



# Wild News

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

Number 2022-06

November — December 2022

## The Prince William Wildflower Society Membership Meeting

An Evening with Susan Leopold who will discuss  
“Native Medicinal Plant Conservation in Virginia”

You are invited to a Zoom meeting on  
Nov 3, 2022, 7:30 PM Eastern Time  
(US and Canada).

Register in advance for this meeting:

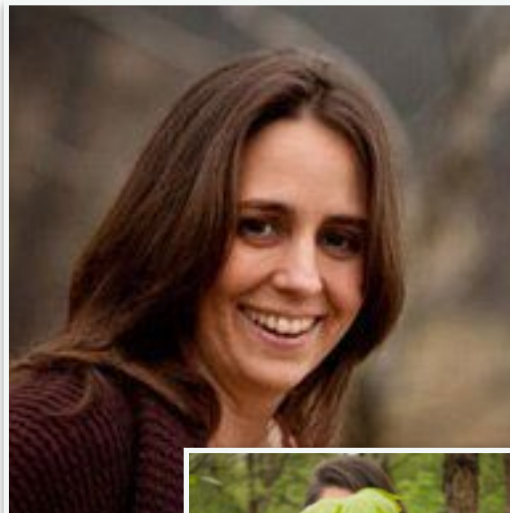
<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZwvcu-qgDouG9dJp-B0BeYApnGcz9zPLk84>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Susan Leopold will give an overview of United Plant Savers’ mission and organization and talk about projects that link in conservation in Virginia. United Plant Savers is a member of the Appalachian Beginners Forest Farming project which is spearheaded by Virginia Tech. United Plant Savers runs the Forest Grown Verification program and provided resources and information on growing woodland medicinals that provides free classes and downloads of the

Forest Farmers Handbook. (<https://unitedplantsavers.org/fgv/>)

Other programs of interest are the plant savers botanical sanctuary network where you can look up sanctuaries by state and see all the registered sanctuaries in Virginia. This will be a very informative talk and interactive time for questions. <https://www.appalachianforestfarmers.org/>

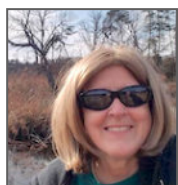


Susan Leopold, PhD, is an ethnobotanist and passionate defender of biodiversity. Over the past 20 years, Susan has worked extensively with indigenous peoples in Peru and Costa Rica. She is the Executive Director of United Plant Savers and Director of the Sacred Seeds Project. Prior to working at United Plant Savers, she worked as a librarian at the Oak Spring Garden Library, specializing in digitizing rare herbals and botanical travel manuscripts. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for Botanical Dimensions and the Center for Sustainable Economy. She is an advisory board member of American Botanical Council. She is a proud member of the Patowomeck Indian Tribe of Virginia and the author of the children's book *Isabella's Peppermint Flower*, teaching about Virginia's botanical history. She lives on and manages a productive farm, the Indian Pipe Botanical Sanctuary, with her three children in Virginia, where she raises goats, peacocks, and herbs. She is an avid recreational tree climber, in love with the canopy just as much as the herbs of the forest floor.

## President's Column

Back in September the VNPS celebrated its 40 years of existence at the annual meeting held at Natural Bridge. Now it's time for PWWS to begin its celebration. As Marion notes in her article in this issue, PWWS began to organize around the same time that the Virginia Wildflower Preservation Society was forming. (The VWPS was the original name of the VNPS.) On January 10, 1983, PWWS was formally chartered as a chapter. Beginning with this issue of *Wild News*, over the next year we will share the history of PWWS and the special people who formed its foundation. We owe a debt of gratitude to our original leaders, especially founder Nancy Arrington. Others included Marion Lobstein, whose classes inspired many people to join, Judy Gallagher, Elaine Haug, Nicky Staunton, Marie Davis, and Claudia Thompson-Deahl. We are fortunate to have some charter members who are still actively involved in the organization.

As I write this, autumnal tints are peaking and some areas in our county have experienced frost. According to my home weather station, temperatures have not yet dipped below 33 in my suburban garden. Asters and Swamp Sunflowers are still putting on a floral show. The Wild Bleeding Heart that I keep in a pot on my shady deck continues to bloom.



