalisz will present *Indirect Effects of Overabundant White-tailed Deer in Forests: suppression of unbrowsed native species and facilitation of invaders*.

Her research addresses questions related to the evolution, ecology, development and conservation of flowering plants and their communities. Dr. Kalisz will discuss data collected in replicated experimental plots and across a range of forests sites, revealing dramatic indirect effects of overabundant deer on two components of the understory community. The first findings showed changes in population structure and demography of *Arisaema triphyllum* (Jack-in-the-pulpit, *Araceae*) in highly browsed sites in PA. Second, testing for deer facilitation of the population growth rate of the noxious invader *Alliaria petiolata* (garlic mustard, *Brassicaceae*) in paired deer exclusion/access experimental plots in PA found a consistently high growth rate. Conclusions of these studies indicate that 1) many unbrowsed species in forests with high deer densities could be negatively affected along with their palatable neighbors and 2) deer facilitate the invasion of the forest by

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JUNE 8 MEETING. Mr. Bill Paxton will speak at our June 8 meeting. He will present *An Overview on Grapes, and a Specific Workshop on Grape Seeds*.

Bill Paxton started a nature menagerie on his parents' back porch at age 7, was voted president of the junior Audubon Society, won numerous awards, and was called "Professor Paxton," when *Student Life Magazine* asked for his story.

At Penn State University he studied Zoology/Entomology, changed his major to Forestry and interned with Dr. H. Rodney Dodge in the U.S Forestry Service Insect Lab in Missoula, Montana.

After serving as a Lt. USNR and touring the world, Bill became a landscape nurseryman and landscape contractor for 25 years.

Now a consultant forester, Bill was a state nursery inspector, tree farm inspector and park planner for Westmoreland County Department of Parks and Recreation. He was among the first group trained to do Forest Stewardship plans in the State of Pennsylvania when the program began in 1993.

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MAY-JUNE
2009

Meetings are held on Mondays at 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.

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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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 Judy Boyer, 211 Lee Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15237. 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.

May & June

Registration for Botanical Society field trips is not required. Everyone is welcome, including non-members. Wear shoes that can get wet or muddy. Trips last 3 – 4 hours but one can leave at any time. For questions call the field trip leader, or Loree Speedy at 724-872-5232.

Saturday, May 2, 1 p.m.

Trillium Trail, Fox Chapel, Allegheny County

Leader: Luc Berger; lberger@andrew.cmu.edu

Directions: Take PA 28 to Exit 8 in Fox Chapel. At the exit, turn left and follow Fox Chapel Rd. for 1 mile. After passing Delafield Rd., make a left turn into Squaw Run Rd. Follow Squaw Run Rd. for 1.6 mile. Turn left into the parking lot of the Trillium Trail, where we meet. Note: If you see something called Squaw Run Rd. EAST, ignore it.

Notes: Trillium Trail is recovering! Once known as a most spectacular display of trilliums, the hillsides here were denuded of trillium by suburban deer herds by the 1990's. The borough of Fox Chapel has implemented a wildlife management program, and a fence has been erected around a portion of the hillside.

Saturday, May 9, 10 a.m.

Spring Wetland Walk in Frick Park Pittsburgh, Allegheny County

Leaders: Esther Allen and Mark Bowers

Contact: Jeff Bergman; jeff@ninemilerun.org; 412-371-8779 x-14

Directions: We will meet at the Lower Frick Parking Lot off Hutchinson Ave. From Pittsburgh, take the Parkway East (US 22-30) to the Edgewood/Swissvale Exit. On the ramp, take the left fork to Edgewood (ignore sign for Edgewood Towne Center) and continue to S. Braddock Ave. Turn right onto S. Braddock Ave., and continue about ¼ mile to a traffic light at Hutchison Ave. Turn left onto Hutchison, and continue down this road to a sign for Frick Park on the right. Continue down this lane to parking.

Notes: We will join Frick's Urban Ecostewards to look for beautiful native species that grow in the recently renovated wetlands.

