

FROM THE PRESIDENT...

The Society's new WILDFLOWER CONSERVATION GUIDELINES, recently adopted by the Board, come to you for the first time in this Bulletin.

I urge you to study them, think about how they might influence your own actions, share them with friends and associates. They are an important tool in achieving our purpose of protecting Virginia's floral heritage.

These guidelines are intended for general use by all those who cherish wildflowers and want to see them continue to flourish. They state a framework within which all of us, from the casual admirer of roadside flowers to the dedicated wildflower gardener or photographer, can combine pleasure in our native and naturalized plants with meticulous respect for their needs.

In the development of these guidelines, we are greatly indebted to the pioneering work of the Plant Conservation Roundtable, a Washington-area group of botanists and others working with rare and threatened species. Over a year ago they recognized the need for ethical standards to guide work with native plants by the general public and by various professional groups. VWPS members Linda McMahan, Larry Morse, and Marion Blois were among the leaders in the Roundtable's formulation of such codes.

The guidelines adopted by the VWPS Board are based on those proposed by the Roundtable. The main difference is the addition of some examples and explanations to make them easier to understand for people whose interest in wildflowers is just beginning. Chapter boards contributed many thoughtful comments to the VWPS Board's discussions and a team composed of Marion Blois, Faith Campbell, and Anne Price prepared the final draft.

Now we'd welcome your comments and questions. They should be sent to the VWPS Conservation Chair, Faith Campbell, at P. O. Box 844, Annandale, VA 22003.

These general guidelines do not attempt to cover the activities of those who work professionally with wild plants--botanists, horticulturists, educators, those in the nursery business. The Plant Conservation Roundtable is preparing specific guidelines for these professionals. When they have been completed, their availability will be announced in the Bulletin, and we expect to incorporate at least a reference to them in the VWPS guidelines.

- Mary Pockman

FUNDS NEEDED FOR ENDANGERED PLANTS PROGRAM

Please contact your state Delegate and Senator immediately to ask support for a budget amendment adding \$40,000 per year to protect Virginia's rare plant species.

The Virginia Endangered Plant and Insect Species Act authorizes the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) to identify plant and insect species in danger of extinction and, with the approval of the Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services, to list such species.

Three species are currently listed under the Act. The Virginia roundleaf birch, *Betula uber*, and the small whorled pogonia, *Isotria medeoloides*, are both listed as endangered. Ginseng, *Panax quinquefolius*, of concern because of the heavy harvest of its roots, is listed as threatened. A fourth species, Peter's Mountain mallow, *Iliamna corei*, is likely to be proposed soon for listing.

Listing a species provides legal protection, but it does nothing to determine and halt other threats to the species' survival. Studies of the species' biology--life history, nutrient requirements, reproduction--and ecology, are needed to identify management practices that will help the species recover, such as clearing of competing vegetation or fencing to prevent browsing by animals. In addition, other rare plant species need to be studied to determine whether they ought to be listed.

The VDACS budget contains no funds for the purpose of carrying out such studies or protective actions. Data supporting the recent listing of the small whorled pogonia and the pending listing of the mallow were compiled by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and volunteers. While such voluntary efforts should continue, the Commonwealth has an obligation to carry out its own program. Furthermore, budgeted funds would permit the VDACS to set its own priorities, based on consultation with expert botanists.

The VWPS is actively supporting an amendment that would appropriate an additional \$40,000 per year to the VDACS to carry out its duties under the Act, especially research and conservation management. Delegate John Watkins and Senator Clive DuVal are the sponsors of the amendment.

The amendment is now before committees in both houses, but should soon go to the floor. Please contact your representative in Richmond. The best method is to send a Public Opinion Message (POM) through Western Union--it costs about \$5. Your voter registrar or public library can supply the names and addresses of your representatives.

- Faith Campbell
Conservation Chair

A local conservation issue is a current focus for Piedmont chapter, which is actively opposing the proposed construction of a microwave relay tower at Linden, in the middle of the most spectacular stand of *Trillium grandiflorum* in the east.

Education will be Prince William's major emphasis this year; the chapter plans to work with both children and adults. Educational programs are in the wind for other chapters too. Pocahontas is developing a slide presentation for garden clubs, and Potowmack will co-sponsor two slide talks in a Fairfax County Park Authority series. Blue Ridge chapter will again co-sponsor the annual Roanoke Wildflower Pilgrimage (see Calendar). Potowmack and Prince William are both organizing tours of local wildflower gardens as part of the VWPS Wildflower Week.

John Clayton chapter is working with the Virginia Highway Department in planning wildflower plantings along roadsides in the chapter's area. Chapter members have met with Department representatives to select a test site and discuss species selection, planting methods, and mowing schedules. The chapter will select and obtain the seed, and Highway Department personnel will do the rest. Blue Ridge, under the auspices of the National Park Service and The Blue Ridge Parkway, plans to plant additional wildflowers along the Chestnut Ridge Loop Trail, making it a showplace for wildflower-loving hikers. An initial survey of the trail found over 150 species; species added will be those normally found in the trail's habitats.

Pocahontas chapter's plans for rescue projects got a boost when Dr. Robert Hebb, director of Richmond's Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, offered the services of staff member (and VWPS member) Laurie Crammond and the use of the Garden's truck. In return the Garden will receive plants for its native plant gardens. Potowmack is developing strategies for working with developers to preserve valuable plants and habitats, thus making some rescues unnecessary.

THIS IS THE LAST BULLETIN
THAT WILL BE SENT TO 1985 MEMBERS.
RENEW NOW!



LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

A new Long Range Planning Committee, under the leadership of Cole Burrell, VWPS First Vice President, has been appointed to continue the work begun last year. Other members of the committee are Marion Blois, Gary Fleming, Deenya Greenland, Ed Risse, and Nicky Staunton.

Members who would like to suggest issues for this committee to consider are invited to send them to Cole at P. O. Box 844, Annandale, VA 22003.

A lot of Virginians vacation along North Carolina's coast. Any of you that have fished around Morehead or Swansboro, sunned at Atlantic Beach or Indian Beach, or shelled at Cape Lookout or Emerald Isle are probably familiar with the Croatan National Forest and its abundance of insectivorous plants. Although a diversity of plants is spread throughout the forest, there is one area and only one area where the majority of the "special plants" come together. All three of the Pitcher Plants in the forest, *Sarracenia flava*, *rubra*, and *purpurea* grow here. All of the forest orchid species occur here. Butterworts, Sundews, Burmannia, and the Pine Barrens Gentian, as well as the spectacular Venus Fly Trap, all live in the sphagnum and sand in this small area.

Unfortunately, the Carteret County School Board is considering this as a prime site for a new public school. Unbelievably, the Forest Service is considering selling it, using a provision that allows them to sell land to institutions such as schools. At least there is still time for public comment. Anyone wishing to voice their opinion and perhaps sway construction to a less vulnerable section of the forest should write: District Ranger, U.S. Forest Service, 435 Thurman Road, New Bern, NC 28560. The area should be referred to as the Nine Foot Road sphagnum bog site for the proposed Carteret County Public School.

- James R. (Bob) Tuggle
Blue Ridge Chapter



PUBLICATIONS AND GIFTS

A revised list is now available of publications and other items, many suitable for gifts, that can be ordered from the VWPS and its chapters. To get a copy, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to VWPS-Orders, P. O. Box 844, Annandale, VA 22003.

New on the list are the Wildflower Conservation Guidelines included in this issue of the Bulletin, and the VWPS Administrative Handbook, a guide to the Society's organization, policies, and procedures. In addition, two popular VWPS publications have been revised and brought up to date: the list of sources for nursery-propagated plants and for seed, and the list of botanical clubs, native plant societies, and related organizations.

Of particular interest in this season when wildflower enthusiasts are planning for spring are five books available from the VWPS. Harry Phillips' *Growing and Propagating Wild Flowers* (paperback, \$14.95) is probably the most comprehensive and up-to-date reference for Virginia gardeners. *The New Wildflowers and How to Grow them* (paperback, \$19.95) is a 1983 revision of Edwin Steffek's classic. Three volumes (hardcover, \$10.95 each) by Oscar W. Gup-ton and Fred C. Swope introduce readers to some of Virginia's most common species. They are *Trees and Shrubs of Virginia*, *Wildflowers of the Shenandoah Valley and Blue Ridge Mountains*, and *Wildflowers of Tidewater Virginia*. All these books can be ordered from the address above.



Virginia Wildflower Preservation Society

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NATIVE PLANT

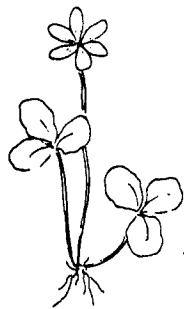
WILDFLOWER CONSERVATION GUIDELINES

separate list of
guidelines coming
for education,
propagation

1. Let all your acts reflect your respect for wild plants (including herbs, shrubs, and trees) as integral parts of natural landscapes. Remember that every time you pick a flower or disturb a patch of wildflowers, your action affects the natural world, and that the cumulative effect of the actions of many people can be particularly harmful.
2. When photographing wildflowers or inspecting them closely, take care not to disturb the surrounding vegetation. Trampling can damage nearby seedlings or roots.
3. Report unlawful collection of plants to proper authorities and, when necessary, remind others that collecting plants or disturbing natural areas is illegal in parks or other public places.
- ⊗ 4. Do not collect native plants or plant parts from the wild except as part of rescue operations sponsored by responsible groups and when native.
- X 5. Before obtaining wildflower species for your home landscape, learn enough about their cultural requirements to be sure you can provide a suitable habitat.
- * 6. If you collect seeds from the wild, collect a few seeds from each of many plants and only from common species that are locally abundant. Collect only the seeds or fruits without harming the rest of the plant, and always leave sufficient seed numbers for the plant population to reseed itself.
7. Buy wildflower plants only from organizations or individuals that propagate their own plants or that purchase from those who propagate them. Ask the seller about the origin of the plants. If the seller is unable to tell you a plant's origin, don't purchase it. Lists of nurseries that state they sell only nursery propagated plants are offered by such organizations as the New England Wild Flower Society.
8. Buy wildflower seeds only from companies that collect responsibly. Lists of responsible seed suppliers are available from such organizations as the New England Wild Flower Society.
9. Encourage the use of native and naturalized Virginia plants and seeds in home and public landscapes. Avoid species from other areas that might become invasive and crowd out Virginia's more desirable species.
- * 10. If you pick wildflowers, dried seed stalks, or greens for home decoration, use only common species that are abundant at the site. Leave enough flowers or seeds to allow the plant population to reseed itself. Avoid picking herbaceous perennials such as lady slippers, jack-in-the-pulpits, or gentians that, like daffodils, need to retain their vegetative parts to store energy for next year's development. Avoid cutting slow-growing plants, such as running cedar or partridgeberry for Christmas wreaths or other decorations.
11. If you learn that an area is scheduled for development, notify the VWPS, so that a local chapter has an opportunity to discuss with the developer compatible development alternatives or to conduct a rescue operation.
12. Since it is important to protect information about the location of rare species, if you discover a new site for a plant species that you know is rare, report it to responsible conservation officials as soon as possible and before disclosing it to anyone else. The VWPS or chapter botany chair can help you get in touch with proper officials.

(Up to five additional copies of these guidelines can be obtained by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to the VWPS, P. O. Box 844, Annandale, VA 22003.

VWPS BALANCE SHEET AS OF 10/31/85



ASSETS:	
CASH	6071.99
Accounts Receivable	<u>10.00</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>\$6081.99</u></u>

LIABILITIES:	
Membership Dues 1986	1370.00
Sales Tax Payable	2.35
Great Meadows Project Balance	326.49
Endowment Fund Balance	<u>650.00</u>
Total Liabilities	2348.84
Reserve from previous years	971.59
1985 Net	<u>2761.56</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & CAPITAL	<u><u>\$6081.99</u></u>

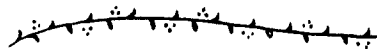


Tomme Kerr

TOMMEE KERR
TREASURER

VWPS Statement of Revenue and Expenses and Changes in Fund Balances for Year ended 10-31-1985

	General	Wildcat Foundation Grant	Great Meadows Project	Endowment	TOTAL
REVENUE					
1985 Membership Dues	4390.00				
Interest earned	223.35				
Fund Raising	2662.19				
Contributions	2874.00		500.00	650.00	
Annual Meeting-Photo Contest	46.00				
Gift List Account	1159.08				
Office Equipment-bulk mail	20.00				
Publications	<u>1.65</u>				
	<u>11376.27</u>		500.00	650.00	12526.27
EXPENSES					
Staff Secretary Salary		1285.48			
FICA		255.65			
Federal Income Tax for Sec.		67.50			
State Income Tax for Sec.		47.48			
Mileage for Sec.	16.26	38.94			
Office Supplies	2299.50				
Office Equipment	541.85				
Telephone	323.01				
Publications	1405.66				
Fund Raising	743.95				
Sales Tax	80.89				
Insurance & Bonding	864.00				
Budget & Finance--Audit	35.00				
Chapter Development	121.91				
Legal Fees	216.02				
Travel	255.90				
Annual Meeting	403.07				
Wildflower Weekend	279.96				
Misc.	75.63				
Gift List Account	952.10				
Great Meadows Project			<u>173.51</u>		
Beginning Fund Balance	(8614.71)	(1695.05)	(173.51)		
		<u>1695.05</u>			
Total Expenses	(8614.71)	-0-	(173.51)		(8768.22)
Excess of Revenue over Expenses	2761.56		326.49	650.00	3738.05



NCBG SEEDS NOW AVAILABLE

All rights are waived and permission is hereby given to reprint any information contained within literature or publications of the VWPS (except where notification is given on the literature) as long as credit is given to the by-line author and permission credit is given to the VWPS, P. O. Box 844, Annandale, VA 22003

The North Carolina Botanical Garden's 1986 seed distribution is under way, with seeds or spores available for 75 native species. Individuals may request packets for up to six species. Seeds are free to NCBG members, 50 cents a packet to non-members. For full information and the list of species, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to NCBG Seed Distribution, Totten Center 457-A, UNC-CH, Chapel Hill, NC 27514

EDWIN STEFFEK

Edwin F. Steffek died in December at the age of 73. He was well known to wildflower gardeners as the author of Wildflowers and How to Grow Them, one of the standard works on cultivating and propagating wildflowers. First published in 1954, it was reissued, with new illustrations, in 1983. The new edition, entitled The New Wildflowers and How to Grow Them, is available from the VWPS at \$19.95.

