



## President's Column



Northern Virginia has made great strides in combatting the Covid-19 pandemic, and many of us are now fully vaccinated. We managed to hold a socially distanced wildflower garden tour in April, and our native **plant sale** in May was a great success. We thank our longtime plant sale chairman **Nancy Arrington** for her efforts in donating many plants, organizing the sale, and coordinating a large group of volunteers. Thank you, Nancy! Elsewhere in this issue, she reports on the sale and thanks the many volunteers who made it a success for our customers.

Another outdoor event we held in April was an **Arbor Day tree dedication** and celebration at the historic Prince William County courthouse, known as the Old Manassas Courthouse on Lee Avenue. On a very windy Friday afternoon we commemorated the White Oak (*Quercus alba*) that we had planted on the front lawn late last fall. It survived the winter well, but its new leaves were damaged a bit by a late freeze this spring. Nevertheless, our onsite arborists declared it healthy, and I am pleased that this year's Brood X cicadas pose no danger to it. (The City of Manassas and most of Prince William County are in Brood II territory.) We also held a tree giveaway at the event and distributed leftovers at our plant sale free of charge. We plan to make an Arbor Day celebration a regular event and welcome suggestions for special tree planting(s) at schools, parks, or public spaces.



*Pictured: Supervisor Kenny Boddye and Nancy Vehrs; Supervisor Jeanine Lawson, City Council Member Theresa Coates Ellis, & Supervisor Yesli Vega*



With me as emcee, the Arbor Day ceremony included encouraging words from Brentsville District Supervisor Jeanine Lawson, Coles District Supervisor Yesli Vega, Occoquan District Supervisor Kenny Boddye, and Manassas City Council Member and Master Gardener Theresa Coates Ellis. We also heard from our Community Forestry Specialist from the Virginia Department of Forestry, Kinner Ingram; Prince William County's Urban Forester Julie Flanagan; past PWWS president Claudia-Thompson Deahl; Education

Chair Lois Montgomery; and First Dude Harry Glasgow. As most of us are aware from reading Doug Tallamy's books, White Oaks are the most important species in our area for supporting a diversity of fauna from insects to mammals. Thanks to oversight by **Val Neitzey**, we have a small commemorative identification sign in front of the tree noting that it was a gift from PWWS. Please stop by to visit this oak and watch it grow.



*(Pictured: Janis Stone with 'Schuyler'; middle, Brigitte Hartke, Nancy Vehrs, Jocelyn Meloy, Bernice Thieblot, Connie Brennan and husband John Hesselbert; back row, Glenda Booth, Nick Meloy, Harriet & Bob Carter)*



On May 12 about a dozen of us traveled to Nelson County for a tour of the **Quarry Gardens at Schuyler** led by co-owner Bernice Thieblot. Unfortunately, our timing coincided with the first day of the gas shortage caused by the cyberattack disruption of the flow of the Colonial Pipeline. Some people had to cancel and others arrived a bit late because of difficulty in finding gas for the trip. Several of us had a picnic lunch in the garden's new shelter that was erected just in time for last year's closure for the pandemic. At first, the skies were overcast and the temps were chilly, but once the tour started, temps warmed and the sun decided to appear. All plants used in this native garden occur naturally within a 15-mile radius, and Rachel and Devon Floyd of Charlottesville's Center for Urban Habitats served as garden consultants. Some of the plant highlights for me were Fringe Trees in full bloom by the parking area, Dwarf Larkspurs, Sweet-shrub Calycanthus, lush ferns, and Eastern Columbines growing with Prickly-pears. The views overlooking the two quarry ponds were breathtaking. After our formal tour, six of us explored some trails on our own and found Umbrella Magnolias in bloom. I plan to organize a summer tour since I have never visited this native plant garden in that season. Watch for an email when I schedule a date.



