

Wildflowers

THE BULLETIN OF THE
BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF W. PA.

SEPTEMBER 1992



DANDELION

SEPTEMBER MEETING

We resume our monthly meetings on Monday, the 14th of September, 8 P.M., at Trinity Hall, Carlow College, 5500 Fifth Ave., Oakland.



Scott Shriver will present the program - "Wildflowers of Alaska".



SILENE REGIA

On July 27, we visited Bigelow Cemetery, a prairie remnant in central Ohio.

Having braved legions of mosquitoes, we were rewarded with a splendid stand of *Silene regia*, the Royal Catchfly. For many years, Bigelow Cemetery was thought to be the only location in Ohio for *Silene regia*, but then several other stations were discovered in the same general area. It isn't listed at all in the *Atlas of Pennsylvania Flora*.

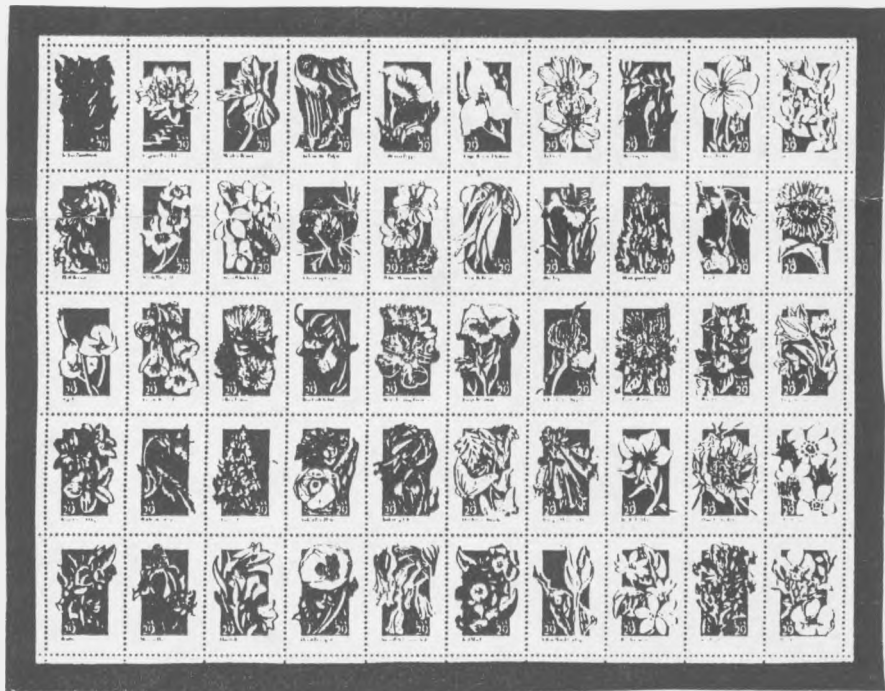
Normally the flowers of the Royal Catchfly are a brilliant scarlet, but we found one plant of the pink form.

- Anne and Bob Bahl



GAY PAREE

Jeanne and Don Poremski are headed for a two-week trip to France, one week in Paris and the next touring the French countryside.



WILDFLOWER STAMPS

The new wildflower stamps are here, but that is not all. The Postal Service has also published a 64 page hardcover book, with beautiful photos and fascinating text, about each of the 50 native wildflowers depicted on the stamps, their origin, medical and folk uses.

The price of the book is \$21.95, but this includes a full pane of 50 mint stamps, each portraying a different colorful wildflower, plus a protective mount. (Stamps alone are worth \$14.50.)

You may or may not be able to get this book at your local post office. If you can't, try the Grant St. Post Office Downtown or the mail facility on the North Side.

Or, order by mail. Send \$21.95 plus a 50-cent handling charge to:

WILDFLOWERS ALBUM
U S POSTAL SERVICE
P O BOX 14328
ST PAUL MN 55114-0328

One word of caution! To those who judge every wildflower book as a field guide, this one is not for you.



CAN YOU TOP THIS?

Anne had bought a copy of the Postal Service's wildflower book the previous week, so she went back to the Grant St. Post Office to buy two more copies. She returned empty-handed because "the person who sells them is on vacation this week."

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TARAXACUM OFFICINALE

Our member, Debbie Thompson, submits this pencil sketch of the common dandelion.



FORGET-ME-NOT

Quite some time ago I lent out my book on the wildflowers of the Olympic peninsula. The member forgot to return it, and I forgot to whom I lent it. (R. F. Bahl)



SEPTEMBER FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

September 5 - Labor Day Weekend - no trip scheduled.

September 12 - DOMITROVICH'S POND

Starting Time - 1:30 PM

Leader - Joe Domitrovich

Directions: Drive north on Rt 51. Just before Aliquippa, turn left on Rt 151. At the second traffic signal, turn right onto Gringo/Independence Rd. (No sign at this junction.) Continue on this road for about 3 miles. Watch for a corn field, where you will see a farm road on the right marked with two metal posts painted red. Turn here and drive to the end of the lane.

September 19 - CAMP AURA, 4H CLUB, HANCOCK COUNTY, WV

Starting Time - 1:30 PM

Leader - Carl Patsche

Directions: From Pittsburgh, take the Imperial exit of Rt 22/30. Continue on Rt 30 past Raccoon Creek State Park and through the intersection with Rt 18. Turn left (south) onto Rt 168. Travel 3 or 4 miles and turn right (west) onto Hardins Run Rd. Cross the state line into West Virginia and turn immediately onto Ross Rd. About a mile (?) down the hill there will be a gated entrance to the camp where we will enter.

Expectations: This is a mixed pine and hardwood forest that should give us a good opportunity to find many mushrooms and learn far more about them.

September 26 - FREW MILL ROAD, LAWRENCE COUNTY, PA

Starting Time - 1:30 PM

Leader - To be announced

Directions: From Pittsburgh, take I79 north and Rt 422 west. Turn north on Rt 388 and continue to the second crossroad, where we will turn left onto Frew Mill Road. Proceed about a mile and park on the left.

Expectations: We should see the fringed gentian in bloom while we're enjoying all of the last of the summer wildflowers. It might be wet so bring boots along.

These are the last of the field trips for 1992. Between now and next summer I hope someone will share with me some sites to explore for late September and early October next year. I have discovered that I'm not feeling very creative after six months of planning and need some input.

This task has been made so much simpler by those who have so willingly agreed to lead field trips, but most especially by those who have offered to lead them into new areas. To all of you, thank you.

I have been keeping a list of prospective outings for next year and it can be added to at any time. If you want to reserve a weekend or make a recommendation, send a postcard or give me a call.

I would also like to say thank you to all of the members of the Botanical Society whom I have met this last year and who have helped to make my life more interesting.

Jeanne Poremski
2236 Hayson Ave.
Pgh., PA 15216
412-343-6546

And, from the rest of us, our thanks to you, Jeanne, for a job well done! (R. F. B.)