

Wild News

The Bi-monthly Newsletter of the Prince William Wildflower Society A Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

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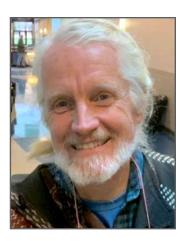
May - June 2021

Thursday, May 6, 7:30 pm, via Zoom with Sam Droege: "Native Bees Need Native Plants: A Surprisingly Tight Relationship"

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/ tZEldemrqzsuGNbigh5vc-8P77jkEMTRO-9H

Log on to spend the evening with our local bee expert, Sam Droege. He will explain "why, plain and simple, native bees are picky. Over millions of years bees and

flowering plants have balkanized, forming little tight relationships to the exclusion of other bees and insects. We will talk about these 30%+ of the 450 bee species in Virginia and the plants they dance with. Lots of pictures, stories, and biodiversity." Some of you, having encountered Sam's spectacular bee photography, already know you are in for a treat!



Sam Droege has spent most of

his career at the USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. He has coordinated the North American Breeding Bird Survey Program, developed the North American Amphibian Monitoring Program, the BioBlitz, Cricket Crawl, and FrogwatchUSA programs and worked on the design and evaluation of monitoring programs. Currently he is developing an inventory and monitoring program for native bees, online identification guides for North American bees at <u>www.discoverlife.org</u>, and, with Jessica Zelt, reviving the North American Bird Phenology Program. His group maintains high resolution photographs of insects and other macro natural history objects at: <u>USGS Bee Inventory and Monitoring Lab</u>

President's Column



What a bountiful Bluebell season we had this April. I don't know whether I've ever seen them so magnificent, but perhaps nature seems to shine brighter during this ongoing pandemic. I hope that all of our members had the opportunity to commune with our Virginia Bluebells, the official flower of Prince William County. I've enjoyed

them in my garden and in numerous natural areas: Merrimac Farm Wildlife Management Area (oh, the mud!), Manassas Battlefield along the Stone Bridge Trail, Bull Run Regional Park, Riverbend Park, Doves Landing Park (more mud!), Balls Bluff Regional Park, and Conway Robinson State Forest. So many streams in our Piedmont area have the floodplains that support our ephemeral Bluebells. We will also have Bluebells at our annual plant sale on May 8. They may look a little worse for wear by then, but their rhizomes will send out shoots next spring.

As I've been telling people lately, I feel like I'm in the midst of a frenzy of activity this spring. As usual I want to see all the special native plants in bloom. This year I went to Balls Bluff in Loudoun County near Leesburg and found Twinleaf, Jeffersonia diphylla, in full bloom. While its "butterfly-wing" leaves are lovely, there was magic in seeing the flowers because they bloom for such a short time. Way back in 1999 it was the VNPS Wildflower of the Year.



(President's column, continued)

As more of us become fully vaccinated for Covid-19, it's time for a field trip to celebrate. I've arranged a May 12 tour of the Quarry Gardens at Schuyler in Nelson County just south of Charlottesville. This native plant garden was recently designated a VNPS Registry Site. Charles Smith wrote, "[It] consists of 40 acres bordered by 400 acres in a conservation easement. The 40-acre public garden area was selected by the owners, Armand and Bernice Thieblot, working with ecologists to encapsulate the rare community types and guarry pits and rubble piles. The Gardens are centered around an abandoned soapstone guarry on the eastern edge of the Blue Ridge physiographic province." For more information on our Registry program and designated sites, see https://vnps.org/virginia-native-plantregistry-sites/. The Quarry Gardens have an informative website at http://quarrygardensatschuyler.org/. Sign up with me at nvehrs1@yahoo.com.

In less positive news, I was deeply disappointed that the Prince William Board of County Supervisors approved the Independent Hill Small Area Plan that allows for a data center to be built within the Congressionally legislated boundaries of Prince William Forest Park (a *national* park). In addition, there is now a proposal by landowners adjacent to Manassas National Battlefield to sell their former farmland for sites for data centers. A number of conservation groups have joined to discuss possible actions and alternatives.

