

Wildflowers

THE BULLETIN OF THE
BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF W. PA.

March 1990



Phalaenopsis sp.

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MARCH MEETING

This is the one we have been waiting for. The speaker for our next meeting will be our president, Dr. Mary Joy Haywood, who will present a program, "Flora of Papua, New Guinea".

Monday, March 12, 8:00 P.M. at our usual place, Trinity Hall on the Carlow College Campus, 3333 Fifth Avenue, Oakland!

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FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

Field trips are on Saturdays. Meeting time is 1:30 P.M. Your guests are welcome on these field trips, so do not hesitate to bring them along.

If you have any questions concerning our trips, call our Field Trip Chairman, Scott Shriver, at 7411-9249.

3-31-90 - GROUSE RUN, Allegheny County, PA
Leader: Dr. Hersch Leapman

We will meet at North Park. Park at the Tastee Freez store along Wildwood Road just off Babcock Blvd. This is right across the road from the pale green orchid meadow.

Due to the March date, it is fair to assume that only our earliest bloomers will be making an appearance. We hope to see a nice display of *Trillium nivale* (Snow Trillium).

4-7-90 - CORE ARBORETUM AT WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY
Monongalia County, WV
Leaders: Clete Smith & Doug Smith

From Pittsburgh, take I-79 south into West Virginia and exit at Star City. Turn left and proceed a short distance to Route 7. Turn right on Route 7 and continue toward Morgantown. About 1/4 mile past the W. V. U. Coliseum turn right at the sign directing you to the Arboretum. Meet in the parking area.

Due to the fact that Core Arboretum is south of Pittsburgh, wildflower bloom occurs about 1-2 weeks ahead of us. We expect to see "full bloom" displays of many early spring wildflowers.

- Scott Shriver

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A REPORT ON VERMONT WILDFLOWER FARM

We visited the Vermont Wildflower Farm in June of 1989. It was early so there was no film and there was also no charge to visit. There were several different areas of wildflowers. There was an open meadow, a wooded area, and some experimental areas where different varieties of their seeds were planted. The gift shop was quite nice with different items such as trays with wildflowers pictured as well as their seed assortments for sale. At that time of year, the mosquitoes were also present, so insect repellent is recommended.

Any one visiting this area of Vermont should also see Shelburne Farm & Museum, a short distance away from the Vermont Wildflower Farm.

- Karl & Genie Ferrell

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WILDFLOWERS OF SPRING AT CCAC

This course will consist of an introductory classroom session to acquaint the students with field guides and their use, plant characteristics to look for in field identification, habitats, etc. Following the introductory session there will be field trips to such natural areas as North Park, Trillium Trail, Raccoon Creek Wildflower Reserve and others.

Vincentian High School, Room 119
5 sessions, Sat. 9 a.m.-12, beginning April 7
Instructor: Esther Allen

Registration - CCAC, Office of Continuing Education, College Center-North, 1130 Perry Highway, Pittsburgh, PA 15237. Fee \$20, payable to CCAC. Out of County residents must pay double tuition.

PHALAENOPSIS

With Dr. Haywood's program this month on New Guinea, it is only appropriate we show the Moth Orchid, which is native to that area.

Pencil sketch is by our member, Phyllis Monk. Unfortunately, the printing process is unable to capture all of the subtle shading on Phyllis's original drawing.

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COSTA RICA CLOUD FOREST

In January, 1989 I visited the Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve in Costa Rica. Located at an elevation of 700-800 m, the forest is bathed in mist throughout the year from the moisture-laden trade winds blowing over the Continental Divide. Upon entering the Reserve, I noticed a profusion of climbing plants, especially woody lianas and epiphytes, which often hide the outline of 50 ft. high tree ferns and trees taller than 100 ft. Popular houseplants, such as anthurium, begonia, heliconia, and philodendron were quite evident. I also saw orchids, but they were not flowering. The wildlife appeared to be all-but-invisible until our group heard the familiar blue jay call. We remained motionless for a few minutes and were rewarded with occasional glimpses of the azure hooded jay as it flew through the forest canopy. The path curved down into a slippery valley where I noticed liverworts growing on fallen logs. Continuing along the trail, our guide spotted several coatimundi, a raccoon relative, feeding on the strangler fig plants. Through binoculars, we watched the animals climbing from branch to branch. Further along on the trail we stopped at the siparuna tonduziana shrub to break apart one of its fleshy pungent fruits and enjoy the wonderful citrus fragrance. On our way out of the cloud forest we spent time observing a mixed species flock of birds, including my favorite, the collared redstart.

- M. K. Rankin

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HEARTS AND FLOWERS

What a crazy winter! On February 14, Valentine's Day, these were blooming in our garden --



Vinca minor
Pachysandra terminalis
Crocus vernus
Galanthus nivalis
Eranthis hyemalis

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ONE MILLION DOLLARS

Take a good look at the envelope. If there is an orange dot (like this ●) in front of your name, you may be the winner of ONE MILLION DOLLARS.

Now that I have your attention...the orange dot really signifies that our latest computer list shows your 1990 Botanical Society dues as unpaid. They are due January 1 each year - \$5 for single membership, \$8 for the whole family. Student membership half of that!

Computers are not infallible. If the computer has gone awry again and your dues are really paid up, let me know and I'll kick that computer in the gluteus maximus. Otherwise, send your check in before the next mailing. Send it to me, Bob Bahl, and I'll make sure your name stays on the list. I'll pass the check along to Walt.