Field Trips

Saturday, May 16, 1 p.m

Shanksville Community Park, Somerset County

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

Directions: From Pittsburgh, take the PA Turnpike east to Exit 100, Somerset Exit. Follow the signs for "To PA 31 East" by continuing straight through the next two traffic lights. Head east (left) on PA 31 about three miles to a Y where you will bear left to Shanksville on Stutzmantown Rd. Continue a little over 6 miles to Shanksville. At the first stop sign in Shanksville, make a left. After you cross a bridge, make a right and continue less than ½ mile. After another bridge and a Stonycreek Township sign, turn left into the community park.

Notes: After this walk, we are invited to Lee Tosh's cabin for supper/late lunch, socializing and more botanizing. If you plan to join us for supper, please call or e-mail Loree at the contact numbers above.

Saturday, May 23, 10:00 a.m.

Hell's Hollow, McConnells Mill State Park, Lawrence County

Leader: Bonnie Isaac; IsaacB@CarnegieMNH.org

Directions: From Pittsburgh, take I-79 north to Exit 96/Portersville. Turn left to travel PA 488 about 4 miles to Heinz Camp Rd. Turn right onto Heinz Camp Rd. and continue about 2 miles to a T. Turn right and cross the Armstrong Bridge. Continue up the hill about 2½ miles and make a right onto Shaffer Rd. The Hell's Hollow Trailhead parking lot is on the right about 100 yards after the turn, just before a one-lane bridge.

Friday, May 30 through Sunday, May 31

Central Pennsylvania

Time: Meeting places, times, locations to be announced. Plan to attend the entire weekend or selected days.

Contact: Debra Grim, 814-355-4102; dgrim@diagnosticsplus.com

Notes: Join the Pennsylvania Native Plant Society and the Maryland Native Plant Society for a field excursion to central Pennsylvania. Possible destinations include Fisherman's Paradise, Alan Seeger, and Bear Meadows. When the itinerary is finalized, details will be posted on the PNPS website, www.pawildflower.org. Loree Speedy can transmit the final details about this trip to those without e-mail or web access. Call her at 724-872-5232. *Continued on next page*

Have you Renewed Your BSWP Membership for 2009?

Annual dues are a very economical \$10 per individual, or \$15 per family. Please send your check, payable to BSWP, to Judy Boyer, 211 Lee Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15237. To inquire about membership, contact Judy at bswpjb@aol.com.

GLOBAL GARLIC MUSTARD FIELD SURVEY

Do you want to be part of the largest ever international effort to study an invasive plant? Global Invasions Research Coordination Network (GIN) is a group of 50 scientists from around the world interested in the ecology and evolution of biological invasions. They have initiated this project, and you can learn more by going to the GIN website; address is below.

It is widely believed that invasive species are larger, reproduce more and reach higher densities compared to their native ancestors. However, there are surprisingly few hard data to support this claim, even for some of the most well-known invaders. One of the most problematic invaders in North America is garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), yet without good field data, important questions remain unanswered. Does garlic mustard really grow larger and reproduce better in North American populations than in native European populations? How much variation in performance is there among populations within Europe and North America? Answers to questions like these will ultimately lead to better understanding and management of invasive species.

With your help, GIN's goal is to form a
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Field Trips, continued from previous page

Saturday, June 20, 9 a.m.

RiverSweep Cleanup at Little Sewickley Creek in Herminie Westmoreland County

Contact: Loree Speedy, 724-872-5232; mousemapper@verizon.net; cell phone 724-518-6022

Directions: Take the PA Turnpike to Exit 67/Route 30/Irwin/Greensburg. Take the Route 30 East/Greensburg ramp. At the first stoplight on Route 30, turn tight onto Arona Rd., then another right after 0.5 mile onto unmarked Wendel Rd. Travel this road 3.7 miles to a T. Turn right at the T and continue 1 mile to Herminie to a 4-way stop (VFD on corner). Continue straight to the next stop sign and turn left. Proceed through 2 more stop signs, end at a T, and turn right. Continue past the Dairy Queen on your right and down a hill. We will meet just before the highway bridge. Park on the left side.

These directions are difficult as roads are unmarked and state roads through Herminie sometimes look like alleys. An important landmark is the Dairy Queen. Once you locate that, head west down the hill.

