
WILDFLOWERS

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

The Next Meeting is December 10

Our annual Christmas Party will be Monday, December 10, at 8:00 p.m., at the **Atrium of the A. J. Palumbo Hall** at Carlow College, 3333 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA (Oakland). As you approach the campus on Fifth Avenue (heading toward downtown Pittsburgh), do not turn right into the Carlow Campus entrance. Instead, pass the entrance, stay in the right lane, and make the immediate right into the parking area. Park here and cross the street.

This is the wild Holiday Party! Members and guests bring pies, cookies, candies, fruits, berries, and their wild selves. The most daring and creative will bring in edibles made from something wild.

Don't dare stay away if you have nothing to bring, for there will be plenty!

This is Member's Night where we share our great plant sightings over the year. A member can bring up to twelve botanical slides.

January's meeting will be held Monday, January 14, 2002. Chuck Tague will present the Flora of Brookgreen Garden and the South Carolina Low Country.

A Letter from President Mary Joy Haywood

Dear Members and Friends of the Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania: Another year comes to an end. This has been a wonderful year for us.

Many events and activities have occurred. Foremost is the publication of your wonderful book. Without your help, both by your encouragement and financial help, this publication may not have reached fruition.

The following have made a substantial loan to the Botanical Society for the publication of our book, *The Wildflowers Of Pennsylvania*:

1. Timothy E. Manka - \$15,000.00
2. Mary Jane Longo - \$13,104.00
3. Sisters of Mercy - \$11,896.00
4. Mr. & Mrs. Werner E. Emmerich - \$2,000.00
5. Mary Lou Brown - \$1,000.00

Also, we have received \$5,000 from the estate of Virginia A. Phelps.

All of us wish to sincerely thank our donors. Without their generous contributions, we may not have our wonderful book out yet.

So many of you have been so active in community events, field trips, attending programs, etc. I certainly commend you and thank you for publicizing our publication. To date, we have sold approximately 3000 copies.

I personally wish to thank our officers who have given of their time and energy in making our Society such a success. I want to thank Phyllis Monk for all her work on the book. Phyllis' contributions are immeasurable. I also want to thank Loree for getting the bulletin out as well as the many other activities she participated in. Kim Metheny has done a tremendous job in handling our book finances and we are grateful to her for assuming the job of treasurer of our Society.

Lastly, I want to thank Walter Gardill who has, for over 15 years, meticulously handled our finances. We are all grateful.

Let us pray for each other and especially for world peace as we approach this season.

Looking forward to seeing all of you at the Christmas party.

Dr. Mary Joy Haywood

Dues reminder

The Botanical Society is now collecting annual dues; rates are \$10 individual and \$15 family. Students pay half-rate.

Renewals and dues should be sent to:

BSWP, Loree Speedy
279 Orr Road
West Newton, PA 15089

If you wish, include your phone or e-mail address. The checks will be forwarded to our Treasurer Kim Metheny.

White Oaks in Western Pennsylvania

...The relation of the distribution of the white oak to climate in western Pennsylvania is an intriguing question. Around Kane, in McKean County, northern Pennsylvania, in a region where I have seen at least some frost in every month of the summer, and sometimes called "the ice box of Pennsylvania," I found no evidence of the presence of white oak on the upland, but I did find the Northern Red Oak in the valley slope below the town.

There is considerable evidence to support the view that since the retreat of glaciers, various plants and animals have migrated northward and are still doing so. Believing it to be along the northern line of advance of the white oak, I once walked across country from Johnsonburg to St. Mary's in search of evidence. All I got was a good case of fatigue.

Later a trio, consisting of a geologist from the U.S. Geological Survey, a soil scientist affiliated with the Bureau of Soils, and a forest ecologist from the Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University, conducted a thorough survey of the past and present forest conditions of McKean and Potter counties.

Around Pittsburgh the white oak dominates (or formerly did dominate) the rather thin-soiled uplands which constitute the remnants of an ancient plateau which here forms the sky line at an altitude of about 1,200 feet above sea. This sky-line plateau rises to the northeast to form a "dome" at an altitude of up to 2,600 feet above sea, in McKean and Potter counties. This is a region investigated by the aforementioned trio. They found the forest at an altitude of about 2,400 to 2,600 feet above the sea to be the northern mixed Beech-Maple-Birch-Hemlock type, but with no oaks. At a somewhat lower altitude, the red oak began to appear in the forest, and still farther down the white oak appeared.

Perhaps we may assume that the red oak is more resistant to cold. At least the acorns mature the second autumn after their flowers appear, while the white oak matures its acorns in the same year that the flowers appear. At the northern edge of its range, the latter, being seemingly less resistant to cold than red oak, would perhaps suffer more from late spring frosts such as we know do occur in that region....

