



# Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania

## Enjoy Your Wildflowers

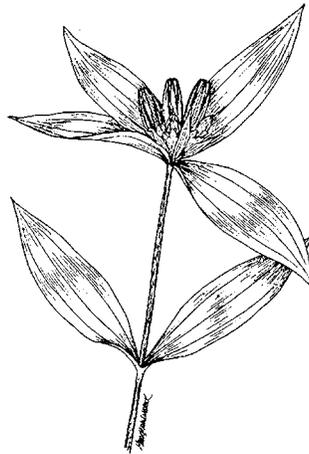
BOTTLE GENTIANs *By Anne S. Bahl*

Bottle Gentians are wily flowers. They keep their treasure behind closed doors even as they invite visitors with their fragrance. The closed doors are the five lobes of the united petals that draw together at their apices (tips). Folded, wedge-shaped, translucent, white, tissue (pleats) between the apices has two purposes. It closes any remaining spaces yet allows light to enter. The light enables the pollinators, bees, to see when they force their way inside.

Pennsylvania has two bottle Gentians. They are Prairie Closed or Bottle Gentian and Meadow Closed or Bottle Gentian. Both species prefer moist to wet areas in meadows, thickets, woods, and similar habitats. Five other Gentians in the state are rare; one of them may be extinct.

Prairie Closed or Bottle Gentian is *Gentiana andrewsii* for the English botanical artist and engraver, Henry C. Andrews. (Some publications use the genus name, *Dasy-stephana*.) It grows on alkaline soil in the southern half of the state, more so in the east and the west. Height to 2', leaves to 6", flowers to 1 1/2" with

lobes that are narrower and shorter than the pleats. Flowers are blue to purplish, sometimes white or pink and bloom from mid-summer into November.



Bottle Gentian *Gentiana clausa*

Meadow Closed or Bottle Gentian is *Gentiana clausa*, Latin, *clausus*, closed. It grows throughout the state in non-alkaline soil. It has been confused with *G. andrewsii*, but it is smaller. Its flower lobes are as wide and as long as the pleats. Flowers are blue with blooming time mid-summer into October.

The family name, *Gentianaceae*, and the genus name, *Gentiana*, honor King Gentius, King of Illyria (Greece) from 180-167 BC.

Pliny, the first century AD Roman natural-historian, credited him with discovering the medicinal value of Gentian.

Gentian plants, especially the roots, are the source of the best bitters. Their quality is so pure that they are the standard by which other bitters are scientifically compared. Since their discovery by King Gentius, they have been used for many health problems especially those involving digestion. The bitters are put into aperitifs, liqueurs, medicines, and tonics.

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

AUGUST  
SEPTEMBER  
2010

*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.

# August & September

Registration for Botanical Society field trips is not required. Everyone is welcome, including non-members. 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. Wear shoes that can get wet or muddy. Water and a hat are recommended in the summer. Poison Ivy can be everywhere; long pants can prevent the rash.

## Saturday, August 21, 10 a.m.

### Doak Homestead Meadow Raccoon Creek State Park, Beaver County

**Leader:** Shane Miller newmiller\_78@hotmail.com

**Directions:** From Pittsburgh, travel I-376 (new name) Parkway West and exit the Parkway to continue on US 22 for 14 miles to the exit for PA 18. Turn left on PA 18 north and travel 4 miles to its junction with PA 168. Head north/west on PA 168 and travel 3.6 miles to a gravel parking lot on the right. This is 0.2 mile past Bethel Church on the right and directly across from the Black Oak Springs Apartments. You will see a sign for Nichols Road in the parking lot. Proceed to the open park gate at the edge of the gravel parking lot and continue up the gravel road to Doak Homestead Meadow.

**Notes:** Doak Homestead Meadow (previously Nichols Field) is a new site in a gem of a state park. Dress for sunny conditions. Bring water, lunch and sturdy walking shoes.

## Saturday, August 28, 1 p.m.

### Blair Bridge Swamp, Pymatuning State Park, Crawford County

**Leaders:** Joe and Bonnie Isaac; IsaacB@CarnegieMNH.org  
724-944-8770 (cell)

**Directions:** From Pittsburgh, travel north on I-79 to Exit 141, PA 285. Head west on PA 285 by turning left at the ramp and travel 8.5 miles to the town of Conneaut Lake. Turn left to continue onto PA 285 for 6 miles to Hartstown Road. Turn right onto Hartstown and continue a little over 2.5 miles to the Wildlife Learning Center, where we will meet.