Steffek had written or collaborated on many other books, and from 1963 to 1975 was editor of Horticulture magazine.

CAROL J. H. FROST
3332 BRECKENRIDGE COURT
ANNANDALE, VIRGINIA 22003

December 4, 1985

Mr. John White, Treasurer
Virginia Wildflower Preservation Society
Route 1, Box 381
Delaplane, VA 22025


Dear Mr. White:

I have reviewed the balance sheet of the Virginia Wildflower Preservation Society as of October 31, 1985, and the related Statement of Revenue and Expenses and Changes in Fund balances for the year then ended.

Your insurance company has requested that someone other than the Treasurer periodically reconcile the bank account. While I understand that this has been done, I recommend that a written reconciliation, signed by the reconciler, be prepared and maintained in the Society's files.

Based on my review, I am not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the above-referenced financial statements in order for them to be in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

Sincerely,



ATTENTION PHOTOGRAPHERS!

Robert H. Mohlenbrock, author of Where Have All the Wildflowers Gone?, is seeking color close-ups of about 125 wildflower species for a beginners' guide to U.S. wildflowers, to be published by Macmillan. The photographer will receive credit and a modest honorarium for each photo used and will have the right to use or sell the photo again.

For the list of species and instructions for submitting photos, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Mary Pockman, 7301 Hooking Rd., McLean, VA 22101.

MONOGRAPH PLANNED FOR NOVICE WILDFLOWER ENTHUSIASTS

Development of a short monograph on using wildflowers and native plants in Virginia landscapes has been approved by the VWPS Board. Conceived as an inexpensive introduction for the novice, the publication will be edited by Karen Sorenson, Potowmack chapter's Propagation Chair and an experienced writer and editor.

With careful attention to conservation issues, the monograph will discuss the fundamentals of wildflower gardening in Virginia's various habitats. In "handbook" style, illustrated by line drawings, it will outline the major considerations in evaluating a site, developing a garden plan, and selecting appropriate plants. Concise information will be given on the use and culture of a number of the Virginia species that are most adaptable to landscape use, and additional resources will be suggested for gardeners who want to learn more.

Publication is planned for early 1987, in time for chapters to sell the monograph in conjunction with their spring plant sales.



VWPS FUND RAISING REMINDER

Our 1985 direct mail fund raising appeal, mailed in December, has been producing good returns. Recipients seem to appreciate our efforts to keep it attractive and low key. Those of you who may have considered responding, do keep in mind that your chapter receives one-third of your contribution.

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE!

- Jocelyn Alexander



A GOOD WAY TO SPEND YOUR VIRGINIA TAX REFUND

Virginia taxpayers who are due a refund can use the income tax return to make a contribution to the state's nongame wildlife program, but no money from this program is used for plant conservation. These tax checkoff funds go entirely for protection and management of endangered animal species and other nongame wildlife.

The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services does accept direct contributions for plant conservation, though there is no tax checkoff for this purpose. To support the state's work in studying and protecting Virginia's rare and threatened plant species, send a check, payable to VDACS, to the Commissioner, VDACS, P. O. Box 1163, Richmond, VA 23209, with a note asking that your donation be used for the endangered plant program.

Seasons

Elizabeth Doyle Solomon, five of whose poems appeared in the Fall 1985 Bulletin, has recently published a volume of poems that use images drawn from wildflowers and the natural landscape. Illustrated with original drawings by Ana Marie Liddell, the book is entitled Seasons: The Cycles of Nature and of Life thru Poetry and Art.

Elizabeth is the founder and current features editor of The Central Virginia Leader, a regional newspaper based in Scottsville, VA. This is her third volume of poetry. A VWPS member, she serves on the steering committee of the newly-forming chapter in the Charlottesville area.

Seasons is available from the publisher, AGAPE, 924 Third St., Franklin, LA 70538, for \$11.50, including postage and handling.



and the Arboretum cleared the area and established pilot plantings of native ferns. The league designated Fern Valley as an official project that summer and began development of an extensive native plant garden. Fern Valley was formally opened to the public on May 24, 1960.

In design, the garden was divided into many habitats, each with a characteristic community, including northern mixed hardwood forest, piedmont hardwood forest, southern highlands, southeastern lowlands and meadow. Specialized sites within habitats include shady slopes, moist bottomlands, sunny roadsides, seepage slopes, streamsides and a limestone wall for rocky ferns. Fern Valley remained an active League (later Federation) project until 1975.

Fern Valley is currently staffed by a full-time curator and a part-time assistant. To further progress in developing a comprehensive native plant collection and to assist with continued maintenance, a full-time summer intern is needed. To help fund an intern, the Arboretum, in conjunction with the American Horticultural Society and the National Wildlife Federation, in cooperation with Friends of the National Arboretum, the National Capital Area Federation of Garden Clubs, and the Virginia Wildflower Preservation Society, is presenting a two-day symposium entitled NATIVE PLANTS PREFERRED: A SYMPOSIUM ON THE USE OF NATIVE AMERICAN PLANTS IN AMERICAN GARDENS. See the enclosed brochure for details of this informative conservation-minded symposium on propagating and landscaping with native wildflowers, ferns, trees, and shrubs.

By 1983 the ravages of time, personnel and budget cuts, erosion and vandalism, and a certain amount of neglect had lessened Fern Valley's appeal. Working with a new Arboretum curator, Federation volunteers and staff removed the encroaching vegetation that had taken over some areas of the garden. The limestone wall, damaged by a fallen tree, was rebuilt and new ferns were added.

An inventory of the valley found 580 different species. Approximately 6,000 new plants have been added and the collection now contains 725 species, including 48 species and hybrids of ferns. All the plants growing in the valley are native to the eastern United States.

A two-acre meadow containing sun-loving plants native or naturalized in the central Atlantic states has also been established. Many species of ornamental grasses as well as 90 showy native herbaceous annuals and perennials can be found growing there.

The native plant propagation program is being greatly expanded. Techniques for production of several hundred species are being examined, including seeds, cuttings and division.

With booklet in hand, visitors to Washington have a unique opportunity to enjoy the native plants that are an integral part of our natural heritage.

A new addition to the ranks of organizations dedicated to the appreciation and conservation of native plants is the Maryland Native Plant Society. Founded by VWPS member John W. Fish, and including a number of other VWPS members, the MNPS is working toward programs in education, conservation and preservation, gardening with native plants, and recreation.

A matter of particular concern is the protection of endangered species. Only one plant species, Isotria medeoloides, the small whorled pogonia, is now protected in Maryland, although more than 30 species found in the state are candidates for endangered status under federal law, and many others need study.

MNPS meets on the third Tuesday of each month at Brookside Nature Center, Silver Spring. For information, write to Maryland Native Plant Society, c/o Seaffidi, 14720 Claude Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20904

- FERN VALLEY -
A WILDFLOWER RESOURCE

Fern Valley is a six-acre native plant garden located in a quiet corner of the U. S. National Arboretum in Washington, D.C. Within the garden's diverse habitats grow thousands of native ferns, wildflowers, shrubs and trees.

The valley, once a dumping ground, was first recognized as a desirable area for the establishment of a fern glen in 1958. The National Capital Garden Club League in cooperation with the American Fern Society

- Cole Burrell

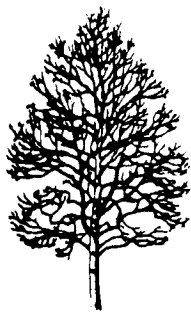
WVPS OFFERS WILDFLOWER TOUR OF GREAT DISMAL SWAMP

The Okefenokee Swamp in Georgia and the Florida Everglades are well known to travelers, but there exists in the Commonwealth a well-kept secret known as the Great Dismal Swamp. Spanning 750 square miles along the Virginia/North Carolina border, the swamp is a haven for plants, fish, birds and mammals. Near the center of the wooded expanse lies Lake Drummond, one of Virginia's two natural lakes. The lake is believed to have been formed by an underground peat berm although some hold that it resulted from the impact of a meteorite.

In 1973, 49,000 acres of the swamp were turned over to the Department of Interior by Union Camp Corporation. The area was designated as the Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. Despite years of logging, a few ancient bald cypress trees still remain, scattered across the great expanse of the swamp. Once the dominant tree species, cypress has been replaced by a thick forest of red maple, tulip tree, and sweetbay. The swamp is a place where northern and southern plant species converge at the extremes of their ranges. Magnolia, myrtle, hercules club and holly grow amidst a tangle of jessamine, muscadine and greenbriar. Herbaceous plants include gerardia, Trillium pusillum, switchcane, and a multitude of ferns such as the rare log fern Dryopteris celsa.

Throughout history several attempts have been made to drain the swamp. To this end, many canals were dug, most notably the Dismal Swamp Canal, which cuts through the center of the swamp through Lake Drummond, connecting Scotland Neck, NC, to Norfolk. The water in the lake and canals is a dark coffee brown. Thought by many to be stagnant, the water actually flows slowly eastward.

(For more information, see The Swamp, by Bill Thomas, from which this brief description is drawn.)



The WVPS is offering a unique opportunity to visit the Great Dismal Swamp in the glory of springtime. On Saturday, April 19, join Botanist Pat Gammon and staff naturalists for a walk through the swampland by boardwalk to observe cypress, red maple, and gum among tufts of Virginia and netted chain ferns, Christmas ferns, cinnamon and royal ferns.

After lunch, a second foray by motorcade will take visitors along canals and ditches to observe the moss-laden cypress trees growing in the dark shallow waters of Lake Drummond. The motorcade will stop along the way to see crossvine, pink ladyslipper, trillium, and the many ferns. Bring your field glasses, because birds and mammals abound throughout the swamp.

Registration is limited to 50 people, to be divided into two groups for the tours. Registration information will be mailed to members in March.



- Cole Burrell

CALENDAR

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| February 1 | "Wildflowers and Plants for Every Garden," and |
| February 2 | Wildflower Propagation Workshop. New York Botanical Garden. Limited Enrollment. Contact Educational Dept., New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, NY 10458-5126 |
| March 1 | VWPS Board Meeting. Hosted by Potowmack chapter |
| March 15-16 | Native Plants Preferred: A Symposium on the use of Native American Plants in American Gardens. (See enclosed brochure) |
| April 19-27 | Wildflower Week. Watch for special VWPS mailing. |
| April 19-20 | Great Dismal Swamp Wildflower Tour. (See article above.) Registration required |
| April 24-26 | 36th Annual Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage. Great Smoky Mountains National Park and Botany Dept., University of Tennessee, and Gatlinburg Garden Club. Information: write Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Gatlinburg, TN 37738. Registration: \$5/day. |
| April 26-27 | Roanoke Wildflower Pilgrimage |
| May 9-11 | Wintergreen Symposium |
| May 22 | Blackwater Falls, Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage. Information: Maxine Scarboro, Department of Natural Resources, Charlestown, WV 25305 |

FALL PLANTING AT GREAT MEADOW

On six fall workdays, more than twenty VWPS members and friends turned out to plant 3,465 individually potted wildflowers at the Society's regional landscape project at Great Meadow, located at The Plains. These hard-working volunteers came from Piedmont, Potowmack, and Prince William, the chapters closest to Great Meadow. The first and second year seedlings they put in the ground had been propagated by Mary Painter and watched over by Mary and eight members of Piedmont chapter.

During the summer, through the cooperation of Ann Barker, the Great Meadow staff assisted in this project by preparing Great Meadow's central swale site for planting. Prior to the fall plantings, the swale area was also seeded with a winter rye grass and *Barbarea vulgaris*, winter cress or mustard. Some spraying of invasive vegetation, such as Japanese honeysuckle in the site's rocky sections, also preceded planting.

