

Philadelphia Botanical Club "Find of the Year" Contest

Philadelphia Botanical Club members have made some remarkable botanical finds. We want to celebrate those finds, and perhaps to stir some friendly competition. So we have started a "find of the year" contest. This contest is for any member who makes a significant botanical find. The winner gets bragging rights, and their name(s) and "find" will be published in *Bartonia*.

The find can be virtually any observation that would be interesting to botanical club members. Some possible examples:

- a new population of a rare plant
- discovery of a plant not previously known to be in the area
- an overlooked population of a rare plant, based on an herbarium specimen or the historical literature
- a previously unknown site of a rare habitat type
- an interesting botanical phenomenon, such as a rare mutualism or a plant producing an unusual structure

The rules:

1. The find must be in the greater Philadelphia area, defined as being within 100 miles of Philadelphia.
2. The find must have been found during 2015.
3. The contest is primarily for botanical finds in the field, but we will also consider finds in an herbarium.
4. This contest basically operates on trust, but to prevent major identification errors, we require one of these forms of documentation:
 - A photograph showing identifying characteristics of the species
 - Submission of a specimen to any local herbarium. Let us know which herbarium.
 - Less preferred, but still acceptable: a witness who has seen your find and will concur that it's correctly identified. The witness should be a botanical club member who has expertise in the area of your "find." Have the witness send us an email or letter saying that they saw your "find" and agree with your identification.

We reserve the right to ask for additional documentation. If you have any questions about documentation, contact the committee (philbotclub@gmail.com).

5. You must be a member of the Philadelphia Botanical Club to enter.

To submit your find, send an email to philbotclub@gmail.com with the subject line "find of the year." Submitting is simple; we need only the following:

- Your name
- Plant species (or, if the "find" is a site, description of the site)

- Location of the find. This description will not be made public. If your "find" wins the contest, we will publish only a general location (with whatever degree of vagueness you feel is appropriate).
- Brief reason why the find is significant
- Date of the find
- Documentation, as described above

An example:

"Eupatorium album population of a few dozen plants found in Fairmount Park in northwest Philadelphia. This find is significant because the species is classified as endangered in Pennsylvania. Plants found on July 17, 2015. I have attached a photograph showing the characteristic acuminate, white-edged bracts. In addition, I submitted a specimen to the Morris Arboretum herbarium."

The deadline for submission for the 2016 contest is January 15, 2017.

We look forward to hearing about your finds.

The Find of the Year Committee

Ken Frank

David Hewitt

Russell Juelg

Janet Novak