**Notes:** Prepare for wet feet to explore Blair Bridge Swamp.

## Tuesday, September 7, 10 a.m.

### Forbes State Forest, Fayette County

**Leader:** Bob McBride, Forbes State Forester. Contact Loree Speedy at 724-872-5232 or 724-518-6022 (cell) or mousemapper@verizon.net if you have any questions.

# Field Trips

Mark your calendars for the day after Labor Day. Forester Robert McBride will host us for an informative day at Forbes State Forest, beginning with a video about the history of Pennsylvania's forests followed by varying levels of strolls to demonstration forests.

**Directions:** Skyline Drive (near the Summit Inn outside of Uniontown) can be reached by traveling US 40 east about 8 miles from Uniontown, to the top of the Chestnut Ridge. Turn right just past the entrance to the Historic Summit Inn, onto Skyline Drive. Alternatively, from the intersection of US 40 and PA 381 south of Ohiopyle, travel west on US 40 for 6 miles. Turn left just before the entrance to the Historic Summit Inn, onto Skyline Drive.

Travel south on Skyline Drive about 5.5 miles to the Forbes State Forest Maintenance Building on the left. (This is about 0.75 mile past the turnoff to Laurel Caverns).

At 10 a.m. we will watch an excellent short video about the history of Pennsylvania's forests. From there we will travel a short distance to demonstration forests on the Forbes State Forest; Robert McBride will be available to discuss silvicultural practices and issues and can answer our questions.

This walk is appropriate for all fitness levels. Those who do not wish to continue on more rugged terrain will have an opportunity to enjoy the video and the first part of the demonstration forest tour. Please bring a bag lunch.

APPALACHIAN FEST *cont'd from back cover* Irish and Scottish music traditions. There will be an Appalachian Story Telling Swap, performance poetry of Affrilachian (African Americans in Appalachia) writers, a full roster of local artists demonstrating their work, and a hands-on children's area for crafts and activities.

ASPT ANNOUNCES — As part of the American Society of Plant Taxonomists' outreach efforts, the organization is now on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/American-Society-of-Plant-Taxonomists/369127495877?ref=ts>) and Twitter (<http://twitter.com/amsocplantaxon>). Become a Fan of ASPT on Facebook!

## 13<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION OF BOTANICAL ART & ILLUSTRATION

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation presents its 13<sup>th</sup> *International Exhibition of Botanical Art & Illustration* from September 24 to December 17. This exhibition will include 110 watercolors, drawings and prints representing the work of 72 artists from 15 countries. The Institute established the International series in 1964 with the hope of supporting and encouraging contemporary botanical artists. Every three years, the International series features the works of talented botanical artists from around the world.

In conjunction with the opening of the International exhibition, the American Society of Botanical Artists (ASBA) will hold its 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Conference in Pittsburgh (September 23–25).

The exhibition will be on display on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of the Hunt Library building at Carnegie Mellon University. The exhibition is open to the public free of charge. For further information, contact the Hunt Institute at 412-268-2434.

*Dear colleagues,*

As some of you may already be aware, on June 14 at the 4<sup>th</sup> Global Botanic Gardens Congress, Botanic Gardens Conservation International launched a new on-line campaign 'Plants for the Planet' to generate public support for plant conservation.

Our aim is to gather signatures from people around the world in order to ensure that governments adopt the updated Global Strategy for Plant Conservation at the next Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Support for the campaign will help us to send a strong message to the Conference that countries must act now to halt plant extinction.

The website [www.plantsfortheplanet.com](http://www.plantsfortheplanet.com) is now live and we invite you to pledge your support. It only takes a few seconds to register on the site, anonymously if you prefer.

We are very keen for as many institutions as possible to make a link to [www.plantsfortheplanet.com](http://www.plantsfortheplanet.com) [on institution websites].

Many thanks in advance for your help and support.

*Suzanne Sharrock, BGCI*

Friday evening *The Bonecrusher*, winner of the 2010 Jack Spadaro Documentary Award for Best Documentary on Appalachia, screens at Frostburg's Palace Theatre; Saturday night the Festival's ticketed concert is four-time Grammy Award winner and acclaimed musician David Holt and Laura Boosinger. A full listing of offerings will be available soon. To learn more about the event, visit [www.frostburg.edu/events/appfestival](http://www.frostburg.edu/events/appfestival), look for it on Facebook, or e-mail [krogersthomas@frostburg.edu](mailto:krogersthomas@frostburg.edu).

## MOUNTAIN NATURE CAMP

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Mountain Nature Camp starts Sunday, June 13 and ends Saturday, June 19.

The first week is a regular camp focusing on birds, wildflowers and herps, with trips planned to Swallow Falls and Dolly Sods. Other trips, such as Cranesville Swamp, will be created from camper interest. The week's schedule is at the website listed below.