Among the plants set out this fall were the following species: *Asclepias incarnata*, swamp milkweed; *Aster lowrieanus* and *A. novae-angliae*, Lowrie's and New England asters; *Echinacea purpurea*, purple coneflower; *Helianthus decapetalus*, *H. divaricatus*, *H. occidentalis*, and *H. tomentosus*, thin-leaved, woodland, western, and black-eyed sunflowers; *Lobelia cardinalis*, cardinal flower; *L. siphilitica*, great blue lobelia; *Liatris squarrose*, scaly blazing star; *Rudbeckia hirta*, black-eyed Susan; *R. laciniata*, green-headed coneflower; *Solidago altissima*, *S. caesia*, *S. puberula*, and *S. rugosa*, tall, blue-stemmed, downy, and rough-stemmed goldenrods. Planting of nearly a dozen additional species is planned for this spring.

Through the two most critically dry weeks of late September, we made use of water stored in Great Meadow's water tank to ensure moisture to new plantings. By early October, sufficient rainfall occurred, and since that time Mother Nature has cooperated beautifully with our planting schedule.

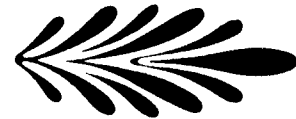
During each of the planting dates in September, October, and November of 1985, our much-appreciated planting volunteers persevered under burning sun, in steady drizzles and chilly weather. In the early fall our pick-axes were even bent by the unyielding earth and rock. By late October, puddles quickly formed where our shovels were applied. The work never seemed easy, yet we thoroughly enjoyed each other's company, as well as the real "hands-on" participation in the project. At this time, we know that nearly every foot of the entire central swale site is now filled with wildflowers selected for their ability to thrive in their new home, during dry spells and storms.

If you were unable to attend the fall planting sessions, there will still be time to help with planting this spring. Dates will be announced in the Spring Bulletin.

- Mary Painter



GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONSIDERING "BOTTLE BILL" AGAIN



Legislation requiring a deposit on beer and soft drink containers is again before the Virginia General Assembly. Passage of the "bottle bill," which was first introduced in the legislature twelve years ago, is being urged by Virginians for Returnables, a coalition of civic and environmental groups of which the VWPS is a member.

A recent Gallup survey indicates that over three-fourths of Virginians support such legislation, although fewer than half were aware that a bill was being proposed. Proponents of the bill argue that requiring a ten-cent refundable deposit on soft drink and beer containers would greatly reduce litter---which among

other things defaces and damages the roadside plantings of wildflowers the VWPS and its chapters are encouraging---and thus save the tax dollars now spent on clean-up and disposal of discarded cans and bottles. In addition, they claim, it would encourage recycling, conserve vital resources, create jobs, and protect public health.

Interested VWPS members should promptly get in touch with their State Senators and Delegates. Details of the bill and information on the impact of similar legislation in other states are available from Virginians for Returnables, P. O. Box 69, Richmond, VA 23201 (703) 237-0335.



Virginia Wildflower Preservation Society

P.O. Box 844
Annandale, Va. 22003

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LEGISLATIVE BAD NEWS

... BUT EFFORTS CONTINUE TO FUND ENDANGERED PLANTS PROGRAM

An attempt to actually fund research into the identification of endangered plants in Virginia by scientists in the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services was defeated in committee led by Senator Willey. The research was mandated by a law passed in 1979 (The Virginia Endangered Plant and Insect Act) but until now no money has been made available. The request was for \$40,000 a year for two years. (\$10,000 a year for reproductive research about the extremely rare round leafed birch which is only found in Virginia and only in one place, \$11,000 for the very rare orchid, the Small Whorled Pogonia, found in only a couple of places, \$7,000 for habitat management of the rare Peter Mountain Mallow, and \$12,000 to study 45 other endangered plants and ways to manage them. A call to the office of your state senator, or particularly to Senator Willey (804) 786-3516, would help to point out the disappointment of the environmental community at refusing to spend such a small amount to research and protect such irreplaceable parts of our environment.

—Ralph & Cricket White
Pocahontas Chapter

The Society has already begun a campaign to reverse the funding setback in the 1987 General Assembly session, so that Virginia's rare plants may be saved. The present lack of funds prevents the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services from studying these plants' life histories, habitat need, and reproduction and from developing and implementing appropriate management plans. The Department also cannot study the dozens of other rare plant species that may deserve listing. We must reverse our recent setback in order to enhance the chances for these species' long-term survival.

The Conservation Committee is working to broaden support for the state program among other conservation and horticultural organizations and in the General Assembly itself. The Committee seeks your support in this campaign. If you would like to be involved, please contact Faith Campbell at NRDC, 1350 New York Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005, (202) 783-7800.

Meanwhile, to help the Society be more active and successful on all conservation issues, various chapters are forming their own conservation committees. I urge you to become involved with their work.

Finally, the Conservation Committee reminds Society members that they may make contributions to the Virginia endangered plants program. Checks should be made out to the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and sent to the Commissioner, VDACS, P. O. Box 1163, Richmond, VA 23209, with a note asking that your donation be used for the endangered plants program.

—Faith Campbell
Conservation Chair



NOMINATING COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU!

The VWPS Nominating Committee is at work finding candidates for positions on the VWPS Board of Directors which are or will be vacant in the fall.

A Director-at-large and the following committee chairs are up for election this year: Budget and Finance, Education, and Membership. These posts carry three year terms. Two slots which remain vacant are Fund Raising, and Publicity and Publications. These terms expire in October 1987.

If you are interested in considering one of these positions or can suggest someone, contact a member of the Nominating Committee: Blue Ridge, Richard Crites; John Clayton, Barbara Hall; Piedmont, Harrison Symmes; Pocahontas, Sarah Richardson; Potowmack, Dorna Kreitz, chair; Prince William, Elaine Haug.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

A long-range emphasis of the VWPS is working to bring groups with diverse interests together in efforts to preserve Virginia's wildflowers. Opportunities to further this goal are always welcome. Dorothy Bliss, VWPS Botany Chair, has been invited to speak about the Society and its purposes to the Botany Section of the Virginia Academy of Science in May. And several VWPS members have been actively involved in drawing gardeners into conservation through symposiums on landscaping with native plants. As interest in this topic continues high, it's heartening that so many such programs are emphasizing ways to minimize the impact on wild populations of native shrubs and wildflowers.

At the root of concern for the future of native plants, of course, is appreciation—of their beauty, of their intricate relationships with other plants and animals, of the limits of our own understanding. It's here, I think, that public education starts, and here that chapters and the Society make an invaluable contribution by providing opportunities to look and to wonder.

As spring wildflowers beckon us to do just that, February's Winter Workshop seems long past, but VWPS volunteers are building on work done then. Chapter rescue chairs got a head start by discussing detailed guidelines. Another group worked on ways to approach conservation issues, timely preparation for renewed efforts to gain funding for the Commonwealth's endangered plant species program. And chapter presidents focused particularly on the vital issue of nurturing chapter and Society leadership. The entire VWPS is indebted to workshop coordinator Elaine Haug, session leaders Ed Ballard and Faith Campbell, our hosts from Pocahontas Chapter and the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, and all those who participated.

Ray Heller who has served as Recording Secretary, has resigned because she is going to be away from Virginia for an extended period. Anne Price has agreed to complete Ray's term. Our thanks go also to these two hard working volunteers.

---Mary Pockman



WILDFLOWER PHOTO CONTEST

The 1986 VWPS Photo Contest to be judged at the Annual Meeting, will be limited to slides only. Categories are:

1. "Virginia Wildflower Combination." One close-up slide of the flower accompanied by one slide of the flower in its habitat. Counts as one entry.
2. "Virginia Wildflower Gardens." A scenic view of a wildflower garden in Virginia.
3. "What's It?" A close-up of a unique part or feature of a plant. The winner will be the person who can successfully stump the members attending the 1986 Annual Meeting. The plant part should be unique at least to the genus, and preferably unique to genus and species.

If you have questions or would like more information about the contest, call Elaine Haug (703 670-2347).

CHAPTER NOTES

The chapter forming in the Charlottesville area has elected an interim board and expects to petition the VWPS Board soon for formal chapter affiliation.

Ann Regn, who has served as chapter coordinator, was named interim president at the charter meeting in Charlottesville on February 25. Other board members are Bob Grese, vice president; David Tice, treasurer; Katherine Malmquist, secretary; and Elizabeth Solomon, publicity chair.

The program for this meeting, which was attended by nearly forty interested people, was a slide presentation by JoAnn Pierce, of the Sierra Club's Thunder Ridge Group, on the Mt. Pleasant area of the George Washington National Forest. Located in Amherst County, this virtually undeveloped area has many botanically rich areas, notably some remnants of virgin forest. Concerned citizens are working with the U.S. Forest Service to include much of Mt. Pleasant in a special management area.

The March 19 reception for the new chapter forming in the Shenandoah Valley attracted 52 people from several counties. The program for the reception, held in Harrisonburg, featured a slide presentation by chapter coordinator Michael Hill. Mary Painter gave an introductory talk, describing the Society and its purposes.

The prospective chapter's steering committee includes faculty members from four of the area's colleges and universities: Michael Hill and Sarah Swank of Bridgewater College; Elwood Fisher of James Madison University; Bonnie Hohn of Mary Baldwin College; and Anne Nielson of Blue Ridge Community College. Two skilled amateur botanists, Jacob Kagey and Dwight Shull, complete the committee.

The steering committee has planned a field trip to nurture interest in the developing chapter. Anyone interested in the group's programs may call Michael Hill: (703) 828-2405 or, at the college, (703) 828-2501.

Blue Ridge Chapter has recently changed their membership meetings to a bi-monthly schedule rather than quarterly, as their membership has increased so much.

John Clayton Chapter is gearing up for spring with programs, field trips, and their second annual plant and craft sale. The highway plantings project is progressing with planting of seed to commence soon.

Piedmont Chapter is actively participating in the VWPS Great Meadow project through its own contribution to plantings. The chapter has been asked to develop a wildflower checklist for Sky Meadow State Park, and to do a wildflower planting near the park's main entrance road. The Highway Department has invited it to rescue wildflowers along a stretch of Route 17 that is to be made a dual lane highway, and to give landscaping advice.

Potomack Chapter has scheduled eight rescue and replanting projects during May through October.



THINKING AHEAD

Plans are underway for the 1986 Annual Meeting to be held near Roanoke in September with the Blue Ridge Chapter as host.

Watch for details in June.

WILDFLOWER MEADOWS: THE WONDERFUL ALTERNATIVE (Part Two)

by Steven Davis, Director of Horticulture at American Horticultural Society's River Farm

Some four years ago I shared with you the American Horticultural Society's experiences in meadow gardening. Much has happened in the intervening years, and I've been asked to update you on our findings.

As is often the case for those of us who deal in meadow gardening, my story includes dismal failures right along with absolute successes. Interestingly enough, it is this range of experiences that has added so much to our understanding of "meadowing" in northern Virginia. I hope that you will find the following account both interesting and of value.

Our meadow project began in 1980, growing out of the desire to reduce our expenditures of fuel and manpower (in keeping our River Farm fields mowed) and to provide AHS with the opportunity to thoroughly test one of the many meadow mixtures just then appearing on the market.

The particular mix that we selected for our test effort was one offered by Sprucebrook Nursery of Litchfield, Connecticut. This particular mix contained both reseeding annuals and perennials: baby's breath (annual, May - October bloom); Bachelor's button (annual, June - October bloom); black-eyed Susan (perennial, July - October bloom); blue flax (annual, June - September bloom); bouncing bet (perennial, June - September bloom); columbine (perennial, May - June bloom); evening primrose (annual, May - June bloom); lance-leaved coreopsis (perennial, June - September bloom); ox-eye daisy (perennial, May July bloom); purple coneflower (perennial, June - September bloom); toadflax (annual, June - September bloom); white yarrow (perennial, June - September bloom); and woolly blue curls (perennial, June - September bloom).

Some of you will recall from my earlier report, our first year's effort was an absolutely devastating experience. Although our chosen site had been kept mowed for some 50 years, and, as best we could determine from our archives, had been kept low-growing by grazing animals for some 50 years prior to that, Meadow I turned into six acres of little else than pokeweed. And I don't mean bits of poke here and there, I mean six acres of nothing but pokeweed, an absolutely choking mass!

A little research revealed that pokeweed seed can remain viable for well in excess of one hundred years. It was not hard to deduce that our meadow site had once supported a massive volunteer stand of poke, which had been plowed under some 100 years ago (after seed set), and then plowed back to the surface during our effort to ready our meadow site for sowing.

The poke seed broke dormancy throughout that first year and well into the second year; in fact, I am quite convinced that the bits of poke that continue to appear each and every year are remnants of that century old crop that will no doubt haunt us forever! We used a general herbicide (carefully applied) to contain this beast, and prepared for Meadow II in the spring of the second year.

