
WILDFLOWERS

The Bulletin of the Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania • September and October 2007

Next Meeting is September 10

The next meeting will be Monday, September 10, **7:15 p.m.**, at **Kresge Theater**, Carlow University, 3333 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA (Oakland). Kresge Theater is on the top floor of the Grace Library and is accessed from the upper campus. Place a note on your dashboard saying "Botanical Society Meeting," or use your parking permit.

Christopher Heckel will present **Jack in the Pulpit and Deer in Our Woods**. Throughout much of the eastern US increases in population densities of white-tailed deer have negatively affected populations of native herbaceous and woody plant species, yet effects of increased deer impacts on non-palatable plant species are not well understood. Heckel's research examines how deer impacts indirectly affect population size, structure and consequently the population sex ratio of a non-palatable understory herb, *Arisaema triphyllum*.

Christopher Heckel is a third year Ph.D. student at the University of Pittsburgh Department of Biological Sciences. His research interests include plant demography, interactions of herbivores and invasive species on native plant species, the evolution and ecology of gender diphasic plants (specifically *Arisaema triphyllum*), and biology and natural history of *Trillium*. He received a B.S. in biology from Hillsdale College and an M.S. in biology from Georgia Southern University.

And the Next Meeting is October 8

The next meeting will be Monday, October 8, **7:15 p.m.**, at **Kresge Theater**, Carlow University, 3333 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA (Oakland).

Members **Barb Shomer and Bru Randall** will present **Learning About Lichens**. For many people lichens are just part of nature's background, splotches of subtle color on trees and rocks. Most amateur naturalists recognize lichens as some kind of symbiotic relationship between fungus and algae but don't know much more about them.

Recently, a little book called *Simply Lichens* caught Barbara's attention and led her and Bru to a complicated and sometimes frustrating search for a better understanding of these forms. At first, it seemed lichens, in all their complexity, were studied only by scientists. Then Bru and Barbara discovered Humbolt Institute in Maine, which offers courses in lichens for naturalists. This is where they began learning about lichens, and they still have a long way to go. Now, they'd like to share their few bits of knowledge and continued enthusiasm in order to allow other nature enthusiasts to see more than splotches on trees and rocks when they encounter lichens

Barbara and Bru are avid travelers with a keen interest in nature and the outdoors, former Peace Corps volunteers and exchange teachers, and caving enthusiasts. Barbara is a retired English teacher. She recently began to get more serious about photography as a means of documenting and helping to identify lichens. Bru is a seventh

grade science teacher, currently involved with both mountain and cave rescue groups.

Agroforestry Workshop Will Discuss Ginseng

Northwest Pennsylvania Woodland Association and Pure Earth Organic Farm are sponsoring a Agroforestry Workshop for Sunday, September 23, 2007, from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm. The event will take place at the Pure Earth Organic Farm in New Richmond, PA, about 1.75 hours from Pittsburgh.

Agroforestry topics will be presented by ginseng and native plant expert Eric Burkhart. The discussion will include a short woods walk to observe a ginseng bed of organic farmer Troy Bogdan. A follow-up talk presented by Crawford County Service Forester Mark Lewis will discuss the rules and regulations for harvesting and selling ginseng. Lastly all attendees will enjoy a pot-luck picnic. Please bring a dish to share.

For more information, contact Pure Earth Organic Farm at (814) 967-4423, or by e-mail: [tbogdan1 AT earthlink.net](mailto:tbogdan1@earthlink.net). For more detailed information about the farm, including maps and directions, check out the following links: www.pureearthorganic.com, <http://www.localharvest.org/store/M5225>.

Gary Lincoff Mid-Atlantic Mushroom Foray in North Park

The Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club will hold a Mushroom Foray on Saturday, September 15, 2007. This all day event includes morning walks, afternoon talks by national mushroom experts, a mushroom cooking demonstration and a really superb mushroom tasting by club cooks in the late afternoon. Participants usually find well over 100 different types of wild mushrooms which include most of the important edible wild mushrooms that come up in the fall.

The cost of this event is \$50. Gary Lincoff, a Pittsburgh native for whom the our foray is named, will be giving a talk entitled: "The Natural History of Mushrooms: How many of your local mushrooms do you really know, and what do you know about them besides their names?" Bill Russell, who has recently published a book called A Field Guide to Wild Mushrooms of Pennsylvania and the Mid-Atlantic, will give a talk on "Marvelous Mushroom Madness."

