



Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania

If the weather is inclement, a BSWP meeting will cancel if Carlow University cancels classes. To learn if that has happened, call the Carlow Weather Line at 412-578-6677.

Three Monthly Meetings

OCTOBER 11. Cyndi Fink will speak to us on Moss Ecology.

Cyndi holds an MS, Plant Ecology and BS, magna cum laude, Environmental Chemistry from the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse. The subject of her thesis was *The Naturalization of Epipactis helleborine (Orchidaceae) in New York: Assessment of Habitat, Nutrient Uptake, and Mycorrhizal Associations.*

During Cyndi's MS program, she received the Edna Bailey Sussman Award for Environmental research, and developed a website for native orchids — www.esf.edu/rwls/research/orchid/, taught dendrology courses, and completed coursework in moss ecology.

Cyndi is employed as a Technical Marketing & Sales Representative, Lanxess Corporation in Pittsburgh. She has been a frequent guest lecturer at Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens and with other local groups, is a former Vice President, Pittsburgh African Violet and Gesneriad Society, and is a member of Three Rivers Rock Garden Society and BSWP.

NOVEMBER 8. Sandy Feather will speak to us about Recent Invasive Insect Pests and Plant Diseases in Allegheny County.

Sandy is the commercial horticulture educator with Penn State Cooperative Extension of Allegheny County. In addition to providing educational programs for green industry professionals and individual consultations to help them solve a variety of plant problems, Sandy scouts weekly for insect and disease problems through the growing season. She also writes a weekly gardening Q & A column for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

During her tenure with the Extension Service, Sandy has also served as Master Gardener Coordinator, which involved facilitating not only the annual Master Gardener training program, but also county-wide MG volunteer activities and projects.

Prior to working for the Extension Service, Sandy worked in commercial horticulture. She is a BSWP member.

DECEMBER 13 HOLIDAY PARTY. This year, the party will be held at 7:15 p.m. in the Arcade Room of the Convent of Mercy, located near the Grace Library on the Carlow campus (go to www.carlow.edu/mapdirections.html#oakland to see a campus map). Park in Lot B or C. Place a note on your dashboard

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Except for December 13, (see above, right) meetings are held on Mondays at 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.

OCTOBER-
DECEMBER
2010

IN MEMORIAM

We express our deepest sympathy to Loree and Scott Speedy and their family on the loss of their dear mother, Ann E. Vresilovic Speedy, who passed away on Friday, August 13.

Wildflowers, Bulletin of the Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania, is published bimonthly 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 address below. Deadline for submissions is the 16th of the previous month. **Wildflowers** is printed on recycled paper.



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The Society meets the second Monday of each month, September through June, at 7:15 p.m. sharp, at Kresge Theater, Carlow University, 3333 Fifth Avenue, Oakland. All are welcome to the informative program and business meeting.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Annual dues are \$10 for individual and \$15 for family. Students can join at half-rate. To join, mail your name, your address, and check payable to "Botanical Society of W PA" to Judy Boyer, 211 Lee Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15237. Your membership includes a subscription to the bimonthly bulletin *Wildflowers*.

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.

Blue-eyed Mary (*Collinsia verna*), 1981.
Courtesy of Arabelle Wheatley, Illustrator.

Field Trips

Registration for Botanical Society field trips is not required. Everyone is welcome, including non-members. Trips last 3 to 4 hours but one can leave at any time. For questions, call the field trip leader or Loree Speedy at 724-872-5232. Wear shoes that can get wet or muddy. Water and a hat are recommended.

Saturday, October 9, 10 a.m.

Ohiopyle State Park, Fayette County

Leader: James Nusser; birdmanjen@verizon.net; 412-728-0935 cell
Directions: This fall hike begins at the Cucumber Falls parking lot. From Pittsburgh, take the PA Turnpike to Exit 91 (Donegal). Turn left onto PA 31 East and travel 2.1 miles. Turn right at a traffic light onto PA 711/ PA 381 South and continue 10 miles to a T in Normalville. Turn left onto PA 381 and continue 11 miles to Ohiopyle. Drive through the town and make a right onto SR 2019 (Kentuck Road). Travel less than a half mile and turn right into a parking lot for Cucumber Falls.

Thursday, October 14, 10 a.m.

Forbes State Forest, Fayette County

Leader: Bob McBride, Forbes State Forester.
Contact Loree Speedy at 724-872-5232 or 724-518-6022 (cell) or mousemapper@verizon.net if you have any questions.

Forester Bob McBride will host us for an informative day at Forbes State Forest, beginning with a video about the history of Pennsylvania's forests followed by varying levels of strolls to demonstration forests.