Meadow II's beginnings were exactly the same as for its predecessor, with the single exception of the manner in which the soil was prepared for sowing. We used the same seed mixture, and the seed was sown at the same time of year. However, we surface disced the soil this time, instead of plowing it, so as not to bring to surface any more surprises.

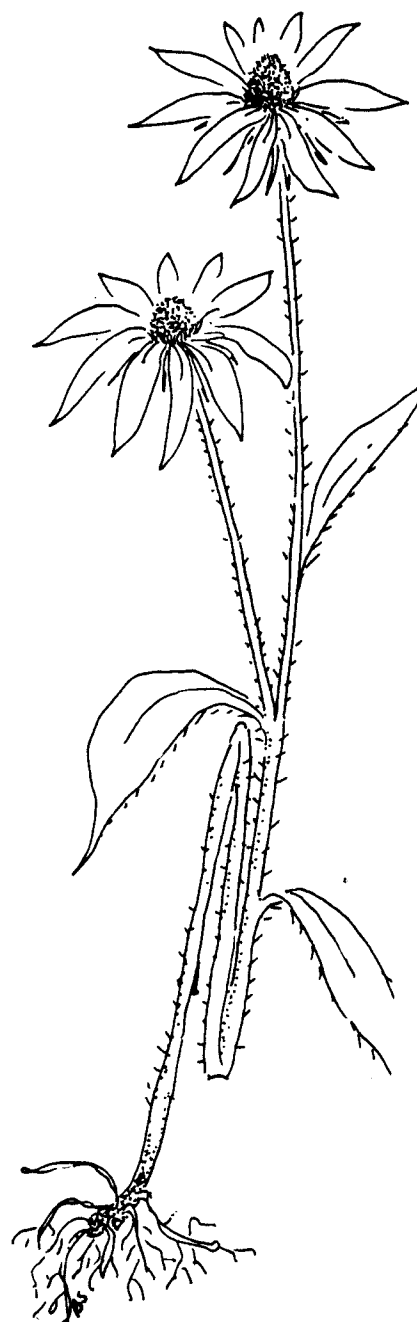
Meadow II gave us one of the greatest joys of my life. The show began with the pure white-dotted gold of the ox-eye daisy, which soon exploded into a solid carpet of color so dense that you could not help but feel that you could walk upon its surface. This spectacle then became polka-dotted with the pale yellow of the evening primrose, then the blue of bachelor's button, the airy white of yarrow, and the bright shades offered by the purple coneflower. The resulting multi-colored tapestry was superb, absolutely inspiring!

Other colors appeared, just as magically as those that preceeded them and just as magically as others disappeared. Our meadow was continuously changing, and always showing us new color combinations, new excitement, new joy.

However, not everything that we experienced was quite so wonderful!

Although our spring and early summer for this first year of our second meadow were simply unsurpassable — things changed for us, and rather dramatically, as we approached the waning months of the season. We realized a dramatic decline in color, in vigor, in excitement.

The reason for this, with a little thought, became quite obvious. We had exceeded the recommendations of Sprucebrook Nursery when disseminating seed, and had deposited some six pounds of seed per acre instead of the suggested two pounds. The intent was to counter the losses we anticipated from the elements and from the rather ominous numbers of our aviary friends intently watching our seeding efforts from the surrounding tree line. The result was that those items that germinated first, the spring and early summer bloomers, took off and grew so quickly that in no time at all they had completely overshadowed those species that were trying to germinate



after them, completely out-competing them. This led to a wonderful early season, but a very dismal late season.

We learned a great deal from these first two years, and were very intent upon making all of the corrections that we knew were needed; however, our objective was to learn through our meadow. And for this reason, we elected to withhold interference, and simply allow our meadow to proceed as it wished.

Season two for our Meadow II continued our education. Some of our reseeding annuals and even some of our perennials, primarily those that were not exactly "native" species, did poorly. Some did not even have the strength to make an appearance.

Each and every subsequent season gave us an ever decreasing number of desirable plants. As one would expect, bloom declined proportionately with the decline of plants. And with this decline, we realized a massive increase in our perennial grass population. (Perhaps it would be better to reverse this statement, and say that as our perennial grasses increased their influence, our desirables proportionately declined.)

This later point is important, because it taught us that a meadow of the sort that most of us hope for, one that provides excitement from season to season and from year to year, must be "helped along" if it is to meet our expectations.

Through five years of testing (with noninterference), we learned a great deal about what we call gardening with wildflowers. We've learned the obvious, as well as the less obvious.

We've made the exciting discovery that a wildflower meadow is something very special, indeed. We've learned, the hard way, that a meadow requires maintenance. We've learned that a meadow is worthy of any and every effort demanded. And we've learned other things, things which many of you will view as "matter of fact," but which some of you will admit are "easily overlooked."

Obvious or not, here are the guidelines that we pass along to would be meadow makers:

1. Select your site carefully, and note its specific environmental characteristics (hours of sunlight per day, water holding capacity of the soil, soil acidity, average low winter temperature, etc.).

2. Select those plants (and only those plants) that will do well in your meadow site. Keep in mind that those species that are native to your region are the species that are usually best equipped to tolerate the conditions of the local environment.

3. The use of established plants will always give much surer results than can be expected from seed, but the size of one's proposed meadow will often narrow the choice. Unless an army is at hand, a large meadow will almost certainly require seeding.

4. Prepare the site. Remove tree seedlings and other objectionables; spray with a general herbicide (only if absolutely necessary, and then with great care). Mow the remaining vegetation to several inches in height. Surface till (2" maximum) or disc to open the soil for direct seed contact.

5. Do not apply fertilizers, as this would induce foliar growth instead of flower production and would also enhance the weed population.

6. Do not wild collect plants, and, whenever wild collecting seed, leave ample for the continuation of the natural stand. There are many fine seed houses and nurseries - write for catalogs, but do your best to insure that the plant material offered is propagated and not wild collected.

7. Add the plants and/or seed. Our experience has been that the last week in March through the second week in April give the best results. Fall sowing has proved to be rather chancey.

8. The addition of a (weed-free) straw mulch can help in stabilizing the soil and in conserving soil moisture, but is not mandatory.

9. If watering is possible, this may make all the difference during the planting or seed germination period. If external watering is not possible, keep fingers crossed!

10. At least once and perhaps several times during the growing season, hand eliminate unwanted that have found their way into the meadow.



11. One annual mowing is mandatory, in order to eliminate the previous season's growth and to make room for the next season's growth. A double mowing once at a height of 18" and the second mowing at a height of 2" to 4" can help the breakdown process.

12. The species composition of a meadow will change from year to year, with some items reaching dominance as others are out-competed. Anticipate this, and amend the plantings as you wish, perhaps on an every year or every other year basis. This is your opportunity to test new plants, try new color combinations, eliminate unwanted, and simply create.

In closing, I should tell you that our test meadow at River Farm is no more. Our policy of nonintervention led to a triumphant takeover by perennial grasses.

However, we have since removed these grasses, and, following a fall seeding and a reseeding this spring, we now anticipate an exciting Meadow III. We will expect the best, but whether or not we achieve our goals, I hope that you will consider joining us for a visit, so that you too can enjoy what we hope to create here at River Farm. (Our grounds are open Monday through Friday from 8:30 until 5:00.)

WILDFLOWER MEADOW MIXES

Only a few of the "wildflower" meadow mixes now available are made up entirely of species native to the Northeast. In an evaluation of more than sixty meadow mixes from twenty-one seed companies, David R. Longland and Susan Storer, of the New England Wild Flower Society, found that most of these mixes are made up mainly of exotic and naturalized species.

Both the VWPS and the New England Wild Flower Society urge meadow gardeners to use regionally native species.

For purposes of this study, published in the Fall/Winter issue of the NEWFS Wild Flower Notes, the "Northeast" was defined as the 22-state region extending from Minnesota, Iowa, and Missouri east to the Atlantic, and from Missouri, Kentucky, and Virginia north to Canada.

Seven seed companies offered mixes that are composed entirely of native northeastern species. They are

Environmental Seed Producers, Inc., P. O. Box 5904, El Monte, CA 91734
(custom mixes; individual northeastern species)

Little Valley Farm, RR 1, Box 287, Richland Center, WI 53581
(Mixed Prairie Wildflowers, including native grasses)

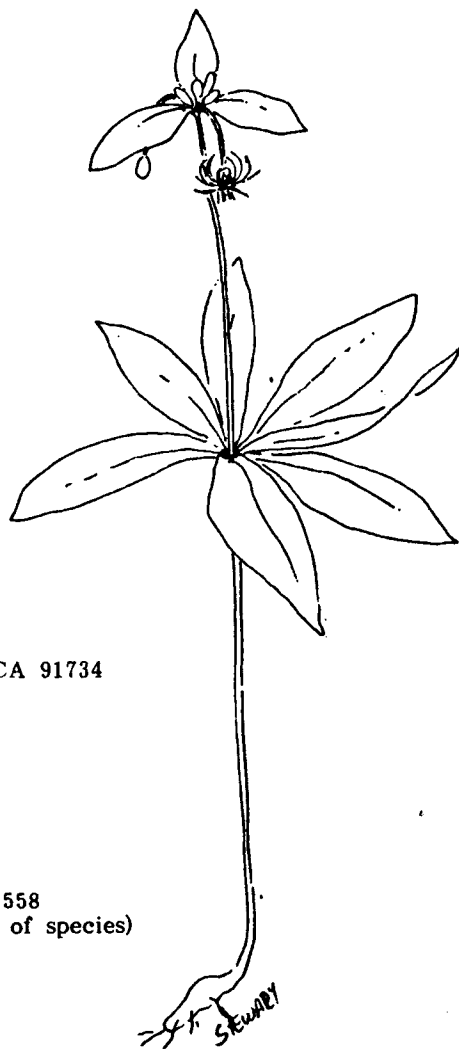
Windrift Prairie Shop & Nursery, R.D. 2, Oregon, IL 61061
(custom mixes)

Natural Habitat Nursery, 4818 Terminal Road, McFarland WI 53558
(prairie Starter Mix; Wildflower Mix, the customer's choice of species)

Prairie Moon Nursery, Rt. 3, Box 163, Winona, MN 55987
(Black Soil Mesic, High Dry, and Wet Mesic Prairie Mixes)

Prairie Nursery, P. O. Box 365, Westfield, WI 53964
(Dry Short, Mesic Short, and Mesic Tall Mixes, all containing both forbs and grasses)

Prairie Seed Source, P. O. Box 83, North Lake, WI 53064
(Dry Mesic, Dry, Mesic, and Wet Mesic Mixes, containing both forbs and grasses).



SHOPPING FOR NURSERY-PROPAGATED PLANTS

(Adapted from a presentation at the "Native Plants Preferred" symposium of March 16, 1986)

Although the greatest threat to native wildflowers and shrubs is unquestionably habitat loss, it is compounded by collection from the wild. Each year thousands of plants are dug to meet gardeners' growing demand for native plants. In some areas, for some species, wild collection has been devastating.

For gardeners who both cherish wildflowers in the wild and want to enjoy them at home, it's important to obtain plants of native species without jeopardizing their wild populations. That can mean growing them from seed or rescuing them, but most wildflower gardeners buy at least some plants. How can we be sure of buying nursery-propagated plants, not plants collected from the wild?

First of all, in considering what plants to use, we need to learn whether a species can be and is propagated, or whether it is apt to be collected. The harder a species is to propagate, the slower to reach flowering size, the more exacting to cultivate, the less likely it is to be propagated by nurseries.

A helpful framework to organize such information has been developed by Dr. Richard Lighty, director of the Mt. Cuba Botanical Center, Wilmington, DE. He outlines four groups, two of plants that are not generally wild-collected, that we can buy with confidence, and two of plants that are presently collected, that we should buy with caution or not at all.

To start with the bright side: Certain plants cannot be wild-collected. Some, like *Franklinia*, no longer exist in the wild; others are cultivars or selections such as *Monarda* 'Cambridge Scarlet,' 'Ostbo Red' and other selections of mountain laurel, and the double forms of bloodroot ('Multiplex') and large-flowered trillium ('Flore Plena'). Buy plants in this group without a qualm.

A second group to buy confidently consists of plants



that can be nursery-produced more cheaply and in higher quality than they can be collected. In this group are such favorites as cardinal flower, butterfly weed, wild blue phlox, and whorled coreopsis.

At the other end of the spectrum is a group of plants that are almost always collected. No one now knows how to propagate or grow them on a commercial scale. Lady's slippers and other native orchids are the chief example. Enjoy these plants in the wild; don't buy them.

The fourth group, the most confusing, includes some of the best-loved natives--the trillium, maidenhair fern, great merrybells, many lilies, mountain laurel, Carolina rhododendron. Plants in this group can be wild-collected more cheaply than they can be nursery grown, at least in quantity, because of difficult propagation or culture, or long production times. Some native plant nurseries are propagating them, though. If you buy plants in this

group, use great care to be sure they are nursery propagated.