*(President's Message, continued)* On May 16 Brigitte Hartke, Harry, and I all tagged along on a Piedmont Chapter field trip to **Reddish Knob on Shenandoah Mountain** in the **George Washington National Forest** west of Harrisonburg. After brunch at the only restaurant open on a Sunday in the small town of Dayton, we encountered many horse-drawn buggies as we drove up to our meeting spot. With the higher elevation, it was like experiencing spring all over again! Such treasures as Spurred Violets, One-flowered Cancerroot, Sugar Maples, Wild Strawberries, and Mitrewort were all blooming at our first spot. Despite the narrow pavement, we parked the cars as best we could and botanized along the road. Highlights along the way included Wild Geranium, Yellow Star-grass, Bellwort, Early Saxifrage, Carolina Phlox, Wild Azalea, Striped Maple, Bird's Foot Violet, and Mountain Laurel. We found Pipevine along the road, but not in flower. Closer to the top, we took a short walk on a trail where we had to tread carefully to keep from stepping on beautiful Pink Lady's Slippers amidst Gaywings, Mountain Fetterbush, and Wild Sarsaparilla. Visitors can drive to the top of Reddish Knob for a 360-degree mountain view. Unfortunately, the parking area is marred by litter and graffiti. Regardless, I heartily recommend the drive up Reddish Knob because, at an elevation of 4397 feet, it is the highest drivable destination in Virginia and sits at the VA-WV line.



On the conservation front, PWWS continues to work to protect our national parks from impending **data centers**. Along with our national park superintendents and representatives from other conservation groups, I testified at a meeting of the Prince William Board of County Supervisors on May 18 on the subject of a study of additional areas for data centers. We believe that there is already enough available acreage in the current overlay district, and we should not allow data centers within (in the case of Prince William Forest Park) or adjoining (in the case of Manassas Battlefield) national parks. Currently, the County has a data center overlay district, but the Board of County Supervisors does not want to be restricted by the district. In fact, on June 15, the Board approved a data center in Gainesville outside of the overlay district at the intersection of Rt. 55 and Catharpin Road. The Board approved the data center study and decided to use outside consultants that have more expertise on data centers than County staff. Their report is expected in 6-9 months. I fear that any experts on data centers will be biased in their favor. To its credit, the Board did direct the inclusion of several environmental considerations into the study.



Our own **Marion Lobstein** is our speaker for our meeting on July 1. She will be talking about changes to the whole Flora of Virginia Project. Despite strides in combatting the Coronavirus, PWWS has decided to continue with virtual meetings on Zoom through September. We will open the Zoom session at 7 p.m. for socializing with the meeting and presentation to begin at 7:30 p.m. See you on Zoom.

*Nancy*

**SAVE THE DATE:**

Mark your calendar for the afternoon of Sunday, October 3! We are planning a potluck picnic at a local park followed by a walk. It will be wonderful to see everyone in real life.

**"She Won't Tell You but I Will . . ." ~ A Note From Your Editor**



Recently, our chapter president Nancy Vehrs received the highest award that National Garden Clubs gives to non-members — their National Award of Excellence. It was great to see Nancy given national recognition for her work and dedication in conservation and native plant initiatives.

On the left is long-time member of Ayr Hill Garden Club of Vienna, Cherie Lejeune; widely known for her technological expertise, Cherie has served, for the past two challenging years, as president of NCAGC — National Capital Area Garden Clubs — and quite possibly is already known by many of you. On the right, well, you already know our Nancy.

Both Cherie and Nancy are strong, dedicated women who devote countless hours and seemingly boundless energies to furthering the causes in which they believe; both have been mentors and catalysts for many of us in various ways. Congratulations, Nancy!

**Prince William Wildflower Society  
Membership Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, May 6, 2021, 7:30 p.m.  
On Zoom**

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

**Brief announcements:**

The PWWS Plant Sale is on Saturday, May 8, from 10 a.m. until noon. Nancy Arrington, Plant Sale Chair will send an email to volunteers with additional instructions for the morning of the sale. **Thank you** to our native plant garden tour hosts: **Marie Davis, Jeanne Endrikat, and Lois Montgomery.**

Wednesday, May 12, a field trip to the Quarry Gardens at Schuyler is planned.

Next PWWS meeting, July 1 with Marion Lobstein – Updates to the Flora App.

September 2 PWWS meeting – Rod Walker from the Blue Ridge Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management – on Invasive Plants.

