



# Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania

## September & October Meetings

**SEPTEMBER 14 MEETING has a change of location! Meet in Room 107, A. J. Palumbo Hall at Carlow. See directions on next page.**

*Testing the Autogenic Model of Bog Mat Advancement at Titus Bog, Erie County, Pennsylvania* will be presented to us by Alex W. Ireland at our first meeting this season.

As an undergraduate at Clarion University, Alex became deeply interested in long-term vegetation dynamics, disturbance processes and ecological succession in forest ecosystems. He spent the summers of 2006 and 2007 at the Harvard Forest Long Term Ecological Research station in Petersham, MA engaged in historical and paleoecological research. Majoring in ecology and evolutionary biology, he graduated summa cum laude in 2007. Alex began graduate study at Lehigh University that fall. With an interest in late Quaternary paleoecology and paleoclimatology, his dissertation research is aimed at understanding the potential role of hydroclimatic variability in Holocene peatland development. Techniques such as palynological analyses of sediment cores, dendrochronology, and remote sensing are used in his research.

Alex, a native of Indiana, PA, also served honorably in the US Army, including a deployment to eastern Afghanistan with the 1-501st Parachute Infantry Regiment.

Meetings are held on Mondays at 7:15 p.m. at Kresge Theater (**except for Sept. 14— see above**), Carlow University, 3333 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA (Oakland). Kresge Theater is

OCTOBER 12 MEETING. Scott Shriver will speak about *Discovery of a New Orchid Species Native to the Appalachian Mountains*. Self-taught in his study of *Orchidaceae*, he was involved in the naming of a new orchid species, *Platanthera shriveri*, Shriver's pale frilly orchid, in 2008.

Scott teaches biology at Avonworth High School in the North Hills of Pittsburgh, after initially earning a degree in agriculture at Penn State University. A BSWP member in the 1980's, he credits much of his early knowledge of native flora to 'old masters' like Esther Allen, Virginia Phelps, and Werner Buker. By 1990, Scott's interest in native flora turned primarily toward the *Orchidaceae*, and he has made over 1200 outings to find them, along the way collecting hundreds of voucher specimens for the Carnegie Museum of Natural History and West Virginia University.

Both an author and photographer, Scott has made contributions to many orchid-based publications. He served as an organizer for the North American Native Orchid Alliance 1996 annual meeting in Pittsburgh, PA, and as chairman for the 2008 Native Orchid Conference meeting in Morgantown, WV. Currently Scott is working on the publication of a book to be titled *Orchids of the Upper Ohio River Basin*, featuring about seventy species, varieties and natural hybrids.

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.

SEPTEMBER  
OCTOBER  
2009

**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.

# September & October

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.

## Sunday, September 13, 10 a.m.

### Raccoon Creek Wildflower Reserve, Beaver County

**Leader:** Shane Miller; raccooncreek1@verizon.net

**Directions:** From Pittsburgh, take the Parkway West (I-279 south/US 22-30) to the Airport Expressway (PA 60). Continue past the Airport exit to Exit 7, Clinton. At the end of the ramp, turn left and continue 1.1 miles to US 30. Turn right onto US 30 and drive 4.7 miles to the entrance for the Wildflower Reserve, on the right, just over a hill. Meet in the parking lot.

**Notes:** The Wildflower Reserve is a winner any time of the year. Expect fall bloomers in the meadow and amazing fruits in the woodlands.

## Saturday, September 26, 10 a.m.

### Ackerman Woodlands, Westmoreland County

**Contact Info:** Margaret Ackerman; 724-668-7650

**Directions:** From Pittsburgh, travel I-376 east and US 22 east through Murrysville to the intersection of PA 981 and US 22 in New Alexandria (Sheetz on righthand corner). Turn left onto PA 981. The Ackerman Woods driveway is 1 mile from this intersection. On the right side look for two stone pillars and open black iron gates. If you get to the Y in the road you have gone too far.

**Notes:** This is a 60th Anniversary field trip celebration for the Botanical Society of Westmoreland County, held jointly with the Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club, the Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania and the Westmoreland Bird & Nature Club.

A mushroom walk begins at 10 a.m. with Jack and Valerie Baker. Bring a covered dish, salad or dessert. Plates, etc. will be provided. Bring a portable chair if you have one.

**Directions for Sept. 14 Meeting Only** To reach A.J. Palumbo Hall at Carlow College, 3333 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA (Oakland): As you approach the campus on Fifth Avenue (heading toward downtown), do not turn right into the Carlow Campus entrance.