Several published resources can help you locate nurseries that sell propagated plants. One is the New England Wild Flower Society's *Nursery Sources: Native Plants and Wild Flowers* (\$3.50 from NEWFS, Hemenway Road, Framingham, MA 01701). For 193 nurseries throughout the country, it shows the percentages of native plants propagated, wildcollected, and purchased from another source, as reported in a 1984 survey. Lists limited to sources of nursery-propagated plants are available from organizations such as the VWPS (SASE to P. O. Box 844, Annandale, VA 22003) or the North Carolina Botanical Garden (SASE to Totten Center 457-A, UNC-CH, Chapel Hill, NC 27514).



Such lists are a good starting point, especially for mail orders, but they are necessarily limited. To find other sources of nursery-propagated native plants, look at what catalogues or advertisements say (and don't say), use your knowledge of which species are generally propagated, and be persistent in asking questions. Be prepared for some to be unanswered, however. If a nursery buys some plants from another source, for example, or sells some propagated plants, some collected, it may be hard to learn the origin of particular plants.

Locally, nonprofit organizations committed to conservation are reliable sources of propagated plants. Several VWPS chapters have spring or fall sales; Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve (Washington Crossing, PA) and the New England Wild Flower Society, for example, sell plants at their visitor centers.

When you shop for nursery-propagated plants at local garden centers and nurseries, in addition to asking questions, look critically at the plants themselves. Do they look healthy? Propagated wildflowers should be as green and vigorous as other nursery-grown plants. Are there "bonus" plants--a toothwort in a clump of rue anemone, for instance, or galax under a mountain laurel? They're rare in nursery beds. Are the plants larger than you'd expect? Do woody plants show signs of having been cut back? Is the soil the loose uniform mix most nurseries use? Are plants jammed against the side of the pot, suggesting they were dug from around rocks or roots? Signs like these can suggest whether the plants are propagated or collected.

By doing some homework and by shopping with a questioning attitude and open eyes, you can create a beautiful garden of native shrubs and wildflowers without using a single wild-collected plant and, in doing so, you can help ensure that wild plants are left for all to enjoy.

--Mary Pockman

LAST CALL TO AUSTRALIA!

WILDFLOWER TOUR - Sept. 24 to Oct. 10, 1986

Few places in the world produce wildflowers more exotic, more prolific and more colorful than Australia during its springtime (August-October). This tour, jointly sponsored by the American Horticultural Society and the Virginia Wildflower Preservation Society, offers an extraordinary opportunity to study the native plants of Australia.

The tour leader will be Dr. Stanwyn Shetler, Curator of Botany of the Smithsonian Institution and a highly regarded member of the VWPS. Dr. Shetler has been closely involved in the planning of this carefully designed tour, which will be joined at various points by Australian naturalists and wildflower enthusiasts. The itinerary ensures comprehensive coverage of Australia's superb

wildflowers and scenic attractions yet maintains a comfortable pace.

Several VWPS members have signed up, as have members of other native plant societies and of AHS, but some spaces remain. Tour brochures are available from Dynasty/Red Carpet Travel Service, 701 E. Franklin Street, Richmond, VA 23219. (804 644-4631). The price is \$3,800 per person, double occupancy (single supplement \$450). Air travel to and from the West Coast is not included.

The price includes a tax deductible contribution of \$300 to be shared by the co-sponsors. Your contribution will be acknowledged by the society benefitting.



1986 CONFERENCE IN CULLOWHEE, NC

The third annual Conference on Landscaping with Native Plants will be held at Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC, August 7-9. Participants from the east and southeastern U.S. will share valuable knowledge and exchange ideas through informative lectures, workshops, and displays.

The purpose of the conference is to increase interest and skills in the propagation and landscape use of native southeastern species. Past participants at Cullowhee have included both professionals and amateurs--landscape architects, nursery operators, garden club members, botanists, and horticulturalists from state highway departments, universities, native plant societies, botanical gardens and arboreta.

The pre-registration fee is \$30 per person. Housing and meals are additional. For conference brochure, write Dr. Jim Horton, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC 28723, or call him (704 227-7244) or Sue DeBord (704 227-7397). The conference will be limited to the first 400 registrants.

Mary Painter has conspired with fellow conference committee members to organize an exciting new program for this year's gathering at Cullowhee: the Supreme Dubious Landscape Achievement Awards.

All '86 conference attendees are invited to submit photographic slide entries. A highly qualified panel of judges will select the winners. The conference will include an awards program featuring a slide presentation of selected entries, as well as suitable prizes.

The judges will be looking for slide entries that depict a landscape design or garden of any scale;

- 1) that reflect the worst possible selection of plant material for a particular site;
- 2) that violate the greatest number of sound landscape design principles; and
- 3) that most generally offend the sensibilities.

Contest Rules - The contest is open only to persons attending the '86 conference. Each contestant may enter only one landscaped site or garden; as many as three color slides may be submitted to depict various aspects of that site. Entries may feature the use of any live plant material---native or non-native species. Entries are limited to slides taken since January 1, 1985. The contestant's name must appear legibly on each slide; if multiple slides are submitted, they must be numbered to indicate the order of viewing.

Mail entries with the completed entry form to Plato Touliatos, 2020 Brooks Road, Memphis, TN 38116, by July 20, 1986. Slides will be returned to their owners during the conference. For further information contact Mary Painter at (703) 573-7747. Join in the fun and help to make our first contest a real success.

SUPREME DUBIOUS LANDSCAPE ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS ENTRY FORM

1986 Slide Contest - Cullowhee, North Carolina

Name _____ Telephone () _____

Address _____

Briefly indicate the location (city/state), site conditions and plant material featured in each slide.

1. _____

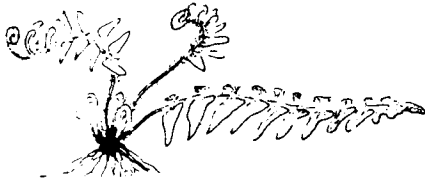
2. _____

3. _____

FERN DAY

Join Charlotte Jones-Roe, Curator of Ferns at North Carolina Botanical Garden and contributing author to Growing and Propagating Wildflowers, at the National Arboretum on Saturday, June 28, 10 - 2, for a workshop devoted to ferns. You will learn of the unusual fern life cycle, collecting and storing spores, spore germination, and handling and establishing young "sporelings." Following the demonstration there will be guided tours of the Arboretum's native fern collection in Fern Valley.

Advance registration is required. To register and obtain additional details, phone the Arboretum Education Department at 202 475-4857. The \$10 fee should be sent in advance to the Education Department, 3501 New York Ave., NE, Washington, DC 20002.



A MEMORABLE WEEK IN APRIL

"By virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution in the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, there is hereby officially recognized: Wildflower Week." Thus, ceremoniously and officially, Governor Gerald L. Baliles proclaimed April 19-27, 1986, as Wildflower Week in Virginia, recognizing the natural beauty of Virginia's wildflowers and the dedication and service of the Virginia Wildflower Preservation Society.

And a memorable week it was! Twenty-two VWPS members from six chapters spent a delightful day at the Great Dismal Swamp on April 19. The Society-sponsored tour there was led by naturalist Pat Gammon, who also gave a slide presentation for those who arrived the evening before. She shared generously the knowledge and affection for the Swamp that she has developed in more than fifteen years of working there.

On the boardwalk and at the edge of Lake Drummond, the group saw many of the Swamp's typical species. Cypress and the invading maple were the most prominent trees; some trees were draped with the gold of Carolina jessamine, gelsemium sempervirens. Among the small trees, shrubs and firs were leucothoe racemosa and L. axillaris; cross vine, Anisostichus capreolata; and supplejack, Berkchemia scandens. The sight of a zebra swallowtail led to a successful search for a pawpaw,

"NATURAL" AND "NATIVE" LANDSCAPE DESIGN SEARCH

A publishing firm that specializes in natural resources publications is seeking examples of landscapes that have been designed with native or indigenous plant and construction materials. The examples may be featured in upcoming books and articles for a national audience. Projects can include low-maintenance solutions to site development at any scale and can include water features that are not mechanically maintained.

Interested individuals or firms should send written project summaries to Native Landscape, 10140 Gary Rd., Potomac, MD 20854.

(from Landscape Architecture News Digest,
April 1986.)



Asimina triloba, the tree with which that butterfly is always associated.

Ferns were the most prominent ground cover plants. In addition to several species common in other habitats as well, the group saw royal fern, Osmunda regalis; netted chain fern, Woodwardia areolata, and Virginia chain fern, W. virginica; and the uncommon log fern, Dryopteris celsa.

Bird-lovers, too, found much to interest them, including two warblers, the prothonotary, and the northern parula, often seen in swamp habitats.

By all reports, chapter-sponsored events throughout the state were equally successful, with enthusiastic participants enjoying a rich variety of wildflowers in glorious spring weather.

A vote of thanks to all the volunteers who made all this happen: Doris Berger, who coordinated the overall planning and publicity; Elaine Haug, who initiated the efforts that led to the Governor's proclamation; Cole Burrell, who worked with Pat Gammon in planning the trip to the Great Dismal Swamp; and each of the members whose imagination and care achieved the varied chapter programs that made Wildflower Week 1986 so special.

—Mary Pockman

Virginia Wildflower Preservation Society

P.O. Box 844
Annandale, Va. 22003



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Summer 1986

The Bulletin

Vol. 5 No. 3

A publication of the Virginia Wildflower Preservation Society

1986 ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

The annual meeting of Virginia Wildflower Preservation Society members will be held at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 20, 1986, at the Mountain Lake Hotel, Mountain Lake, Virginia. The purpose of this meeting is to elect officers, other directors, and members-at-large of the Nominating Committee; to approve the Society's budget for fiscal year 1987; and to consider adopting proposed amendments to the VWPS Bylaws. The slate of candidates proposed by the Nominating Committee and the text of Bylaw amendments recommended by the Board of Directors are included in this issue of The Bulletin.

---Dorna Kreitz
Corresponding Secretary



FROM THE PRESIDENT . . .

The enthusiasm of people who know the area around Mountain Lake is irresistible. I'm excited about our annual meeting weekend there. It promises an extraordinary opportunity for exploring a botanically rich part of Virginia in the company of leaders who know and love its special treasures. Do come!

And why not bring friends? The Society and its chapters share some challenging programs already underway and many dreams waiting to be realized. The annual meeting weekend is a great chance to share with friends your own pleasure in Virginia's wildflower heritage, to introduce them to the lively men and women who are the VWPS, to spark their interest, and to engage their concern.

I look forward to seeing many of you at Mountain Lake September 19-21.

---Mary Pockman
President

FUNDING STATE EFFORTS FOR ENDANGERED PLANTS

The Society continues its campaign to obtain an appropriation of \$40,000 per year to conserve Virginia's endangered plants. These funds would allow the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to address the problems outlined in the articles on page two of this Bulletin regarding the Virginia round-leaf birch and the small whorled pogonia, and other threats to our flora.

We are reaching out to other conservation organizations and garden clubs. So far, the Nature Conservancy, Audubon Naturalist Society, Virginia office of the Environmental Defense Fund, and Piedmont Environmental Council have offered their help.

With the help of VWPS volunteer Johnson Thomas and Sharon Barnes of the American Horticultural Society, we are developing a media campaign. We need help in writing feature articles about chapters' local activities, especially as they affect conservation of endangered plants species. If you would like to get involved, please contact me at NRDC, 1350 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20005, 202/783-7800.

The long-time chairman of the state Senate Finance Committee, Edward Willey, died in July. The probable new chairman is Howard P. Anderson of Halifax. This change may mean greater openness in this committee toward funding proposals. We should redouble our efforts to find constituents who will contact all members of the Senate Finance Committee and House Appropriations Committee. If you do not know whether your state senator or delegate sits on either of these committees, please check with your chapter conservation chairperson or president, or with me. I can also provide fact sheets and other information for your use in preparing the letter or telephone call to your legislator.

---Faith Campbell
Conservation Chair



John Clayton Chapter

Pamela Harper, well-known photographer and gardening author, will be the guest speaker at the John Clayton Chapter's annual meeting on September 25, 1986. VWPS members and friends outside the chapter area are invited to attend the meeting and hear Ms. Harper, whose photographs and articles appear in many national publications. The chapter annual meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Watermen's Hall Auditorium on the campus of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science at Gloucester Point. For directions, call Barbara Hall, chapter president, at 804/693-4433.

Pocahontas Chapter

Sarah Richardson, who served as president of the Pocahontas Chapter since its formation, resigned her office this spring to continue her education at the University of Virginia. Sarah, who was instrumental in organizing the chapter, is succeeded by John Hayden as president.

Potowmack Chapter

The Potowmack Chapter is entering into repository site agreements with the stewards of 15 managed plant repositories, ranging from 12 nature and horticultural centers and preserves to River Farm of the American Horticultural Society, the National Arboretum, and Woodlawn of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. For a copy of the transmittal letter and repository agreement used by the chapter, write the Potowmack Chapter of VWPS at P. O. Box 161, McLean, VA 22101.