Directions: Meet at the Summit Inn parking lot at 10 a.m. Travel US 40 east about 8 miles from Uniontown, to the top of the Chestnut Ridge. The historic Summit Inn is on your right at the top of the ridge. Alternately, from the intersection of US 40 and PA 381 south of Ohiopyle, travel west on US 40 for 6 miles. Summit Inn is on your left at the top of the ridge. An alternative to entering the parking lot from US 40: turn on Skyline Drive, immediately west of the Inn's main entrance, and then turn right into the parking area.

We will caravan to the Forbes State Forest Maintenance Building on Skyline Drive (about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile past the turnoff to Laurel Caverns). We will watch an excellent short video about the history of Pennsylvania's forests. From there we will travel a short distance to demonstration forests in the Forbes State Forest; Bob McBride will be available to discuss silvicultural practices and issues and can answer our questions.

This walk is appropriate for all fitness levels. Those who do not wish to continue on more rugged terrain may enjoy the video and the first part of the demonstration forest tour. Please bring a bag lunch.

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By the time you receive this newsletter, BSWP will have a new home on the web, with a new address — www.botsocwpa.org.

Some planned features for our site will be added in the coming weeks, such as a blog for members to share botanical photos and plant lists. We hope that this will become a useful and fun way for our widespread membership to interact with each other. Look for more details on that and more in the next newsletter.

Downloadable PDFs of the current field trips for easy online reference, and archived issues of the newsletter will be made available.

Be sure to revisit www.botsocwpa.org in the coming weeks to see what's new!

Field Trips *continued*

Notes: This is the new date and new meeting place for the trip originally scheduled for September 7.

Saturday, October 16, 1 p.m.

Todd Sanctuary, Butler County

Directions: From Pittsburgh, take PA 28 north to Exit 17 (PA 356, Butler-Freeport). Turn right at end of exit ramp to proceed north on PA 356 toward Sarver. Travel a little less than a mile to the first traffic light across from South Pike shopping plaza and turn right onto Monroe Road. 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 Todd Sanctuary is marked by a sign on the right. Park in the lot to the right.

Notes: Todd is a 176-acre nature preserve of the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania in the Buffalo Creek drainage. Its trails wind through oak, hickory and hemlock, and offers a variety of ferns and fern allies for fall botanizing.

Sunday, December 5, 2 p.m.

Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation Oakland, Pittsburgh, PA

Join us to enjoy the 13th International Exhibition of Botanical Art & Illustration.

Directions: From north, west and south of Pittsburgh, travel on I-376 East (Parkway East) to

Enjoy Your Wildflowers

BEECHDROPS *By Anne S. Bahl*

Beechdrops, whose name suggests something that falls from Beech trees, are plants that grow in woodland litter underneath Beech trees. Their slender, somewhat woody, stalks, simple or with upright branches, grow to twenty inches. They are usually yellowish brown with thin, brownish-purple, stripes and some small scales. After seed production they frequently remain erect, become dry, and appear dead. Their roots are brittle and fibrous. According to some botanists, the roots attach themselves to roots of Beech trees to obtain their nutrients; they are parasites, but do little harm.

Other botanists write that Beechdrops have a symbiotic arrangement with a fungus that covers their roots. The fungus obtains nutrients from decaying matter. It transfers them to Beechdrops who have no chlorophyll and cannot make food. In return, Beechdrops transfer minerals to the fungus. Beech trees have chlorophyll and make their food but they also get some nutrients from the fungus.

Beechdrops have two kinds of flowers. Both grow from the axils of the scales. The upper flowers are ½" long, tubular, four-toothed, with purple and white stripes and usually sterile. They are visited by bees. The lower flowers are similar in color, ⅛" long, never open, and self-fertilize. They are cleistogamous — Greek, *kleistos*, closed, *gamos*, marriage.

Beechdrops have astringent properties that people valued. They made a tea of the fresh plant and applied it to various skin injuries and eruptions. They drank it for headache, for abdominal and for reproductive problems. They thought Beechdrops and its relatives were effective for skin cancers and called them Cancer-root. Tests for anti-cancer activity have been negative.

Beechdrops' botanical name is *Epifagus virginiana*, Greek *epi*, on, *phagi*, food to eat, possibly for the edible beechnuts. It is the only species in the genus. The botanical family name is *Orobanchaceae*, Greek, *Orobanche*, Broom-rape, the common name for the family.

Exit 72A (Forbes Ave/Oakland). Continue on Forbes Avenue 1.4 miles to Forbes and Morewood Avenues. Continue past this intersection to a parking garage entrance on Forbes and Beeler Street on the right. From east of Pittsburgh, take I-376 to Exit 77 (Edgewood/Swissvale). Turn right onto Braddock Avenue and continue approximately one mile to Forbes Avenue. Turn left onto Forbes and follow it approximately 3 miles to the Carnegie Mellon campus. The parking garage entrance is at Forbes and Beeler Street to the left.