Lots of garden chores await, but I've already embraced the untidy garden that nurtures more wildlife through the winter. Resist the urge to eliminate food sources and shelter in the name of tidiness.

Earlier in October several PWWS members volunteered for the Scout *Camporee* at Camp Snyder on Antioch Road in Haymarket. Member and scout leader Brian McDougal (and son Owen) invited us to take part, so we staffed a display table and were prepared to lead some nature walks around a wetland. Alas, our location didn't receive much traffic, but we enjoyed a beautiful morning of camaraderie and a complementary lunch. Some scouts and their families did partake of our butterfly and larval host plant matching exercise. Many thanks to Janis Stone, Brigitte Hartke, Val Neitzey, and Harry Glasgow for volunteering with me. If we participate next year, we will set up in a more visible spot.

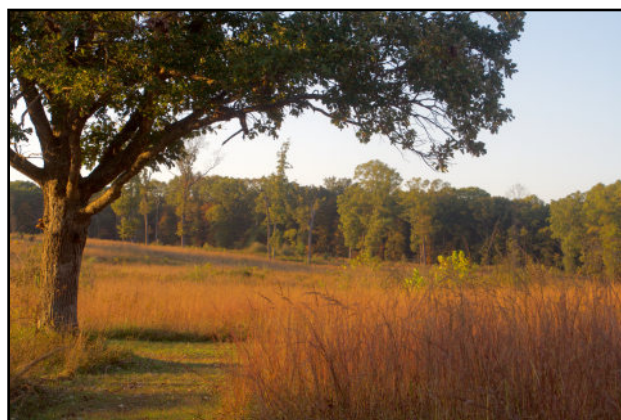
On November 1 the Prince William Board of County Supervisors will hold its public hearing on the Digital Gateway, a Comprehensive Plan proposal for data centers along Pageland Lane bordering Manassas National Battlefield Park. PWWS has taken a formal position opposing this change to the Comp Plan. Conservation Chair Claudia

Thompson-Deahl has an action alert elsewhere in this issue. (page 6)

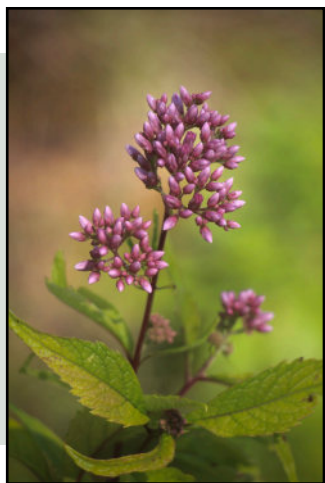
Speaking of the Battlefield, PWWS has purchased two recycled plastic benches for installation under the large oak tree (pictured) along the trail at Deep Cut Meadow off Featherbed Lane. Nearly every August we hold a botanical walk at Deep Cut. These benches will give participants a cool, shady place to rest along the way. We plan to have a dedication ceremony soon and will invite everyone by email.

See you on Zoom on Thursday, November 3, when we welcome speaker Susan Leopold, executive director of United Plant Savers.

Nancy



*The Oak tree near the trailhead at Deep Cut where the benches are to be installed*



*"So long, Joe." Last of the Joe Pye blooms at **Blandy Experimental Farm and State Arboretum** in Boyce, VA. Recently, members were visiting Blandy's Ginkgo Grove in all its October, brilliant yellow, autumnal glory.*

*Below, fall-blooming Goldenrod, New England Asters and Boneset brighten the garden as they near the end of the 2022 blooming season at **Merrimac Farm Wildlife Management Area**.*



# “40 Years of Treasured Native Plant Memories with PWWS and VNPS”

by **Marion Blois Lobstein,**  
**VNPS Life Member**

2022 is the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Prince William Wildflower Society (PWWS) and the Virginia Wildflower Preservation Society (VWPS), since 1986 renamed the Virginia Native Plant Society (VNPS). It will be 40 years ago in 2023 that PWWS became the second chapter of VNPS. It has been an honor to be charter members of both groups and to be actively involved in both groups.