I hope that you were able to visit the gardens of Marie Davis, Jeanne Endrikat, and Lois Montgomery on our wildflower garden tour. We were so happy to offer one again this year, and we thank our native gardeners who graciously opened their gardens to us.

Bee expert Sam Droege is our speaker on May 6. He has extraordinary photos of bees and much knowledge to impart to us. You won't want to miss this opportunity. See you on Zoom.

Nancy

Prince William Wildflower Society Membership Meeting Minutes Thursday, March 4, 2021 7:30 p.m. On Zoom

President Nancy Vehrs called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Announcements: Jocelyn Meloy, Conservation Chair reported on the project to remove invasives, and she invited all to join her to remove invasive plants at Chinn Ridge in Manassas National Battlefield Park on Monday, March 15, from 2 to 4 p.m. Nancy Arrington, plant sale chair, announced PWWS will hold a plant sale on Saturday, May 8, but details are still being planned for social distancing, etc. We did not hold our usual annual Plant Sale last year because of the pandemic.

Marion Lobstein, Botany Chair, thanked Nancy Vehrs and PWWS for support of the Flora app, and Marion encouraged all to buy and use the app on their smart phones. Education modules will be available on the app, as well as plant identification, of course.

Program: Evolution for Naturalists. Lois Montgomery was introduced; she is retired after 38 years as a science teacher for middle and high schools in Fairfax County. She screen-shared a definition of evolution: A change in traits of a population over time — in response to changes in their environment. As she said, this usually takes a very long time, but one exception was the death of the dinosaurs, which was caused by a massive asteroid that impacted partly on the Yucatan Peninsula and the other half in the Gulf of Mexico. [With a little help from Google, here are some extra details: This impact caused a crater, 93 miles wide and 12 miles deep. It also caused tsunamis, wildfires, and a massive cloud of debris and aerosols which enshrouded the planet - darkening the skies and cooling the atmosphere.] Lois said the dinosaurs could not adapt quickly enough to the changes.

Lois discussed Charles Darwin and his travels on the HMS Beagle, including the stop at the Galapagos Islands. Assuming similar species of turtles had made their way from South America, Darwin found that the front of the shells of turtles that lived on dry islands had a higher shell area over their heads so that they could lift their heads to reach and eat the cactus trees. The turtles that lived on lush islands had plenty of low vegetation to eat and didn't need for their shells to adapt.

Lois provided some titles of books if you want more information on evolution: *Tales from the Ant World* and other books on evolution by E.O. Wilson and a science fiction tale by Robert T. Bakker, entitled *Raptor Red*. In addition, Brigitte Hartke recommended the following books: *The Ancestor's Tale, The Selfish Gene, Climbing Mount Improbable, and The Greatest Show on Earth,* all by Richard Dawkins; and The Beak of the Finch, by Jonathan Weiner.



Thank you, Lois; it was a fascinating presentation, with lots of discussion and a fun evening.

Karen Waltman, Secretary

UPCOMING EVENTS, 2021

Please note:

For events not scheduled at the time this issue went to press, please continue to visit the PWWS events page: https://vnps.org/princewilliamwildflowersociety/events/

For the FaceBook Page: <u>https://www.facebook.com/Prince-</u> William-Wildflower-Society-a-Virginia-Native-Plant-Society-Chapter-142292732540373/

April

Sunday, April 25, 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm 33rd Annual Spring Wildflower Garden Tour.