If you need any further information please call WPMC President Dick Dougall at 412-486-7504 or e-mail him at [rsdme AT verizon.net](mailto:rsdme@verizon.net). You can also contact chairperson Glenn Carr 412-369-0495 or e-mail at [browncarrs AT verizon.net](mailto:browncarrs@verizon.net).

Field Trip Schedule

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

Saturday, September 15, 2007

Limestone Run, SGL 51, Fayette County

Time: 1:00 pm

Leader: Tom Pearson and Loree Speedy

(724-872-5232) [mousemapper AT verizon.net](mailto:mousemapper@verizon.net)

Directions: Exit the I-76 PA Turnpike at Exit 75 New Stanton and head south on US119 to Connellsville. In Connellsville at the bridge over the Yough, set your mileage. You will continue on US119 south for 3.5 miles from this bridge to a traffic light with Butchko Brothers Auto Parts on the left. Get in the left lane to make a left. Proceed downhill and through the town of Dunbar by following signs to Ohiopyle (right after the RR tracks, left at the stop sign). From the stop sign, proceed 3 miles on the state road to a point where it turns sharply to the left at a PA Game Commission facility. Continue straight here (about 1 mile) along the game lands road to the parking area at the end.

Wear your hiking boots and expect to scramble over logs for this trip along a pristine mountain stream. We will look for the American Bugbane.

Saturday & Sunday, September 29-30, 2007
Dolly Sods Natural Area, Tucker Co., WV
Leaders: Paulette and John Zabkar
(412) 364-5820; e-mail: johnzabkar AT aol.com

Saturday, September 29

Time: 10 a.m. - Meet in the lobby of Canaan Valley Resort to carpool to Dolly Sods. Bring a lunch for Saturday. You can arrange for a box lunch in advance from Canaan Valley Resort (1-800-622-4121) but they are pricey.

Sunday, September 30

Time: 9 a.m. - Meet in the lobby of Canaan Valley Resort to carpool to Dolly Sods. Plan to hike to around noon on Sunday.

John and Paulette will provide trail maps and plant lists for those that are interested. They plan to go on the trails regardless of weather, so please be prepared for any possibilities. Good hiking shoes are a must as some of the trails are stony and slippery. Cold temperatures and fog can occur anytime of the year, so dress for the weather!

Let them know if you are planning to come on either or both days, so no one is left behind at the resort. Call at (412) 364-5820 (from September 10-25 leave a message.), or e-mail at johnzabkar AT aol.com.

Directions: Routes PA 51 & US 40, or I-79 & I-68 are suggested ways to reach the intersection of US 40, US 219 south and I-68 in Keyzers Ridge, Maryland. From this point, take US 219 south to Thomas, WV. In Thomas, take Route 32 to Davis. Continue on Route 32, about 9-10 miles south of Davis, turn right into Canaan Valley Resort (a well-marked resort of Canaan Valley State Park).

Canaan Valley is approximately 140 miles from Pittsburgh; allow ample time for traveling. Plan now for your accommodations. For information on other accommodations in the Davis, WV, and Canaan Valley area, call 1-800-CALL WVA. Camping is available at Blackwater and Canaan Valley State Parks.

Excerpts from the Minutes of the Botanical Society for June 11, 2007

Business Meeting: Mary Joy Haywood recommended the publication *Checklist and Atlas for the Vascular Flora of West Virginia*. Loree Speedy moved that a contribution of \$1,000 be made to the Department of Natural Sciences of Carlow University and earmarked for funding environmental programs. Kim Metheny moved that a contribution of \$1,000 be made to the Botany in Action program to be awarded to a local student doing serious field work in botany. Both motions passed. Phyllis Monk presented a slide program entitled Wildflowers of Russia and Norway.

Barbara Schomer, Recording Secretary

Environmental Book Club

The Environmental Book Club meets at Borders Book Store on McKnight Road in North Hills on the first Monday of the month at 7:30pm. We usually hang out at the comfy chairs near the science section behind the music. It is not compulsory to have read the book or to have bought the book here. The discussion is informal and often fun. Borders also makes these books available to us at 20% discount.

On October 1, we will discuss *The Omnivore's Dilemma* by Michael Pollan. It is 464 pages according to Amazon, so we may want to read the first half for the October meeting and the 2nd half for the November meeting. Preregistration is not required but if you have questions you can contact Kim Metheny kmetheny@hotmail.com.

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West Newton, PA 15089

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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 23rd 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