



WILD NEWS

Prince William Wildflower Society

A Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

Number 2019-01

January - February 2019

The Prince William Wildflower Society
2019 Winter Slideshow

Thursday, January 3, 7:30 p.m.

Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church

8712 Plantation Lane, Manassas, Virginia 20110

Plan to join us for our annual winter slideshow in January, always a popular and inspiring event. Come and bring a friend to enjoy the show, refreshments and door prizes!

From the President

As we say farewell to 2018, we welcome the new year with another outstanding speaker for our annual author event in February. On February 17 we are proud to host Heather Holm, author of *Pollinators of Native Plants* and *Bees: An Identification and Native Plant Forage Guide*. At the time of this writing, we have Prince William Master Gardeners, Audubon Society of Northern Virginia, and Merrimac Farm Master Naturalists as our co-sponsors. We would welcome other organizations as well.

According to Heather Holm's website, "Her first book, *Pollinators of Native Plants*, published in 2014, helped establish her as a knowledgeable resource on the subject of the interactions between native bees and native plants. Her latest book, *Bees*, published in 2017, has won five book awards. Heather currently lives in Minnesota with her

husband. She is a self-employed author, designer, and publisher. For the past few years, she has been assisting with native bee research projects. The most recent research project was a two-year study to determine the types of native bees present in cultivated blueberry farms in Minnesota and Wisconsin. The study included developing customized plans to enhance and expand both forage plants and nesting sites for bees within the farms." She should make a most fascinating speaker. *Pictured: Author, Heather Holm*



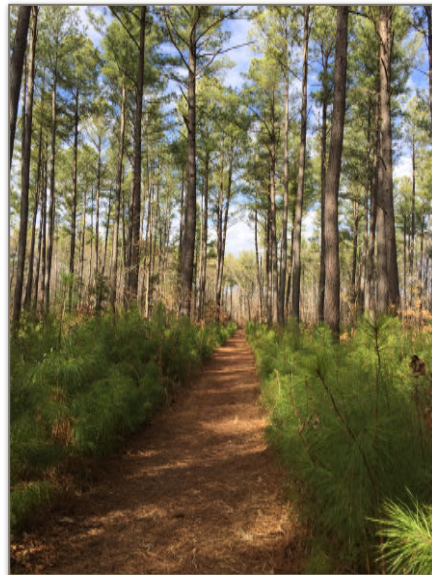
Closer on the calendar is our regular meeting on Thursday, January 3. Our annual member slide show, this meeting offers you the chance to show your botanical and nature photos from the past year. I plan to show photos from the VNPS field trip to Southwest Virginia this past June. Highlights include flame azaleas, small purple fringed orchids, Catawba rhododendron, mountain bluets, Canada lily, and more! I also plan to

show a few photos from an early May trip to The Cedars Natural Area Preserve in the far southwest reach of our beautiful Commonwealth. You'll see wild hyacinths, dwarf larkspurs, and the very rare running glade clover. I look forward to sharing these treasures and seeing highlights from your botanical forays as well.

Speaking of botanical forays, I've scheduled a couple of wintertime walks. We may not see anything in bloom, but there's always something interesting to see in nature. I'll warn you that I am no expert; I consider these walks to be group discovery hikes where we learn from each other and enjoy being outdoors. One is scheduled for Tuesday, February 19 at 10 a.m. at Leopold's Preserve and another for Sunday, March 3 at 2 p.m. at Dove's Landing Park. And remember that Harry and I lead a bird and nature walk at Merrimac Farm Wildlife Management Area at 8 a.m. on the last Sunday of every month except in December.

Would you like to share the message of the importance of native plants? Please encourage your friends, neighbors, and members of your homeowners' associations to attend Prince William County's Native Plant Symposium for Beginners on Saturday, February 23 at the McCoart Center. Find more information at <http://www.pwcgov.org/government/dept/publicworks/Pages/Native-Plant-Symposium.aspx>.