EXAMPLES OF INTER-CHAPTER COOPERATION

Ed Ballard, president of the Potowmack Chapter, reports two examples of inter-chapter cooperation worth noting: "The Prince William Wildflower Society Chapter provided six kinds of wildflower seeds, which we have donated to the Fairfax County Department of Public Works. The seeds will be sown next fall around a commuter parking lot, along with nursery-grown native trees and shrubs which are specified in the contract. Another project, still in the planning stage, is a joint questionnaire from Piedmont, Potowmack and Prince William chapters to retail nursery outlets in northern Virginia. Its purpose is to emphasize the availability of nursery-propagated native plants and the importance of phasing out sales of those collected from the wild."

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ROUNDLEAF BIRCH STATUS REPORT



According to a recent report by Dr. Terry Sharik of Virginia Tech, there is both good news and bad news concerning the current status of our state's rarest tree, the Virginia roundleaf birch (*Betula uber*). First the bad news: of the 40 individuals which were discovered in 1975 along the banks of Cressy Creek in Smyth County, only 11 remain alive today. This number is so low, and the distances between individual trees are so great that, presently, the probability

of viable seed production in these wind-pollinated plants is very low.

Moreover, vandalism continues to hamper efforts at recovery of the population. For example, in 1982, 80 natural seedlings were produced as a result of scarifying the soil within the seed dispersal area of several parent trees. By 1983 only 30 remained. In 1984 all 11 seedlings of the dwindling population were caged and tagged for protection. By 1985 two of these protected plants were left. This year there are no seedlings left from this experiment in natural reproduction of the roundleaf birch. As noted above, loss of parent trees precludes repetition of the experiment.

The good news is that the Nature Conservancy's acquisition of 20 hectares of land adjacent to the largest population of *B. uber*, and the ultimate transfer of this property to the U.S. Forest Service will offer the remaining trees greater protection than they have had in the past. Dr. Sharik also reported that the establishment of additional stands of *B. uber* within the Cressy Creek watershed is progressing well. This program calls for greenhouse propagated plants to be re-established in the wild over a twenty square mile area. The goal is 20 populations each consisting of at least 100 trees of roundleaf birch.

Dr. Sharik presented this information at the botany section of the Virginia Academy of Science annual meeting on May 15, 1986, in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

---John Hayden
Pocahontas Chapter

PRESERVING THE SMALL WHORLED POGONIA

Ed Ballard, president of the Potowmack Chapter, shares with us correspondence he received from Vivian Watts, Virginia's Secretary of Transportation and Public Safety, on the status of a proposed highway project in James City County that has concerned all interested in preserving the small whorled pogonia, *Isotria medeoloides*. Secretary Watts indicates in this letter dated June 9, 1986, that no recommendation for a proposed alignment of the state route 199 extension has been made and that the project was not on the agenda for the June meeting of the State Highway and Transportation Board. Those working to protect this endangered species from the encroachment of highways and urban development will continue to need our active support in resolving this issue.

FERN VALLEY WILDFLOWER MEADOW

by Cole Burrell

A chance summer breeze sets up a ripple of green, bronze and silver as it travels across the meadow grasses. Butterflies lift and settle back on the brilliant orange flowers of butterfly weed. A pungent aroma fills the air. Such are the joys of a wildflower meadow.

We initiated the Fern Valley Meadow Project in 1983 to afford visitors the opportunity to see wildflowers growing in a "natural" meadow. Both native and naturalized sun-loving wildflowers of the central Atlantic region may be found in the meadow. Our aim was to have a meadow that was true to the region yet filled with a great diversity of species. In short, we wanted to create and maintain a meadow that was like an old field you would enjoy while driving in the country.

We did extensive research to determine what methods were being used to create meadows in the East and which were working best. We visited a handful of meadow projects to get some idea of what to expect from our own.

The meadows that inspired us most—indeed, I say inspired because they are beautiful—were at Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, and Winterthur Gardens, Greenville, Delaware. It was not that they were by any means perfect. There were weeds here and there and some rough edges, but they looked natural. These meadows were in harmony with their settings.

The question for us was how to achieve this look. As it turned out, these two meadows were "old fields" that were augmented and managed. Rather than plow the existing vegetation and use copious amounts of herbicides to control weeds, we decided to create an old field by letting the grass grow.

We started in the spring of 1984. The results were instantaneous. Cool season grasses produced flowering spikes in April and May. To our surprise many wonderful wildflowers, long subdued by mowing, came into glorious bloom. In our first season, we counted over forty desirable species of grasses and fobes (herbaceous wildflowers).

To supplement the existing wildflowers, we grew many species from seed and "plugged" them into the meadow. Our philosophy was "take out something bad and stick in something good." We are in our third summer of using this system and we are very pleased with the outcome.

Our list of meadow species now numbers over 100 (with another 50 waiting in the greenhouse for some rain). Plants are usually added in the fall and are well watered. Spring and summer watering is necessary to carry young plants through dry spells.

April in our meadow brings the penstemons as well as the spikes of the cool season grasses. Soon after, evening primroses, yarrow and ox-eye daisies dot the grass. By June the early milkweeds and chicory are at their peak. Late June and early July are slow, but the drying seed heads of the grasses carry us until swamp milkweed, mallows, Queen Anne's lace and lythrum start to bloom. Fall is a parade of goldenrods, ironweed, and innumerable asters.

Naturalized plants are not excluded from the meadow because they grow everywhere, from the coast to the tallest mountains. It would be unnatural to exclude them.

Maintenance is low but we are not without our problem species. Ragweed, horseweed and wild lettuce are easily pulled by hand. We have seen a dramatic decrease in the occurrence of these species over the three-year period.

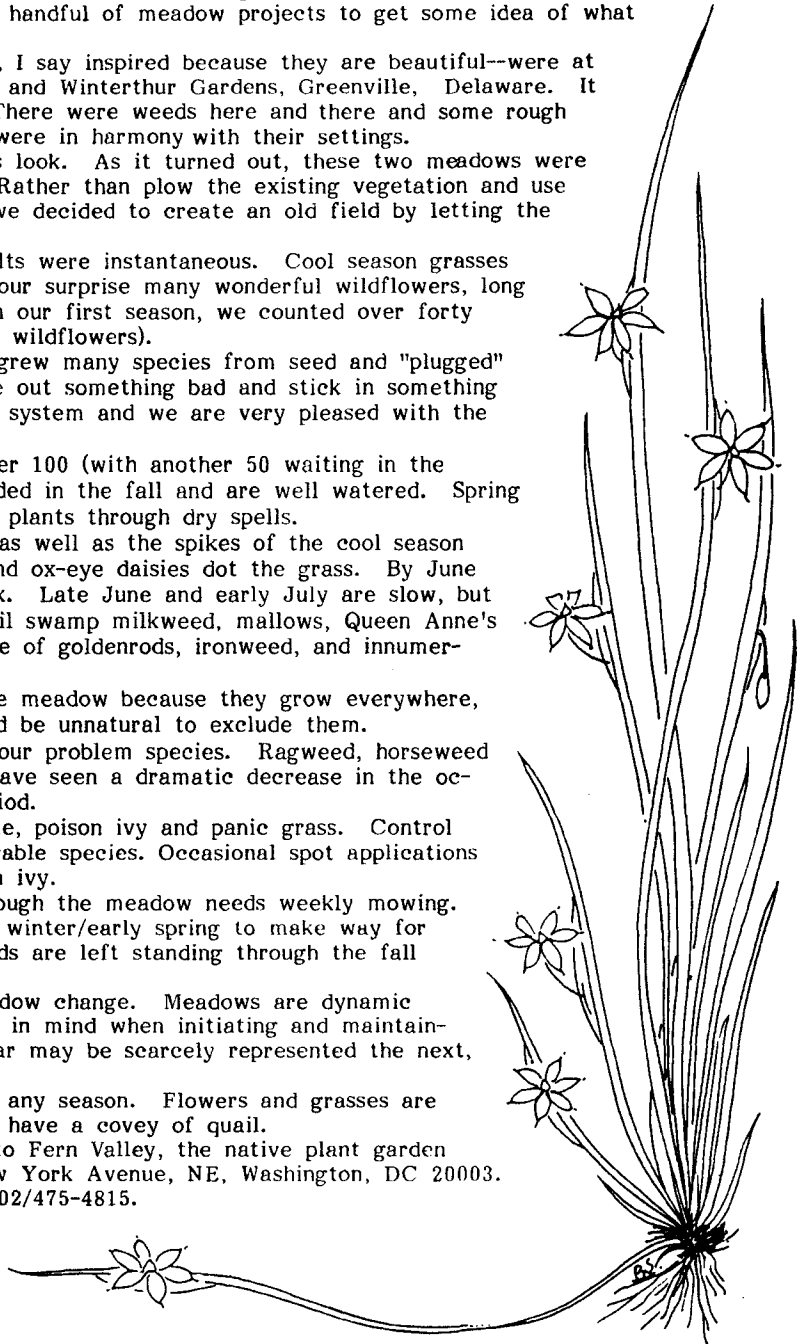
Aggressive pests include Japanese honeysuckle, poison ivy and panic grass. Control is by hand. Weedy areas are replanted with desirable species. Occasional spot applications of a herbicide (Round-up) are necessary for poison ivy.

A meandering path which guides visitors through the meadow needs weekly mowing. The entire meadow is mowed once a year in late winter/early spring to make way for the current year's growth. Dried grasses and seeds are left standing through the fall and winter to provide food and cover for wildlife.

The greatest joy has been watching the meadow change. Meadows are dynamic ecosystems, and meadow gardeners must bear this in mind when initiating and maintaining such areas. A species that is prolific one year may be scarcely represented the next, and vice versa.

Our meadow is a peaceful place to stroll at any season. Flowers and grasses are beautiful when in bloom or when dried. We even have a covey of quail.

The wildflower meadow is located adjacent to Fern Valley, the native plant garden located at the U.S. National Arboretum, 3501 New York Avenue, NE, Washington, DC 20003. For information about the meadow you can call 202/475-4815.



A GUIDE FOR THE
WILDFLOWER PHOTOGRAPHER

For those good-intentioned individuals wanting to capture wildflowers on film, the Minnesota Native Plant Society has put together the following guidelines for wildflower photography:

Be protective of all wildflowers, not only those protected by statutory law. No one ever needs to pick a wildflower.

Rocks, logs or other natural objects should not be moved in or out of the vicinity for any reason including enhancing the photograph.

Simplifying or gardening the immediate area of a picture does not include pulling up, cutting off or otherwise destroying plants.

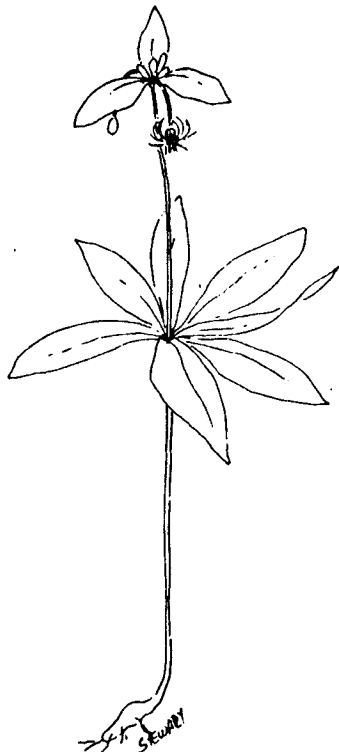
Do not trample the habitat because damage to an ecosystem affects all of its resident species. Knee-holes and toe scuffing should be prevented as well as compacting the soil around the plants. Be aware that extra equipment set aside can also damage plants.

In order to preserve wildflowers which grow in a patch, be sure to select plants on the edge. All these plants are often interconnected.

Remember that all parts of the ecosystem are intertwined. Use care so that the ecosystem does not suffer permanent damage because of the carelessness or thoughtlessness of an individual photographer.

Be extra careful when in the vicinity of rare native plants.

These points are worth remembering even if you do not use a camera in your search for wildflowers.



XERISCAPE: WORKING WITH NATURE

"Xeriscape" is the new word among those who want to landscape a home or business in a way that not only creates an attractive appearance but conserves water and energy. The word, which comes from the Greek "xeros," dry, refers to a program developed by the Denver Water Department and now in use in several states, including New York and Florida in the east.

One landscape practice basic to Xeriscaping, as described in Wildflower, the newsletter of the National Wildflower Research Center, is the use of plant materials with low water requirements. In many instances that means using native trees, shrubs, grasses, and wildflowers, which are adapted to the area's natural rainfall.

Other elements of the program are use of more efficient watering methods; preparation of the soil to increase its ability to retain water; and use of mulches to reduce evaporation and inhibit weeds.

Water savings of 30 to 60 percent have been reported for Xeriscaped homes, and an increasing number of community groups are promoting the program. If you'd like to know more, write to Conservation Program, Denver Water Department, P. O. Box 80254, Denver, CO 80254.

DATES TO REMEMBER . . .



August 30 Deadline for receiving entries for the VWPS Photography Contest. A special mailing to Society members this summer included details on contest.