**Program:**

Sam Droege was introduced, and his talk was entitled, “Native Bees Need Native Plants: A Surprisingly Tight Relationship.” Sam has spent most of his career at the USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, and currently he is developing an inventory and monitoring program for native bees and online identification guides for North American bees, as well as working on programs for birds, crickets, amphibians, etc.

Sam focused on a few of the 450 species of native bees in Virginia and the native plants they visit for pollen and nectar. The macro photography provided unbelievable detail-just go to USCG Bee Inventory and Monitoring Lab for examples!

Sam stressed that some native bees are specialists and feed on only a certain plant. To help a variety of bees, he encouraged planting a lot of different nectar feeder plants, with alternating bloom times. His favorite plants for bees include: Thistles, Mountain Mint, Figwort, Shrubby Ilex, Wild Plum, Cup Plant, Germander, Vacciniums, Ceanothus, Sneezeweeds (get both), Shrubby Willows, Blue/Swamp Vervain, and his guilty favorites – non-native, colorful Zinnias.

For nesting mason bees, Sam suggested gardeners could cut stems of hardy plants about 6 to 8 inches from the ground in late winter; bundle the long stems; tie and cut into sections, and place sections horizontally on open shelves or tables around the garden.

If you don't have a large garden area, Sam said one clump of nectar-feeder perennials in a container can support several, small bees. And many containers could support lots of native bees!

For ground nesting bees, sunny, bare soil is best. Google helped with the following: If you want to prepare an area for ground-nesting bees, clear a small patch of most of the vegetation, leaving some grass or low-growing plants to prevent erosion. Don't turn the soil; stable soil is needed while the 'babies' are in the nests.

You may have heard that the Rusty Patched Bumble Bee is listed under the Endangered Species Act. Habitat is being lost, and the plants that provide nectar and pollen for bees are hard for them to find. I'm preaching to the choir here, but as Sam said during his talk: Diversity of Native Plants = Diversity of Native Bees. Plant native nectar feeder plants!

About 65 Participants attended this very interesting Zoom program; thank you, Sam.

*Karen Waltman, Secretary*

## **Native Plants for County Properties**

Several Prince William County community organizations, including our partner the Prince William Conservation Alliance, will ask the County Supervisors to require 100% Virginia native plants to be used for new county-owned projects (e.g. libraries, fire stations, etc.). This initiative is supported by dozens of local and statewide organizations. On June 3 Governor Northam issued Executive Directive Number 17 entitled "Virginia Leading by Example to Restore the Chesapeake Bay and Its Tributaries." This directive includes 11 programmatic actions including Converting Managed Turf to Native Landscapes; Native Habitat Valuation for Human Health, Wildlife, and Water Quality; and Aligning Habitat Restoration, Resilience, and Water Quality Goals.

Prince William County has the opportunity to lead by example. This is a low-risk, high-reward choice. It's not a question of money; native plants are not more expensive. Comparing the benefits of native plants with the ecological costs of planting nonnative invasive species makes this an obvious choice.

Email Supervisors at [BOCS@gmail.com](mailto:BOCS@gmail.com) and let them know you support amending the County Code to require 100% Virginia native plants for new County projects, with approval by the County's Watershed Management Division required for any exceptions.

*Nancy Vehrs*

# Changes in Taxonomy of *Chelone glabra* and the Traditional Scrophulariaceae (Figwort Family)

Article Updated from Wild News July-August 2012

by Marion Lobstein, PWWS Botany Chair

*Chelone glabra* or White Turtlehead has had an interesting taxonomic journey. Called "*Chelone acadensis flore albo*" by Tournefort in 1706 (*Flora Virginica*, 1762), Turtlehead was assigned its current binominium by Linnaeus in 1753. Turtlehead is included in the *Flora Virginica*, 1762 edition. John Clayton's herbarium specimen of this species can be viewed at the Clayton Herbarium at the British Natural History Museum website: <https://data.nhm.ac.uk/dataset/clayton-herbarium/resource/51e7a60c-cbda-4e88-8a68-ef93442643e6/record/944>. In the 2020 *Flora of Virginia* App, two other *Chelone* species are covered: Cuthbert's Turtlehead, *Chelone cuthbertii*, in southern Virginia and Red Turtlehead, *Chelone obliqua* var. *obliqua* in the southern coastal plain of Virginia. White Turtlehead has been documented for all but two counties in Virginia.