The year 2018 was a good one for us. We hosted landscape designer and author Larry Weaner last February, research scientist Ashley Egan addressed us in March, "Humane Gardener" Nancy Lawson presented in May, Dr. William Carromero spoke about pollinators at our July meeting, in September historical ecologist Emily Southgate presented on our vanishing landscapes, and Charles Smith rounded out our program year with "Gardening for Wildlife." We participated in public outreach events such as the annual Bluebell Festival, the Earth Day celebration for Prince William County, the Manassas Latino Festival, and Prince William Recycles Day. We also participated in STEAM (science, tech, engineering, arts, and math) events for students at elementary schools and for home schoolers at the Marine Corps museum. We had another successful plant sale, netting more than \$3200, but we would really like to break the \$5000 barrier one year. (Is 2019 our year?) We bought a new sturdy tent for use



at our outdoor events. We didn't manage a spring garden tour, but we plan to resurrect this popular event in 2019 if we can find hosts. A small corps of dedicated volunteers maintained the beautiful pollinator planting at the I-95 northbound car rest area. Marion Lobstein led a popular Flora app workshop, and we donated to the Flora of Virginia Project. We held walks at the Manassas Battlefield, Conway Robinson State Forest (pictured, in January 2018), and Leopold's Preserve, and even took a field trip to visit Schuyler Quarry Gardens in Nelson County. Let's resolve to do more and make 2019 even better! ~ Nancy

**Prince William Wildflower Society
Membership Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 1, 2018, 7:30 p.m.
Bethel Lutheran Church, Manassas**

Announcements: President Nancy Vehrs welcomed members and guests. She thanked those who brought refreshments: Marion Lobstein, Joyce Andrew, Jeanne Endrikat, Barbara Deegan, Dee Brown, Bev Houston.

Nancy presented the Treasurer's Report from Valerie Kenyon-Gaffney: \$1,737.10 in checking.

Marion Lobstein reported that updates on changes, additions, etc. to the *Flora of Virginia* are made on the Flora App.

The next meeting, our annual Members' Slide Show, will be on Thursday, January 3, 2019. [Meetings are the first Thursday of every other month.] Nancy encouraged PWWs members to show pictures they had taken during travels or pictures of native plants taken in your backyard or on hikes. Sign up with program chair William Carromero. email: wcarromero@yahoo.com.

Upcoming events and field trips are listed in the PWWs newsletter, *Wild News*, so announcements of those events will not be repeated here.

The program: Nancy introduced the speaker, Charles Smith, who is also the PWWs Conservation, Education and Registry Chair. Charles's talk was entitled *Habitat Gardening for Wildlife*. Charles said loss of habitat is our biggest problem for wildlife. To make our yards attractive to animals, Charles

suggested we mimic natural areas. Provide food, water, shelter and a place to raise young. Structural diversity and interesting areas can be made with logs and “nooks and crannies”. He quoted author Doug Tallamy. “If it is not feeding insects, it’s just furniture.” Put things in your landscape that support wildlife, and of course, natives help accomplish that. Caterpillars munch on native leaves, birds eat the caterpillars, etc.

To get started, group a few native trees with different heights in one area, and let the leaf litter remain to provide a building block for the soil. Cover the area with layers of native plants, not mulch. If you have a sunny area and want to build a meadow, Charles suggested planting some native grasses. And don’t let your cats out to catch and kill wildlife! Thank you, Charles!

Door prizes: The following door prizes were won by members and guests present - *Northern Virginia Butterflies and Skippers, Common Native Trees of Virginia, Common Native Shrubs and Woody Vines*, potted Seersucker sedge, potted American wisteria. Seeds of cardinal flowers and milkweeds were available for members.

