



WILD NEWS

Prince William Wildflower Society

A Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

Number 2017-01

January-February 2017



The Prince William Wildflower Society 2017 Winter Slideshow

Monday, January 16, 7:30 p.m.

Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church

8712 Plantation Lane, Manassas, Virginia 20110

Plan to join PWWS members for their annual winter slideshow on January 16: PWWS members Nancy Vehrs, Charles Smith, and Diane Flaherty will show photos of their travels this past year. If you would like to participate, please contact William Carromero, our program chair, at (479) 280-3242 or wcarromero@fs.fed.us.

Otherwise, come and bring a friend or two to enjoy the show, refreshments, and doorprizes!

President's Corner

Happy 2017! There are already reports of people finding Skunk Cabbage in bloom so our winter will not be without botanical activity. There's plenty of greenery out in the field—from Christmas ferns, clubmosses, and other evergreen ferns, to orchid leaves and native sedges. I enjoyed a hike at Dove's Landing Park and had the park to myself until nearly the end when three women on horseback joined me. This county park was opened in the fall of 2015 and is located at the confluence of Cedar Run and Broad Run near Brentsville Road. Winter hikes are wonderful for solitude and reflection, but it's always fun to enjoy the outdoors with friends or family. Enjoy nature all times of the year!

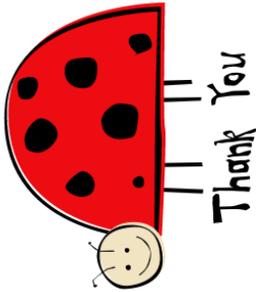
This month's meeting gives us the opportunity to showcase our travels, local treasures, or gardening successes. I know that Diane and Rick Flaherty will present photos from our recent trip to Cuba, I will show botanical treasures from an April trip to SW Virginia under the leadership of legendary ecologist Gary Fleming, and our own renowned ecologist

Charles Smith will dazzle us with slides of his own. We can make room for your contributions if you coordinate with VP William Carromero.

In continuing with our winter author events, now in its fifth year, we welcome Barbara Ellis, author of *Chesapeake Gardening and Landscaping: The Essential Green Guide*, on February 12. Barbara will share tips for making our yards and gardens more "Bay Friendly." (Details are elsewhere in *Wild News*.)

Finally, for all of us who have been enjoying *Wild News* for the last 11 years, we owe a debt of gratitude to our faithful and creative editor Deanna High. She has decided to step down, and this issue will be her last. During her tenure, she started to include photographs in *Wild News*, and the digital versions posted on the web are in full color. Deanna also included lovely historical botanical art and compiled a compelling calendar of events using a variety of sources. Her production of the newsletter ranged from coordination with contributors, personal contributions, photo selection and layout, and dealing with the printer, plus the mundane tasks of folding

and sealing the newsletters, affixing mailing labels and postage stamps, and taking the copies to the post office. Thank you, Deanna, for all your work over these many years! ~Nancy



There are three PWWS members who have regularly given rides to PWWS members who would not otherwise be able to attend our meetings. Those members who provide the rides, and the ones who are

given the rides are the following:

Marion Lobstein provides rides for Helen Rawls; Helen Walter provides rides for Jeanne Fowler; Brenda Hallam and Beverly Houston provide rides for Libby Pemberton.

Thank You to those who provide the transportation; we are very pleased to have all the above members at the PWWS meetings. ~Karen Waltman

Prince William Wildflower Society Membership Meeting, Monday, November 21, 2016, Bethel Lutheran Church, Manassas, Va.

Program: President Nancy Vehrs introduced speaker John Magee; he is a native plant landscaper and operates his own award-winning design firm, Magee Design in Middleburg, Va. He also serves as the Virginia Native Plant Society's horticultural chair.

John said his grandmother was a great influence; she knew all the plants and shared this knowledge with him. When he was young John's family went on a trip to the Blue Ridge, and this also influenced him to learn about native plants.

Native plants don't need watering, John said, so they are less work in your gardens. Some can be "aggressive colonizers" though (Black-eyed Susan), and they may need thinning.