# Field Trips

**October 11, 1:30 p.m.**

## **Bailey Woods, Unity Township, Westmoreland County**

**Leader:** Bernadette Farah; 724-834-7665; farahfamily@yahoo.com

**Directions:** From Pittsburgh, travel US 30 east to Greensburg (US 30 east can be accessed via PA Turnpike exit 67, Irwin.) Travel US 30 east to the Greensburg/Mount Pleasant Road exit (this exit is 1 mile from the US 119 exit). Turn right and travel this road about 2.7 miles, passing the Pitt-Greensburg campus. Across from Rain's Auto Body, turn left onto Bailey Farm Road (if you see Amenity Farm Products, you've gone too far). The woodlands is 0.9 mile on the right. Park on the driveway or follow signs.

**Notes:** Buffalonut, *Pyrularia pubera*, was discovered here at a field trip on October 9, 1949. We will try to rediscover this northernmost location in a memorial trip for Father Max Duman and William Kotsenas.

**Sunday, October 25, 1 p.m.**

## **Allegheny Cemetery, Neighborhood of Lawrenceville Allegheny County**

**Leader:** Richard Nugent; rmnugent@live.com; 412-487-5549

**Directions:** From Pittsburgh, travel PA 28 north along the Allegheny River to the 40th Street Bridge (Exit 2). Cross the 40th Street Bridge and drive to the first traffic light at Butler St. Turn left onto Butler St. and drive to 47th St. on the left. Just past 47th St., the entrance to Allegheny Cemetery is on the right. Turn right into the cemetery and follow the green center line to section 6. Turn left and follow the double green center line to the boundary of section 25 and section 15. Park here. Parking is not allowed on the grass, but is allowed on the paved roads. The roads are two lane and as long as traffic can get by it is okay. Those with internet access can download a cemetery map at [www.alleghenycemetery.com/resources/maps.php](http://www.alleghenycemetery.com/resources/maps.php)

**Notes:** Allegheny Cemetery was founded in 1844 and encompasses 300 acres with 15 miles of paved roads and thousands of old and large trees. They are spaced far enough apart that they have developed the expected shapes for oaks, maples, gingkos, etc. Expect some unusual trees that will offer an identification challenge. This will be a tree appreciation walk to enjoy fall colors.

Instead, pass the entrance, stay in the right lane, and make the immediate right into the parking area. Park here and cross the street. Place a note on your dashboard saying "Botanical Society Meeting," or use your parking permit.

## **BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF WESTMORELAND CO. CELEBRATES 60 YEARS**

Sixty years ago the Botanical Society of Westmoreland County held its first meeting with 41 people attending. Dr. C.W. Demoise, credited as the society's founder, served as the first President. William Paxton is the only living member to have been among those gathered at that first meeting.

On April 1, 2009, the still-vibrant organization celebrated its anniversary at the Donohoe Education Center with a dinner, program and socializing. President Paula Korber introduced distinguished guests and honored members. Among those honored were County Commissioner Charles Anderson, past President William Paxton, Irene Ackerman and Cassie Yates of Oakridge, Tennessee, and 35-year members Francis Frye and Althea Farabaugh.

The Botanical Society of Westmoreland County has graciously invited our Society to finalize the celebration with two field trips this fall. The first is to Ackerman Woodlands with Margaret and Bob Ackerman, whose long involvement with the Westmoreland Woodlands Improvement Association will promise a look at a beautifully maintained and healthy woodland. The second trip is to the Bailey Farm to look for an historic location of Buffalonut with current owner Bernadette Farah.

## **NATIVE SEED COLLECTION**

At this hands-on workshop, you will learn when and how to harvest and propagate native seeds. It takes place on Saturday, October 17, 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. There is no fee.

To register, contact Luke at Nine Mile Run Watershed Association by October 15 at [luke@ninemilerun.org](mailto:luke@ninemilerun.org) or 412-371-8779.

The Environmental Book Club meets at Borders Book Store on McKnight Road in North Hills on the first Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. The discussion is informal and often fun. Contact Kim Metheny for more details at [kmetheny@hotmail.com](mailto:kmetheny@hotmail.com).

*Wildflowers*

September – October 2009

Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania

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Pittsburgh, PA 15227

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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



The Sutton Dogwood, *gouache on paper* by Katie Lee, 2001.

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## HUNT INSTITUTE PRESENTS BOTANICALS: ENVIRONMENTAL EXPRESSIONS IN ART

### *The Alisa And Isaac M. Sutton Collection*

The exhibition *Botanicals: Environmental Expressions in Art, the Alisa and Isaac M. Sutton Collection* represents one of the finest private collections of contemporary botanical art in America. These 54 artworks are expressions of the purely aesthetic forms found in nature and a reminder that we are stewards of our natural resources for future generations.

The exhibition includes artworks by 40 artists from Australia, Belgium, Cuba, England, France, Germany, India, Japan, Russia, Scotland, South Africa and the United States. It will be on display on the 5th 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 26–29 November and 18 December 2009–3 January 2010). The exhibition is also open on Saturday, 31 October, 1–5 p.m., during 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.