
WILDFLOWERS

The Bulletin of the Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania • July & August 2006

Next Meeting is September 11

The next meeting will be Monday, September 11, **7:15 p.m.**, at Carlow University. Program details will be in the next newsletter.

The Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation

The demise of the American chestnut tree (*Castanea dentata*) is one of the greatest ecological disasters of the current era. The American chestnut was the keystone of the ecology and economy of the eastern United States throughout the 1800s. It was a fast growing, rot-resistant tree, that was essential to the timber industry - and produced a reliable crop of nuts for both wildlife and human consumption. The loss of the species due to a deadly fungus left a huge gap in the forest ecosystem.

The Pennsylvania Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation (PA-TACF) has a mission to restore the American chestnut tree to the forests of Pennsylvania and the eastern United States, in support of The American Chestnut Foundation's tree breeding program and mission. PA-TACF and its volunteers maintain more than 70 orchards in Pennsylvania and have planted more than 25,000 trees.

You can help PA-TACF restore this great tree to our forests and woodlands. Volunteers help with orchard plantings, maintenance, pollination, and harvesting. Contact PA-TACF by phone at (814) 863-7192, or e-mail mail@patacf.org. Or visit www.patacf.org.

To learn more about the American Chestnut Foundation, PA-TACF members will be at the Highland Park chestnut orchard to thank Allegheny County Chief Executive Dan Onorato for his help in acquiring the Highland Park orchard site. Botanical Society members have been asked to join PA-TACF for this event on Thursday, July 18; if you can attend, call Dr. William Lord at (412) 793-0255. Also, join the Botanical Society for a special field trip to the chestnut orchard with Dr. Lord and Dr. Mary Joy Haywood on Tuesday, August 1 at 10:00 a.m. Details follow.

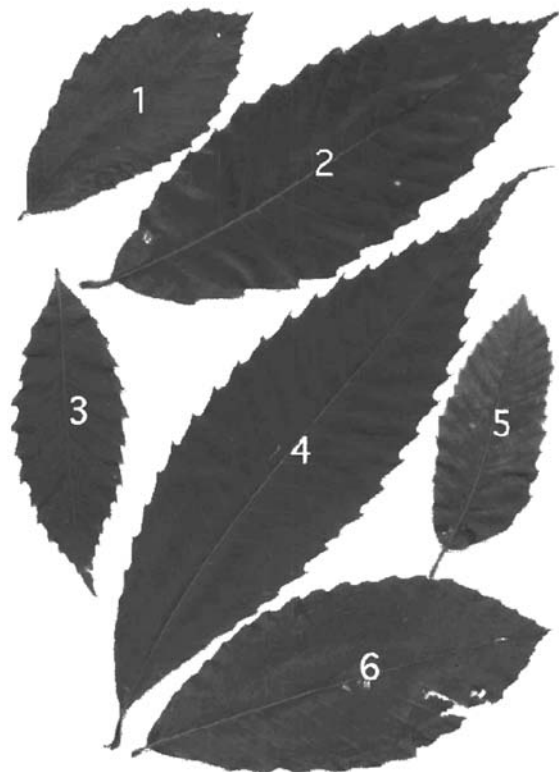


Image and quiz courtesy of the American Chestnut Cooperators Foundation website www.accf-online.org.

LEAF QUIZ: Below are samples from three different *Castanea* species found in Pennsylvania. Which is which? Answers below.

Field Trip Schedule

Registration is not required. Everyone is welcome, including non-members. Trips are not canceled due to rain. Wear shoes that can get wet. Water and sun protection are recommended for mid-summer trips. For questions, call the trip leader or Loree at (724) 872-5232.

Saturday, July 22, 2006
Raccoon Creek State Park, Beaver County
Time: 1 p.m.
Leader: James Nusser

Directions: From Pittsburgh, take the Parkway West (I-279 south/US 22-30). Exit the Parkway to continue on US Route 22 to the exit for PA 18 - Florence. Turn left on PA 18 north and travel 7 miles to the **Park Office** on the left, where we will meet.

Sunday, July 23, 2006
Titus Bog, Erie County
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Leader: Sam Stull (814) 476-1795
e-mail: jst3415@aol.com

This trip requires wading through the bog's moat for a short period, perhaps in water up to 2 foot deep, using shrubs and roots for balance. Old tennis shoes or waders are recommended. Plan on getting wet and climbing over tree trunks.

Directions: From Pittsburgh, take I-79 north to Exit 166 (Rt. 6N Albion Edinboro). Head east on PA 6N for 9.8 miles to its intersection with PA 19 & PA 6. (The PA 6 bridge over French Creek is out.) Turn left onto PA 19 north for 1.9 miles, turn right onto Moore Rd for 0.8 miles, then turn right and continue 2.3 miles to PA 6 in Mill Village. Turn left and travel PA 6 through Union City. After taking the turn out of Union City (continuing on PA 6), drive 5.7 miles to the intersection of PA 89 and Pa 6, where we will meet at an old drive-in theater structure on the left.

