
WILDFLOWERS

The Bulletin of the Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania • February 2002

The Next Meeting is February 11

The next meeting will be Monday, February 11, 8:00 p.m., at Kresge Theater, Carlow College, 3333 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA (Oakland). Kresge Theater is on the top floor of the Grace Library and is accessed from the upper campus.

John Kocon will present "Trees and Plants Used by Eastern Woodland Indians". He will show slides and discuss the trees and plants used by Eastern Woodland Indians, who inhabited the eastern U.S. from 1000 BC to 1600 AD.

When you attend the monthly meetings, please place a note on your dashboard saying "Botanical Society Meeting," or use your parking permit.

At the February meeting, we will continue our discussion of a change in meeting time from 8:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Dues reminder

Thank you to all who have paid their dues for 2002. If you joined late in 2001, your membership will extend through 2002.

Rates are \$10 individual and \$15 family. Students pay half-rate.

Make your check payable to BSWP and send to:

BSWP, Loree Speedy
279 Orr Road
West Newton, PA 15089
(724) 872-5232; yoree@sgi.net

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

Pennsylvania Rare Plant and Invasive Plant Forums Scheduled for March 23

The 2002 meeting of the Pennsylvania Rare Plant Forum and the inaugural meeting of the Pennsylvania Invasive Plant Forum will take place on Saturday, March 23, at the Ohiopyle Community Center.

The tentative schedule is:

Friday, March 22

- 3:00–5:00 Field trip to Cedar Creek Park to see harbinger-of-spring, snow trillium, and other early bloomers. Led by Mark Bowers.
6:30–7:30 Dinner
8:00–9:30 Slides of plants (if you bring them!), socializing at Bear Run Nature Reserve

Saturday, March 23

- 10:00–12:30 Rare Plant Forum
12:30–1:30 Lunch
1:30–4:00 Invasive Plant Forum

The Rare Plant Forum has served for over twenty years in an advisory role to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for issues related to the conservation of the native flora of Pennsylvania. The Forum will discuss proposed changes to the list of Plants Of Special Concern In Pennsylvania.

At the Invasive Plant Forum, professional botanists and serious amateurs with field experience will discuss species alien to Pennsylvania that invade natural areas. The Forum will discuss potential revisions to the Mid-Atlantic Exotic Pest Plant Council

(MA-EPPC) list of plant species that invade natural communities in the mid-Atlantic region.

Please note that the forum will not discuss methods of controlling these species. The limited meeting time will draw on the experience of the attendees to understand which species pose the greatest threats to biodiversity.

Both forums are an excellent opportunity to socialize with other amateur and professional botanists who share your interest in the flora of Pennsylvania.

The Ohiopyle Community Center is located at 15 Sherman Street in Ohiopyle. Limited bed space will be available free of charge at Bear Run Nature Preserve. E-mail Steve Grund at Sgrund@paconserve.org or call him at (412) 288-5401 to reserve space or for more information about the Forums.

Please call or e-mail Steve by February 22 if you plan to attend Friday's field trip, which will be limited to 20.

Naturalist Training Begins in March

Become a **volunteer naturalist** at Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve. "Pittsburgh Outdoors Classroom" needs volunteer naturalists to lead small groups of school students through Beechwood's trails. You will receive training in natural history and trailside educational activities.

Spring training begins Monday, March 4, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and continues 5 more Mondays. For information, call Scott Detwiler at (412) 963-6100 or sdetwiler@aswp.org.

News From Members

- Our condolences to Bette Bates. Now living in Alpine, Texas, she reports that her husband Jim passed away last March. In December, she camped in Big Bend; on the 21st of December, she could see Bi-colored

Mustard in bloom. However, a few nights later, it went down to 20 degrees

- Dick Schwendinger, from Denver, Colorado, says that, during his all-too-short time in Pittsburgh, it was Virginia Phelps, Werner Buker and Leroy Henry who got him searching for orchids throughout North America. And he is still doing it.