Registration forms are available on the Oglebay Institute website [www.oionline.com](http://www.oionline.com), click on "Environmental Education" at far left, then select "Terra Alta Mountain Camp". Scholarship applications, for you or someone you might want to introduce to camp, are also found on that site.

The new showers and toilets will be ready for camp. Jane will be cooking. If you want a paper brochure or to register by phone, call the Schrader Center, 304-242-6855.

*New York Flora Association (with The Bailey Hortorium) Presents*

### **ROSA & RUBUS — ROSES & BRAMBLES WORKSHOP WITH ARTHUR HAINES**

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**Friday June 25<sup>th</sup> 7 p.m. to Sunday June 27<sup>th</sup> 12 Noon, 2010  
Bailey Hortorium at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York**

Arthur Haines is a plant biologist specializing in the taxonomy and identification of New England tracheophytes. He is currently employed by the New England Wild Flower Society as a research botanist and is involved in writing a new tracheophyte flora of New England. His extensive publications include *The Flora of Maine* and papers on a wide diversity of often "challenging" taxa. In addition, Arthur is a regional reviewer for the North American Flora project and director of the Delta Institute of Natural History in Maine. His work and insights although grounded in past work are highly original and attempt to correct past mistakes.

This will be an intensive weekend studying *Rosa* and *Rubus* (roses and brambles) of the central NY region. The weekend will consist of presentations, indoor study of specimens, and plenty of field work. Participants will learn the characters useful to identifying and distinguishing between the species of *Rosa* and *Rubus* that occur in central New York. There will also be time to work on specimens that participants bring to study.

For questions, registration and other details, contact David Werier, 607-273-1765, [Nakita@lightlink.com](mailto:Nakita@lightlink.com).

## ESA ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD IN PITTSBURGH

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Pittsburgh will host the 95<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Ecological Society of America (ESA) August 1–6 at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center. The theme for the ESA Annual Meeting is "Global Warming: The legacy of our past, the challenge for our future". The ESA will place global warming at center stage to draw a critical combination of scientists, policy makers, and concerned citizens to understand further its causes and consequences and to elucidate a clear scenario for addressing what is perhaps the most serious environmental threat facing the biosphere.

The Ecological Society of America is the world's largest professional organization of ecologists, representing 10,000 scientists in the United States and around the globe. Since its founding in 1915, ESA has promoted the responsible application of ecological principles to the solution of environmental problems through ESA reports, journals, research, and expert testimony to Congress.

Symposium topics include *Alternative Approaches to the Study of Global Warming Effects on Natural Communities*, *Environmental Impacts of Mountaintop Removal-Valley Fill Coal Mining and Landscape Planning*, *Species Ranges, and Climate Change*. There will be a series of workshops such as *Natural Areas...from Napkin Sketches to Built Environment*, *Emerald Ash Borer in the Classroom: Invasive Pest an Opportunity for Citizen Science*, and *Visual Communication of Ecological Knowledge: Photography as a Tool of Style and Substance*. Field trips are available and include *Disturbance Ecology on the Allegheny Plateau*, *Urban agriculture in action: Greening blighted land and revitalizing communities*, and *Parks, Streams, and Urban Systems: Successes and Challenges in Restoration*.

On Saturday, July 31, an urban bioblitz will take place in the Larimer area. See *Brownfield Blitzes: A Dialog with Inner-city Pittsburgh neighborhoods* in the registration information.

For more information and to register, go to [www.esa.org/pittsburgh](http://www.esa.org/pittsburgh).

## NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NE OHIO WORKSHOP

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**Fern Workshop.** Saturday, July 10, 9 a.m.  
Woods Edge Shelter, Swine Creek Reservation, Geauga County

Discover the lush diversity of ferns found in the ravines and valleys of Swine Creek Reservation. Over 12 species of ferns have been identified. This is a joint program with Geauga Park District.

**Directions:** From downtown Middlefield, take Rt. 87 east 2½ miles to Hayes Road. Turn right (south) 1½ miles to park entrance on right. Bear right to last parking area. 16004 Hayes Road, Middlefield, 44062. Call Judy to register at 440-564-9151 (H) or 440-286-9516 ext 2011(W).

## NEW FIELD GUIDE LOOKS AT AQUATIC PLANTS

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Duckweed or Pennywort? If you're unsure about aquatic plants, a new pocket-size guide can help.

"*A Field Guide to Common Aquatic Plants of Pennsylvania*" is published by the Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences. Written by Dana Rizzo and Susan Boser, Penn State Extension water quality educators, the guide details more than 40 common plants found in ponds and waterways, offering a written description, drawing, and photograph for each.