More nurseries are selling natives, and some of the plants John recommended for our native gardens included the following: Virginia bluebells, Cinnamon fern, Dogwood, Columbine, Saxifrage, Paw-paws, Button bush (prefers wet areas and some sun), Mountain mint, Goat's beard, Indian pink, Flowering spurge (full sun), Turk's cap lily, Joe-pye weed, Heath aster, Small-headed liatris.

With beautiful photos of some of John's native gardens that he designed, big and small, we were treated to inspiring ideas for our own landscaping. John provided the following links for further information: www.nativeplantpodcast.com, www.john-magee.com, and [twitter-@john_magee](https://twitter.com/john_magee).

Announcements: For the past few years, PWWS, PW Master Gardeners and PW Conservation Alliance have co-hosted a winter speaker on native plants. Nancy V. announced the speaker for the February 12, 2017 event as Barbara Ellis, author of *Chesapeake Gardening and Landscaping, the Essential Green Guide*. Look for time and place information in January.

The January 16, 2017 PWWS meeting will be the annual members' slide show, and members were asked to contact vice-president and program chair, William Carromero if they want to show pictures of native plants and wildlife in their gardens, or in native gardens or native areas that they have seen during their travels. (wcarromero@fs.fed.us or at William's cell: (479) 280-3242).

Marion Lobstein announced that a trial version of the Flora phone app will be out soon.

Refreshments were provided by the following: Lois Montgomery, Judy Gallagher, Dee Brown, Deanna High, Mary Hollifield. Thank you!

Doorprizes:

Dee Brown, glass beer stein, 'White House Natives'; Carol Thompson, *Second Nature: A Gardener's Education*, Lois Montgomery, *Trees Up Close* by Nancy Ross Hugo; Jane Smith and Joyce Andrew, aloe vera houseplants; Blythe Merritt, chives; Jim Gallagher and Rita Romano, wandering Jew houseplants.

In attendance: Joyce Andrew, Tom Andrew, Kim Angeli, Nancy Arrington, Tom Attanaro, Tamie Boone, Dee Brown, Kathy Burch, Chuck Burch, William Carromero, Barbara Deegan, Louise Edsall, Jeanne Endrikat, Rick Flaherty, Diane Flaherty, Jeanne Fowler, Valerie Kenyon Gaffner, Judy Gallagher, Jim Gallagher, Jennifer Gerber, Harry Glasgow, Charlie Grymes, Bunde Heller, Jack High, Deanna High, Cathy Hindman, Mary Hollifield, Renee' Kitt, Marion Lobstein, Glen Macdonald, Blythe Merritt, Lois Montgomery, Leslie Paulson, Libby Pemberton, Helen Rawls, Rita Romano, Jane Smith, Marlies Smith, Arlene Stewart, Veronica Tangiri, Carol Thompson, Nancy Vehrs, Helen Walter, Karen Waltman, and Janet Wheatcraft.

~Karen Waltman, Secretary

Note from the Editor

So long, farewell, *auf wiedersehen*, goodbye...

With this January-February 2017 issue, I've come full circle with eleven years of editing the PWWS newsletter. My first issue of *Wild News* was March-April 2005. Now seems like an appropriate time to step down and let someone else take a crack at it! This issue counts as my final effort.

I want to thank all the PWWS folks who generously over the years contributed help when I needed it, with content, advice, dates and events, letters, photos, corrections, and general all-round support for my efforts. I much appreciate all of the kindness (and sometimes, forbearance) shown to me over the years. To a new editor, all I can say is that "you will not be alone." Help is always there, and at some point it will become quite fun, as there are no restrictions, well, hardly any, to where you can go with it. So, we all hope a fresh face will step up and take over as I did just about this time of year eleven years ago. We will be patient with you until you catch your stride! Drop me (deannahigh@gmail.com) or Nancy Vehrs (nvehrs1@yahoo.com) a note if you are interested in the job. ~Deanna LaValle High

EVENTS

JANUARY

January 16, 7:30 p.m., PWWS Member Slideshow, Bethel Lutheran Church, Manassas. See above for more info.



