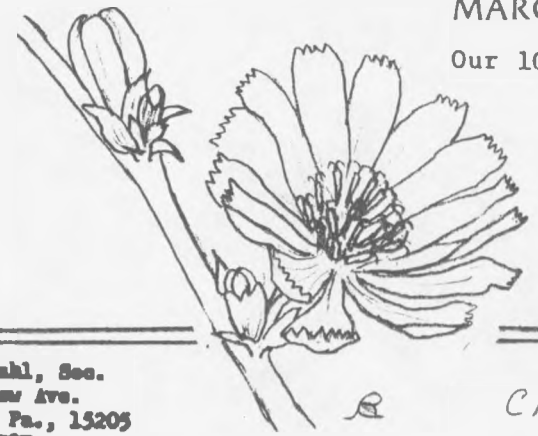


Wildflowers

THE BULLETIN OF THE
BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF W. PA.

MARCH 1989

Our 103rd Year



Chicory

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MARCH MEETING

Our next meeting - Monday, March 13, 8 P.M., at Trinity Hall, Carlow College, 3333 Fifth Ave., Oakland. The program - "Best of East vs. West" by Phyllis Monk.

CICHORIUM INTYBUS

The sketch of Chicory was made by our member, Phyllis Monk. Locale - just about anywhere.

WILDFLOWER BOOK

We have a postponement of the deadline for submitting your lists of the deletions and additions to our master list for "Wildflowers of Pennsylvania". They are due hopefully before our March 13 meeting. Please mail them to Mary Lou Brown, 2337 Rochester Rd., Pgh. PA. 15237. You are urged to come to Carlow College on March 16 and 30 at 7PM when we consider and act on these lists.

These lists must be in the order of the master list and include family names. In considering look-alikes which are about equally common you may designate "either-or" and we can use the most attractive slide.

FROM MINUTES OF BOT.SOC. 12-12-88

These motions were approved at the meeting:

1-Our feeling is that photographs to be considered may be vertical, horizontal or square.

2-We should open up for other members with various sizes and shapes. Our intention is education. We need text not limited to four short lines as proposed earlier.

3-Combined lists for deletions and additions are due at the March meeting.

In discussion some references were made to deletion-addition lists: Are some species too similar to others to be identifiable from pictures? Are some flowers too small?

We hope to have "deletion-additions" list ready to distribute at the April 10 meeting. If you cannot attend and wish a list write or phone Mary Lou Brown.

If you wish to submit oblong slides to be reconsidered, please give or mail to Mary Lou Brown before April 17. They must have scientific species name and family name and be in master list order. Your name must be on the slide. Send only one slide for a species. Date to consider these slides will be announced at the March meeting.

(Mary Lou Brown)

JANUARY BLOOM. Blooming in our garden January 31.....
Eranthis hyemalis. (Anne Bahl)

MAX HENRICI ARTICLES

Some thirty to forty years ago, Max Henrici wrote a nature column for the old Pittsburgh Sun-Telegraph. Paul Brown obtained copies of some of these articles from Werner Buker and sent them to us. Yellowed with age, these do not reproduce perfectly, but we do want to share them with our members. As space permits, we will be printing additional columns in future issues of Wildflowers.

Box 69, Mendi, S. H. P.
Mendi, PNG
1-28-89

My dear Mary Lou and all:

So good hearing from you. Sounds as if you are all doing O.K. without me. I knew you could do it.

Certainly hope Ann, Virginia, and Mark got to the Rare Plant Meeting. It is a very important part of our program also.

Things here have been going well. Hawaii was delightful. The Great Barrier Reef was stupendous. Words cannot describe the sheer beauty of the corals. Hope my slides turn out. Went to Daintree in Australia which is a huge tropical rainforest. Had a guide. What a place!

