

Wildflowers

THE BULLETIN OF THE BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF W. PA.

AUGUST FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

All field trips are scheduled on Saturdays. The meeting time is 1:30 p.m. If you have any questions, call our Field Trip Chairman, Esther Allen, 366-0786.

August 3 - State Game Lands #95, Butler Co. (The Glades)

Drive north on Rt. 8 to N.308 just north of Butler; follow N.308 through West Sunbury and meet at Moniteau High School. We expect to see Elecampane (*Inula helenum*) as well as a variety of other summer flowers. Esther Allen, Leader.

August 10 - Presque Isle State Park

Drive north on I-79 and when near Erie follow signs directing to Presque Isle. Meet at the Park administration building. Jean and Jim Stull, Leaders.

August 17 - Chalk Hill Bog

Take Rt. 51 south to Uniontown, Rt. 40 east from Uniontown to Chalk Hill; at Chalk Hill turn left on blacktop road toward Chiopyle; after crossing arm of Deer Lake, turn left on first road and continue on it some distance to parking area on right. Howard McIlvried, Leader.

August 24 - McConnell's Mill State Park

Enter the area from Rt. 422 about one-half mile from U. S. Rt. 19, and meet at large parking area above mill. Leader, Esther Allen.

August 31 - No hike scheduled

Labor Day Weekend. Find a good area for the group to go in 1986.

JOINT BOTANICAL FIELD MEETING

We re-print a portion of a letter from our member, Dr. Stanwyn G. Shetler, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution -

Thanks much. I enjoy reading the newsletter and wish that I could get to the field trips. In this vein, let me point out that I just returned from the annual Joint Botanical Field Meeting in the Poconos wondering why folks from Western Pennsylvania do not participate. Dr. Henry used to participate, and in past years we have had a few from Pittsburgh. It would be nice to have the Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania as a regular sponsor, particularly because we have never had a field meeting organized in Western Pennsylvania. This annual meeting has been going on since the 1940s. Its regular sponsors are the Northeastern Section of the Botanical Society of America, the Torrey Botanical Club, and the Philadelphia Botanical Society.



IT'S ALL GREEK TO ME

Our word botanical is derived from the Greek botanikos, which means "pertaining to a pasture".

NO MEETING IN AUGUST

Monthly meetings are not scheduled for July or August. Next meeting September 9.

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Platanthera leucophaea
Photo by R. Bahl - 6/29/85
Wayne County, Ohio

PLATANTHERA LEUCOPHAEA

On June 27, Joyce Bender gave us a call. The Prairie Fringed Orchis, *Platanthera leucophaea*, which normally blooms around July 12, was in full bloom in Ohio's Wayne County.

So, Anne and I took off. Thanks to Joyce's pinpoint directions, we found 27 specimens, even though they were in 6-foot high grass.

Anne had quite a problem pushing a path through the grass. I don't know why. I was just three steps behind her and had no trouble at all.

On our way back, we met Ed MacArthur of Glenmont, Ohio. He steered us to Brown's Lake Bog, where the Rose Pogonia, *Pogonia ophioglossoides*, was beautifully in bloom.

Our final stop was at The Wilderness Center near Shreve, Ohio, where we had a nice chat with the volunteer naturalist there, Henry Merkle.

SWERTIA CAROLINIENSIS

Those who were on the June 22 field trip got an extra bonus. After seeing some excellent specimens of the Round-Leaved Orchis, *Platanthera orbiculata* in Moraine State Park, we drove over to Jennings Prairie where David Young took us to see the American Columbo, *Swertia caroliniensis* in bloom. Mr Young is the naturalist at Jennings, and he discovered the *Swertia* there two seasons ago.

Along the way we saw a lot of watery-leaf and squishberries. Fortunately, no one was bitten by the Massasoggy rattlers. However, we did have to hurry to evade the lepidopterists.

NAPAEA DIOICA

Anne and I found *Napaea dioica* in bloom on July 17 in western Ohio. Most wildflower guides do not include it. Gray's Manual lists it as a rare species.

A member of malvaceae, this plant grows as high as 10-feet. Lower leaves are palmate and almost a foot in diameter. Common name is Glade Mallow.

SHARE

Do send in accounts of your botanical findings for publication in "Wildflowers". We need them by the 18th for the next month's bulletin.

WORLD'S LARGEST FLOWER

The July issue of National Geographic has an article on *Rafflesia arnoldii*, reputed to be the largest flower in the world. The bloom has been recorded as wide as 42 inches.