January 22, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., "The Geologic Evolution of Thoroughfare Gap," with Charlie Grymes, Prince William Conservation Alliance. Bull Run Conservancy Mountain

House, 17405 Beverley Mill Drive, Broad Run, Va. The rocks at the top of Thoroughfare Gap were once an ocean beach. The core of the Blue Ridge was buried as much as five miles underground. Dinosaurs walked on the reddish rocks that lie underneath Haymarket. The dark rocks exposed at The Plains were hot volcanic lava. Join us to learn the stories about what's below our feet and above our heads! Sponsored by Bull Run Mountain

Conservancy. Map to location and more info, contact PWCA at (703) 490-5200, alliance@pwconserve.org.

Sunday, January 29, 8:00 a.m., "Bird Walk at Merrimac Farm." This walk takes place on the last Sunday of every month. We'll look for birds as we travel through the uplands to the edge of the floodplain, covering a variety of habitats, including open fields and woodland edges. Everyone is welcome. Meet at Merrimac Farm, Stone House, 15014 Deepwood Lane, Nokesville. Dress for the weather, bring binoculars and cameras. More info and RSVP (appreciated) to PWCA, (703) 499-4954 or alliance@pwconserve.org.



FEBRUARY

Sunday, February 12, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., Manassas Park Community Center, 99 Adams Street, Manassas Park, Va. "Greener Gardens: One Step at a Time" a presentation by Barbara Ellis, author of *Chesapeake Gardening and Landscaping: The Essential Green Guide*.

Creating a greener yard and garden does not have to involve making life-altering changes. In this talk, Barbara Ellis will discuss a range of options—from simple steps to ambitious projects—that gardeners and homeowners can take to create beautiful, more sustainable gardens and landscapes that are attractive and healthy for humans, wildlife, pets, and the environment as a whole—including the Chesapeake Bay and all its tributaries.

This event is free of charge, and refreshments will be served. Copies of the book will be available for sale and Ms. Ellis will sign copies after her presentation. Registration is suggested to ensure adequate seating. Please RSVP or for more information: (703) 792-7747 or email master_gardener@pwcgov.org.

Sponsored by the Prince William Wildflower Society, with support from Prince William Conservation Alliance and Prince William Master Gardeners

Sunday, February 26, 8:00 a.m., "Bird Walk at Merrimac Farm," See January listing.

MARCH

March 20, PWWS Membership Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Bethel Lutheran Church. "Stormwater and Watershed Management in Fairfax County," with Danielle Wynne, ecologist, Fairfax County Stormwater Planning Division. Ever wonder how a county with more than 1.1 million people in 400-square-miles manages their stormwater? Welcome to Fairfax County, Va. Come learn about the trials and tribulations of monitoring more than 860 miles of perennial stream within 30 major watersheds, and managing 1,300 miles of stormwater drainage pipes, 3,800 private and 1,700 public stormwater management facilities. Danielle Wynne has been an ecologist with the Fairfax County Stormwater Planning Division since 2002. Ms. Wynne has an undergraduate degree in Biology and Master's degree in

Environmental Science and Public Policy from George Mason

University. Her duties include stream insect and fish surveys, bacteria sampling and field assessments of habitat and water quality.

Ms. Wynne has a passion for working with students and teachers to help promote the importance of stormwater management and clean water.



SAVE the DATES

Saturday, April 15, Merrimac Bluebell Festival at Merrimac Farm

Saturday, May 13, Prince William Wildflower Society Plant Sale!

Monday, May 15, PWWS meeting with Daniel Schwartz, "Medicines from the Soil: The Fight Against Antibiotic Resistance." Most of our antibiotics are derived from soil microorganisms, but bacteria are evolving resistance to these life-saving drugs. Can new advances in soil biology identify previously unknown microbes to solve this problem?



PRINCE WILLIAM WILDFLOWER SOCIETY

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Chartered: January 10, 1983

Logo: *Mertensia virginica* - Virginia Bluebells

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Gymnosperm Groups in the *Flora of Virginia*

By Marion Lobstein, PWWS Botany Chair

The *Flora of Virginia* covers the five major groups of vascular plants native or naturalized to Virginia. These are the Lycophytes (clubmosses and relatives), Pteridophytes (ferns and horsetails), Gymnosperms, Dicots (flowering plants), and Monocots (flowering plants). Of the five groups treated in the *Flora*, the Gymnosperms with 3 families, 9 genera, and 20 species are the smallest in terms of number of species. However, the ecological, economic, cultural, and historic features of this group are numerous.