For information on this year's tour: https://vnps.org/princewilliamwildflowersociety/events/ 33rd-spring-wildflower-garden-tour-2/

Friday, April 30, 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm Arbor Day White Oak Planting Dedication

Old Manassas Courthouse. Come join in this special civic event to celebrate our donation and the value of oak trees. <u>https://vnps.org/princewilliamwildflowersociety/events/</u> <u>arbor-day-white-oak-planting-dedication/</u>

May

Tuesday, May 4, 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

"The Right Plant in the Right Place" with John Magee, one of an ongoing webinar series which is part of a Plant Virginia Natives campaign. Register now: <u>https://vnps.org/events/the-right-plant-in-the-right-place-</u> with-john-magee/

Thursday, May 6, 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm, via Zoom Join in for our Membership Meeting with Bee Expert, Sam Droege. He will present on Native Bees.

https://vnps.org/princewilliamwildflowersociety/events/ membership-meeting-with-bee-expert-sam-droege/

Saturday, May 8, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm, in person! Prince William Wildflower Society Annual Plant Sale!

Bethel Lutheran Church, Manassas. Register in advance for either a 10 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. slot. by sending an email to Nancy Vehrs at <u>nvehrs1@yahoo.com</u> with "Plant Sale" in the subject line beginning May 1. Masks and social distancing required.

Wednesday, May 12, A Day Trip

Register for a **field trip to the Quarry Gardens at Schuyler** by sending an email to Nancy Vehrs at <u>nverhs1@yahoo.com</u> . This native plant garden is located in Nelson County, south of Charlottesville, and is a VNPS Registry Site. For more information: <u>http://quarrygardensatschuyler.org</u>

Thursday, May 13, 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm, via Zoom

Potowmack Chapter: "50 Shades of Green — and Yellow, Pink, Lavender, and White — Native Spring Wildflowers and Foliage", with Carole Bergmann.

https://vnps.org/potowmack/events/50-shades-of-green-and-yellow-pink-lavendar-and-white-native-spring-wildflowers-and-foliage-with-carole-bregmann/

Mid-May Weeding Party, Date to be Announced: We will

be gathering at the Wildlife Waystation for our first Weeding Party of the year at the I-95 Northbound Rest Area for Cars Only in Dale City. If you would like to join us to work in a beautiful garden of native plants for the pollinators, look for information coming soon on the PWWS website or FaceBook page. Here, Editor described her first experience work there:

https://vnps.org/finding-fulfillment-as-a-wildlife-way-station-volunteer/

Sunday, May 30, 8:00 am (and June 27)

Last Sunday Bird and Nature Walks at Merrimac Farm WMA, Stone House, 15014 Deepwood Lane, Nokesville. Join us as we look for birds and interesting plants; we will travel through the uplands to the edge of the floodplain, covering a variety of habitats, including open fields and woodland edges. Everyone welcome. Dress for the weather, bring binoculars and cameras. For more info and to RSVP, reply to PWCA, 703 499-4954 or alliance@pwconserve. org.

Saturday, June 19, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

A monthly naturalist walk at Leopold's Preserve held by the Bull Run Mountain Conservancy in partnership with The White House Farm, this walk will be on "Firefly Natural History". The address is 16290 Thoroughfare Road, Broad Run, VA — there is ample parking down a gravel road.

Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District

The **2021 Sustainable Garden Tour** will be held VIRTUALLY throughout the month of JUNE 2021. More information is coming soon. This year they will be featuring never-before-seen gardens as well as tour favorites from across Fairfax County. You will see garden tour classics like rain gardens, native plant landscaping, rain barrels, backyard wildlife habitat, composting and more. Virtual experiences from each of this year's incredible garden tour sites will be added throughout the month of June. Follow NVSWCD on Facebook <u>https://www.facebook.com/nvswcd</u> to see garden tour materials, and view a complete list of its gardening resources in Resources for Sustainable Gardeners — https:// www.fairfaxcounty.gov/soil-water-conservation/sites/soil-water-conservation/files/assets/documents/ resource_list_18.pdf.