*Chelone* traditionally has been placed in the Scrophulariaceae (Figwort Family). This family (as well as Plantaginaceae, the Plantain Family) was proposed by A.L. de Jussieu in 1789. The taxonomy of Scrophulariaceae has been a challenge since that time and is one of the flowering plant families undergoing recent significant change or disintegration. Over the last two centuries, this family has been divided into subfamilies and tribes: Orobanchaceae (Broomrape Family) has moved in and out of that family as have other families such as the Paulowniaceae. Since the early 1990s, continuing DNA research on members of the Scrophulariaceae has resulted in this family being disintegrated into a minimum of seven families for genera occurring in Virginia. The listing below shows the families and genera assigned to these families in the 2020 updates if the *Flora of Virginia* App:

- **Scrophulariaceae (Figwort Family)**(52 genera and around 1680 species worldwide; 3 genera and 8 species in Virginia)
  - *Scrophularia* (Figworts), *Verbascum* (Mulleins), *Buddleja*, (Butterfly Bushes), *Limosella* (Mudworts)
- **Linderniaceae (False Pimpernel Family)**(13 genera and 195 species worldwide; 2 genera and 5 species in Virginia)
  - Former Scrophulariaceae genera reassigned to Linderniaceae: *Lindernia* (False Pimpernel), *Micranthemum* (Mudflowers), *Torenia* (Blue-wings) (formerly in *Lindernia*)

- **Orobanchaceae (Broomrape family)** [traditionally included only *Conopholis* (Bearcorn or Cancerroots), *Epifagus* (Beechdrops), and *Orobanche* (Broom-rape family) –all species are plant root parasites][65 genera and 1540 species worldwide; 15 genera and 27 species in Virginia]

- The genus *Orobanche* is now divided into *Aphyllon* (One-Flowered Cancerroots), *Myzorrhiza* (Riparian or River Broomrapes), *Phelipanche* (Branched Broomrapes),
- Former Scrophulariaceae genera (all hemi-parasitic on roots of other plants genera to some degree) reassigned to Orobanchaceae are: *Agalinis* (False Foxgloves), *Aureolaria* (False Foxgloves), *Buchnera* (Bluehearts), *Castilleja* (Indian Paintbrushes), *Dasistoma* (Mullein Foxgloves), *Melampyrum* (Cow-wheats-now only single species), *Pedicularis* (Louseworts), *Schwalbea* (Chaffseeds)

- **Mazaceae (Mazus Family)**(2 genera and 35 species worldwide; 1 genus and 1 species in Virginia)

- Formerly in Scrophulariaceae and then Plantaginaceae: *Mazus* (Mazus)

- **Paulowniaceae (Princess Tree Family)**(1 genus and 1 species worldwide and in Virginia)

- Former Scrophulariaceae genera reassigned to Paulowniaceae: *Paulownia* (Princess Trees)

- **Phrymaceae (Lopseed Family)** [traditionally included only *Phryma* (Lopseed)][20 genera and 240 species worldwide; 3 genera and 4 species]

- Former Scrophulariaceae genera reassigned to Phrymaceae are: *Mimulus* (Monkeyflowers-now only 2 species), one species moved to *Erythranthe*, *Musk Flower*)

- **Plantaginaceae (Plantain Family)** [traditionally included only *Plantago* (Plantains) genus from our area][100-120 genera and 1800-1900 species worldwide and 16 genera and 53 species in Virginia]

- Former Scrophulariaceae genera reassigned to Plantaginaceae are: *Antirrhinum* (Snapdragons), *Bacopa* (Water-hyssops), *Callitriche* (Water-starwort)(formerly in own family), *Chaenorrhinum* (Dwarf Snapdragon) *Chelone* (Turtleheads), *Collinsia* (Blue-eyed Mary), *Cymbalaria* (Kenilworth Ivies), *Gratiola* (Hedge-hyssops), *Kickxia* (Cancerworts), *Leuscospora* (Paleseeds), *Linaria* (Toadflaxes)(includes two species formerly *Nuttallanthus*), *Mecardonia* (Axilflowers), *Penstemon* (Beard-tongues), *Sophronanthe* (Hedge-hyssops)(formerly in *Gratiola*), *Veronica* (Speedwells), *Veronicastrum* (Culver's roots)