My interest in plants and nature goes back to childhood in Stanley, NC and my Girl Scout days (see “Early Explorations of Elephant Ears (*Magnolia macrophylla*): A Personal Note” at <https://vnps.org/early-explorations-of-elephant-ears-magnolia-macrophylla-a-personal-note/>). In 1966 as an undergraduate at Western Carolina University, I continued with a spring flora in which I used the *Guide to the Flora of the Carolinas*. In 1972 I completed a plant taxonomy graduate course at UNC-Chapel Hill and used the

*Manual of the Flora of the Carolinas*. After moving to Northern Virginia in 1974 and first working as instructional staff at the Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC)-Loudoun campus, one of my first questions was, “Is there a flora of Virginia?” I started a small herbarium collection at that campus. Still, I could not find others to share the interest in plants. In 1976 when I transferred to the NVCC-Manassas campus as a biology faculty member, I was able to begin offering Regional Flora classes by the spring of 1978. Working with students who were interested in our local plants and identifying them was a joy to me. In 1977 I became a member of the Botany Section of the Virginia Academy of Science (VAS) and met botanists at many Virginia colleges and universities. In these meetings, I learned of efforts of the Virginia Flora Committee since 1926 to develop a modern Flora of Virginia (see “My Journey With the Flora of Virginia” at <https://vnps.org/my-journey-with-the-flora-of-virginia/>). I was still looking for a group of local folks with whom to enjoy sharing my interest in botany and plant species of our area.

In 1982, Nancy Arrington, a student in my spring Regional Flora class, and Elaine Haug founded the PWWS chapter, and we had our first

organization meeting at the Manassas Campus on March 20, 1982. Nicky Staunton, Judy Gallagher, Joyce Andrew, Blythe Salamonowics, and other of my former students as well as Claudia Thompson-Deahl and Marie Davis were charter members or soon joined our new organization. Our next meeting was on May 24, 1972, and officers were elected: Nancy Arrington, president; Elaine Haug, vice-president; Roxetta Wyer, secretary; and Pat Dunlop, treasurer. By the time of that May meeting we had 48 members. By June 1982, Nancy Arrington edited, printed, and mailed out the first PWWS *Wild News* newsletter. She had asked me if I would like to write an article on a wildflower. I enthusiastically and innocently said “yes” and am still writing native plant article more than 40 years later! My first article was on Butterfly-weed. Also in the first *Wild News* issue, Nancy Arrington wrote an article on gardening with Butterfly-weed. This issue is available for viewing online at: [https://vnps.org/princewilliamwildflowersociety/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/dlm\\_uploads/2022/10/Wild-News-June-1982.pdf](https://vnps.org/princewilliamwildflowersociety/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/dlm_uploads/2022/10/Wild-News-June-1982.pdf). Following Nancy Arrington’s 16 years of editing *Wild News*, it has been a pleasure to work with *Wild News* editors Nancy Vehrs, Deanna High, and now Brigitte Hartke.

Charter membership certificates were designed by Nicky Staunton with a beautiful watercolor painting of native plants. By the end of October 1982, Nicky also had become the treasurer. Later she served as PWWS and VNPS presidents. She also represented VNPS on the first board of directors for the Flora of Virginia Project. (Continued on page 4)



**“40 Years of Treasured Native Plant Memories”, continued).**

That same year, I became aware of another new organization, the Virginia Wildflower Preservation Society (VWPS), founded by Mary Painter. By July of 1982, there was discussion of PWWS becoming a chapter of VWPS.

By August of 1982, Nancy Arrington and other PWWS members, including me, also joined and became charter members of VWPS.

In early 1983 PWWS became the second chapter of VWPS; the first chapter was the Alpha Chapter now the Potowmack Chapter

In 1983 I was asked to serve on the VWPS Board of Directors. I remember my first board meeting at the Methodist Church on Little River Turnpike in Annandale, followed by others at Green Spring Gardens Park. I remember many long nights when we board members were working, and reworking, the development of the VWPS by-laws and constitution. What a pleasure to work with and share ideas with other board members such as Mary Pockman, Al Studholme, Craig Tufts, Dorna Kritz, Cole Burrell, Larry Morse, and other kindred spirits.