He spent a memorable field trip with Dr. Henry on a wild 8-day trek across the Canadian Rockies with the Canadian and American Botanical Societies. They spent most of the time protecting the orchids from some crazed professor who wanted to collect every one they saw—roots and all. After they saw what he was doing, he never saw another orchid during the whole trip.

He recalls taking Virginia, who was on a personal Western field trip, up into the Front Range for the *Corallorhiza wisteriana*. After timber-cruising for about two hours among hundreds of thousands of *C. maculata*, they found three plants—not at their peak but recognizable.

- Parents are happy to announce a birth, but grandparents are ecstatic—Joan and Milton Gottlieb announce the birth of their first grandchild, Sadie Rose, on December 24.
- Our condolences to Paul Ribar of Sewickley, on the death of his wife Pauline on January 10. Paul and Pauline have been members since 1950.
- The Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society is creating a fund-raising cookbook for the Allegheny Front Hawkwatch. Give your recipe a catchy bird title and e-mail it to Lee Tosh at ltosh@mindspring.com

Is that Hairy or Pennsylvania Bitter Cress?

I began to question the identification of the bitter cress we often see in fields, lawns and other

disturbed areas after I began doing wetland identification and delineation. The indicator status of Pennsylvania Bitter Cress (*Cardamine pensylvanica*) is Obligate, and Hairy Bitter Cress (*C. hirsuta*) is facultative upland. These indicator terms mean that the probability of finding *C. pensylvanica* in a wetland under natural conditions is 99%; the probability of finding *C. hirsuta* in a wetland is at most 33%.

I first saw *C. pensylvanica* in a wetland in Beaver County. The flower petals of *C. pensylvanica* are about twice the size of those of *C. hirsuta*. *C. pensylvanica* is a larger, more robust plant; the upper leaflets are wider. *C. hirsuta* has a basal rosette of many leaflets.

Why is the common bitter cress we see in early spring usually identified as Pennsylvania Bitter Cress? It probably results from *Peterson's Field Guide to Wildflowers* and *Newcomb's Wildflower Guide* having only Pennsylvania Bitter Cress illustrated.

The *C. pensylvanica* illustrations look a lot like *C. hirsuta*. The *New Field Book of American Wild Flowers* by H.W. Rickett has both illustrations, but it seems that this book never had the popularity of the other commonly used field guides.

I think it is a good idea to take a second look—even at the common things.

Mark Bowers



Pennsylvania Bitter Cress (*Cardamine pensylvanica*)



Hairy Bitter Cress (*Cardamine hirsuta*)

Illustrations from *The New Field Book of American Wild Flowers* by Harold W. Rickett

Field Trip Schedule

Registration is not required. Everyone is welcome, including non-members.

Saturday, February 16, 2002
Cross Creek County Park, Washington County
Time: 10:00 a.m. (NOT 1:00 p.m.)
Leaders: Mike Milvet, Diane Margaria & Carl Patsche (304) 723-0139

Directions: From Pittsburgh, take I-79 south to Exit 54 - Bridgeville, and drive west on Route 50 for 17 miles. Turn left at the sign for the park entrance and drive 1 mile to the parking lot, where we will meet.

Cross Creek County Park has a quality fishing lake and 2600 acres of natural woodland. We will give input to the county regarding the construction of a nature trail with botanical highlights. Our first visit will be exploratory, searching for healthy woods, interesting meadows, and other areas with potential.

This trip could be cancelled due to bad driving conditions or unpleasant walking conditions. **Call (724) 872-5232** the morning of the hike for a cancellation message.

Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania – February 2002
279 Orr Road
West Newton, PA 15089

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Editor: Loree Speedy, 279 Orr Road, West Newton, PA 15089 Telephone: (724) 872-5232; E-mail: yoree@sgi.net.
President: Dr. Mary Joy Haywood, (412) 578-6175, E-mail mjhaywood@carlow.edu; **Vice-President:** Phyllis Monk, (412) 831-2724 E-mail: uscmonk@ieee.org; **Treasurer:** Kimberly Metheny

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, 279 Orr Road, West Newton, PA 15089. 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