Hunt Institute is located on the campus of Carnegie Mellon University. The Institute is on the fifth floor of the Hunt Library, a 5-story aluminum and glass structure located on Frew Street and facing the "Cut" (the large grassy field in the center of campus). We will meet in the entrance lobby of the Hunt Library on Sunday at 2 p.m.



Beechdrops
Epifagus virginiana
Illustration courtesy
of USDA-NRCS PLANTS
Database

Editor's Note: This article is reprinted from the Land Trust Alliance brochure, "Conserving your Land", with their permission. Roy Kraynyk, Executive Director of the Allegheny Land Trust, spoke at our January meeting about the work of ALT in the Pittsburgh area. He shared this brochure with us, and now we share this important information with all of you.

ABOUT THE ALLIANCE

The Land Trust Alliance is a national conservation organization representing over 1,600 Land Trusts, and works to save the places people love by strengthening land conservation throughout America. Please visit our website at www.landtrustalliance.org for more information on:

- *Finding a local or regional land trust*
- *The latest federal tax laws concerning conservation easement donations*
- *Examples of how private landowners work with land trusts to protect their land*
- *Publications and resources for landowners*

BOTH THE ALLEGHENY LAND TRUST (WWW.ALLEGHENYLANDTRUST.ORG) AND THE WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CONSERVANCY (WWW.PACONSERVE.ORG) ASSIST PEOPLE IN OUR REGION WITH LAND CONSERVATION MATTERS.

CONSERVING

ACROSS AMERICA, THOUSANDS

OF PEOPLE ARE DETERMINED TO CONSERVE THE PLACES THEY VALUE. LANDOWNERS HAVE A DEEP CONNECTION TO THEIR LAND AND KNOW THE GIFTS UNDEVELOPED PROPERTIES PROVIDE THEIR COMMUNITIES: CLEAN AIR AND WATER, FRESH FOOD, WILDLIFE HABITAT, AND SHEER SCENIC BEAUTY.

As 5,000 acres of land in the United States are consumed by development every day, many landowners are taking a stand to safeguard the places they love — productive farms, ranchland, forests, wetlands, coastlines—for their family and for future generations.

Americans who want to conserve their land can turn to land trusts — nonprofit organizations that work with landowners interested in protecting open space. This brochure describes some of the conservation methods that private landowners and land trusts can use to work together to conserve land for its natural, recreational, scenic, historical, and productive value.

Ways to Conserve Land Held in Private Ownership ...

CONSERVATION EASEMENTS. The most traditional tool for conserving private land is a "conservation easement" (also known as a conservation restriction).

What Is An Easement? A conservation easement is a legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust or government agency, that permanently limits uses of the land in order to protect its conservation values. It allows landowners to continue to own and use their land, and they can also sell it or pass it on to heirs.

When you donate or sell a conservation easement to a land trust, you give up some of the rights associated with the land. For example, you might give up the right to build additional structures, while retaining the right to grow crops. Future owners also will be bound by the

RENEW YOUR
BSWP MEMBERSHIP AND
NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION
NOW FOR 2011!

Fill out the form, detach with scissors and bring with your check to the holiday party or mail to: Judy Boyer, 211 Lee Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Yes, please renew/initiate my/our annual BSWP membership!

Name(s) _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

E-mail Address _____

New member? Yes ___ No _ OR: New mailing address? Yes ___ No _

Your check of \$10/person or \$15/family is payable to the BSWP.



YOUR LAND

easement's terms. The land trust is responsible for making sure the easement's terms are followed. This is managed through "stewardship" by the land trust.

Conservation easements offer great flexibility. An easement on property containing rare wildlife habitat might prohibit any development, for example, while an easement on a farm might allow continued farming and the addition of agricultural structures. An easement may apply to all or a portion of the property, and need not require public access.

Qualifying For A Tax Deduction. A landowner can sell a conservation easement, but many easements are donated to a land trust. If the donation benefits the public by permanently protecting important conservation resources, and meets other federal tax code requirements, it can qualify as a taxdeductible charitable donation. Easement values vary greatly; in general, the highest easement values result from very restrictive conservation easements on tracts of developable open space under intense development pressure. In some jurisdictions, placing an easement on your property may also result in property tax savings. (For the latest information on federal tax law for conservation easements, visit the Land Trust Alliance's website: www.landtrustalliance.org.)

