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# WILDFLOWERS

The Bulletin of the Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania • July 2001

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## The Next Meeting is September 10th

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There will be no monthly meetings in July and August; the next meeting will be Monday, September 11, at 8:00 p.m. Look for details in the September newsletter.

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## Wildflowers of Pennsylvania is Published

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President Mary Joy Haywood reports:

“To Members of the Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania: By now, many of you are receiving your book. I believe you will find it to be quite beautiful. It is a publication all the members of the Society can and should be proud to have and use. The sales are going very good.

If you would like order forms for the book for your friends and organizations to purchase, do not hesitate to call or e-mail. I shall send them out immediately.

I will be contacting the nature centers, book stores, etc. in the next few weeks to get sales. Some have called for requests. Remember—it is our book and we must sell our product. Thanks for your wonderful cooperation.”

*Dr. Mary Joy Haywood, RSM, Ph.D.*  
(412) 578-6175  
[mjhaywood@carlow.edu](mailto:mjhaywood@carlow.edu)  
3333 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3165

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## Botanical Adventures - Tall Larkspur

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Early in 1985, I became interested in Tall Larkspur (*Delphinium exaltatum*). In Pennsylvania, this plant species is classified as an

endangered plant species. The available botanical references indicate that Tall Larkspur grows in rich, shaded woods and on rocky limestone bluffs.

I obtained museum label information for habitat information, collection dates and location information. I also looked at museum specimens to see what the plants look like. Location information on old museum specimen labels is often very vague. Nonetheless, I decided to try to find a historic locality of Tall Larkspur last seen in 1946 along a stream valley in Fayette County.

I visited this stream valley in Fayette County in late July and August in 1985 and 1986. I hiked several miles of the stream valley on each of my visits. Then in 1988, I hiked the valley one more time; I had decided that this would be the last time I would look for Tall Larkspur in this area.

I entered the valley from a point further upstream than I had previously. My hiking companion on this attempt was a black, mixed blood German shepherd named "Blackie". After walking a couple miles, I thought that I would walk just a little farther before I turned around.

Suddenly, I was in the middle of tall plants with pale bluish flowers. As I realized that these plants were the Tall Larkspur plants, I jumped up and down and let out a whoop. "Yahoo!" Blackie gave me strange looks.

My notes on the number of plants, associated plants, habitat and other pertinent information were forwarded to the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy to be entered into the Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) database.

The PNDI is used by the Pennsylvania Department of Natural Resources and other state agencies to track the occurrence of state-listed rare, endangered and threatened species.

Permits are required when a developer is going to build a mall, a residential development, or conduct other types of earth disturbance. Projects receiving federal or state money, such as the Mon-Valley Expressway, rails-to-trails projects, etc. require an environmental impact study. During the application for required permits, or during the environmental impact study, the PNDI database is searched.

If there are documented occurrences of PNDI listed species within a certain distance of the proposed project, state or federal agencies request that the project area be surveyed to see if the species of concern is in the area. If the species is observed, the agencies recommend that impacts to the population be avoided or minimized.

I encourage anyone who observes any of the rare, endangered or threatened plants of our area to notify the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy for entry into the PNDI database. The inventory can identify potential, adverse impacts to populations of these species.

*Mark Bowers*

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## Entomologist Is Looking for Large Plant Populations

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A graduate student of entomology at York University in Toronto, Ontario is examining the effects of pollen specialization on the population dynamics of specialist bees.

Amro Zayed is looking for the exact location of large blooms of 50 or more flowers of the following species: *Oenothera spp.*, *Passiflora lutea*, *Lysimachia spp.*, *Pontederia spp.*, *Campanula spp.*, and *Helianthus annuus*.

He prefers locations of actual field observations of the blooms, rather than historical sightings. Contact Amro Zayed at York University, 4700 Keele St., Toronto, Ontario M3J 1P3  
Telephone: (416) 736-2100 ext 22663  
e-mail: amro@torontodigital.com

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## Hunt Institute Presents Enduring Perfection

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The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation invites you to experience Enduring Perfection: Paintings by Damodar Lal Gurjar. Gurjar is one of India's leading artists of natural history themes and a master at super-realism.

The exhibition runs through July 31, 2001. The Institute is open from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and Sundays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The Institute is located on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of the Hunt Library at Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA . Call (412) 268-2434 for information.

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## Field Trip Schedule

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Registration is not required. Everyone is welcome, including non-members. For questions, call the trip leader or Loree at (412) 521-9425.

**Saturday, July 14, 2001**  
**Botanical Assessment for the Horigan Property, Butler County**  
**Time: 1:00 p.m.**  
**Leaders: Esther Allen (412) 366-0786 or Loree Speedy (412) 521-9425.**

The Botanical Society is preparing a plant list for the new property recently purchased by the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania. This will be our second visit. All members are invited, regardless of your skill at identifying plants. This will be a great opportunity to learn.