Sept. 10 Deadline for receiving dinner reservation forms from VWPS members who want to dine at the Mountain Lake Hotel on Saturday evening, September 20, but who are not staying at the hotel during the annual meeting. A form is included in this issue of The Bulletin.

Sept. 19-21 VWPS Annual Meeting Weekend at Mountain Lake. The main program actually starts late Saturday afternoon, but a Friday evening presentation on the flora of the area and field trips on Saturday and Sunday make it worth your while to come early and stay late.

A NOTE ABOUT MEMBERSHIP

The Virginia Wildflower Preservation Society now has nearly 800 members statewide. With the new membership year beginning November 1, it is a good time to join VWPS or renew your membership for next year. Prompt renewal will save your Society the expense of sending you a renewal notice and reduce the Membership Chairman's workload. Chapters are planning many exciting activities for the year ahead, and members will be receiving information about these and other events.

Please note that when you complete the membership form included in The Bulletin, you are being asked to indicate on the form whether you are willing to have your name, address and telephone number published in a chapter directory or exchanged with other related organizations. According to VWPS policy, members are to be asked permission before any names, addresses or telephone numbers are published or exchanged.

Clip and send your membership form to VWPS Membership, P. O. Box 844, Annandale, VA 22003. Your support is vital to the Society!

Chapter _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

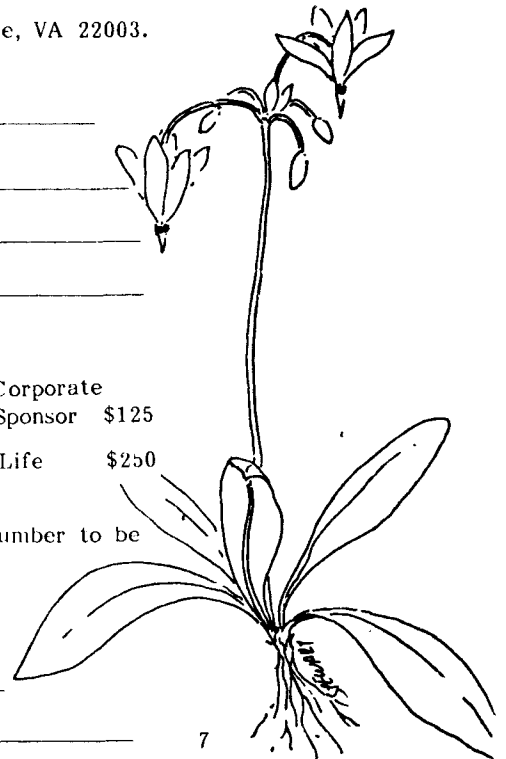
Please renew my membership:

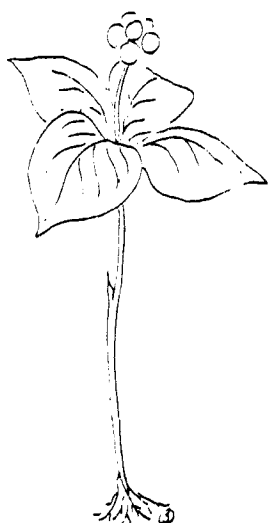
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$10	<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> Student \$ 5	<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate
<input type="checkbox"/> Family 15	<input type="checkbox"/> Sr (60 or over) 5	<input type="checkbox"/> Associate 25	<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor \$125
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron 25	<input type="checkbox"/> Sr Family 10	<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining 100	<input type="checkbox"/> Life \$250

I give /I do not give permission for my (our) name(s), address and telephone number to be published in a chapter directory or exchanged with other related organizations.

I wish to make an additional tax deductible contribution of \$ _____.

My suggestions for activities next year:





Interested in joining Paul Ehrlich, Stephen Jay Gould and Edward O. Wilson in exploring issues and alternatives regarding the destruction of habitats and the loss of plant and animal species? Well, make your plans to attend the "National Forum on BioDiversity" in Washington, DC, during September 21-14, 1986.

The National Academy of Sciences and the Smithsonian Institution are sponsoring this program of speeches, panels, and roundtable discussions which will feature Ehrlich, Gould, and Wilson as speakers.

Admission is free to this forum which will include concurrent exhibits, films, displays of literature and audio-visuals. However, advance registration is recommended.

For more information, a detailed program, and registration materials, write National Forum on BioDiversity, Directorate of International Activities (SI 302), Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC 20560.

SAVING HISTORIC PLANT VARIETIES

According to an Associated Press story by Dorothy Gast, about 100 to 200 farmers and gardeners from several states, including Virginia, have joined together in planting and saving the seeds from historic plants from the United States and abroad in an effort to keep thousands of varieties from becoming extinct. This network was recently formed by the Center for the Study of the American Family Farm. The center is based in New Market, Virginia.

A Garden of Wildflowers by Henry W. Art (1986) is a richly illustrated guide to growing 101 native North American species in garden or naturalized settings. Information on wildflower culture and propagation is given along with lists of suppliers, botanic gardens, and references. Ecology, culture, propagation, companion planting, and other information is featured for each species. Many useful charts and tables are included.

This 290-page publication is available in paperback for \$12.95, including tax, shipping and handling. To order, send your request (including book title) with a check made payable to VWPS, to VWPS Orders, P. O. Box 844, Annandale, VA 22003.

Copies of this book will be on sale during the annual meeting in September.



DESIGNING AND MANAGING THE ENVIRONMENT

"Landscape ecology as a body of concepts has just emerged. These concepts offer promising and powerful approaches in planning and management. The ethics of isolation demand that we preclude drawing solid boundaries around small areas, and demand that we spatially and temporally broaden our view to fully understand linkages with the surroundings." Thus spoke Richard T. Foreman, professor of advanced environmental studies in landscape ecology at Harvard University, last fall in his inaugural talk at the Graduate School of Design on "The Emergence of Landscape Ecology: New Opportunities for Designing and Managing the Environment."

Mr. Foreman elaborates on this subject in his new book Landscape Ecology now available for \$38.95 through John Wiley & Sons, 605 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10158 (212/850-6000).

GSD News, a publication of Harvard's Graduate School of Design, reported on Foreman's first lecture in its January/February 1986 issue. His new book which some describe as a "potential classic" is reviewed in the March/April 1986 issue of the News.



Virginia Wildflower Preservation Society

P.O. Box 844
Annandale, Va. 22003

IMPORTANT ANNUAL MEETING AND
VOTING INFORMATION ENCLOSED

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Fall 1986

Vol. 5 No. 4

A publication of the Virginia Wildflower Preservation Society

The Bulletin

FROM THE PRESIDENT

A warm welcome to the Jefferson Chapter, covering Albemarle, Fluvanna, Greene, Nelson, and Orange Counties! Fittingly, its logo is Jeffersonia diphylla, the dainty twinflower. This newest VWPS chapter is off to an excellent start, with a dedicated board and nearly fifty enthusiastic and talented members. Ann Regn, who served as coordinator during development of the chapter, is the president.

For the VWPS to achieve what we envision, it's important that we keep building a strong and truly statewide membership. We now have more than 900 members; by 1990, we hope to have more than twice that number. An eighth chapter is forming in the middle Shenandoah Valley, and new chapters will be initiated in other areas within the next year.

Each of you can help right now by reaching out to bring new members into the Society. What about the neighbor who's admired the wildflowers in your garden? the friend who hikes with you? the garden club member who's expressed an interest in conservation? the wildflower-lover who lives where there's not yet a chapter? Make sure your friends know about the VWPS and urge them to join. Or get them started with a gift membership. Sharing interests and enthusiasm is one of the greatest benefits of VWPS membership.

Happy holidays! As early darkness and bleak landscapes close in, may visions of spring wildflowers dance in your heads!

---Mary Pockman

SMALL WHORLED POGONIA UPDATE

The highway project that threatened the large colony of the rare small whorled pogonia, Isotria medeoloides, in James City County will bypass the tract at a cost of only \$200,000 more than the \$26.8 million estimate for the original plan.

The Board of the Virginia Department of Highways and Transportation (VDHT) at its October 16 meeting approved a revised alignment for Route 199 that should minimize the impact of the road construction on landowners and the overall project cost without lessening the protection offered to the small whorled pogonia.

Donna Ware of William & Mary College worked closely with VDHT to develop this minimal-arc bypass. Donna serves as steward of the Nature Conservancy-leased tract where the pogonia occurs. She has also researched the demography and population ecology of this species under the auspices of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



Over 70 members attended the Society's annual meeting at Mountain Lake during September 19-21 weekend. Paul James and members of VWPS's Blue Ridge Chapter are to be complimented for the arrangements and beautiful nature walks. The silent auction earned about \$1100 thanks to the contributions of plants, books, etc. from VWPS members and friends. More than 80 items were offered for sale.

Featured speaker Terrence Tipple, District Ranger, U.S. Forest Service, gave an informative talk on the Mountain Lake area, the work of his agency in managing the Jefferson National Forest and how VWPS's Blue Ridge Chapter is helping in this work.

The proposed changes in the Society's bylaws were passed. Chapters are encouraged to review their bylaws to determine if theirs now need to be amended.

The full slate of VWPS candidates presented in the summer Bulletin was elected. Members present at Mountain Lake also voted to approve the \$9800 budget proposed for fiscal year 1987. A copy of the adopted budget is included in this Bulletin.

During its morning meeting on September 20, the Board approved a petition for the formation of the Jefferson Chapter.



Proposed Budget, FY 1987
(Adopted by membership on 9/20/86)

<u>Income</u>	
Membership dues	\$5300
Contributions	1500
Net sales	2600
Other income	100
Interest earned	300
TOTAL	\$9800
<u>Expenditures</u>	
Education	\$1012
Conservation	400
Botany	143
Membership development and services	1950
Publications	2030
Fund Raising	600
Administration	3665
TOTAL	\$9800

FY 1986 Estimated Surplus: Approx. \$8000.



STATE FUNDING FOR ENDANGERED PLANTS

Some of Virginia's plants are already close to extinction. About 50 species are under consideration for federal protection. A few hundred others that are found elsewhere will be disappearing from our state unless adequate protection is provided. When the Virginia General Assembly convenes in January to consider legislative proposals, VWPS will again seek an appropriation of \$40,000 per year needed to conserve our state's endangered plants. If you would like to help with the Society's campaign, contact Faith Campbell, Conservation Chair, e NRDC, 1350 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20005, or (202) 783-7800.

The Society supports funding to the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services that would allow that agency to carry out its role under the Virginia Endangered Plant and Insect Species Act. This Act provides VDACS with the authority to identify and list plant species that are in danger of extinction and then take steps to ensure that the species survive. Without funding, these plants will disappear from our state as the habitats are destroyed.



THE BULLETIN

A publication of the

Virginia Wildflower Preservation Society

Mary Pockman, President • Roy Seward, Editor

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SEEDS FOR SALE

The New England Wild Flower Society is offering its 1987 Seed-Sale List to those who want to grow wildflowers from seeds and ferns from spores. More than 150 native varieties are included on this list. NEWFS must receive your request for a sale list March 2 because sales will be closed March 16. Send your request along with a business-size, self-addressed, stamped (39 cents postage) envelope to SEE, New England Wild Flower Society/Garden in Woods, Hemenway Road, Framingham, MA 01701.

A WILDFLOWER TOUR "DOWN UNDER"

On September 24, eight members of VWPS—Gay R. Bailey, Helen P. Beard, Dorothy D. Bliss, Carolyn S. DeJanikus, Gweneth Humphreys, Dekalb Russell, Jr., and Dr. and Mrs. Stanwyn Shetler—joined thirteen persons from the American Horticultural Society for a memorable three-week wildflower tour of Western Australia. The group flew from San Francisco to Sydney, Adelaide and Perth where they toured southwestern Australia by bus.

After her return from this continent of unusual flora and fauna, Dorothy Bliss agreed to share some of her experiences with readers of the Bulletin. Her brief account follows.