Reducing Estate Taxes. Perhaps the most important benefit, a conservation easement can be essential for passing undeveloped land on to the next generation. By removing the land's development potential, the easement typically lowers the property's market value, which in turn lowers potential estate tax. Whether the easement is donated during life or by will, it can make a critical difference in one's heirs' ability to keep the land intact.

And Finding the Right Conservation Method for You

Depending on the needs and wishes of each landowner and the property's attributes, land trusts use a variety of conservation techniques to help landowners conserve their land.

Sometimes landowners cannot or do not wish to retain ownership of their land through an easement. For these situations, it is recommended that you speak with your local land trust, and your legal and financial advisors about the following additional options.

RESALE OF LAND. If you need to sell your land but don't want to see it destroyed by development, a land trust can help. Prior to the sale, you can work with your local land trust to place a conservation easement on the land before it goes on the market. Some land trusts can also help identify potential buyers for conserved lands.

DONATION OF LAND FOR CONSERVATION. Donating land for conservation is one of the finest legacies a person can leave to

future generations. If you choose to donate your land, your land trust can work with you to identify the best arrangement. The land trust might retain ownership of the property as a permanent preserve or transfer the property to a suitable owner, such as a government agency. In some cases, the land is sold to a private owner, subject to a conservation easement held by the land trust. (Proceeds from such a sale could fund the land trust's long-term management of the conservation easement and/or help it to protect even more land.) The full market value of land donated to a nonprofit land trust is tax deductible as a charitable gift.

BARGAIN SALE. In a bargain sale, you sell your land to a land trust for less than its fair market value. This not only makes it more affordable for the land trust, but offers several benefits to you: it provides cash, avoids some capital gains tax, and entitles you to a charitable income tax deduction based on the difference between the land's fair market value and its sale price.

DONATION WITH A LIFETIME INCOME. If you have land you would like to protect by donating it to a land trust, but you need to receive income during your lifetime, consider a charitable gift annuity or a charitable remainder unitrust. Charitable gift annuities and charitable remainder unitrusts are most useful for highly appreciated land, the sale of which would incur high capital gains tax.

Take The Next Step To Conserve Your Land

CONTACT A LAND TRUST. Visit www.landtrustalliance.org & click "Find a land trust".
MEET WITH YOUR ADVISORS. Legal and financial advisors can help you determine your best conservation options. **FIND OUT MORE.** The Alliance offers publications covering a wide variety of conservation topics and resources, visit <http://www.lta.org/resources/publications>.

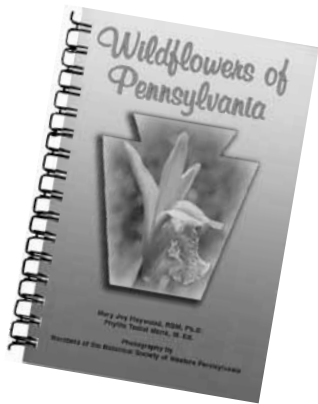
Great for Gift-giving!

Sweatshirts (white) bearing “Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania” and green oak leaf art will be available at both the November 8 meeting and at the December 13 holiday party for \$20 (sizes Small, Medium and Large). If you would like to order sweatshirts by mail, contact Bonnie Isaac at 412.622.3253, or e-mail isaacb@CarnegieMuseums.org.

New BSWP Patch Available Soon! It is priced under \$5 and will be available for purchase before Christmas. We will post an image of it on

the new website (www.botsocwpa.org), along with price and order info, when it arrives. So look for it there!

Also available at the holiday party, *Wildflowers of Pennsylvania* (400 pages, 612 color photos) can be purchased for \$20 (plus \$1.40 sales tax for PA residents). To order by mail, add \$2 postage and handling for one book, \$3/two, \$4/three, \$4.50/four. Forward your check, made payable to Botanical Society of Western PA, and your request to Dr. Mary Joy Haywood, RSM, PhD, 3333 Fifth Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3165; 412-578-6175; mhaywood@carlow.edu.



HOLIDAY PARTY, *continued from front cover*

saying “Botanical Society Meeting,” or use your parking permit. There will be someone to greet and direct you to the Arcade Room.

For the Wild Foods Holiday Party, members and guests bring an assortment of foods made from something found in the wild. Appetizers, cookies, candies, fruits, and berries — a challenge for the most daring and creative. Join us with or without a wild food offering.

We will also have Member’s Night during the party. After feasting, we’ll share our botanical sightings over the year. A member can bring up to 12 slides or digital photos. A slide projector and a digital video projector will be available.

Please note: This year, if you plan to attend, it is important to RSVP to Dr. Mary Joy Haywood at mhaywood@carlow.edu before Thanksgiving. When you do so, please indicate in what form you will bring photos to share: 35mm slides, or digital images. It is preferred that digital images be brought on a CD.