

# Wildflowers

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

### MAY MEETING

8:00 P.M., Monday, May 9, at our usual place, Trinity Hall, Carlow College, 3333 Fifth Ave., Oakland!

Program - "Deposition of Atmospheric Chemicals in Bogs" by Dr. William Shell.

### MAY FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

All field trips are on Saturdays. The rendezvous time is 1:30 P.M. except for Venango Co., May 14, which is 1:00 P.M. If you have any questions, call our Field Trip Chairman, Esther Allen, at 366-0786.

#### May 7 - WOLF CREEK NATURAL AREA

From Pittsburgh take I-79 north to the Slippery Rock exit, turn left on Rte. 108 toward Slippery Rock, and go about one mile to an intersection where there is a Dairy Queen store on the right. Turn left and go to the first paved road on the right. Turn right and follow this road to the parking area just before a bridge crossing Slippery Rock Creek. Leader, Howard McIlvried.

#### May 14 - VENANGO COUNTY. Note: Meeting Time 1:00 P.M.

Take I-79 north to I-80. Go east on I-80 and exit at Route 38. Follow Route 38 into Emlenton; cross bridge into town and meet on left at Post Office parking area. We will go from there to an area not heretofore visited by us. Leaders, Mary Forbes and Dr. Mary Joy Haywood.

#### May 21 - LITTLE BUFFALO CREEK (Butler/Armstrong line)

From Route 28 exit at Route 356 and follow 356 about 8 miles. Look for Cooper Cabin sign and Uncle Billy Smith historic marker. Turn right onto Grey Road and meet at Cooper Cabin. Bring boots or extra shoes for possible creek crossing. Expect to see Yellow Lady's Slipper blooming. Leader, Laura Wirkkala.

#### May 28 - CHARTIERS CREEK (near Canonsburg)

Take I-79 south and exit at Canonsburg. Meet at McDonald's parking area. From there we will go to the area where Camassia (Wild Hyacinth) is in great abundance, and not visited by us since 1982. Leader, Esther Allen.



### SYMPATHY

The members of the Botanical Society extend our sympathy to past-president Tim Manka on the death of his father, Dan P. Manka, on April 5.

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

## MAY 1988

Our 102nd Year

### SPIRANTHES MICHUACANA

We know that we can't get the best reproduction [color slide = color print = black & white photoprint = printing press], but we are using it anyway. This is Bette Bates' picture of the very rare *Spiranthes michuacana*, taken 10/22/87 in the Chisos Mountains of Big Bend Nat. Park, Texas.



### WILDFLOWER ARTICLES IN "FAMILY CIRCLE"

The April 26, 1988 issue of *Family Circle* magazine contains two articles about wildflowers. The one is entitled "Wildflowers for Your Own Garden" and the other is "First Lady of Wildflowers", which tells how Lady Bird Johnson, former first lady and wife of our 36th president, has reawakened a national interest in wildflowers.

Included also is a listing of regional wildflower societies, with our own Botanical Society of W. Pa. first on the list.

### NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

Likewise, the April *National Geographic* contains two wildflower articles. Lady Bird Johnson writes "Texas in Bloom". The other is "Wildflowers Across America", a portfolio by artist Jack Unruh.

### BOTANICAL EXHIBIT AT HUNT

The Hunt Institute's sixth International Exhibition of Botanical Art and Illustration is now open and will continue through July 31. It is on the fifth floor of the Hunt Library on the Carnegie-Mellon campus.

The show, which has been in preparation since the last International five years ago, features 97 works by 93 artists from 15 countries, and is free to the public. Hours are 9 A.M.-noon and 1-5 P.M. weekdays.

### BETTE BATES FINDS TWO RARE ORCHIDS - SPIRANTHES MICHUACANA AND SPIRANTHES CINNABARINA

Jan. 2, 1988  
Terlingua, Tx. 79852

Dear Bob:

Am enclosing pictures of a rare orchid I was fortunate to find in bloom when we made the hike up the mtn. in Oct.

Would like to have had a little better close-up of the flower, but I guess you can see it has green stripes. My glasses wanted to fog on me, and that seemed to be the best I could do. I was in hopes Carolyn could sketch it for the bulletin. I ordered a print of each slide and a duplicate slide of each, and that is the way it was worded on the env. but I didn't get the slides. When I found out, we were back here, 79 miles from Alpine. So when we go in this week will try it again.

This spring Jim and I hiked up the mtn. from 5400 ft. to about 7000 ft. to Laguna Meadow and then over to the Cattail Creek drainage and followed it down about a mile. We went on past the area and came to a rather difficult area to get thru so turned around and went back to a large flat rocky area and started to sit down when I saw the last year's stalks. Two of them broke off, so am enclosing them also. They look like different species, so I would say one is the *michuacana* and one the *cinnabarina*.

I had talked to Dr. Warnock at Sul Ross U.

in Alpine and asked him about the orchid. At that time I wanted to get a picture of the *cinnabarina* and wanted to know more about where to go and when to go. So he told me at the time there were two species there. He thought then if I came in mid Oct. I would find it in bloom. Well, when we got there and inquired at the Ranger Station about going up they told me then the *cinnabarina* had bloomed Sept. 17. I had to check in with the Ranger first as they have had Mt. Lion mailings. They wanted to tell us what to do in case we saw one. We didn't. He gave me the name of the ranger here most knowledgeable in Botany, and I called and talked to her. She had been up to see the *cinnabarina* but did not know what the other orchid was she saw coming up. So she was quite thrilled but had too many commitments for her to go up that week (about a nine mile hike round trip).

From here we went up to Alpine to stay a few days before going on over to the Gulf coast at Corpus for Jim to fish. I called Dr. Warnock to report that I had been up and taken pictures. He wasn't home at the time but soon came knocking at my door. He was quite excited and asked a lot of questions. He knew it was there but had never seen it and wants one of my pictures (the *michuacana*).

Dr. Warnock wrote the wildflower field guides for Big Bend, Davis Mtns. and Guadalupe Mtns. I decided I might as well take a picture of the *cinnabarina* in seed anyway. They

say the *cinnabarina* gets about 3 ft. high, but I don't think this one was that high, and since they weren't in bloom I can't say I'm really sure about the height.

I was rather excited to find I was the only one here who was interested that had a picture. I assume someone collected it at one time, since Dr. Warnock knew about it.

This past summer I spent as a volunteer naturalist for the Oregon Dunes Nat. Rec. Area, guided nature walks into the Dunes, and did their programs for them in the schools or took the kids into the Dunes, etc. Before I left they presented me with a plaque with my name engraved and also a certificate of appreciation from the Agric. Dept. Have worked on their herbarium collection for three years. Have felt a little inadequate at times and have hoped I could find some one who could check on my work. Especially *Juncus*. Just before I left got better acquainted with two women collecting for the County Museum in Roseburg, so will be anxious to know if I am doing o.k. or not.

Now we are in the Big Bend area for most of the winter, although we plan to go to Az. with another couple in Mar. We keep busy hiking. A group of us here all go together.

Yours,  
Bette Bates.