Notes: The Botanical Society, along with the Botanical Society of Westmoreland County and Westmoreland Bird and Nature Club, is participating in a clean up of this special wildflower site along the Little Sewickley Creek. All three organizations have visited this area often, and wish to thank the landowners and community by volunteering to make the area trash-free.

This cleanup will be an official location of the Ohio RiverSweep, sponsored by ORSANCO. The RiverSweep is a yearly cleanup program to keep the Ohio River and its tributaries suitable for public use. In addition to keeping the riverbanks clean, ORSANCO hopes that increased public exposure to the watershed will foster greater environmental concern.

Bring work-gloves and wear old clothes and shoes or boots that you won't mind getting dirty. Trash bags will be provided. All participants will be asked to sign a liability waiver form.

Wednesday, June 24, 9 a.m.

Keystone State Park, New Alexandria, Westmoreland County

Leader: Pamela McQuistian, Environmental Education Specialist; 724-668-2566; pmcquistia@state.pa.us

Directions: From Pittsburgh, travel US 22 east to New Alexandria. At the intersection of US 22 & PA 981 (not 819), at the Sheetz, turn

Garlic Mustard, continued from previous page

broad network of scientists, students and environmentalists from across Europe and North America to fill an important gap in data on native and introduced plant populations. This project is designed to be simple and achieved with just a few hours of work, once populations have been located.

To join this project, or get more information about it, please contact Rob Colautti, University of Toronto, Canada, rob.colautti@utoronto.ca.

A PDF of instructions for the joint cross-continental field study of this invasive plant is available at <http://www.invasionsrcn.org>.

right onto PA 981 and travel a few blocks. At the Y, bear left onto Keystone Park Rd. (SR 1018). Continue 2 miles to the park. Follow signs to James A. Kell Visitor Center, where we will meet.

Notes: Keystone State Park has invited the Botanical Society to participate in a bioblitz of an area adjacent to the park that could potentially be added to park property. Stay as long as you like, and bring a lunch and water. Note that we are meeting Wednesday morning.

Saturday, June 27, 1 p.m.

Pine Swamp, S.G.L. 130, Mercer County

Directions: From Pittsburgh, take I-79 north to Exit 121. Head east for approximately 4 miles; first by traveling about ½ mile on US 62, then continuing straight onto PA 965 when US 62 heads to the north. At the 4.0 mile mark, look for a white house with a pond behind it on the left. Park in the grassy area to the left of the house, being careful not to block any access to this home's buildings.

Notes: Wear shoes that can get wet, as we may be walking through soggy terrain for portions of the walk. Pine Swamp is a natural area composed of a raised bog, swamp forest and marsh.

PENN STATE TO INITIATE FLORISTIC QUALITY ASSESSMENT IN THE MID-ATLANTIC REGION

by Sarah Miller

Since the 1970s, the US Fish & Wildlife Service has been tracking the quantity of our nation's wetland resources. Although we know much about wetland losses and conversions due to these efforts, we know much less about the quality of our remaining wetlands. In the last decade, Region 3 of the US Environmental Protection Agency has launched a vigorous effort to monitor and assess existing wetland resources, with help from its member states. In the Mid-Atlantic region, the Penn State Cooperative Wetlands Center (CWC) has spearheaded these efforts, bringing together state and federal agencies and the academic community to develop wetland monitoring and assessment strategies and create monitoring tools that are rapid, effective and inexpensive.

This year the CWC will initiate a project to advance Floristic Quality Assessment in the Mid-Atlantic region. The Floristic Quality Assessment Index is an assessment tool that estimates wetland condition based on the composition of the plant community. It is