In attendance: Nancy Vehrs, Harry Glasgow, Jeanne Endrikat, Joyce Andrew, Tom Andrew, Karen Waltman, Libby Pemberton, Marlies Smith, Linda Arvin, Rita Romano, Barbara Deegan, Rose Breece, Becky Super, Kathy Burch, Chuck Burch, Sandra Caldwell, Tom Ligon, Muriel Devine, David Singman, Judy Corcoran, Carol Thompson, Suzanne Parker, Cindy Smith, Cathy Hindman, Tom Attanaro, Brenda Hallam, Beverly Houston, Tim Rook, Teresa Rook, Dee Brown, Janis Stone, Jennifer Coates, Nancy Arrington, Mary Sherman, Brigitte Hartke, Marion Lobstein, Kim Hosen, Jeanne Jabara, Valerie Neitzey, and speaker Charles Smith.

Karen Waltman, Secretary

Upcoming Events

For events not scheduled at the time this issue went to press, please continue to visit the PWWS’s web page: vnps.org/princewilliamwildflowersociety/ or [PWWS facebook page](#) .

Thursday, January 10, 2019, 7:30-9 pm

“A Talk by Charles Smith”

Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria, VA. Free, no reservations necessary.

Please join us for a talk by Charles Smith, who will kick off Potowmack Chapter of VNPS’s lecture series again this year. Charles explores the ways plants disperse across land and water and discusses reproductive strategies, niche exploitation, plant community composition, and what the future may look like considering the fragmented condition of our landscape and climate change.

Saturday, January 26, 10-11:30 am

Parks and Recreation

Community Needs Assessment Forum

The Prince William County Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism is hosting a community forum at the James J. McCoart Administration Building, 1 County Complex Ct., Prince William, VA

Part of a broader Parks & Recreation community needs assessment, this forum is an opportunity for residents to help shape the future of Prince William County’s recreational and facility offerings. Input from this facilitated discussion will be used to update the County’s Comprehensive Plan, which will inform the next 10 years of park development.



SAVE the DATES

Sunday, February 17, 2019, 3:30 pm — Annual Author Presentation: Heather Holm - Author of “Pollinators of Native Plants”, Manassas Park Community Center, Manassas VA

Sunday, April 7, 2019 — Annual Bluebell Festival at Merrimac Farm, Nokesville, VA

"Prince William County operates 55 developed parks and facilities, spanning more than 4,000 acres, that provide playgrounds, trails, marinas, fitness centers, skate parks, sports fields, and many other amenities," says Seth Hendler-Voss, the County's Director of Parks, Recreation & Tourism. "As we plan for the future, it is critical we understand how well we are meeting our residents' needs for both passive and active recreation opportunities today, and develop a full grasp of the needs of tomorrow."

"Parks are central to positioning Prince William County as a vibrant community of choice where families choose to live and businesses choose to locate," added Hendler-Voss.

Sunday, January 27, 8 am, Bird and Nature Walk at Merrimac Farm, last Sunday of every month. Join us! We meet at Merrimac Farm, Stone House, 15014 Deepwood Lane, Nokesville. Dress for the weather, bring binoculars and cameras. Info and RSVP, 703-499-4954 or alliance@pwconserve.org Upcoming Bird Walks: February 24 and March 31.

February

Tuesday, February 19 at 10 am

Leopold's Preserve Hike. Contact Nancy Vehrs at nvehrs1@yahoo.com for details.

March

Sunday, March 3, 2 pm, Dove's Landing Hike.

Contact Nancy Vehrs at nvehrs1@yahoo.com for more information.

Prince William Wildflower Society sends healing thoughts and good wishes to our botany chair and contributor, Marion Lobstein, who is recovering from injuries incurred in a car accident in late fall. She will be back with another of her excellent, informative botany articles in our next issue of *Wild News* to be published in March.

PRINCE WILLIAM WILDFLOWER SOCIETY

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



Next Meeting: Thursday, January 3, 7:30 pm

PWWS Annual Winter Slideshow

Bethel Lutheran Church, Plantation Lane, Manassas, Virginia 2011