# White Turtlehead - *Chelone glabra*

Article Updated from *Wild News* July-August 2012

By Marion Lobstein, PWWS Botany Chair

*Chelone glabra*, commonly called White Turtlehead, is a perennial member now placed in the Plantaginaceae (Plantain Family) but formerly in the Scrophulariaceae (Snapdragon Family). This distinctive plant that has flowers resembling a turtle's head is found in most counties of Virginia. This species blooms from July into September and is found in moist conditions such as stream banks, ditches, damp woods, and swamps. The range of this species is from Newfoundland to Georgia and west into Missouri. The genus name of *Chelone* is derived from a Greek term for turtle, and the species name of *glabra* means smooth. Other common names are Balmony, Bitter Herb, Snake Head, Snake Mouth, Shellflower, and Fishmouth.

The white to pink flowers of Turtlehead are approximately one-inch long with a calyx of 5 sepals, a two-lipped corolla with an arching upper lip resembling the top of a turtle's head and a lower three parted lip, 5 stamens (one of which is sterile), and a pistil with two carpels. The flowers are found in tight terminal clusters as well as single flowers in the opposite leaf axils. The primary pollinators are bumblebees that are strong enough to pry open the corolla. Butterflies and even hummingbirds may visit these flowers. The fruit that develops from each fertilized flower is a one-half inch long capsule with papery covering that contains numerous square and winged brown seeds that are only 1/8 inch long that are wind dispersed.

Each plant has a smooth, slightly angular stem that may be up to one to three or more feet tall. The shiny, dark green leaves are opposite lance-shaped leaves 3-6 inches long. White Turtlehead is a primary host plant for the caterpillars of the Baltimore Checkered-butterfly.

The medicinal uses of this plant by American Indian tribes as well as in folk or herbal medicine are numerous. These medicinal uses included use as a bitter tonic and/or leaf tea to simulate appetite as well as liver and stomach activity. It also was used as a gentle laxative and to expel worms (one of its most important functions). Other uses included treating jaundice, fever, and malaria as a tonic or leaf tea. Leaves and stems were made into an ointment or poultice to treat piles, ulcers, sores, and fever blisters. Young shoots and leaves were parboiled and pan-fried by some Indian tribes, especially in times of famine.

This late summer and early fall keep an eye out for the flowers of White Turtlehead. Use your imagination and enjoy the mental image of a group of small turtle heads on this unusual and attractive plant!



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# Upcoming EVENTS

## PLEASE NOTE:

For events not scheduled at the time this issue went to press, please continue to visit:

PWWS events page: <https://vnps.org/princewilliamwildflowersociety/events/>

PWWS FaceBook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Prince-William-Wildflower-Society-a-Virginia-Native-Plant-Society-Chapter-142292732540373/>

## JULY

**Seven Scenic Prince William County Hikes for the July 4th Weekend 2021.** Thanks to Deena Westenhofer for her informative blog with beautiful photos. Go here for info: <https://www.visitpwc.com/blog/post/hikes-july-4th-2021/>.

**Sunday, July 18, 10 am to 12 pm, Audubon Society of NoVA will hold a Butterfly Walk: Southern Fairfax County.** Register here: <https://www.audubonva.org/asnv-events/210718-butterfly-walk-southern-fairfax>.

**Thursday, July 29, 7pm - 8 pm, Audubon Society of NoVA** will celebrate **National Moth Week** with a Thursday Zoom Workshop with Judy Gallagher. Register: <https://www.audubonva.org/asnv-events/210718-butterfly-walk-southern-fairfax>.