Gymnosperms and angiosperms are the only seed-bearing plants extant today and are known collectively as the Spermatophytes. The seed contains a plant embryo, a food source for the embryo, and a protective seed coat to protect the embryo. In gymnosperms, the seed is naked or not enclosed in a fruit as the seeds are in angiosperms. The term Gymnosperm means “naked seed” and is derived from the Greek *gymno*, meaning naked, and *sperm*, referring to the seed. This term was first used in 300 BC by the Greek philosopher Theophrastus, who is considered the “Father of Botany.” He recognized that the seeds of conifers, one of the four groups of Gymnosperms, produced seeds that were not inside fruits as in flowering plants and were therefore “naked.” He also introduced the terms conifer (Greek for cone-bearing from *conus*, cone, and *ferre*, to bear or carry) and cycad (Greek for a type of unknown palm), another group of gymnosperms. In modern classification systems, the term Gymnosperm is no longer used in the classification hierarchy, but is more of an umbrella term. Worldwide, there are four major extant (not extinct) groups of Gymnosperms: Cycads, Ginkgos, Conifers, and Gnetophytes. In Virginia, only the conifers are native, but non-native Ginkgos (Maidenhair trees) are often planted as a landscape tree. (The State Arboretum of Virginia at Blandy has one of largest plantings of Ginkgos outside of its native China). Cycads, such as the Sago palm (not a true palm, which is a flowering plant), are often enjoyed as house plants. The fourth group is the



Gnetophytes with the Gnetums (most woody shrubs, trees, or vines), the Ephedras or Mormon tea, and one species of Welwitschia found in the Namid Desert of South Africa. In total, there are just over 1,000 species of extant gymnosperms. For more information on this and other groups, visit the Gymnosperm database at <http://conifers.org/>.

All conifers are woody trees or rarely, shrubs. The leaves are either needle-like as in pines or scale-like as in red cedar. They are evergreen except for the Bald cypresses, which shed their needles in the fall. Conifer wood is described as soft wood because of the lack of vessel elements in the xylem found in the wood of flowering plants. Conifer wood is the main source of wood pulp for paper (and even some plastics) but the wood is also strong enough to use for construction purposes. Conifers have resins and other chemicals in their tissues to resist insect damage and fungal rot.

The reproductive organs in conifers involve male (pollen cones) and female (seed cones). Older botanical manuals, such as the *Flora of West Virginia*, refer to Conifer cones as flowers, but these are not flowers but

cones. In non-seed vascular plants, the Lycophytes (clubmosses) and the Pteridophytes (ferns and horsetails), spores that form the gametophyte, the stage that forms the gametes (sperm and eggs), are released from the parent plant and are on their own, as are the embryos formed when sperm fertilize the eggs. In Conifers and other Gymnosperms, the pollen cones form microspores

that become pollen grains with two sperm cells (the pollen grain is the male gametophyte). The pollen is wind dispersed. On the upper surface of the scales of the seed cones, two structures called ovules will develop. Each ovule contains a megaspore mother cell that forms the female gametophyte stage with 2 to 5 egg cells. After pollination of fertilization of an egg cell by a sperm cell, the ovule becomes a seed: the fertilized egg forms an embryo, other tissue in the ovule serves as a food source, and the outer covering of the ovule (the integument) becomes the seed coat. (More than one egg per ovule may be fertilized but typically only one forms the embryo in each seed). The seeds in most of our conifers

have wings from cone-scale tissue and are dispersed by wind. In red cedars, fleshy scales from the female cone enclose the seeds (but this is not fruit) and are dispersed by birds. In yews, a fleshy aril (an outgrowth from the base of the seed and not a fruit) surrounds the seeds, and the seeds are bird dispersed. (Fruits only form in flowering plants when the ovary wall of the pistil swells and encloses the seed or seeds after pollination and fertilization.) In our Conifers, the male cones are small and develop on the lower branches of tree; the female cones develop on the upper branches. Since pollination is by wind, this helps to ensure cross-pollination where pollen from one tree will be blown to the seed cones of another tree. Typically, it takes two years for a seed cone

to develop and release seeds. Indeed, it may take up to a year for fertilization to take place. Male cones are usually shed from the tree after pollen is released. In the *Flora Virginica* (2nd ed.1762), John Clayton included a number of conifers, such as Red cedar, Bald cypress, Spruce, Fir, Pines (black, pitch, white, and yellow), Hemlocks, and Yews.