In 1984 I was appointed to serve on the VWPS long-range planning committee and served on it for a number of years. It was a joy to work with Linda McMahon, Cole Burrell, Nicky Staunton, Cris Fleming, and Bee Smith, who all became dear friends. One of the goals discussed in the committee was to support the development of a modern flora of Virginia. With important support of VNPS this goal of the *Flora of Virginia* was realized in 2012 and updated in 2017 as the *Flora of*

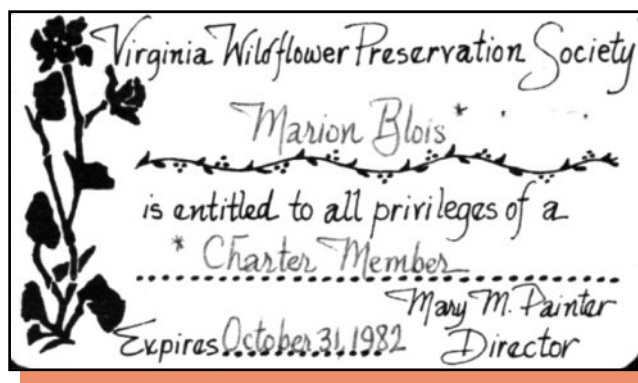
Virginia App with additional updates. Later in 1987, Cris Fleming, Barbara Tufty, and I co-authored the book *Finding Wildflowers in the Washington-Baltimore Area* published in 1995 and still available. Nicky Staunton illustrated this book.

Early after the establishment of PWWS, I became the chapter Botany chair. By 1984 the idea of a checklist of wildflowers in our area was beginning to take shape. With the first edition of the *Atlas of the Virginia Flora*, it was possible to see when wildflower species had been documented in the Northern Virginia area which covered Prince William, Fauquier, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Stafford Counties and Arlington. Elaine Haug had already started work on such a list for Prince William County. Marie Davis and I worked on the first checklist booklet entitled “Spring Wildflowers of Northern Virginia: A Checklist.” I compiled checklists written in longhand and Marie Davis typed the manuscript. It was a labor of love for both of us, but we had fun working together. With the support of PWWS, this checklist booklet was printed in 1985 and was sold at area parks and other sources. Later, two other checklist booklets were also developed, with the help of my first computer, and were distributed and sold: “Summer and Fall Wildflowers of Northern Virginia Area: A Checklist” and “Trees, Shrubs, and Woody Vines of Northern Virginia Area.”

Working with our PWWS chapter presidents over this 40 years has special memories for me: Nancy Arrington, Elaine Haug, Claudia Thompson-Deahl, Gina Yurkonis, Alton Bradford (assisted by his wife, Jenifer Bradford), Helen Walters, Nicky Staunton, Charles Smith, Dee Brown, and Nancy Vehrs. Other active board and PWWS members are too numerous to list but my thanks for all of the PWWS members.

In this short article, I have too many wonderful memories to include — leading field trips, attending chapter meetings, presenting slideshows and later PowerPoints of our beautiful local wildflowers, writing native plant profile articles, offering plant identification classes, attending Annual Meetings, and many other activities for PWWS as well as for the Potowmack, Piedmont, and other VNPS chapters; working with Nicky Staunton and Nancy Vehrs as PWWS chapter presidents who also served as VNPS presidents. Sally Anderson, a former VNPS president, was a student in my Field Botany class at Blandy Experimental Farm, and she and I served together on the second board of the *Flora of Virginia* Project and later co-taught classes on how to use the *Flora of Virginia* at Blandy. In 2013 I was honored with a VNPS life membership. Being an active member of PWWS and VNPS for 40 years has enriched my life and hopefully the lives of other native plant enthusiasts. I look forward to many more years of being a part of VNPS.

~ Marion Lobstein





## Beginnings

Thanks to Marion Lobstein for sending us her first botany column. "Along the Trail" by her and "Gardening: Butterfly-Weed — a Natural" by Nancy Arrington appeared in the first issue of *Wild News* published in June 1982. That first issue can now be found on the PWWS website along with other early issues. The first *Wild News* was edited, printed and mailed out by then-editor, Nancy Arrington.

### Butterfly-Weed — Easy to Spot **Along The Trail**

MARION BLOIS  
Ass't. Professor of Biology, NVCC



Butterfly-Weed, *Asclepias tuberosa*, is a member of the Asclepiadaceae or Milkweed Family. This native perennial grows in dry, sunny fields, at woods edge, along highways, and in gravelly railroad beds from Maine to Florida and west to Ontario and northern Mexico.