The Liliaceous Families: Where Have All the Former Members of the **Lily Family Gone?**

Marion Blois Lobstein, Botany Chair, Prince William Wildflower Society; **Professor Emeritus-NVCC**



The traditional Lily Family or Liliaceae was first described by French Botanist Michel Adanson in 1763 but was officially named by A.L. deJussieu in 1789. The genus Lilium on which the family name is based, has a long history in Egyptian, Greek, and Roman ancient cultures. There has been a great deal of disagreement over the last 200 years as to which genera belong in the Liliaceae. This family has been a catch-all for many rather different genera and even other families over the years. Many

botanists in the 1800s such as Asa Gray (original author of Gray's Manual of Botany), and the famous British botanists Bentham and Hooker dealt with these disparities by the use of "tribes", many of which are now the families we see in the new Flora of Virginia. In the treatment of "Liliaceous" families in the Flora of Virginia, 2012 ed. and 2013 reprint with corrections, most of the "new" families with only two exceptions (Takhtajan's naming of Tofieldiaceae and Xerophyllaceae) are families described from the late 1700s into the mid-1800s. Botanists such as R.M.T. Dahlgren and H.T. Clifford began questioning the traditional Liliaceae makeup in the 1970s and 1980s. But it was DNA evidence that was the final factor that resulted in this the treatment

reflected in the Flora of Virginia and other recent floras and scientific publications. A chart summarizing the changes reflected in the Flora of Virginia, 2012 edition and the 2013 reprint with correction was published in the May-June 2013 Wild News issue and can be found in the Prince William Wildflower Society's Archives (http://vnps.org/ princewilliamwildflowersociety/wildnews/). These splits may also change in the future as additional evidence emerges, and some of these changes are now evident in the December 2020 major update of the Flora of Virginia App.

Here is a list of some specific changes in the "Lilaceous" groups in the 2020 update of the App:

➤ Family level changes: Alliaceae no longer in Amaryllidaceae, Xanthorrhoeaceae is now Hemerocalliaceae

> Genus level changes: *Melanthium* no longer in *Veratum*, Trillidium no longer in Trillium, Agave no longer Manfreda

➤ Species level additions:

- Native: Smilax bona-nox var. littoralis (Maritime or Seaside Catbrier)
- Nonnatives: Narcissus taxetta (Bunch-flowered Daffodil), Narcissus x incomparabilis (Nonesuch Daffodil], Muscari comosum (Tassel Grapehyacinth)
- Unsure Nativity: Yucca falccida (Weakleaf Yucca, Yucca gloriosa (Mound-lily Yucca)

There are some name changes at genus and species level in this "Liliaceous" group but this is beyond the scope of this article. (continued on the following page)

Paínted Líly -Tríllídíum undulatuum

Photo, Larry Wilcox



The chart below also will be of use in sorting out these latest changes and enjoying these special groups of plants.

