

Margaret Denison Fall Nature Walks Kanawha State Forest

Saturday, September 11, 2010



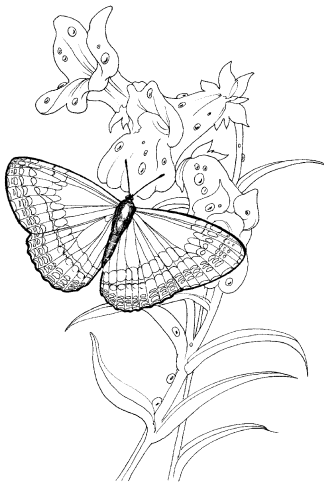
Farewell to Summer

Wildflowers — Fungi — Birds

Pond/Aquatic Life — Trees

Nature Photography — Bring Your Own Camera

Auto Tour for Limited Ability Walkers



Registration: 9:00 A.M.
Near Swimming Pool

**Adults - \$5
Children - \$2**

Buy a Barbecue — Free Drinks

Need More Information?

Call 304-925-2771 or Forest Office at 304-558-3500

Sponsored by: **Kanawha State Forest Foundation**

Assisted by: Mary Ingles Trailblazers, DNR, and
Handlan Chapter Brooks Bird Club



Margaret L. Denison: A Legend in Her Own Time

by Shirley Schweizer

In April 1991, the Foundation held the first Spring Wildflower Walk at the suggestion and under the direction of Alvan Gale, then Superintendent of Kanawha State Forest. At the recommendation of Debbie Keener, Assistant Superintendent, the name was changed in 1993 to the Osbra Eye Memorial Walk in honor of the esteemed former superintendent who had died in January 1992. Due to the huge success of this event, the Fall Nature Walks were also begun in 1992 and then, in 2003, were renamed in honor of Margaret Denison.

Margaret Denison taught science and botany in Kanawha County schools for a number of years and was well known in the Forest community. From the beginning of the Spring Walk, she was one of the most knowledgeable and dependable leaders. Davis Creek was her favorite trail and she always had a large following. She did not concentrate on botanical terminology but rather on the flora including ferns, grasses and sedges. These were identified by their common names and origins and further elaborated with delightful folklore. Margaret was a Life Member of the Foundation and a generous monetary donor to Forest projects.

Margaret spent countless hours in the 1960s identifying and cataloging the flora of Kanawha State Forest in collaboration with Superintendent Osbra Eye. They compiled the booklet, "Flowering Plants of Kanawha State Forest," published in 1967. In 1975 she received an award from the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources for the listing of 710 flowering plants, 42 ferns and their allies, and 138 grasses and sedges in the Forest.

Margaret suffered a debilitating stroke in 2002 and moved to Arizona to be near her family. Sadly, she died on January 2, 2003.

With permission of the Denison and Eye families, "Flowering Plants of Kanawha State Forest" is currently being updated and will be available for distribution in the near future.