According to *Atlas of the Virginia Flora* Butterfly-Weed grows in all but three Virginia Counties. It does not grow abundantly in Prince William County, but small patches have been spotted along highways and at Cloverdale, Prince William Forest, and Manassas Battlefield Parks.

Watch for Butterfly-Weed during the summer months beginning in mid-June and continuing into August. The flower cluster at the end of the 1-2' hairy stem ranges from yellow-orange to reddish-orange. Some blossoms are bi-colored giving the plant extra interest. Alternate hairy willow-like leaves are 3-4" long. Some plants grow upright and some grow with the stem arching toward the ground.

In addition to attracting the butterflies for which it is named, bees and hummingbirds love it. Another common name is pleurisy root and it is sometimes called chigger-flower. It was used as a tonic and expectorant and commonly prescribed for pleurisy.

Though not on the Garden Club's list of Virginia plants needing protection, Butterfly-Weed should definitely be on Prince William's protected list. The few patches we have could be left to multiply.

After blooming, the pod with numerous plumed seeds is easy to collect and the seeds germinate readily. Collecting a few seed from roadside plants will not endanger the species.

I was accustomed to seeing numerous large clumps of Butterfly-Weed when I lived in North Carolina and was very disappointed to see so little of it when I moved to this area. As people become more aware of our native plants and the need to preserve and propagate them, I am sure I will begin to see more Butterfly-Weed, a long time favorite.



### **Gardening** Butterfly-Weed — A Natural

Butterfly-Weed is truly one of our most useful and beautiful native perennials. Its long taproot goes deep into the ground making it an excellent soil-holding plant for dry sunny banks.

A roadside or median-strip planting of Butterfly-Weed is an almost maintenance-free summer color replacement for spring bulbs — and so much more interesting than the over used marigold. Its low growth does not interfere with vision at intersections.

This long-lived plant deserves a prominent spot in the garden. It's attractive planted with blue, white, and yellow flowers, but keep it away from pinks! Natural companions include Queen Anne's Lace, Goldenrod, Chickory and the white, yellow, and blue members of the Aster family.

Cut the plant back after blooming and you will likely be rewarded with a second blooming period.

The plants should be set in a permanent location as the long taproot makes transplanting difficult. Set 1½-2' apart as the plants will reach bushel-basket size in a few years. Mulch well in winter until established. Maintenance is minimal and the plants are relatively pest-free.



## A Warm Welcome to Our New Members!

We'd like to welcome this year's new members to our growing Prince William Wildflower Society family. Joining this year in August were Rose Marie Junge, Natalie Korzuch, and Jenny Meyer.

We look forward to welcoming new members in person in the future when we resume in-person general membership meetings.

~ Diane Liga, Membership Chair

## The "Botanizing with Marion" Feature Now on Our PWWS Website

Also, check out the updated "Botanizing with Marion" feature on our website. Marion Lobstein and Linda Wilcox are working with Mark to post links to Marion's articles on native plants and taxonomic changes based on the *Flora of Virginia Manual* and App. Checklists of native plants, project information such as the Flora of Virginia education modules, a link to Spring Wildflowers of the Mid-Atlantic Region, videos of Marion PWWS and other presentations, etc., will be posted on this site. Linda Wilcox is a former student of Marion's and now a dear friend who has helped Marion with other projects such as the Flora of Virginia education modules. Mark Murphy is working with Marion and Linda on the design of the site and the posting. Many thanks to Mark and Linda. Marion is grateful for the idea of this feature started by Deanna High in 2012 when she served as PWWS *Wild News* editor.

<https://vnps.org/princewilliamwildflowersociety/botanizing-with-marion/>

## Expanding the Wild News Archives from 1982 to 2009

A treasure trove of additional issues of *Wild News* from 1982 through 2009 have been scanned and are posted in the *Wild News* Archives on the PWWS website. Thanks to Nancy Arrington for saving these *Wild News* issues and making them available for scanning. Marion Lobstein has scanned these and is working with Mark Murphy to post the newsletters. *Wild News* issues from PWWS's first ten years (1982-1991) have been posted, and then the other issues (1992-2009) will be posted in the near future. Thanks to Mark Murphy for all he does for the VNPS website and for our PWWS website.