	Common Names of Families & # Species	Authorities & Dates Names Proposed	Genera in Each Family and Changes
Agavaceae	Agave- 6 spp.	S.Endlicher 1841	<i>Agava</i> (Agavas), (<i>Agava virginia</i> formally <i>Manfreda virginica</i>), <i>Camassia</i> (Wild Hyacinths), <i>Yucca</i> (Yuccas) (2 additional species added).
Alliaceae	Onion- 9 spp.	J.G. Agardh 1858	Allium (Onions), Nothoscordum (False Garlics), Tristagma (Spring Stars) (All three genera formerly in Amaryllidaceae)
Amaryllidaceae	Amaryllis- 6 spp.	J. St. Hilaire 1805	Leucojum (Snowflakes), Narcissus (Daffodils) (2 additional species added) Zephyrathes (Atamasco Lilies)
Asparagaceae	Asparagus- 1 sp.	A.L. de Jussieu 1789	Asparagus (Asparagus)
Colchicaceae	Meadow Saffron-4 spp.	A. de Candole 1805	Uvularia (Bellworts)
Heloniadaceae	Swamp-pink- 2 spp.	J.G. Agardh 1858	Chamaelirium (Devil's-bits), Helonias (Swamp Pink)
Hemerocallidaceae	Day-lily- 1 sp	R. Brown 1810	Hemerocallis (Daylilies)(Formerly in Xanthorrhoeaceae}
Hyacinthaceae	Hyacinth- 4 spp.	A. Batsch1786	Muscari (Grape Hyacinths) (1 new species added), Ornithogalum (Stars-of-Bethlehem)
Hypoxidaceae	Yellow Star Grass-4 spp.	R. Brown 1814	Hypoxis (Yellow Stargrasses)
Liliaceae	Lily- 18 spp.	A.L. de Jussieu 1789	<i>Clintonia</i> (Clintonias), <i>Erythronium</i> (Trout Lilies), <i>Lilium</i> (Lilies), <i>Mediola</i> (Cucumber-roots), <i>Prosartes</i> (formerly <i>Disporum</i>) (Fairy-bells), <i>Streptopus</i> (Twisted–stalks)
Melanthiaceae	Bunchflower- 1 spp.	A. Batsch 1802	Amianthium (Fly-poisons), Anticlea (White Death Camases), Melanthium (Bunchflowers) (Formerly in Veratrum), Stenanthium (Featherbells), Veratrum (False Hellebores), Zigadenus (Death Camas spp.)
Nartheciaceae	Bog-asphodel- 2 spp.	F.M. Fries 1846	Aletris (Colicroots)
Ruscaceae	Ruscus- 8 spp.	M. Roemer 1840	Convallaria (Lilies-of-the-Valley), Maianthemum [M. canadensis] (Canada Mayflowers), M. racemosum (formerly Smilacina racemosa) (False Solomon's Seals/Solomon's-plumes), M. stellatum (formerly Smilacina stellata) (Starry False Solomon's Seals/Starry Solomon's-plumes), Polygonatum (Solomon's Seals)
Smilacaceae	Greenbrier- 11 spp.	E.T. Ventenat 1799	Smilax (Greenbriers/Catbriers) (1 additional species in 2020 update)
Tofieldiaceae	Tofieldia- 2 spp.	A. Takhtajan 1994	Triantha (formerlyTofieldia) (False Asphodels)
Trilliaceae	Trilliums- 10 spp.	J. Lindley 1846	Trillium (Trilliums), Trillidium (Trillidium undulatum-Painted Trilliums)
Xerophyllaceae	Beargrass- 1 sp.	A. Takhtajan 1994	Xerophyllum (Beargrasses)

Trilliums

Marion Lobstein, Professor Emeritus-NVCC

One of the most beautiful and easily recognizable groups of spring wildflowers is the Trilliums, formerly placed in the lily family (Liliaceae). In the *Flora of Virginia*, the Trilliums are put into the separate family of the Trilliaceae. In the northern Virginia area the more common Trillium is the Sessile or Toadshade Trillium, *Trillium sessile*, and the rarer species is the Large-flowered Trillium *T. grandiflorum*.

Both of these species bloom a bit later than the earlier spring wildflowers with the Sessile Trillium starting to bloom in mid-April and the Large-flowered Trillium in late April to early May. Both species are found in rich, well-drained deciduous woods. The range of Sessile Trillium is coastal plains, piedmont, and mountain geographic provinces from New York, Ohio, and Minnesota south into Georgia, Mississippi, and Arkansas while the range of the Large-Flowered species is more often mountains from southeastern Canada south into the mountains of Georgia and Arkansas. Several other species of Trillium can be found from Fauquier County and/or farther west into Virginia mountains include T. erectum (Red trillium), T. cernuum (Nodding Trillium, and Trillidium undulatum (Painted Trillium). T. luteum (Yellow or Lemon-scented Trillium) has been documented in both Fauguier and Fairfax Counties in our area. Other Trillium species not in our area include T. flexipes (Drooping Trillium), T. nivale (Snow Trillium), T. sulcatum (Southern Red Trillium), and T. pussillum var. virginianum (Virginia Least Trillium). In the updated (2020) Flora of Virginia App, there is a genus change for the Painted Trillium, it is now Trillidium undulatum. The genus Trillidium was proposed in 1850 by C.S. Kunth and has only one other species in Asia. In both the species there are differences in leaf petioles, fruit shape, and other physical characteristics as well as DNA studies.

