

# Wildflowers

## THE BULLETIN OF THE BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF W. PA.

### PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Maybe that's making it sound a bit lofty, but the program for the November meeting will be given by our president, Bob Morgan. His topic will be "Stalking Euell Gibbons."

We are back to our regular meeting night, the second Monday of the month. So, it will be Monday, November 10, 8:00 P.M., at the Mellon Bank Auditorium, 5th and Craig, Oakland.

### CHRISTMAS PARTY

Traditionally, our December meeting is the Botanical Society's Christmas party. Once each year, we drop the serious business, and we have an evening of fun and song. Each member brings along something for the Christmas feast. It is especially nice when it has some aspect of nature to it -- elderberry pie, pickled wild mushrooms, rose hip jelly, may apples, wild cranberry sauce, sassafras tea, black walnut fudge, and so much more. We're still waiting for some one to bring farkleberries.

The December meeting will be Monday, December 8, at the Mellon Bank Auditorium.

### NAMES FROM DOWN UNDER

I suppose the common names we give our plants sound just as peculiar to others. Baboon flower is no funnier than monkey flower. Nevertheless, I found these names gleaned from an Australian botany book to be very tantalizing --

- Naked Ladies - Brunsvigia
- Hug me Tight - Doxantha
- Baboon Flower - Babiana
- Mickey Mouse Plant - Ochna
- Queen's Shoe - Clitorea
- Scrambled Eggs - Cassia
- Cherry Pie - Heliotropium
- Jelly Beans - Sedum
- Heavenly Woman - Coelogyne
- Painted Ladies - Salpiglossis
- Dancing Ladies - Oncidium
- Friendly Neighbor - Bryophyllum
- Bunny Ears - Opuntia
- Cow's Udder - Solanum
- April Fool - Haemanthus

NOVEMBER, 1980

Robert F. Bahl, Sec.  
401 Clearview Ave.  
Pittsburgh, Pa., 15205  
(412) 921-1797



Green Dragon  
*Arisaema dracontium*

### ARISAEMA DRACONTIUM

Our sketch this month is again the work of our member, Phyllis Monk. It is from a slide taken at Raccoon Wildflower Reserve 6/17/71.

### FERN REVOLUTIONIZES WORLD'S RICE CROP

The small aquatic fern, azolla, in symbiotic association with the blue-green algae, anabaena azollae, can fix atmospheric nitrogen into a fertilizer when used as a green manure and thus increase rice yields as much as 158% per year. This is extremely important with the increasing world population, high fertilizer costs, and also shortages of fertilizer and energy. An American, Thomas Lumpkin, and a Chinese, Li Zhou-xing, are doing research on azolla at China's Zhejiang Academy. They are trying to find the best species of azolla to use with each variety of rice grown in Southeast Asia countries and America at each season of the year. Azolla, in appearance, resembles common liverwort.

This information is from Science 80 Sept.- Oct.

(Ede Mock)

### UNDERGROUND ORCHID

There is an orchid that grows completely underground, flowers and all. It is Rhizanthella gardneri. An Australian genus, it was first discovered by a farmer plowing virgin soil. It is a saprophyte, living on soil nutrients. Individual flowers are about 1/6th of an inch wide.



### ALL YOURS....ALMOST

From April to October, much of our monthly bulletin has to be devoted to our field trip schedule. Field trips, though, are finished for the season, and the only thing we really have to get in the bulletin now is the notice of our monthly meeting. All the rest of the bulletin is available for members' contributions.

Send in anything at all, serious stuff or light stuff, newsy or just informational, prose or poetry. The only requirement is that there be some botanical interest.

Illustrations are welcome, too. Drawings in black ink reproduce a lot better than pencil sketches.

### PEANUTS

