

BSS Field Meetings 2012

BSS Field meetings are held for the purposes of recording plants at different locations for local and national databases, generating reports and pictures for BSS News and the BSS website, education and enjoyment

26th MAY – Saturday: Bamff, Perthshire (arriving 11am). Beavers were introduced to the estate in 2002. We will be shown round the estate by the owner, Paul Ramsay, and will be able to assess the impact of the animals on the ecology. Please let Maria.Chamberlain@ed.ac.uk know if you are intending to come so that transport can be rationalised. If there are enough 'takers' we may arrange a minibus with shared costs.

23rd JUNE – Saturday: Edinburgh Herb walk. For Herbal Medicine Awareness Week, and in conjunction with Plantlife, Anne Barker MNIMH will lead a herb walk and wildflower survey along the cycle paths between Inverleith Row and Victoria Park. BSS specialists will be on hand to help with plant identification. Open to everyone. Children should be under adult supervision. Please wear appropriate footwear. Meet at 10am by the bus stop outside the Science Buildings, RBGE, Inverleith Row, Edinburgh EH3 5LR. For more details please contact Anne at info@annebarker.co.uk or (0131) 553 2057.

30th JUNE - Saturday: The 2012 BSS & BSBI joint Alpine field Meeting, to Ben Chonzie (via Glen Turret). Ben Chonzie is the highest point (929 m) in the south-eastern Highlands approximately 13 km north-west of Crieff. It is a SSSI with an extensive range of moorland communities including blanket mire, heather moorland, montane heaths and acidic grasslands. Both acidic and calcareous flushes occur in places, and herb-rich grasslands occur beneath the species-rich cliffs. Meet at 10am in the car park at the Loch Turret dam at the end of the Glen Turret road approximately 6km north-west of Crieff (NN 821 265). Contact John Holland for further details and to confirm a place (booking is essential as numbers will be limited), tel. 01838 400524 (day) or 01567 820509 (evening), e-mail john.holland@sac.ac.uk.

22nd SEPTEMBER - Saturday: Bellhaven Bay, Dunbar. Meet outside the West Barns Inn on Duke St (A1087), NT654781. Start time 11.00 am. The main attractions here are the only plant of *Crithmum maritimum* ever recorded from the coast of E Scotland and naturalised *Clematis tangutica*; also *Trifolium fragiferum* and plentiful saltmarsh plants. We will also see the dramatic ecological after-effects of (now removed) *Hippophae rhamnoides* populations. This will be a joint excursion with second year plant science students. **Precise details from Richard Milne nearer the time, e-mail r.milne@ed.ac.uk

14th OCTOBER – Sunday: Fungus Foray. Meet car park in Glamis village at 11am. Grid Ref: NO 387 467. Prof. Roy Watling will lead the foray. Please let Maria.Chamberlain@ed.ac.uk know if you are intending to come so that we can rationalise the transport. If there are enough 'takers' we may arrange a minibus and divide the costs.

Additional Field Meetings 2012

In addition to the meetings organised by the Society BSS members are invited to join field meetings held by other societies and groups.

BSS and the BBS (British Bryological Society) will be arranging joint bryophyte meetings (recording and training events). Dates and venues are still to be confirmed. Please contact David Chamberlain to express an interest in these specialist meetings, e-mail d.chamberlain@rbge.org.uk.

BSS members are also invited to join Field Meetings run by:

BSBI (Botanical Society of the British Isles): their programme includes education meetings at Kilpatrick Braes (19 May); Aberlady Bay (15 July); weeds of Bute (18 August); Tillicoultry Glen (25 August); there are also recording and specialist meetings. Additional information is available from the BSBI website at <http://www.bsbi.org.uk/meetings.html>

Dundee Naturalists' Society: their programme includes Balkello woodland and Sidlaws (9 May), Auchtermuchty Common and Brownie Wood (16 June), Rumbling Bridge, the Hermitage and Dunkeld (14 July), Earlshall, Tentsmuir (14 August), Alyth Den and Caddam Woods (8 Sept). NOTE: All outings should be booked in advance with Davie Stein 01382 816863 (even car trips). Additional information is available from the Dundee Naturalists' Society website at <http://www.dundeenats.org.uk/>

Perthshire Society of Natural Science Botanical Section: Contact Alistair Godfrey, e-mail alistair.godfrey@btinternet.com Additional information is available from the PSNS website at <http://psns.tsohost.co.uk/home/hometestlayout.htm>

Inverness Botany Group: Contact Margaret Fraser, e-mail frasermarg@aol.com Additional information is available from Inverness Botany Group website at <http://www.invernessbotanygroup.com/>

Many thanks to the Groups who have invited BSS members to join their field meetings and also to all of those individuals who have kindly volunteered to lead excursions during 2012

For updates and additional excursions see BSS website at: <http://www.botanical-society-scotland.org.uk/>

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR FIELD EXCURSIONS

ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST BE FAMILIAR WITH THE CONTENTS OF THIS CODE.
(Copies available at the start of every field meeting.)

1. Persons attending BSS field meetings do so at their own risk.
2. The excursion leader/organiser has the right to refuse participation to any member or guest whose behaviour or equipment are considered unsatisfactory.
3. For certain meetings the leader will provide a register to record the names of all participants at the start of the meeting. This must be countersigned by each participant at the end of the meeting.
4. For all meetings you are advised to use water and windproof clothing and appropriate footwear, and to carry adequate food and drink. In mountainous or remote country you are encouraged to carry a whistle, map and compass and be familiar with their use.
5. At all times respect the property of the owners who grant access and allow us to conduct botanical explorations on their land. Follow the country code; avoid damage to delicate habitats.
6. Observe the provisions of the Wildlife and Countryside Act. Apart from careful collection, for identification
7. and research purposes, of cryptogams or phanerogamic specimens, refrain from damaging plants.
8. Pay great attention to the hazards of the terrain, including potential dangers to others from dislodged stones on cliffs or screes.
9. Never leave the main party without notifying the leader of your intention. Endeavour to stay in groups at all times.