In the *Flora of Virginia*, there are three families, nine genera, and 20 species that are treated in the Gymnosperm group. Below is a summary of these conifers.

Families	Genera	Species	Changes or notes
Cupressaceae (Spach 1841) Cypress Family	<i>Chamaecyparis</i> (Spach 1841) White Cedar	<i>Chamaecyparis thyoides</i> [(Linnaeus) Britton, Sterns, and Poggenburg 1888] Eastern White Cedar	Linnaeus named <i>Cupressus thyoides</i> 1753; rare in SE Virginia
	<i>Juniperus</i> (Linnaeus, 1753) Red Cedar, Juniper	<i>Juniperus communis</i> (Linnaeus 1753) Ground Cedar	Rare
		<i>Juniperus virginiana</i> (Linnaeus 1753) Red Cedar	
		<i>Taxodium</i> (L.C. Richard 1810) Baldcypress	<i>Taxodium ascendens</i> (Brongniart 1833) Pond Cypress
<i>Taxodium distichum</i> [(Linnaeus) L.C. Richard] Baldcypress			Linnaeus named <i>Cupressus disticha</i> 1753
<i>Thuja</i> (Linnaeus, 1753) Arborvitae		<i>Thuja occidentalis</i> (Linnaeus 1753) Arborvitae	
Pinaceae (Lindley 1836) Pine Family	<i>Abies</i> (P. Miller 1754) Fir	<i>Abies balsamea</i> [(Linnaeus) P. Miller 1768] Balsam Fir	Linnaeus named <i>Pinus canadensis</i> 1753
		<i>Abies fraseri</i> [(Pursh) Poiret 1817] Fraser Fir	
	<i>Picea</i> (A. Dietrich 1824) Spruce	<i>Picea rubens</i> (Sargent 1888) Red Spruce	Linnaeus lumped <i>Picea</i> species into <i>Pinus</i>
	<i>Pinus</i> (Linnaeus, 1753) Pine	<i>Pinus echinata</i> (P. Miller 1768) Shortleaf Pine	
		<i>Pinus palustris</i> (P. Miller 1768) 1) longleaf Pine	
		<i>Pinus pungens</i> (Lambert 1805) Talbottmountain Pine	
		<i>Pinus rigida</i> (P. Miller 1768) Pitch Pine	
		<i>Pinus serotina</i> (Michaux 1803) Pond Pine	
		<i>Pinus strobus</i> (Linnaeus, 1753) White Pine	
		<i>Pinus taeda</i> (Linnaeus, 1753) Loblolly Pine	
<i>Pinus virginiana</i> (P. Miller 1768) Virginia or Scrub Pine			
<i>Tsuga</i> (Carriere 1847) Hemlock	<i>Tsuga canadensis</i> [(Linnaeus) Carriere 1855] Eastern Hemlock	Linnaeus named <i>Pinus canadensis</i>	
	<i>Tsuga caroliniana</i> (Engelmann 1881) Carolina Hemlock		
Taxaceae (S.F. Gray 1821) Yew Family	<i>Taxus</i> (Linnaeus, 1753)	<i>Taxus canadensis</i> (Marshall 1785) American Yew	



Juniperus virginiana

Type: Needled evergreen
 Family: Cupressaceae
 Native Range: Eastern North America
 Zone: 2 to 9
 Height: 30 to 65 feet
 Spread: 8 to 25 feet
 Bloom Time: Non-flowering

brown bark exfoliates in thin shreddy strips on mature trees. Trunks are often fluted at the base. Heartwood is light brown and aromatic, and is commonly used for cedar chests. Dark blue green scale-like foliage. Foliage may turn brown-green in winter. Cultivars of this species often retain better foliage color in winter. This is a dioecious species (separate male and female trees). Female trees produce round, gray to blackish-green berry-like cones (1/4" diameter) that ripen in fall the first year. Berry-like cones are attractive to many birds. It is a larval host to the Eastern Pine Elphin butterfly.