Following up on Thursday's Zoom meeting:

**Saturday, July 31, 8:30 pm - 10:30 pm, Field Trip in Lorton,** in person, also with Judy Gallagher. On this outing, they will set up a black light to attract moths and use field guides and iNaturalist to try to identify them. They will set up an iNaturalist project to keep track of the Moths you see. Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/celebrate-national-moth-week-workshop-and-survey-with-judy-gallagher-tickets-156244177541>  
**Green Breakfast Events**

NVSWCD facilitates a bi-monthly gathering to discuss environmental topics in a casual setting on a Saturday morning. Attendees include agency representatives, interested citizens and community members, students, lawmakers, members of the business community and representatives of local non-profits. Six green breakfasts are held each year.

To receive updates about Green Breakfast speakers, please register for the [Green Breakfast newsletter](#). Please direct questions to NVSWCD.

**Last Sunday of the Month Merrimac Bird and Nature Walk, 8 am,** every month (except December when we sponsor the Nokesville Christmas Bird Count) at Merrimac Farm, Stone House, 15014 Deepwood Lane, Nokesville, [directions](#). We'll look for birds as we travel through the uplands to the edge of the floodplain, covering a variety of habitats, including open fields and woodland edges. Everyone is welcome.

Dress for the weather, bring binoculars and cameras. More info and RSVP to PWCA , 703.499.4954 or [alliance@pwconserve.org](mailto:alliance@pwconserve.org) . View the bird list for Merrimac Farm [HERE](#).

## AUGUST

**Friday, August 13 to Saturday, August 21, Prince William County Fair, 10624 Dumfries Road, Manassas.** Click here to view the [Insider's Guide to the 2021 PWC Fair](#) for schedule, ticket info and more.

## SEPT. and OCT.

**Thursday, September 2, 7:30 pm, via Zoom:** PWWS Meeting Program will have Rod Walker of the Blue Ridge Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM)

**Sunday, October 3!** Prince William Wildflower Society is planning a potluck picnic at a local park followed by a walk. It will be wonderful to see everyone in real life.

## Welcome, New Members!

We would like to give a warm welcome to the following new members: Joanne Balint of Haymarket, Debra Caldwell of Stafford, Debra Danisek of Centreville, Bonnie Keller of Woodbridge, Leah Davis of Nokesville, Laura Grape of Manassas, Valerie Huelsman of Dumfries, Stephanie Johnson of Gainesville, Elizabeth Katchmeric of Gainesville, David and Linda Larsen of Haymarket, Scott Lewis of Manassas, Lisa Matthews of Bristow, Rohini Mehta of Centreville, Deapesh Misra of Centreville, Kitty Monroe of Manassas, Jeffrey and Tina Pearce of Stafford, Christopher Siwy of Fairfax, Debbie Walker of Woodbridge, and Lois Watkins of Dale City.

*Diane Liga, Membership Chair*

# Prince William Wildflower Society

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



**Next Meeting: Thursday, July 1, 7:30 pm, Via Zoom**

**Marion Lobstein: *“The Flora of Virginia Updated: 2020 App Updates, Education Modules and a New Board of Directors”***

## Thanks to Plant Sale Volunteers

Despite a chilly drizzle and Covid restrictions, we had a very successful plant sale on May 8. As in past years, our faithful customers were lined up at 10:00 a.m. to purchase the 850 plus plants that members contributed. According to Treasurer Valerie Gaffney, our total income for the day was \$4770.85, \$4373.80 for plants, \$195 for books, \$130 for memberships, and \$72.05 in donations.

What a wonderful group of volunteers we have! Thanks so much to all who helped or contributed in any way to this year’s sale: Joyce Andrew, Ton Attanaro, Brigitte Bégué Hartke, Dee Brown & Glen Macdonald, Tiana Camfiord, Marie Davis, Jeanne Endrikat, Valerie Gaffney, Deanna High, Cathy Hindman, Bill Holbrook, Sandy Jeter, Diane Liga, Janet Martinet, Brian & Owen McDougal, Jocelyn & Nick Meloy, Lois Montgomery, Linda Stoltz, Christine Sunda, Carol Thompson, Nancy Vehrs & Harry Glasgow and Karen Waltman. I hope I mentioned everyone, please let me know if I missed someone.

Keep next year’s sale in mind as you garden through the summer and fall. Put aside or pot up extra plants that you can contribute. I’ll start bugging you around the middle of March. Until then, happy gardening!

*Nancy Arrington, Plant Sale Chairman*