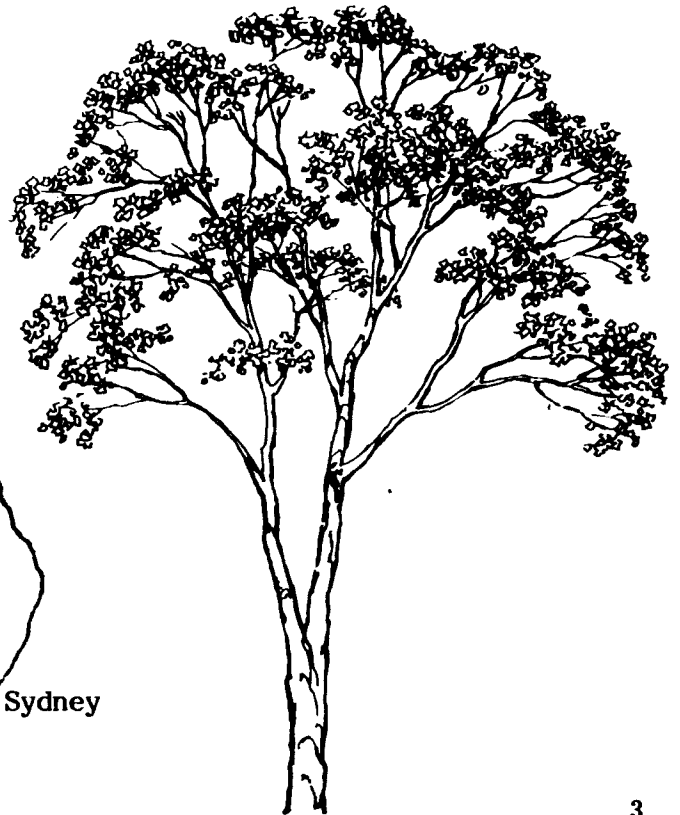
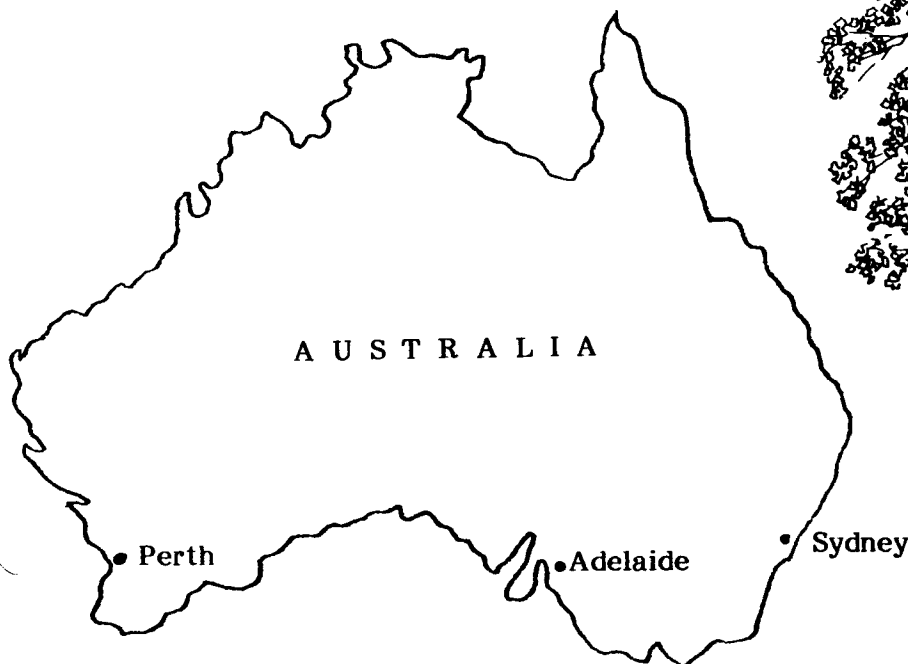
"We are all familiar with those strange animals from the continent down under—the kangaroos, wallabies and koalas—but the plants are just as unique with many families not represented in our flora. Since the reports of Captain James Cook's explorations there, the flora of Australia has been world famous. There, in isolation from most of the world's ecosystems, a distinctive flora developed that is unparalleled in its diversity and beauty.

"During our visit, we were royally entertained by the Friends of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens, enjoyed an Australian barbecue at a wildflower farm, were served teas and lunches by the Country Women's Association and enjoyed a candelight dinner cruise of Sydney Harbor. Adelaide is remembered as a beautiful city surrounded by a green belt of vegetation. In Perth we saw construction everywhere as the city prepared for visitors for the America's Cup Challenger Competition in early 1987.

"In each city there were tours of botanic gardens and nearby national parks and nature preserves. Tours of Adelaide and Mount Lofty Botanic Gardens introduced many of us to the unique flora we soon would be seeing and photographing in the wild.

"After three days in Adelaide we were off to Perth for a nine-day wildflower tour—most of it in the "bush"—a trip that extended as far north as Kalbarri on the Indian Ocean. Two very knowledgeable botanists joined us in Perth and shared their information on the native plants throughout the bus tour.

"Roadside displays of blooming shrubs stretched for miles along our route through the bush. An occasional honeyeater could be observed perched on bright-colored Banksias and bottlebrushes, extracting nectar and inadvertently pollinating them.



"Some of the families and even genera were similar to those of our flora but many were strange and unfamiliar. In the lily family, one beautiful fringed lily was especially exquisite with each lavender petal bearing a conspicuous fringe. In the same family are the peculiar blackboys, an ancient type of plant with a short black trunk and a short skirt of numerous grass-like leaves crowned by a spike of yellow flowers, the spike several feet in length.

"Orchids were never abundant but were encountered frequently, some with striking colors and bizarre shapes such as the pink fairy and blue enameled orchids and the spider and donkey orchids. As in our own flora, many orchids are rare and protected. It was a surprise to find several orchids growing in dry, sandy soil—seemingly a most unlikely habitat for their dainty flowers.

"No true violets occur in Western Australia but the genus Hybanthus, known to us as green violet, is represented by nine species. The only members of the geranium family are the genera Erodium (storksbill) and Pelargonium, the genus of our household "geranium." The white flowered Clematis pubescens clambering over the undergrowth in some of the Eucalyptus forests was reminiscent of our own clematis. The sundew family is well represented by a great variety of Drosera. One variety, D. gigantea, was several feet tall, stiff, erect and much branched.

"Perhaps the strangest and most unusual flowers were on the catpaws and kangaroo-paw. The latter is the state flower for Western Australia. These plants were both striking and attractive with their tubular, irregularly-shaped flowers, densely covered with woolly hairs. Their colors varied from deep reds and greens to all red, orange or green.

"Among the most colorful and showy were the Banksias. These shrubs or trees displayed many densely packed, spirally arranged flowers that formed very large cone-like structures. The genus is confined to Australia with forty-one species native to Western Australia.

"Among the most impressive sights were the extensive forests dominated by the Eucalyptus trees with their towering canopies and conspicuous trunks. As many as 600 species may occur in Australia. Underneath these magnificent trees, shrubs and sprawling vines exhibited a variety of colors with the yellow of the Acacias, the intense blue-violet of the Hoveas, the light blue of "wisteria" and the copper-red of the legume, Kennedya. The understory flora is characterized by an amazing diversity of plant forms, ranging from delicate spider and donkey orchids to the strange blackboys and the Zania palm, a cycad distantly related to the conifers.

"In the Karri Forest near Pemberton a fire lookout in the top of the Gloucester tree, a 200-foot Karri tree—a Eucalyptus, of course—can be reached by a breathtaking climb to the top. In another national park, a hollow Eucalyptus tree is large enough to hold a parked car!

"The Jarrah (another Eucalyptus) survives intense fire because of its thick bark which acts as a protective layer. Although the crown may be destroyed, dormant buds below the bark are stimulated to grow. A regular program of prescribed burning is being implemented in many of the forests to reduce the risk of a catastrophic wildfire. In these forests subjected to fire, bracken fern formed much of the undergrowth. Although some appeared much larger than our eastern U. S. bracken, they are the same species. Because of periodic droughts, ferns were not abundant but an Adiantum and some tree ferns were noted in more moist woodlands.

"These are but a few observations and impressions gained from this special wild-flower tour. Memories of honeyeaters extracting nectar from a scarlet bottlebrush, black swans swimming lazily on a lake, white-fronted cormorants looking very much like penguins, cattle grazing under Eucalyptus trees, miles of colorful shrubs lining the highway, delicate spider orchids, startling blue masses of Leschenoultia and the magnificent Jarrah Forest leave one with a greater understanding of an ecosystem far different from our own."



BITTERSWEET INVASION

A hardy and noxious weed called oriental bittersweet is threatening a hostile takeover of the Northeast. Not only is the weed choking native plants and hindering new forest growth as it spreads, but its berries, leaves and stems are poisonous—especially to young children.

Oriental bittersweet is identified as a winding, woody vine that has clusters of yellow, husked berries. It has established a firm foothold for several reasons. First, people often confuse it with the native bittersweet, a desirable and somewhat rare plant. New England nurseries and mail order houses have even sold it as the native strain. Secondly, its an aggressive vine that spreads rapidly. And because its fruit is attractive to many animals and birds, its seeds are dispersed through their droppings.

In its march across the Northeast, oriental bittersweet wreaks havoc with forest regeneration by choking young saplings. It is also a major contributor to the decline of native bittersweet.

The two bittersweets are easily distinguished. Oriental bittersweet provides clusters of yellow berries at the base of each leaf. The native bittersweet produces berries at the end of each branch and its leaves are narrower.

(Reprinted from Dow's fall 1986 issue of "The Bottom Line")

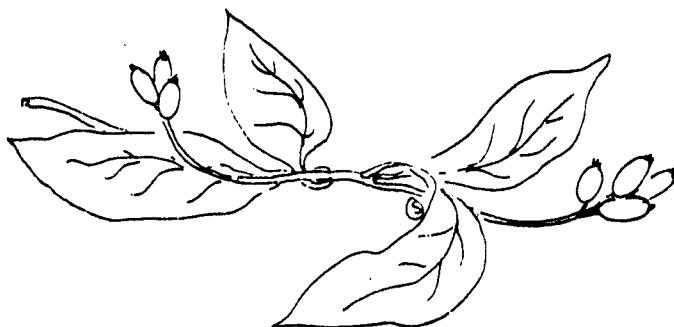
COMING EVENTS TO REMEMBER

Winter Workshop

The Society will hold its winter workshop in Richmond on Saturday, January 24, 1987. The Pocahontas Chapter will host this event at the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. Tentative plans call for a workshop for chapter presidents, one on membership, and another on publicity and publications.

Wildflower Week

It is not too early to begin planning for Wildflower Week which will be observed in 1987 during April 20-26. The period April 18-30 is being set aside for VWPS and chapter activities to observe Wildflower Week in Virginia.





IMPORTANT! IMPORTANT!

You are important to VWPS. If you have not renewed your membership for 1986-87, please take this moment to complete the form below and return it to the Society. Your chapter will be notified that your membership is paid for the new year that began November 1. If you have some doubt about your status, look at your mailing label. An asterisk by your name indicates that our records show your membership has expired and that this is your last issue of the Bulletin until you renew.

Clip this membership form and send it to VWPS Membership, P. O. Box 844, Annandale, VA 22003.

Chapter _____					
Name(s) _____					
Address _____		City _____	State _____	ZIP _____	
Please renew my membership:					
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$10	<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting	\$50	<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$ 5
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$15	<input type="checkbox"/> Sr (60 or over)	\$ 5	<input type="checkbox"/> Associate	\$25
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$25	<input type="checkbox"/> Sr Family	\$10	<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining	\$100
				<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Sponsor	\$125
				<input type="checkbox"/> Life	\$250
I give <input type="checkbox"/> /I do not give <input type="checkbox"/> permission for my (our) name(s), address and telephone number to be published in a chapter directory or exchanged with other related organizations.					
I wish to make an additional tax deductible contribution of \$ _____.					
My suggestions for activities this year: _____					

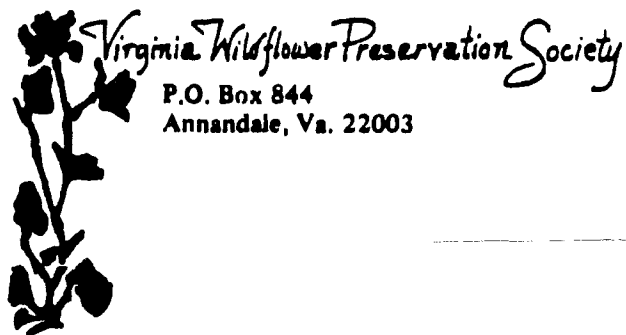


HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS

The just-right choice for your holiday shopping list may be an item from the VWPS. Your order will help the VWPS at the same time. For example:

- 1987 Endangered Wildflowers Calendar, from the American Horticultural Society. Color photographs and information on 16 of America's rarest plants, including four Virginia natives. 8 1/2 x 11 1/2. \$6.95.
- A Garden of Wildflowers, by Henry W. Art. 1986. Discusses all aspects of creating a wildflower garden, with specific information on 101 species from all over the U.S. Line drawings. Paperback, 289 pp. \$12.95.
- Growing and Propagating Wild Flowers, by Harry R. Phillips. 1985. Fundamentals of gardening with native plants, and detailed information on more than 100 genera of southeastern wildflowers and ferns that can readily be propagated and grown. Color photos, line drawings. Paperback, 331 pages. \$14.95.
- VWPS T-shirts. Slogan "Semper Flora Virginiensis," "Virginia Wildflowers Forever," with floral design, outline of Virginia, and Society's name. Royal on sky blue. Men's S, M, L, XL in 50/50 cotton/polyester or 100% cotton. Women's, with semi-scoop neck and French-cut sleeve, M, L, 50/50 blend only. Allow 3 weeks. \$8.50.

Order, with check payable to VWPS, from VWPS-Orders, P. O. Box 844, Annandale, VA 22003. For a complete list of publications and gifts available, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to the same address.



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