The genus name comes from the Latin name for the juniper; specific epithet means of Virginia. It was named by Sir Walter Raleigh in 1584 in honor of Elizabeth I, the "Virgin Queen."



Red cedar has no serious insect or disease problems. Cedar apple rust is a common problem for many different junipers, but the species has good resistance. It may be susceptible to twig blight and scale, and bagworms.

- Bloom Description: Non-flowering
- Sun: Full sun
- Water: Dry to medium
- Maintenance: Low
- Leaf: Evergreen
- Other: Winter Interest
- Tolerate: Deer, Drought, Erosion, Dry Soil, Shallow-Rocky Soil, Black Walnut, Air Pollution

Red cedar is easily grown in average, dry to moist, well-drained soils in full sun. It tolerates a wide range of soils and growing conditions, from swamps to dry rocky glades. Although it prefers moist soil, it is intolerant of constantly wet soils. It has the best drought resistance of any conifer native to the eastern U.S.

Juniperus virginiana, commonly called Eastern red cedar, is native to eastern North America from southeastern Canada to the Gulf of Mexico and east of the Great Plains to Pennsylvania. It commonly occurs on limestone bluffs and glades, wood margins, fields, pastures and fence rows. It is a broadly conical, sometimes columnar, dense, evergreen conifer with horizontal branching that typically grows from 30 to 65' tall. Gray to reddish-

In the garden, red cedar is used as a landscape specimen and for large screens. *Adapted by Deanna High from the species description found at Missouri Botanical Garden plant site, www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder, USDA PlantDatabase, and other sources.*

[*Ephedra trifurca* Torr. ex S. Watson, photo by Harry Cliffe, NPIN database image i.d. 25239, accessed at www.wildflower.org/explore; *Juniperus virginiana* L., engraving by J.J. Audubon, Birds of America [double elephant folio edition], t. 43 (1826-1838), University of Pittsburgh Library System, U.S.A., accessed at www.plantillustrations.org; Eastern Pine Elfin photo by Garry Kessler, Memorial Forest, Sudbury, Ma., accessed at www.naba.org; *Juniperus virginiana* illustration by J.H. Jaume Saint-Hilaire, Traité des arbres forestiers, t. 36 (1824), University of Missouri Botanical Garden, accessed at http://plantillustrations.org/illustration.php?id_illustration=87357.]

The Transplant

In Louisiana,
There is a tree
Planted over 50 years ago
By my grandmother and me.

My grandmother's cedar tree,
Stands, still, in Louisiana,
Forty or more feet tall, alone in the middle of the front
yard

Dark, mysterious as always,
If you didn't know it
Back then, in Louisiana,
As just a sprig of a thing

Dug carefully from the side flowerbed
Where its little roots had found a home,
Just a foot tall or so, as I recall, all those years ago

That it flourishes still astonishes me—me, who, as a
teenager, in Louisiana,
Mowed down my mother's prized peach sapling.

(From the back, I now look like my grandmother did
then, bending over to weed.)

Full of nesting birds, soft
Darkness underneath a slightly prickly canopy,
Juniperus virginiana, you, whose blackest-green cedar's
shade pulls
Impossible memories of shadowy progress from
seedling to towering tree

(The temperature dropped some 10 degrees when I
crawled under your whistling branches)

Are lost, pretty much forever, now, to me, but
Still, there, a tree
In Louisiana

[Deanna LaValle High, c. 2009]



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A Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society
P.O. Box 83, Manassas, Virginia, 20108-0083

PWWS Membership Meeting: Monday, January 16, 2017, 7:30 p.m.

PWWS Member Annual Slideshow

Bethel Lutheran Church, 8712 Plantation Lane, Manassas, Virginia 20110