The genus name *Trillium* is derived from the Latin word "tres" for three which refers to the flower parts as well as the leaves that are in groups of three. The species names *sessile* and *grandiflorum* mean "without a stalk" referring to the flowers of the Sessile Trillium lacking a pedicle or flower stalk and "Large-flowered" referring to the showy large flowers of *T. grandiflorum*. Other common names for T. sessile are Toad or Toadshade Trillium, Stalkless Trillium, and Sessile-Flowered Wake-robin. Another common name for *T. grandiflorium_*is Great White Trillium.

Virginia's *Trillium* species produce a solitary flower bud that develops after the leaves emerge from the underground rhizome. Only mature plants will produce flowers. Trilliums flowers typically have three green sepals, three petals, six prominent stamens, and a threeangled pistil. In the Sessile Trillium the upright petals

> average one to two inches in length and are usually maroon but can be yellowgreen. The upright petals of this species surround the 6 stamens and pistil. The spreading white to pink petals of the Largeflowered species are one to three inches long. The flowers are borne on a flowering stalk or pedicle that is one to two inches long. The color variation of pink flowers in T. grandiflorum seems to be genetic variation rather than due to an aging process since flower buds may be white or pink. The fragrance of the Sessile Trillium can range from musty to faintly "carrion like" to fruit-like with the main pollinators being carrion flies and beetles which are to push the petals apart to reach the stamens and pistils. The Large-flowered Trillium has a more pleasant fragrance that attracts bee species which are the primary pollinators.

> The fruit that develops in both species is a six-angled oval pulpy berry that is approximately one-half to three-quarters of an inch long. Inside the fruit that matures by late June, are 15-20 oblong russet-colored seeds 3/16 to 1/4 inch long with a fleshy crest or elaiosome on the upper end of the seed. The seeds are dispersed by ants. It may take two or more years for the seeds to germinate and up to seven years to have a plant that will bear flowers.

The characteristic broadly oval leaves of all Trilliums are typically in groups of three. The leaves of Sessile Trillium are mottled and average from 1 1/2 to 5 inches long while those of the Large-flowered Trillium

are not mottled and are 2 1/2 to 6 inches long. The leaves die back or senesce after the fruit matures and seeds are shed. The stem height of Sessile Trillium is 4-8 inches tall compared to 8 to 18 inches tall in the Large-flowered species. Both species have well-developed rhizomes with shallow fibrous root systems. *(continued)*







(continued) The medicinal and edible uses of Trilliums as a group are many. The young leaves are edible raw or parboiled. However, in most areas today trilliums are not common enough to collect and eat. The medicinal uses of trillium rhizomes by American Indians and in folk medicine included inducing labor in childbirth and relieving bleeding following parturition (separation of placenta from the mother's uterus), sore nipples, and female disorders. It was also used as an astringent to stop nosebleeds as well as internal hemorrhaging, as a poultice to treat sores, ulcers, insect stings, and even to treat diarrhea. The Chippewa Indians washed rheumatic joints with an extract of trillium rhizomes, then pricked the skin numerous times with a needle to "inject" the fluid into the area. Extracts of Trillium rhizomes have purported astringent, expectorant, and even uterine stimulant properties.

Cicada by Lois Montgomery

We're seventeen and ready to graduate. We're the periodic Cicada, and we're coming to an open space near you soon.

Missed us? Well, of course you haven't ...

we're a pain in the neck for a number of reasons, chief of which is the amazingly ever-present cacophony of noise we make as we search for a mate. We are scary-looking even though we have no mouthparts with which to bite and no stinging ovipositor.

Some people mistakenly call us locusts, but that's a whole different order of insects called Orthoptera. We are in the

order Hemiptera. We've been living under your feet for seventeen years happily sucking plant juices from the roots of trees by piercing into the xylem of the plant and allowing the reduced air pressure inside our bodies to set up a siphon by which the water and nutrients flow unimpeded into our bodies giving us what energy we need to grow and molt. When we finally shed our exoskeleton for the last time, it will be above ground, attached to a tree or other plant, and we will metamorphose into the red-eyed, orange-veined, winged adult whose only purpose is to mate and start the cycle all over again.