<https://vnps.org/princewilliamwildflowersociety/wildnews/>



## ACTION ALERT!!

by Claudia Thompson-Deahl, Conservation Chair

The "PW Digital Gateway" is a Comprehensive Plan Amendment (CPA) for **a tech flex corridor (data centers and associated uses) and a major road expansion** along Pageland Lane in western Prince William County. The CPA would designate nearly 2,100 acres for up to 27.6 million square feet of data center development — **larger than the entire Data Center Alley near Dulles International Airport in Loudoun County.**

**View the map here:**

<https://api.neonemails.com/emails/content/zhdIWfUBXVvRvaBW-M7Xb3JBU6uGfHkhZRyFW-Yg3vA=>

If approved, this proposal would be one of the largest and most impactful land conversions ever in Prince William County. The transformation of 2,133 acres of farms and residential homes into a massive corridor of data centers, substations, and transmission lines would be dramatic, forever changing the rural landscape around Manassas National Battlefield, Catharpin and Haymarket. Pageland Lane will be expanded from two lanes to a four-lane divided parkway, increasing pressure for a direct connection to I-66 to bring the Bi-County Parkway to near completion. The significant increases in energy infrastructure, the impact on the Occoquan Reservoir, the degradation of one of the County's most iconic recreational amenities, and the projected traffic congestion should be a red flag for all Prince William County residents.

**How can you share your concerns?** Email the Prince William Board of County Supervisors at [bocs@pwcgov.org](mailto:bocs@pwcgov.org) or attend the BOCS meeting at the McCoart Center on November 1 and state your views.

**November 1:** Members of the public, who want to speak remotely, need to [register here](#) by 5:00 pm on Monday, October 31. Board Chambers will be open at 5:30. Sign-up sheets for those wishing to speak in person will be available at 5:30 pm in the atrium. Individuals will need to sign up individually, one at a time, and cannot sign up other speakers.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Please note:

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

## November

**Friday, November 11, 6 pm - 8:30 pm; Saturday, November 12, 8:30 am to 3 pm. Virginia Bluebird Society 25th Anniversary Conference,** Northern

Virginia Community College — Workforce Center, 2675 College Drive, Woodbridge. Join us on November 11 and 12 to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the founding of the [Virginia Bluebird Society](http://www.virginiabluebirds.org) with a social hour, dinner and remarks by keynote speaker [Julie Zickefoose](http://www.virginiabluebirds.org).

Saturday's events include an optional bird walk led by Phil Silas along Neabsco Creek Boardwalk, followed by a day of breakout sessions with such knowledgeable presenters as [Bet Zimmerman Smith](http://www.virginiabluebirds.org), [Maureen Eiger](http://www.virginiabluebirds.org), and Virginia DWR educator Jessica Ruthenberg, among others. VNPS will staff an information table at the conference.

Register here: <https://virginiabluebirds.app.neoncrm.com/np/clients/virginiabluebirds/eventRegistration.jsp?event=1>



**Saturday, November 12, 1 pm, Page County Big Tree Auto Tour.** Master Naturalist **Richard Stromberg** will take us to some of the largest trees in Virginia. Starting at Skyland Resort in Shenandoah National Park, we will drive to the South Fork of the Shenandoah River and finish up in Luray. Register for this event at [piedmontvnps@gmail.com](mailto:piedmontvnps@gmail.com)

**Sunday, November 13, 1 - 2 pm, Potowmack Chapter Annual Meeting and Program at Green Spring, Alexandria, "My Five Favorite Trees" with Dr. Jim McGlone,** Urban Conservationist for the NoVA area with VA. Dept of Forestry.