In Memoriam

Mary Jeanette Clymer "Pat" Metheny, mother of BSWP member Kim Metheny, passed away on Feb. 13, 2009. An independent sort, she took the name Pat at an early age. She graduated from Purdue University at 20 and worked in a chemical lab and as a teacher before joining the American Red Cross after Pearl Harbor. She served in New Guinea, the Philippines, and during the occupation in Tokyo ran the canteen on the USS Gary Owen, formerly the Emperor's flag ship the Meiji Miru. There she met her future husband Lt. Dick Metheny, from Beaver Falls, PA. After the war Pat moved to Pittsburgh where she worked at the YWCA teaching swimming until the couple moved to Mt. Lebanon where they lived for 55 yrs. Pat was active in her church and Girl Scouts, and derived much joy in being an avid game player. She and Dick traveled extensively and, after his death, Pat went on a mission trip to help build a clinic in Costa Rica. Preceded in death by her husband in 1996, Pat is survived by two daughters: Kim and her husband Jim Wojciechowski; and Kris Metheny, her husband Jordy Whitmer and their children. In lieu of flowers contributions can be made to: The Reformed Presbyterian Home, Perrysville Ave., Pittsburgh PA 15214; or the Ann Coughenour Campership Fund, Girl Scouts Western PA, 606 Liberty Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15222.

RACCOON CREEK STATE PARK AUGUST WORKSHOPS

Be sure to register early for these August workshops at Raccoon Creek:

Edible Wild Plants August 8–9. Learn to properly identify summer edible plants, poisonous plants and trees, as well as forage and prepare meals. Primitive methods of cooking will also be covered. Overnight tent camping is suggested.

Botany in a Day August 29. This beginner's course in basic plant terminology and identification techniques will utilize the late-summer plants in the Wildflower Preserve.

For more information, call 724.899.3611.

one of our strongest metrics in terms of estimating wetland quality and is used by a number of states in both the Mid-Atlantic and Midwest.

The key component of the FQAI is the coefficient of conservatism — a number between 0 and 10 assigned to each species which is an indication of its fidelity to a particular habitat and its tolerance to disturbance. Coefficients have been assigned for portions of the flora in the Mid-Atlantic region including work done by Carl Keener, Harry Henderson and the late George Beatty for PNPS in the Penns Creek watershed. However, this will be the first attempt to assign coefficients on a regional basis.

The CWC is currently soliciting interest from the botanical community to assign coefficients. Coefficients will be assigned to the four primary ecoregions comprising the Mid-Atlantic. Allegheny Plateau, Ridge & Valley, Piedmont and Coastal Plain. If you would like to serve on one or more of these botanical committees or know someone who would, please let Sarah Miller know (814-863-2567; sjm20@psu.edu). For more information on the FQAI, see the PNPS website (www.pawildflower.org).

Wildflowers

May– June 2009

Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania

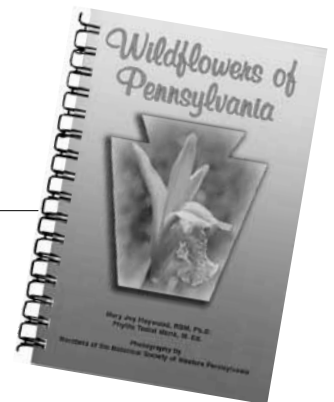
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Wildflowers of Pennsylvania (400 pages, 612 color photos) can be purchased for \$20 (plus \$1.40 sales tax for PA residents). Add \$2 postage and handling for one book, \$3/two, \$4/three, \$4.50/four. Forward your check, made payable

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



May 11 Meeting, continued from front cover

Alliaria. Together, these results implicate high deer density in the cascade of plant species decline and invasion in forests and highlight the urgency of this conservation issue.

Dr. Kalisz received her BS in Botany from the University of Michigan, and her MS and PhD from the University of Chicago. After serving as Associate Professor at Michigan State University and the Kellogg Biological Station, she joined the faculty at the University of Pittsburgh in 1995 and is currently a Professor of Biological Sciences. Dr. Kalisz has served as an Associate Editor for the journal *Evolution*, *The American Naturalist*, *Ecology* and *Plant Ecology*.

June 8 Meeting, continued from front cover

Bill has a life-list of over 400 birds in the USA. He has donated his outstanding collection of *tetrigidae* (pigmy grasshoppers) to the Dr. Stewart W. Frost Museum at PSU. He is a botanical illustrator and a member of numerous societies and professional organizations, including the Botanical Society of Westmoreland County, serving as president for 20 years — a charter member, and now an honorary member.

A registered landscape architect (PA 483), Bill teaches horticulture at WCCC, Chatham University, and biology at St. Vincent University.