But we do have redeeming qualities. According to several scientific studies which you can find on the web, when we appear in such huge numbers, the populations of our predators increase as a result of the significant added protein available.

We have several unique adaptations for survival. One is called predator satiation. This strategy consists of overwhelming the populations of things that eat us by rising The Sessile Trillium may be found in abundance at Great Falls Park (both Virginia and Maryland), at Riverbend Park, Balls Bluff Park, and other sites especially along the Potomac River. This species has not yet been documented in Prince William or Fauquier Counties. The Large-flowered Trillium is best seen in early to mid-May at G. Richard Thompson Wildlife Management Area near Linden, Virginia, where it is estimated there are at least 18 million individual plants growing in a two square mile area. It is a breath-taking sight to see the Large-flowered Trillium carpeting the forest floor at the Thompson site. Even though the Sessile Trillium is not as showy, its delicate beauty is well worth the effort to seek out this special wildflower this spring. Both these species are important and beautiful members of the "guild" of early spring wildflowers that carpet our rich deciduous woods in the spring. End

from the earth en mass in numbers greater than one million individuals per acre. The predators love this — we're full of protein — but they can't possibly eat all of us, thereby assuring that enough of us will survive to produce the next brood seventeen years from now.

The males of our species make their mating call by vibrating an organ on either side of their abdomens, the tymbals. This is a hollow chamber which magnifies the sound produced, much like a sounding board does in a guitar.

One predator that we are susceptible to is a large hornet called the Cicada killer. This hornet captures a fellow cicada on the wing, forcing him to the ground where it devours him from the tail forward, with the male cicada continuing to squall our mating call right up until the hornet chews into the tymbals, and destroys the cicadas ability to make noise.

> Another predator of which you may not be aware is the copperhead. Easy pickings we are as we emerge from the soil around trees, especially white oak, soft and vulnerable. Copperheads wait in the surrounding area and gobble us up as we climb the tree to complete our final metamorphosis.

We are somewhat ephemeral as our adult stage only lasts about six weeks. Females use a saw-like ovipositor to inject eggs into the tender branches of trees where the eggs develop into ricegrain-sized nymphs which then fall to the ground, burrow into the soil and begin the seventeen year cycle all over

again. Telltale dead branches on the trees after this birthing do not really harm the trees, perhaps even providing a natural pruning effect.

So enjoy the wonder of us while we are here. Perhaps do your own study of our habits and habitats. Use this opportunity to conduct a science fair project on our unique life cycle as the longest-lived insect in the world. By the time we come around again, you will be seventeen years older, and who knows how the world will have changed!





PWWS Annual Native Plant Sale, May 8, 10 a.m. - 12 Noon

Note NEW TIME for our annual sale on the grounds of Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church, 8712 Plantation Lane in Manassas. Both sun- and shade-loving wildflowers, ferns, trees, and shrubs will be available. Plants have been propagated by members or shared from their gardens; none have been collected from the wild. To comply with Covid restrictions and ensure social distancing, we are requiring registration for the first hour from 10 - 11 a.m. and we will be limiting the purchases of plants that are in tight supply. Masks are required. We ask that customers pay by check (preferred) or credit card. VNPS members receive a 10 percent discount on plant purchases. For more info or to volunteer, contact Nancy Arrington at 703-408-7446, narrington1@verizon.net, or Nancy Vehrs at 703-368-2898, nvehrs1@yahoo.com.



Register for a 10 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. slot by sending an email to Nancy Vehrs at nvehrs1@yahoo.com with "Plant Sale" in the subject line beginning May 1.

Prince William Wildflower Society

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



Next Meeting: Thursday, May 6, 7:30 pm, Via Zoom Sam Droege: "Native Bees Need Native Plants: A Surprisingly Tight Relationship"