The guide provides information on the benefits of various aquatic plants, such as pennywort's ability to provide food and shelter for animals and duckweed's reputation for reducing mosquito reproduction. It flags invasive as well as endangered species and cautions that trying to mechanically control some plants can actually make them become more of a problem if they reproduce quickly when broken apart. The guide also covers algae commonly found in lakes and ponds, such as *Nitella*, *Chara* and *Didymo*.

Hard copies are available for \$11.00 at the office of the Penn State Cooperative Extension Westmoreland County, 214 Donohoe Road, Suite E, Greensburg, PA 15601. For mail orders, add \$2.00 shipping. The guide is also available on the Westmoreland Conservation District's website, [www.wcdpa.com](http://www.wcdpa.com).

## ENVIRONMENTAL BOOK CLUB

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The Environmental Book Club meets at North Hills Borders Book Store on McKnight Road on the first Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. It is not compulsory to have read the book or to buy the book at Borders. For more information, contact Kim Metheny, [kmetheny@hotmail.com](mailto:kmetheny@hotmail.com).

## LIFE IN THE MIST: RAINFOREST IMAGES

Paintings by Jan Lutz and sculptures by Kathe Umlauf are on display through June 27 at Kelly Run Gallery, 264 Main St., Cambridge Springs. 10% of sales will be donated to the Rainforest Foundation.

For gallery hours and other information, call 814-398-9331 or visit [www.kellyrunggalleryandframing.com](http://www.kellyrunggalleryandframing.com).

## GLEASON & CRONQUIST MANUAL TO BE UPDATED

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Robert Naczi is leading the task of updating the *Manual of Vascular Plants of Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada* by Henry A. Gleason and Arthur Cronquist (1991, The New York Botanical Garden Press). Many know of this indispensable reference as the Gleason & Cronquist Manual, or the "green" book. Advances in botany since 1991 through molecular and species-level research and through field work have made revisions to this manual a necessity.

Rob is interested in information from the botanical community. Please let him know if there are keys or things that don't work well in the current Gleason & Cronquist Manual. Contact Rob at [rnaczi@nybg.org](mailto:rnaczi@nybg.org) or International Plant Science Center, The New York Botanical Garden, 200<sup>th</sup> Street and Kazimiroff Blvd., Bronx, NY 10458-5126. Rob is Curator of North American Botany at the New York Botanical Garden.

The updated manual will be available both as a hardcopy and as an electronic edition on a website. Read about this project at <http://www.nybg.org/wordpress/?p=5678>, or watch Rob talk about updating the manual at: <http://www.vimeo.com/10897997>.

## Wildflowers

August–September 2010

Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania

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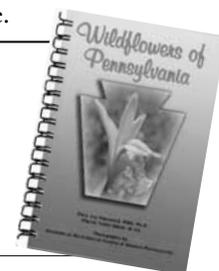
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*Helianthus, Last sunflower, watercolor on paper by Fiona Strickland (Scotland), 59 x 49 cm, 2008. Hunt Institute collection, gift from the artist. © 2008 Fiona Strickland. All Rights Reserved. See Hunt International Exhibition announcement, inside.*

**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



## September Meeting

SEPTEMBER 13. Please join us for the first meeting of the new season! “Hawaii” is the topic of our speaker, and president of BSWP since 2005, Bonnie Isaac. Collection Manager of the Herbarium at Carnegie Museum of Natural History where she has worked for 21 years, Bonnie is currently Chair of the Vascular Plant Technical committee of the Pennsylvania Biological Survey (PABS) and also serves on the steering committee of PABS.

Bonnie earned a BS in Biological Science with emphasis in Plant Sciences from Youngstown State University; a Diploma in Herbarium Techniques from Kew Royal Botanical Garden, England; and an MS in Biological

Sciences from Youngstown State University. Bonnie is also an Adjunct Research Scientist at Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation.

## APPALACHIAN FESTIVAL

The Frostburg State University Appalachian Festival takes place Saturday, September 18, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on the FSU campus in Frostburg, Maryland. Now in its fifth year, the free event celebrates all that makes the region unique. Of particular interest to botany enthusiasts are workshops on natural dyes and basket weaving, talks on wild edible plants, tours of the FSU Arboretum, and presentations by FSU ethnobotany students. Dedicated talks on regional issues take place throughout the day and include everything from archaeology to Mountain Top Removal Coal Mining and Windmill Production. Two music stages highlight the area’s strong bluegrass, old-time,

*Continued on previous page*