Saturday, July 29, 2006
Moraine State Park – Northern Extension
along Slippery Rock Creek, Butler County
Time: 1 p.m.
Leader: Esther Allen (412) 366-0786

Directions: From Pittsburgh, travel I-79 North to Exit 105 (Route 108/Slippery Rock). Turn left at the end of the exit ramp to take PA 108 east toward Slippery Rock. Travel a little over ½ mile to West Park Road, where there is a Dairy Queen and gas station at this intersection.

Turn right (south) onto West Park Road; after a short distance, cross a highway bridge, then turn left onto a parking lot just beyond the bridge.

Expect Featherfleece (*Stenanthium gramineum*) and Turk's Cap Lily.

Tuesday, August 1, 2006
Highland Park's Hybrid Chestnut Orchard
Allegheny County
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Leader: Dr. William Lord (412) 793-0255
and Dr. Mary Joy Haywood.

Dr. Lord will show us the hybrid chestnut orchard developed for the PA Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation breeding program. Drs. Haywood and Lord will then discuss the ecology of this important tree, the advent of the blight, and the breeding program that is attempting to restore this tree.

Directions: Take PA Turnpike (I-76) to Exit 48 (PA28). Follow PA 28 south to Exit 6- Highland Park Bridge on your left. Proceed across the Highland Park Bridge in the right hand lane to exit onto Butler Street. Turn left at the light onto One Wild Place. Continue past the Zoo and make a sharp hairpin turn to the right near the top. At the next intersection, turn left onto Bunker Hill St. Continue to the top of the hill and turn right onto Highland Ave. Proceed down Highland Ave to Stanton Ave and turn left. Follow Stanton Ave for about 1/2 mile. The Chestnut orchard is on your right near the Forestry Department.

Alternatively, take I-376 Parkway East to Exit 7 (Edgewood/Swissvale). Stay in left lane of exit ramp – at end of ramp, turn right onto Braddock Ave. Continue straight through 2 stoplights, at third stoplight, turn left onto Penn Ave. Follow Penn Ave to Highland Ave, and turn right onto Highland Ave. Continue to Stanton Ave. Turn right at the traffic light onto Stanton Ave and follow it about 1/2 mile. The Chestnut orchard is on your right near the Forestry Department.

Saturday, August 12, 2006

Todd Sanctuary, Butler County

Time: 10:00 am

Leader: Garrett Fabian, Todd Naturalist for Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania

We will join the Todd naturalist for an informative discussion on the landscape and history of Todd Sanctuary, then explore the reserve for ferns, fern allies and more.

This program is free for Audubon Society or Western Pennsylvania members. If you are not a member of the ASWP, please donate \$3.00 at the time of the trip. (Or consider becoming a member by contacting www.aswp.org or (412) 963-6100).

Directions: A detour is in place for visitors from PA 28. Take PA 28 North to Exit 17 Butler/Freeport. Turn right onto PA 356 North and travel 3.6 miles to Sarver Road. At traffic light, turn right onto Sarver Road and travel 3.5 miles to Kepple Road. Turn right and travel 1.2 miles to the sanctuary parking lot on the left. The sanctuary sign is not visible from this direction.

Saturday, August 19, 2006

Youghiogheny River Canoe Trip – Dawson to Layton – Fayette County

Time: 11:30 a.m.

Leader: Mark & Loree Bowers (724) 872-5232; mousemapper@verizon.net

Canoes are available for rent at Hazelbaker's Bottom Yough Outfitters; call ASAP to reserve

a canoe or kayak (1-person & 2-person available): \$16.50 per person plus tax. If you do not have a partner for a canoe, reserve a boat anyway; we can pair up before the trip.

A boat Shuttle Service is available for those bringing their own boats: \$8.00 per boat plus tax.

Call 1-800-42-RIVER (1-800-427-4837) and reserve a boat for the 12 noon launch. (It will not be necessary to mention a Botanical Society field trip, just simply a 12 noon launch.).

Meet at 11:30 am sharp at Hazelbaker's to pay for your **previously reserved** boat and/or shuttle. Those who choose not to shuttle or rent from Hazelbaker's can meet us at the Layton canoe launch at 12:15 p.m.

We will search for the Blue Monkshood (*Aconitum uncinatum*) and other riverine plants. Pack a lunch and dress in non-cotton. We can also explore Roundbottom Bend for lunch.

Directions: From Pittsburgh, take PA 51 south to Perryopolis, which is 15 miles from the bridge in Elizabeth. Alternatively, take PA Turnpike to Exit 75 (New Stanton), I-70 west to Exit 46A (PA 51 S) and travel south 5 miles on PA 51 to Perryopolis.

In Perryopolis, turn left onto Independence St. Continue on this main road through town-it will become Layton Rd. Continue through the lane Layton tunnel and the bridge over the Yough. Hazelbaker's is on your right.

General questions about the field trip can be directed to Loree at 724-872-5232. Specific questions about the canoe rental can be directed to Hazelbaker's.

LEAF QUIZ answers: 1 & 6 are Allegheny Chinquapins (*Castanea pumila*), 2 & 5 are Chinese chestnuts (*C. mollissima*), and 3 & 4 are American chestnuts (*C. dentata*).

Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania – July and August 2006

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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. WILDFLOWERS is printed on recycled paper.

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 7:15 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