**Sunday, November 13, 1 - 3:30 pm, Leopold's Preserve, 16290 Thoroughfare Road, Broad Run, VA. "A Sense of Place - Forest Bathing Walk."** Join **Kim Stradler**, Certified Forest Bathing Guide, to explore the sights, sounds and smells of nature at this time of year. \$35, Tickets limited; RSVP:

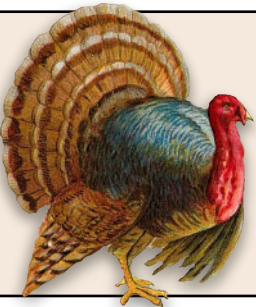
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-sense-of-place-forest-bathing-walk-at-leopolds-preserve-tickets-273425441857>

**Saturday, November 19, 10 am - 12:00 noon, Leopold's Preserve, "Naturalist Walk: Old Home Sites".** Explore the vegetation, foundations, and cemeteries that tell the story of the historic Thoroughfare community. Sign up here: <https://www.leopoldspreserve.com/events-1/naturalist-walk-old-home-sites/form>

**Sunday, November 27, Bird and Nature Walk at Merrimac Farm, last Sunday of every month.** Join us! We will see birds, butterflies, plants and more 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. We meet at Merrimac Farm, Stone House, 15014 Deepwood Lane, Nokesville. Dress for the weather, bring binoculars, insect repellent, and camera. Info and RSVP, (703) 499-4954 or [alliance@pwconserve.org](mailto:alliance@pwconserve.org) View the bird list for Merrimac Farm here: <http://www.pwconserve.org/wildlife/birds/lists/merrimacfarm.htm> RSVP appreciated, but not required.

## December

**Saturday, December 10, 10 am to 12 pm. Enjoy a Naturalist Walk** with a professional naturalist at Leopold's Preserve and learn what strategies mammals use to survive winter. Bull Run Mountains Conservancy and the White House Farm Foundation are partnering to provide monthly naturalist walks at Leopold's Preserve. These regularly scheduled walks are free and open to the community. Meet at the Thoroughfare Road east parking lot. 16290 Thoroughfare Road, Broad Run.



Submissions for Wild News, of articles, events, photographs, and other information of interest to our chapter, are always welcome. Please submit them by email to me at [brigittehartke@gmail.com](mailto:brigittehartke@gmail.com) with the subject line "Newsletter Submission". The deadline for the next issue is December 10. Thank you. ~ Brigitte Hartke, Editor

# Prince William Wildflower Society

A Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

P.O. Box 83, Manassas, Virginia 20108-0083



**Next Meeting: Thursday, November 3, 7:30 pm, Via Zoom**

**With Susan Leopold — “Native Medicinal Plant Conservation in Virginia”**

## Prince William Wildflower Society

### Membership Meeting Minutes

**Thursday, September 1, 2022**

**7:30 p.m. On Zoom**

Nancy Vehrs, PWWS president opened the meeting at 7:01 p.m. and welcomed all to our annual meeting. She introduced the four board officers on the election slate. Marion Lobstein made a motion to accept the slate, and Janice Beaverson seconded the motion. The following slate was unanimously elected:

Nancy Vehrs - president

Val Neitzey - vice-president

Valerie Kenyon Gaffney - treasurer

Karen Waltman - secretary

Treasurer Valerie Kenyon Gaffney shared the 2023 Proposed Budget. Janice Beaverson made the motion, Brigitte Hartke seconded, and the proposed budget was unanimously approved.

Nancy Vehrs's presentation was entitled “Autumn Wildflowers and Shrubs” or “Your Garden — From Asters to Witch Hazel”.

Nancy pointed out that the fall flowers commonly sold, mums and pansies, were not native, and she encouraged purchasing and growing natives, such as the following: Asters, American Beautyberry, Blue Mistflower, Boneset, Bottle/Closed Gentian, Helenium, Goldenrods, Lobelias, New York Ironweed, Obedient plant, Swamp Sunflowers, Woodland Sunflowers, and Turtlehead, which blooms later in October. Also recommended were shrubs such as Spicebush and Witch Hazel. Nancy's beautiful photos of these plants were shown as she discussed them. She also noted that Asters and Goldenrods look good together.

A discussion followed on how PWWS members can learn about and grow fall natives. One can purchase and refer to printed material, including the following books: *Native Plants for Northern Virginia* and *Plant Virginia Natives* - regional guide booklets. Also, one can go to native plant sales, join the VNPS Facebook Group and just ask questions. Thank you, Nancy!

*Karen Waltman, Secretary*