O. E. Jennings - Reprinted from the July 1963 issue of Water Land and Life - A publication of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy

Botanical Books, off the Shelf

As for my favorite books that I keep on forgetting about sending you, I have several as you may have guessed. But one of my more recent favorites is *Life in the Cold* by Peter Marchand.

The book is a pseudo-scientific book on winter ecology. The book has the charts and graphs

but it also has a lot of information about plants, birds, bugs and animals and how they can stay alive in the winter.

Another book, for the field, is *Grasses* by Lauren Brown. It's available on the Borders and Barnes & Noble bookshelves. It is very non-technical (in fact, a little too much so) but it is a fantastic start for those who want to learn about grasses, rushes and sedges from scratch. It helped me get started.

Lastly, the *Flora of West Virginia* by P. D. Strasbaugh and Earl L. Core is still the best technical key.

Lou Ammon

It's cold out, so keep reading. Send us a note about your favorite books: Editor, BSWP
279 Orr Road, West Newton, PA 15089
e-mail address: yoree@sgi.net

Attend an International Exhibition and a Landscape Symposium

- The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation is presenting its 10th International Exhibition of Botanical Art & Illustration through February 28, 2002. The International, held every three years, attracts talented botanical artists from around the world. The works prove that the infinite variety of plant forms offers undiminished challenge and delight in the world of art. 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 5th floor of the Hunt Library at Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA. Call (412) 268-2434 for information.
- A Western Pennsylvania Gardening and Landscape Symposium will be held at Chatham College on Saturday, February 23, 2002, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. This is an opportunity to hear some of the best horticultural speakers, including Lucy

Hardiman of Fine Gardening and Horticulture magazine, Dick Lighty, former director of Mt. Cuba Center, nursery director John Elsley and local botanist Joan Gottlieb. For information call the Phipps Garden Center at (412) 441-4442.

Field Trips in 2001

Many thanks to our field trip leaders in 2001.

- Esther Allen** - Butler-Freeport Trail (2/17/01 & 8/11/01)
Wolf Creek Narrows (5/12/01)
Horigan Property (5/26/01, 7/14/01 & 9/23/01)
Jennings Prairie (6/23/01 & 8/4/01)
Independence Marsh (9/29/01)
- Luc Berger** - North Park (9/15/01)
- Robert Coxe** - Friendship Hill (5/19/01)
- Liz DePiero** - Settler's Cabin Park (5/9/01)
Elizabethan Herb Garden (7/29/01)
- Kevin Dodge** - Cranesville Swamp (9/1/01)
- Joan Gottlieb** - Dead Man's Hollow (7/28/01)
- Thomas Hart** - Chartier's Creek Wetlands (6/2/01)
- David Jett** - Nine Mile Run (3/24/01)
- Clifton McGill** - Frick Park Photography (5/20/01)
- Brad Owen** - Ringland Homestead (4/21/01)
- Carl Patsche** - Hollow Rock Run (10/27/01)
- Tom Pearson** - Ferncliff Peninsula (6/30/01)
- Mary Jane Seipler** - Allegheny Front Hawk Watch
(10/13/01)
- Loree Speedy** - Crooked Creek Lake Park (1/13/01)
Crouse Run (4/7/01)
- Scott Speedy** - Herminie (3/17/01)
- Sam Stull** - Titus Bog (6/9/01)
- Chuck Tague** - Boyce/Mayview Regional Park (8/25/01)
- Scarlett Townsend** - Hunt Institute (1/21/01)

"We are all indigenous to this planet, this mosaic of wild gardens we are being called by nature and history to reinhabit in good spirit. Part of the responsibility is to choose a place. To restore the land one must live and work in a place. To work in a place is to work with others. People who work together in a place become a community, and a community, in time, grows culture. To work on behalf of the wild is to restore culture."

Gary Snyder, Rediscovery of Turtle Island

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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, and notices of botanical events and group activities. Send to the editor at the above address. Deadline for submissions is the 23th of the previous month.

The Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania - Membership Information

The Botanical Society was founded in 1886. 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. 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 Kresge Theater, Carlow College, 3333 Fifth Avenue, Oakland. All are welcome to the informative program and business meeting.

Wildflowers of Pennsylvania – Ordering Information – 400 pages of text and 612 color photographs

Wildflowers of Pennsylvania can be purchased for \$20.00 (plus \$1.40 sales tax for PA residents). Forward your check, made payable to Botanical Society of Western PA, to Dr. Haywood at the address below. If you order by mail, add \$2 postage and handling for one book, \$3.00 for two, \$4.00 for three, \$4.50 for four. Send your request to Dr. Mary Joy Haywood, RSM, Ph.D., 3333 Fifth Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3165 (412) 578 -6175; mjhaywood@carlow.edu