**Directions:** We will meet at Todd Sanctuary and carpool from there. From Pittsburgh, take

Route 28 north to Exit 17 and continue north on Rt. 356 for 0.8 miles. Turn right onto Monroe Road, which is not marked by a sign but has a small restaurant on the corner and is across from Cinema 356. Follow Monroe Road for 1.2 miles to a fork in the road, and bear right onto Kepple Road past Buffalo Golf Course. After 1.8 miles, the sanctuary is marked by a sign on the right. Park in the lot to the right.

**Saturday, July 28, 2001**

**Dead Man's Hollow, Allegheny County**

**Time: 1 p.m.**

**Leader: Joan Gottlieb (412) 242-6738**

**Directions:** From Pittsburgh, take I-376 (Parkway East) to Exit 10 - Forest Hills/ Route 30. Travel Route 30 west to Route 48. Turn right (south) on Route 48 to the town of Boston. Cross the bridge over the Youghiogheny, immediately turn right, then turn right again. We will meet at the Yough River Trail parking lot.

Or take Route 51 south to Elizabeth, where it crosses the Monongahela River. Continue about another 4 miles to Route 48 (near Round Hill Park). Turn left (north) on Route 48, and follow it for 6 to 8 miles to a 5-way intersection in Boston, just before a bridge. Turn left, then immediately right, to the Yough River Trail parking lot.

We will head for the Dead Man's Hollow Trail at 1 p.m. Bicyclists can leave a little later and lock their bikes at the entrance to Dead Man's Hollow Trail, which is about 1 mile from the parking lot.

If it rains before the field trip, prepare for muddy trail conditions.

**Sunday, July 29, 2001**

**Elizabethan Herb Garden in Mellon Park, City of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County**

**Time: 12 p.m. (a free concert in the park starts at 10:30 a.m.)**

**Leader: Liz DePiero (412) 341-8014**

**Directions:** From Pittsburgh, take I-376 (Parkway East) to Exit 8 - Squirrel Hill. Make first left to Squirrel Hill onto Forward Avenue. At the third stop light, make a left onto Beechwood Boulevard. Follow Beechwood about 2.2 miles to Mellon Park, which is on the left. Park along Beechwood.

Or, take Route 28 to the Highland Park Bridge. Cross the bridge and take the Washington Boulevard exit. Bear right at the first and follow Washington Boulevard. Continue to the intersection with Penn Avenue, where Washington Boulevard becomes Fifth Avenue. Travel Fifth Avenue to the next stoplight and turn left onto Beechwood Boulevard. Park along Beechwood.

Liz is the chair of the Western Pennsylvania unit of the Herb Society of America. She will show us the delights of an Elizabethan herb garden.

From 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon, there is a free Bach Beethoven and Brunch concert in Mellon Park. Bring a brunch, enjoy the concert, then join the herb garden tour!

**Saturday, August 4, 2001**

**Jennings Prairie, Butler County**

**Time: 1 p.m.**

**Leader: Esther Allen (412) 366-0786**

**Directions:** From Pittsburgh, take I-79 North to Exit 99 (US 422 New Castle Butler). Drive east on Route 422 roughly 5.8 miles to the Prospect Exit, and turn left (north) onto Route 528. Continue on Route 528 for about 7 miles. We will meet in the Jennings Env. Center Prairie Area parking lot on the left (west) side of the road.

This trip will be cosponsored by the Wissahickon Nature Club. Come to learn about this organization's upcoming fall schedule, and its new Thursday night meeting time!

**Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania – July 2001**

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Pittsburgh, PA 15217

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## **WILDFLOWERS - Bulletin of the Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania**

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WILDFLOWERS is published monthly by the Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania. We welcome short articles of botanical interest, drawings, letters to the editor, and notices of botanical events and group activities. Send to the editor at the above address. Deadline for submissions is the 20th of the previous month.

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## **The Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania - Membership Information**

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The object of the Society shall be to bring together those who are interested in Botany and to encourage the study of this science and a knowledge of plants. Our members include both amateurs and professionals. Annual dues are \$10.00 for individual and \$15.00 for family. Students can join at half-rate. To join, mail your name, your address, and check payable to "Botanical Soc. of W PA" to Loree Speedy, 5837 Nicholson Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15217. Your membership includes a subscription to the monthly bulletin WILDFLOWERS.

The Society meets the second Monday of each month, September through June, at 8 p.m. sharp, at Trinity Hall or Kresge Theater, Carlow College, 3333 Fifth Avenue, Oakland. All are welcome. An informative program follows the business meeting. Visit the Botanical Society Homepage at <http://home.kiski.net/~speedy/b1.html>.