Arrived in Port Moresby on January 12th. The coast is hot and dry and dirty. Flew up to the highlands of Mendi on January 14th via prop plane. Landed at an almost paved runway. Your luggage was unceremoniously dumped on a cart and you picked them "out of the heap". Bishop Firmin Schmidt met me at airport, which is actually located about 500 yds. from the mission. The mission in Mendi is modern as missions and towns go here. The new cathedral designed by a lay volunteer from Ireland (Jim) is gorgeous. The interior is of native design and the pit-pit decorations (reeds) were made by the different tribes found here. There are over 700 dialects here. The bush churches are primitive but nice. Stayed in Mendi for 8 days. Am now further up in the Highlands at Tari. Mendi is 5000' up, you climb to 9000' and then drop to 6000'. At 9000', the region is subalpine. Am going there on Wed. with Fr. Ottmar. Here, 14 miles outside Tari, the Franciscan Srs. have a gorgeous school - 450 students, 75% of whom board. The tribe here is the Huli tribe. They are strong, colorful, proud and warlike. I have many stories to tell. The men wear wigs and all the men have hair adornments (colorful). The women are drab. The women do all the work.

The plants are breathtakingly beautiful and plentiful. The birds of paradise are beyond words as are the butterflies. No snakes - elevation too high. I'll have a zillion stories to tell when I come home and hopefully some decent slides. My love to all.

PHIPPS SPRING FLOWER SHOW
March 19 - April 16

NATURE By MAX HENRICI

According to some scientists our spring wild flowers last for so short a while because they are still under the influence of the great glacier thousands of feet thick which rushed down from the Far North in pre-historic times to within fifty miles of Pittsburgh, gave our region an Arctic climate for hundreds of thousands of years and retreated only 25,000 years ago. During that period there was a growing season of only a few months and our forest flowers according to the theory still conform to that pattern. Incidentally flowers whose habitats were pushed southward by the glacier have gradually extended their range northward again. Whatever may be the truth in respect to the theory, the fact remains that our spring flowers are mostly forest flowers and by now the forest flowers have to a large extent stopped blooming.

The summer flowers are in considerable measure flowers of the open field. Moreover, they are in many cases not indigenous to America but were introduced from Europe by the white settlers in the fodder that they brought over with their livestock and in other ways. Our region was almost solidly covered with forests prior to the coming of the white man and most of our flowers were forest dwellers demanding shade. With the clearing of the woods the native forest flowers had to give way to the European field flowers.

I have made a little list of wild flowers that caught my attention in walks in the vicinity of McAllister's Cross Roads during the last few days. Not only some of the very common ones such as Bouncing Bet, chicory, mullein, yarrow, Queen Ann's lace, ox-eye daisies and motherwort are of Old World origin but also some that are not so common such as the ash-leaved spiraea (*Sorbaria sorbifolia*) that I found on a road near Murdocksville.

Daisies and milkweeds are now the dominant flowers of the fields and roadsides. The wild bergamots are becoming prominent and the Joe Pye weeds soon will appear on the scene. The fringed loosestrife (*Steironema ciliatum*) of the Primrose family, the purple milkwort (*Polygala sanguinea*) of the Milkwort family, the blue vervain (*Verbena hastata*) of the Vervain family, and the flowering spurge (*Euphorbia corollata*) of the Spurge family are now in bloom. The spurge is notable for the fact that what appear to be its petals are not petals at all but a queer sort of extraneous appendage.

The woods are not destitute of flowers, but there is not the color to be seen that was in evidence in May. In the course of a stroll over the week-end in a tract of forest at my home I noted that by far the most abundant of the flowers now in bloom there is the enchanting nightshade (*Circaea lutetiana*) of the Primrose family. It is a native member of our flora but is also found in Europe. The scientific name means "Parisian Circe". Both the common and scientific names are so grandiose that one would expect something gorgeous and resplendent in the flower. As a matter of fact it is so tiny and inconspicuous that most persons would not even give it a glance. My guess is that it got these imposing names from having been used in witchcraft and found potent.

The most conspicuous flower in our woods at the present time is the black cohosh or black snake-root (*Cimicifuga racemosa*) of the Crowfoot family, whose tall white plumes cannot fail to attract your attention.

The most fragrant of our present forest flowers is the shin-leaf (*Pyrola elliptica*) of the Heath family. I also found its sister species, the round-leaved *Pyrola americana*. Another member of the Heath family, the mountain tea, tea-berry, or wintergreen (*Gaultheria procumbens*), is in bloom now, too.

Among other flowers that I found in the woods over the week-end were the starchy campion (*Silene stellata*) of the Pink family, the mad-dog skullcap (*Scutellaria lateriflora*) of the Mint family, and the lopseed (*Phryma leptostachya*) of the Lopseed family. This last is remarkable in that the family has only one genus and the genus only one species.